

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

History of Youngstown College

Faculty Experience

O. H. 1

MARY B. SMITH

Interviewed

by

Emmett C. Shaffer

on

February 14, 1974

MARY B. SMITH

Mrs. Smith came to Youngstown College in 1939 as an instructor in Biology, having served as Alumni secretary at Hiram College for three years. Her husband, Dr. Joseph E. Smith who taught at Hiram also was on the faculty at Youngstown College.

Having majored in Health and Physical Education at Ohio State University, she was asked in 1946 to become the head of that department at Youngstown College. In addition to this position, she served as Assistant Registrar, going from door to door recruiting new students. She served in those capacities until 1957 at which time she was appointed Recorder, responsible for the records of all the students who had attended this institution, which by then had become Youngstown University. In 1967 she was promoted to Registrar and had charge of all activities relating to registration. In 1971 Mrs. Smith became Assistant to the Dean of Admissions and Records, a position she held until she was appointed to her present position as Director of Career Planning and Placement in 1973.

Mrs. Smith was listed in the Who's Who of American Women in 1970. She is a member of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, and an honorary life member of the Ohio Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. She served on various committees of both associations as well as holding the office of Treasurer of the Ohio Association. She also participated in several Records

and Registrar's workshops, exchanging new and old ways of doing jobs pertaining to her position. In addition, Mrs. Smith belongs to numerous civic and philanthropic organizations and has served as an officer of many of them.

Mrs. Smith has seen many changes take place from the time she came to Youngstown College, from the transitions of being a college, to becoming a University and now a state University. She can recall many of the students and can relate specifics about them, calling them by name. Her historic memory and her retention ability have proven to be valuable assets, not only to her, but to the University as well. For a third of a century she has contributed immeasurably to the steady growth and prestige of Youngstown State University and has shown great love and devotion to her work in the academic area.

Bernice Brownlee

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTERVIEWEE: MARY B. SMITH

INTERVIEWER: Emmett C. Shaffer

SUBJECT: History of Youngstown College

DATE: February 14, 1974

ES: This is an interview with Mrs. Mary B. Smith for the Youngstown State University, History of Youngstown College by Emmett C. Shaffer, at Youngstown State University, on February 14, 1974, at 9:00 a.m.

ES: What were the factors that influenced your decision to come to Youngstown College?

MS: Well, Emmett, when I got out of Hiram College in 1939, having earned my degree there, and having worked as Alumni Secretary three or four years, I was a history major, and in those days history jobs weren't too plentiful. I had known Dr. Jones, as he was the one who really convinced me to go to Hiram originally; he was the Assistant President there and a field man. He suggested that Youngstown College, as it was known then, was hunting a field representative. So I came down here and started ringing door bells in Youngstown all over the city. I learned to know the city and worked this whole area, Sharon, Farrell, Boardman and Poland during those days, trying to get students to come to Youngstown. That's all. In fact, I did this without Joe [Smith] knowing that I was even coming down. We had been dating in those days too, but the President told him that he had hired me and looking for a job was as simple as that. I lived in Cortland and I wasn't too far from home.

ES: Would you describe the physical facilities of the college in 1936?

MS: They were very simple, Emmett. We had Jones Hall completed in 1931--then called the Main Building. Now you said 1936; I came in 1939, but I had visited here in 1929 and, at that time they were building the main building. In those days they were meeting in what we knew as East Hall, which was the old Wick Homestead, or one of the Wick Homesteads. By the time I got here in 1939 we were operating completely out of Jones Hall. There was a newsboy's club here where the planetarium is. I think some of the newsboys were playing there, but our only college building really was Jones Hall. The offices and the business offices and all those things were on the first floor and the secretarial school was on the second floor. All of the classes were held on the third floor and the library was on the fourth floor. Everybody was in Jones Hall in those days. Students came in by bus from the north and the south side, from Sharon and Warren and New Castle, and they all unloaded over at the corner of Wick and Lincoln. They came in by train. There were special train permits given to students who came in from Warren and New Castle too. We were all under one roof in those days. They had an intercom system so you could get back and forth from the classroom to the office. There were telephones in the front office that serviced everybody. We had two phones there and a phone over in public relations, a phone back in the business office, one in the President's office and I guess J. B. Williams had one in his office on the second floor in the secretarial school.

ES: What was the size of the student body at that time?

MS: You have me there. It was roughly seven hundred then. They came day and night but most of them came at night. I would suspect that there were about three hundred in the day. And then the fall that I came in, I remember we had about six hundred freshmen. So it grew. In 1939 and 1940, during the prewar years, we got up to probably two thousand, all together, including secretaries and night school and what have you.

ES: What was the division between male and female?

MS: Well, it was about five to one then, mostly men. We had just come through the recession and girls were not going out into the business world. In fact,

when I went around pushing door bells, fathers would say: "My boy, he go to school and my girl, she learn to cook and she stay home." We weren't accredited yet by North Central, and as a result, those who could afford to go away, went away. So the group we got here was of a large ethnic and mostly foreign background, first generation, a lot of them. We just started football. There were mostly men.

ES: What was the tuition rate?

MS: Oh dear. I think it was something like forty-five dollars for two courses. This is what most of them did. Now this was on a semester basis. I think the tuition itself, I'd have to check that in the catalog, must have been about a hundred dollars, plus ten dollar fees or something like that, a semester. It wasn't very expensive.

ES: Who was J. B. Williams?

MS: J. B. Williams was head of the business school, secretarial school. J. B. came here to the staff in the 1920's. There were two or three business schools --the Brown Business School, the Hall Business School --and J. B. came in here in the 1920's, I'm sure, because the girl that lived across the street from me in Cortland came down here to the business school in those days. J. B. really sat over there and made secretaries out of those girls. And, of course, most of the girls in those days were enrolling in the secretarial school. He'd sit out there in the front hall and make sure that the girls didn't go downtown to the movies and play off, you know they stayed there. He was the old Simon Legree of the secretarial school, but he was quite a man and he stayed with us until he really retired. He died in, gosh, I don't know, I remember going to his funeral. It must have been the late 1950's or 1960's, I can't be sure.

ES: How was the staff and faculty organized in 1939?

MS: Well, Dr. Wilcox was here as the dean or head of education and he was kind of the dean of the faculty. Of course, Dr. Jones was here. He came here in 1931 or 1932. Then they had Joe, who had come down here as a full-time teacher by then. There were Catherine and Frank Semans. Catherine was the Dean of Women, she was a Psychology teacher, and Frank was here in

Biology. Ed Scudder was here in Chemistry. Karl Dykema was here in English. L. T. Richardson was here in Language and O. L. Reid was here in History. I'd have to go back and count them, but we had, I suspect, fifteen full-time teachers. Obviously, we could all park in the parking lot so there weren't too many [teachers]. Of course, the big thing then was the night school, Commerce and Finance.

We had files for all of our students in two drawers and one drawer was Commerce and Finance. That was the big night program. There were a few liberal arts, at night. Then we had a liberal arts day [program] and a commerce and finance day. This was pretty much the division then. We didn't have a school of education or business school, engineering school or anything of that sort. We did teach engineering courses, drawing, math and things like that at night for students that were going to be engineers, but we didn't have an engineering school then. They could come here for a year or two and then transfer to Carnegie [Institute of Technology], or Case, or somewhere like that. We were a pretty closely knit bunch and everybody had their mailboxes over there in the old Main Office where Mr. Rook is now. The President's office, Dr. Jones, was on one end, and Buchanan, the registrar, was at the other end. Then Craig was the registrar over at the business school. About the time I came here, in 1940, the business school had moved back over to East Hall. Chemistry labs and so forth were put in then on the second floor of the Main Building. East Hall was the one that was torn down in 1973 for the new library.

ES: What was your impression of the student body?

MS: Well, by impression, do you mean the way they acted? The kids came because they wanted to go to school. There were some excellent students in that group. Fred Frederick is now a doctor, John Guju is now a doctor. Chuck Axtmann is now an accountant. A lot of them have turned out to be accountants. Chuck Zellers is now President down at Rollins College. They were a serious minded bunch of kids. The threat of war was kind of hanging over their heads. They were really coming to school to be serious about it. The people who were coming at night had to be serious because they were working. And we didn't have a lot of the frills. They were building up tradition at that time, their Bare Brunches and

this sort of thing. Buchanan came in 1927, but Johnny Bare was still here teaching psychology. Johnny Bare had been registrar before Bucky [Buchanan] and had been quite popular with the students. They would all go out to Mill Creek Park and have a day, and a Bare Brunch in the spring and they usually managed to do something in the fall; they were a pretty cohesive bunch of kids. I say kids, but they were students.

There was nothing of the modern revolutionary spirit in the students; they rolled with the punches. We started a football team. The students came in and wanted a football team because they were fresh out of high school, where they had had a good team. They came in and talked to the President and kind of demanded that we have a football team. Our basketball team then was playing down at the YMCA. But everybody went to everything. They had parties and clubs, but they didn't have national fraternities and sororities. Those that wanted to participate, could. They were a pretty good bunch of kids.

ES: What was the relationship between the community and the college?

MS: The community sponsored the college. The college then was a YMCA affair. It had been called the YMCA College until 1938 or 1939. Now the YMCA came up and built Jones Hall for us and it was given to Youngstown College when Jones was president. Prior to that Mr. Skeggs had been the YMCA secretary. And, of course, Prexy had been at Fenn College in Cleveland, which was also a YMCA school. I think that was the way he made his connection with Youngstown.

Because the YMCA had organized and started the college in answer to a need by students for a college or other higher education in this area, the community probably didn't regard it as a very standard college, in terms of accreditation and so forth. People who graduated from Oberlin would still send their kids to Oberlin but they found no fault with it [Youngstown College], and the community pitched in and helped. Otherwise we wouldn't have the buildings and things we have today. The Board of the College was the Board of the YMCA. Our checks were all written down at the YMCA, so we had a tie with the community through the YMCA.



ES: What curriculum and degrees were offered by the college?

MS: Well, we gave just one degree then and that was the bachelor of arts degree. It didn't make any difference if you majored in English or Business. We did have what we called some two-year associate titles. The boys who came to school in the evenings would take thirty semester hours of accounting and then they took thirty hours of liberal arts, things like English, Science, et cetera, which added up to sixty hours.

Then they could get a title. Commerce and Finance majors received an ABA degree. I think it was called Associate in Business Administration. Our business administration school actually didn't grant degrees in those days.

I think we got our accreditation about 1939 from the State of Ohio. We gave courses in education and could give certificates on the secondary level. It was about 1939 that Dr. Wilcox decided that we should be doing something on the elementary level and they brought Miss Freeda Chapman in. They finally got accreditation in 1939 or 1940. Then they started giving the BS in Education degree. Up to that point everybody took science, language, et cetera. We had requirements in psychology, philosophy, social studies and others. We had chapel regularly. Everybody was required to go three days a week and attendance was taken. Another day they had orientation for freshmen and the fifth day was student government day.

ES: What were the major problems facing the college?

MS: Well, Emmett, I think there were two things we were concerned about. One certainly was money. We had to depend on the YMCA; we had to provide our own funds. The second major problem was that of accreditation. Dr. Jones knew that in order to get students to come here we would have to be accredited. In those days if they transferred to Ohio State they would be given credit for their A's and B's and they had to attend Ohio State for at least a quarter before they would determine whether or not they could have C credits transferred.

Dr. Bland Stradley, who was one of the Vice-Presidents at Ohio State, was one of the powers in the Ohio

College Association and did everything he could to help us. We didn't get our North Central Accreditation until 1946. Dr. Stradley and people like him, Earl Anderson, and Dr. Dale Russell helped us tremendously. Dr. Russell was executive secretary of North Central.

You had to have money to hire faculty. Faculty wanted to come to an accredited school. So before we could, for instance, put in an engineering school, or school of business, we had to find qualified people. That takes money. One school that I failed to mention before was the law school. It had been organized about 1908. Actually it's from the law school that we get the date of our founding. The law school operated only at night. We had the blessing of the Mahoning County Bar Association or we could not have maintained our law school.

Prexy Jones was a money raiser and an organizer. And I think that was the reason that he did come here. When we did get our accreditation by North Central, one of the things that held it up for an extra two years was that we were involved with the YMCA. If we made money at all on tuition, that money went into the coffers of the YMCA. So we were self-supporting. We, in fact, helped the YMCA. As a result of this there were some enemies made when Prexy had to break the ties in order to have us accredited by North Central. That was one of North Central's demands. We had to be self-supporting. So he [Prexy] had to go out and raise money with the help of his board. He had to raise money for endowment and what have you. Some of the men on the YMCA board were not included--that board was pretty large--in the newly named College Board. North Central felt that we should have a board of about twenty people. So Prexy had to make some decisions as to who should come over to the actual college board. He made some enemies. He had to cut the mustard somehow. I would say money was tough.

We didn't need any more room in those days. After 1939, our enrollment started dropping off again. It continued to drop off all during the war. In February of 1945, the GI's came back. Then they really started coming back in. During that period we struggled with trying to get a few faculty members in and get the faculty divided into the present schools, special and technical.

ES: Who were some of the key men who helped Dr. Jones?

MS: Men he relied on were men like James L. Wick who was President of our board for many years. J. C. Argetsinger, who was Vice-President, was probably the man responsible for finding the money for our present library. He knew Cold Metal Processing people. Ramage, Carl Rigby, who was up at Packard in Warren, Parker, Mr. Strouss, Mr. Spencer, and Mr. Pollock were the men on the board who had their fingers in what was going on. Frank Purnell I can't forget. Dr. John McCann stood by Mr. Jones all the time. Then there were Charles Watson, Ward Beecher, and Walter Bliss. These men went out through the community trying to make policy and spiring out people who could give money to the College. They started building the endowment with Prexy because he had to have that. He spent probably fifty percent of his time on this. Cap McKee headed the Economic Business Foundation over at New Wilmington, and there was Mr. Roemer from Sharon Steel.

The whole board worked in those days. Prexy picked them because they were the kind of people who could and would work. Bill Pollock and Judge Ford were on the board. Ford helped to get the Rayen School. Oscar Gayton was also on the board. These men really worked. I hear the kids saying today how the trustees never do anything. I realize that they really don't know what went on among these board members.

ES: What was the relationship between Dr. Jones and the faculty?

MS: Nobody ever called him Dr. Jones. I suppose there were people who thought that they weren't getting a fair shake sometimes. By and large, he was one of us. He worked with us and his office door was always open. Everybody knew what everybody else was doing. They played golf together, went swimming and had picnics together and his associations with that faculty, I'm sure, are pretty strong even today. That is really obvious when anything does come up, wherein those older people think that the new administration has not been fair to Prexy, and I'm not saying that they haven't been. They've been fair. But if anything comes up that even seems to impinge in any way on anything that he [Dr. Jones] might have accomplished, or some comment was made in some

kind of snide fashion, they're right up in arms. Dr. Behen said one day that he doesn't know of any man who could keep a college running on a shoestring and yet just make us want to stay here. Very few of his faculty ever left. They stayed until they retired or died. Frank Semans left the Biology department because he wanted to do a special kind of research, but most of them stayed on.

ES: What would you consider the major achievements of the college prior to WWII?

MS: I would say accreditation. Well, I shouldn't say prior to the war because this occurred at the end of the war. One achievement was the bringing of the Dana School down here. I really think I could say, Emmett, that the foundation was kind of laid for the building of the University. The pattern was set for engineering, business, education, law and music. It was really the laying of the foundation for the present University, getting it organized and that sort of thing.

ES: How was the physical education program organized and implemented?

MS: That, again, came about as a result of the accreditation we were working on. You know, when North Central comes in and accredits, you have a good year's work to do preparing the material, telling them how good you are hopefully, being aware of your shortcomings, and trying to do something about them. One of our problems was that we were still teaching our health and physical education through the YWCA. The girls all went to the YWCA and they all learned to swim. At least they got in the pool. That was the only program for girls.

The boys had a similar program at the YMCA. I think theirs probably had a little more physical conditioning. Then, teachers from the YMCA and the YWCA came and taught health education. Al Fairfield came from the YMCA and Ruth Whittington came over from the YWCA. Prexy knew that North Central would never approve that set up. So he came over one morning and said, "Why don't you and Willard Webster do something in the area of physical education? We need faculty help and student help." I made comments that I wouldn't even think about touching it because I had been away for about ten years. So he

asked what it would take to get me back in it. I said probably a master's degree and he told me to go get it.

So I went down to Ohio State University and finally got my master's degree in 1947. It was during this time that I was appointed coordinator of the physical education program. I worked with Dr. McCann, Joe, and Prexy, trying to get the health service recognized. We got into the College Health Association because I was building a new program and had been to Ohio State University studying with Dr. Oberteafter, one of the great names in American physical education. Paul Landis was also there as the State Director and I was invited to a number of conferences they were having to revise the curriculum for health and physical education. I was in on the ground floor and these men all helped me.

We built our curriculum and in 1952 we had it accredited by the State Department of Education and, of course, Mr. Landis was still in as the Director of Health and Physical Education. He came up here and inspected us, and by that time, I had talked Prexy into taking over the old newsboy's club back here and turning this into a college gym. They put in some showers. We were then able to move all of our girl's program, which had been at the YWCA. Miss Laborde came as head of the women's department about 1949 and at that time she made contacts with the city park and they let us use their tennis courts, hockey fields and so on. Our men continued their classes at the YMCA until we got Beeghly. The major classes were taught over at the newsboy's club. That's the way it happened.

ES: Where was the newsboy's club?

MS: It was right where the planetarium is now. It must have been part of the Wick Estate originally. It was a big building. I think it had been used back in 1939 when there was a big steel strike at Republic Steel. They housed some men in the newsboy's club for a while when they had to sneak some of their men out, so they could stay close to the mill. Roy Leventree was another man that was involved with Prexy and Republic Steel. I remember they gave the college their cots and so forth. During the war they used the club for a place to house some of the naval cadets and commercial pilots. So the newsboy's club really got used before I got it as a gym.

ES: What was the reaction of the students to the physical education program?

MS: Well, for the majors it was great because they had been going along, trying to carry a major program though it wasn't officially authorized. I think they were happy to have it official and I was happy because it meant that we were putting out into the schools honest-to-goodness majors more professionally oriented than those with minor certification. We had a good bunch of students and they were doing the work and getting jobs. This was great for them and for Youngstown.

ES: Do you recall some of the more famous students?

MS: Oh, in physical education, yes. Of course you could start through the city schools. It sounds like the whole athletic department. Pete Prokop is out at Liberty now and Pete Lanzi was at East and is now at a Riverside School for the Deaf--I think in California. Charles Bush, the coach at North a year or two ago, did so well in basketball and is now principal at Volney Rogers. Dick Jarvis is out teaching. Red Angelo was at Chaney for a good many years. And John Pelusi, who was at Chaney, is now over in career education.

A lot of these boys, aside from being physical education people, have come back and done masters work and they're now teaching in the city schools in other areas. There are a lot of them out and around. When you go to a county physical education meeting now, it's like old home week. In fact, most of them who graduated in those early days, like Pat Lowry, Peggy Cristal and so on, are now really in administrative positions out in California, Michigan and the YMCA and YWCA. So I'm pretty proud of that department.

ES: What were it's major problems in the beginning?

MS: Well, the problem with the YWCA and YMCA was actually the space, operating in a makeshift gym. I recall going to graduate school and talking about playing volleyball over a clothesline. I always felt that maybe this was the way we were running our program. But it turned out to be a good program, and now with the new gym and new facilities, it has been tremendous. In fact, a number of our grads--we did put

out good people in the department--did go on and get graduate work. Bill Carson was one of our more famous ones, and he has been coaching golf for a number of years.

ES: Who were the initial faculty members in the Physical Education Department?

MS: Well, there were a lot of us. Dom Rosselli was in the department doing some of the coaching. Then we had a lot of part-time people like Peg Stage who came over from the public schools. And then very early we hired Bev Marks to come in. We used people through town like Leo Mason and Harley Littler, John Hunter and men of that character who came in and helped us with our program and who taught a lot of the night classes for us. We didn't have a very big faculty to start with. We all worked fifteen and sixteen hours a day to get it going, but it went.

ES: Were they paid?

MS: Oh, yes. They were paid. Yes, indeed. Not as much as they should have been probably, in terms of the salary, but they were paid. Many of them, of course, like Mason and Hunter and Peg Stage, were already on boards of education and were teaching, and they would be paid on a part-time basis for coming in in the evening. Of course Dom [Rosselli] was helping to coach. So he was paid. Then some of the other classes that were required for the major, like physiology and so forth, were taught by our biology department. So there was a kind of a meeting of the minds. People were paid. Leo Mason and Bob Thompson did the tennis classes for us and of course they were coaching too. I'm not sure how much they ever got for the coaching. They did get paid for teaching the classes.

ES: What was the actual set up of the physical education department as far as women as opposed to men?

MS: Well, of course we started out with the girls at the YWCA and the men were at the YMCA. They had, when we moved over here to the newsboy's club, everything housed in this one building with the exception of swimming which we still had to do at the YMCA and the YWCA. We did use the parks for the tennis courts and hockey fields and so on. And we used to go down here to Harrison Field where the ROTC boys were

drilling too, for soccer and so on. So we had to move around and adapt to what was around us. But I suspect in those days, too, most of the football team were physical education people and maybe the basketball team, too, because Prokop and Bush and Christein and those lads were all on the basketball team. I know at one time I had something like 140 men majors and there were probably 15 or 20 girls. So the men kind of outnumbered the girls.

ES: During your tenure from 1937 until 1967, what changes have occurred in the facilities of the college?

MS: When I came here there was one building and that was Jones Hall and we did have East Hall which was next to us. We did use Butler Art. Of course, this was enough during those WWII years. Then when the veterans came back in 1946, we expanded all over the place. We did secure permission from the Rayen Foundation to use the northern half of the Rayen School building here between Rayen and Wood Street. We moved our engineering department down there. For years, math and engineering cohabited that area. We came up and had classes at the library.

In the early 1950's, we put Central Hall over there for the cafeteria and music rooms on the second floor and we had our health services up there. Then we had four temporary army barrack buildings, what we called annex buildings, that were up where Ward Beecher now stands. Those we used for classes and for offices. During that same period of time we were given Ford House and Pollock House and expanded up that way. We bought Elm Street School from the city and moved our school of education over there. And then just before we went State, in fact, the year before, the State did build us our engineering building which we are now using.

In 1956 or thereabout, we built the new library and went in there. The old part of Ward Beecher Science Building was built and then Ward Beecher itself. The planetarium was built on this end. We acquired the property that is now known as the Dana School of Music. We acquired what is now the Dana Recital Hall which was the old Christian Science Church here. We acquired Linder House. Kilcawley Student Center was built. The dormitory was given largely by the Kilcawley family and the center itself was



built by the student fund. All of these things were done before we became a State University.

ES: What was this Linder House?

MS: Al Linder was, for a long time, Protestant Chaplain. Well, it's the house just above Buechner Hall actually. We use it for music now but Al Linder had lived there. The buildings around here were named by the kids or the faculty and they called that one Linder House, for want of a better name.

Most of these buildings were here and we were expanding into them, hurting for room I might add, but this had gone on by 1967 and since that time we did get Lincoln Project built by a foundation. I think the university has recently gotten permission to buy that. Of course Beeghly gym had been on the drawing board and the money had been raised for it before we became State. I remember Prexy showing me the first check for Beeghly gym about 1956. So it took us seventeen years, but it's there now.

I remember Walter Bliss saying to me on the night that Kilcawley was dedicated, "I have an announcement to make." Joe was the master of ceremonies and I was sitting between Charlie Watson and Walter Bliss. Ann Kilcawley Christman was there to accept the gratitude for her parents. At the end of the dinner, after all of the credits had been given, Walter Bliss said, "Now I think we need a music center and I am hereby pledging \$500,000 to build a Fine Arts building, a Music and Fine Arts building." So now up here where Ford House was we'll have our Fine Arts building.

ES: Did you mention a date on that dedication at Kilcawley?

MS: I really can't tell you. I remember Mrs. Purnell and Charlie Watson and all of them being there. It must have been in the early 1960's. I'd have to go back and check the year Kilcawley actually came into being.

ES: Who was Walter Bliss?

MS: He had been very active in the YMCA and the Youngstown College for many years but he was with

Standard Slag Company and he worked with Mr. Kilcawley. That was one of Mr. Kilcawley's companies.

ES: Buechner Hall was a dormitory for women?

MS: Yes. Buechner Hall was built when I came here in 1939. I think it was fairly new then. But it was built by, again, a foundation. It was built to provide a homelike atmosphere for working girls, and was a little more expensive than the YWCA. But many of the secretaries--I remember Leda Swaney who was Mr. Argetsinger's secretary--and a great many school teachers moved up there. They had their rooms and a private dining room and they had maid service. It was just maybe a little more palatial than the YWCA. Finally, when the college needed some space for girls from out of town--we did require all freshmen women to live either in Buechner or the YWCA--the Buechner Foundation agreed to give us one floor. So Buechner does not actually belong to the University, although we are privileged to have gals stay there. Of course freshmen girls do not have to live in dorms now, if their parents give them permission otherwise. Many of them are in private homes and some of them are in apartments or other spots around town. We have this other dorm now over on Lincoln. So there is plenty of space for gals now.

ES: What changes have occurred in the faculty and staff relationships during the time that you have been here?

MS: Well, none really. Do you mean the feeling of faculty and staff toward each other and their interaction? I think because of size we probably don't have the small intimate group that we had before, but now we have several small intimate groups within the whole.

The faculty do try to get together frequently now. We used to have a faculty meeting once a month with everyone there, whereas we now have a senate meeting once a month with elected representatives. We can't operate quite as much with everybody knowing everything that is going on. We find out what is going on now by memo, word of mouth, the luncheon table, or perhaps through the newspaper. We can't operate in the same small intimate way but, by and large, I believe the faculty still gets together. You don't

know everybody. I don't. I used to know everybody, because they all came into one spot for their mail and I knew them. I'm not in that mail room now, so I don't know the people who come in for mail and, of course, very often secretaries come in.

When we started out we had sixty people perhaps. It was great. Now we have about six hundred faculty members and when we add staff we get six hundred more. So we have twelve or fifteen times as many people working here as we did. We have more students, too. So your time is taken up a little more and you don't know them as well.

We were talking about faculty changes. I suspect the biggest change that has come about between the faculty and staff in the last few years has been the coming of the teachers' union in Youngstown. Of course we didn't have that in the old days. You kind of bargained with your boss and if you didn't like what you were getting out of it, you told him so and if he could make it any more pleasant for you, he did. If he couldn't, you just didn't teach. It was so simple. But with the union now there is a very different attitude. I think most of the faculty take a lot of it with a grain of salt. They are happy over the results they get. Not many of them really get out on the firing line and fight for anything. It's kind of, we leave it to the leaders to do, and whatever they get is great.

I am not sure that the College faculty are typical of the good old union members within industry and things like that. But that just happens to be the difference in our relationships I would suspect. Many of us can sit down with the President and call him John, and interact on a friendly basis. There are some members of the faculty who can't.

ES: I'm trying to get a feel for the student body numberswise and men versus women as to when you came here and as to numbers when it became Youngstown State.

MS: When I came here we didn't have a very big student body, around a thousand. The first year of the war I remember doing a report and we had only around seven hundred eighty students that fall. The war had started and pulled a lot of the students away. As of now there is an increase in the enrollment of

women and a decrease in the enrollment of men, so that the total university population is dropping. Gals still enroll more and now we're not quite one-to-one but less than two-to-one.

Women have come into the halls of Youngstown, I think, because we've been offering more things for girls. I mentioned previously that there was more of an ethnic force before and girls just did not need to go to school. A girl's role in life was to grow up and get married and have a family, and she didn't need college.

I think that most people have learned differently now, and young men and women who were students in college then, are now the parents of the students who are here now, and they are sending their daughters to school. Of course the girls are getting out into the work force now and we do have things like nursing and home economics and so on, which girls can major in now, which was not the case when I first came to Youngstown.

ES: Has there been any appreciable change in the attitude of the students?

MS: Oh, yes and no. I think that, by and large, our students have remained pretty much the same. Most of the students who come here are coming for an education. I think that they were certainly affected by the revolutionary attitudes of the late 1960's and early 1970's. Our kids did have some mass meetings and they did crusade, although they might have felt more than they ever showed. I think that because ours [students] were not in dormitories and did live at home, they didn't have the-- well, I don't want to say riots--but the many demonstrations that a lot of the schools had.

I think that the youngsters are looking at the world more. I think television has helped this. I think that newspapers and the up-to-the-minute news changed all this. I think they've changed society. Of course our students are a reflection of that society. I think they did away with a lot of tradition. Percentage-wise we had fewer people in social groups, that is, in the recognized social groups, and yet when I start looking around at the vast number of groups existing on campus I suspect we have as many students enrolled or involved in

on-going campus activities as we ever had. But students are coming back to the traditional again. Within a few years we may be right back where we were in the early 1940's.

Yes, I would have to say there has been a change in our attitudes which has caused the change in attitudes of the students. I think that students demanded power then in their own way. I remember when the students came in and insisted that they wanted a football team, and they were persistent enough to get it. They come now with demands that they want the health clinic, they want a bigger student union and more parking. I don't notice too big a difference between the students in 1939 or 1940 and the students today.

In the 1940's we had doctors on campus. We've taken a step backwards since we became a State University in that respect, although we do maintain our health service. We have doctors on call. Our students want these things. I think it's reasonable. They now want a child care center which they weren't wanting back in 1939 and 1940, because there is a difference in the make up of our student population now. A lot of them are married and they have different problems.

ES: Did World War II have any appreciable effect on the college?

MS: No. We listened all during the war to the problems we were going to have when the veterans came back. I think that probably WWII might have speeded up the emphasis on our engineering school. The Rayen School of Engineering probably came along faster than it would have otherwise because of the needs of the war efforts. The School of Commerce and Finance had always been coming along. The School of Business Administration was officially established with a dean of its own at the end of the war.

Aside from numbers and perhaps an emphasis on program, the war was probably an interlude. And I can't say that it had any special effect. It brought many more people to the campus in the special programs we had here. But the war made us aware of the fact that we were living in a world. I think Youngstown had been established that way because the residents were working people. I think we realized that we

were not in an ivory tower here. We were living in the midst of society, so when the vets came back we realized that they didn't have the deep-seated psychological problems that we had heard so much about. They kept saying: "You know you are going to have problems with adjustment when they [the veterans] come back." We didn't know what was going to happen. I never was aware of much adjustment being made. When the veterans came in, they were like other normal human beings and I think they were good for the university.

ES: Would you describe your various positions and responsibilities at the college?

MS: Emmett, it sounds like a travelog. Well, when I came in, I started pushing door bells as an admissions officer. And then Willard Webster got poison ivy at football camp and he couldn't take his classes. At odd times I graded English papers for John Bare. Then when the assistant registrar, Carolyn Higgins, left the university to go to the Red Cross during WWII, I started typing permanent records and helping the Registrar's Office. I did this until about 1943, when I took leave for about three months to teach at Hayes Junior High School because I didn't feel that I was needed at the university.

Because of the illness of my mother I had to resign at Hayes and by the time Christmas vacation was over I decided I'd better not try to go back and maintain the school job because I wasn't sure of Mother's health. Fortunately she recovered and I came back to keep house. At that point, Dr. Jones came over and asked me to come and help at the university part time and I've been here ever since.

I was called Assistant Registrar with Mr. Buchanan as the Registrar. There was a lot of detailed work when we were trying to get ready for North Central accreditation. Then Dr. Jones asked me to do something about the physical education program mentioned earlier. Shortly thereafter, because Joe [Dr. Smith] started making noises about retiring, I thought I had better pull out gradually. I resigned my post as Coordinator of Health and Physical Education and they hired Dr. Earl Durand to come in and take over there. I helped him get started and was kind of a sounding board for him while I gradually withdrew

from that area. At about the same time they moved our office because of space.

They moved the Records area of the Registrar's Office up to the basement of the new library and to avoid confusion at that point they called me the Recorder. During this period I was teaching classes in health and marriage psychology and I kept on teaching those classes. I remained Recorder until Mr. Buchanan left in the fall of 1966. Then I was named Registrar. And I remained Registrar until 1971. They hired an assistant for me and meanwhile we had a Dean of Admissions and Records to combine the work of admissions, registrar and records. I was named Assistant to the Dean of Admissions and Records. Then this last summer I moved over here so I've had a lot of changes in my life here at Youngstown.

ES: What has been your most rewarding task?

MS: Oh, my rewarding aspect has been the young men and women who have come here, some of them with not a very great outlook on life except that they felt that they ought to go to college. I've seen them go out and make good as doctors, teachers, business people, housewives and mothers and I think that being around all of these young people has helped keep me young. My final reward lies in seeing them make good. The young ones who I had in class could now have me in class and teach me a good many things. And I think you kind of live through the abilities and the achievements of others, Emmett. When they make good then you feel that you've made good too.

ES: Who was John Bare?

MS: John Bare was a Registrar at Youngstown and then he taught English and Psychology. When the vets came back, John was the counselor, hired by the government, well, hired by us. The government set up a psychometry lab here and we had men on campus, a couple of them even employed by the VA, who came in and tested the veterans and helped them get their objectives set for education and so on, so that they could get their Certificates of Entitlement to come back to school. But John [Bare] was here and heavens, he lived on and on. I don't think that he retired as a teacher until he was about eighty. It

seems to me that he must have been close to that age. But he was one of the men who loved students.

I mentioned previously about the Bare Brunch. They used to take a day off from classes in the spring, or from ten o'clock on at least, and they would all go out to Mill Creek Park and have a picnic. The Student Council probably bought the hot dogs and the potato salad and they would go out in the park and have their baseball games. I remember playing in a faculty student baseball game. It was just the greatest thing. But they always used to call this the Bare Brunch in honor of Johnny Bare. He's dead now but his wife is still living in town and his daughter, Susan has been here through the years as the Principal of Roosevelt School. So the family has always maintained an interest in the university.

ES: What was the actual sequence of events from Youngstown College, Youngstown University and Youngstown State?

MS: Well, I can go back even farther than that. They took these five schools and combined them here, and Youngstown College actually, I think, was named about 1927. Up to then it had been the YMCA College. Of course we were founded by the YMCA. And until about 1937 we even had a high school here. Many people don't know that; I didn't know it until I came here in 1939 and found these cards. We taught high school classes here. I think this must have been before South High School. We had a high school and then, I think, the first class to actually graduate from Youngstown College was about 1930. As I remember, Emmett, there were about ten graduates in that first class.

We remained Youngstown College from 1927 until about 1955, in which year, I think, we became Youngstown University. The reason for that actually stemmed out of North Central. When we were accredited by North Central in the 1940's we actually had departments of business, a department of education and so on. The accrediting agency actually kept calling these Schools of Business and Schools of Education. We had to make the university standards much larger to attain our accreditation because they said that we actually have the university organizational structure even though we call ourselves a college. And so this went on until about 1955 or 1956, and



at that point, the Board of Trustees and the faculty agreed that we should call ourselves a university. We changed our name to Youngstown University. And then when we became State in the fall of 1967, we became Youngstown State University.

Of course there is a lot of controversy now that Youngstown State University makes a long title, but we still maintain that name. Whether that will at some time be changed, I don't know. Right now, that's the way it is.

ES: Would you discuss the role of Dr. Joseph Smith in the development of the Youngstown College?

MS: Yes, Emmett. When we were admitted to North Central --I recall reading it on Sunday morning--the news really hit the newspapers and there was a lot of publicity. I remember reading it with a great deal of glee, and Joe got a big charge out of it too, because they said the university was founded in 1888 --which we were, as a night high school actually-- and Dr. Joseph Smith was one of the earliest teachers.

Well, actually Joe didn't come here until about 1921. At that time he was a professor at Hiram. He and Lee Cannon and Walker came down from Hiram two nights a week on the old Lake Erie Railroad from Garrettsville to Youngstown. They'd come down in the afternoon and get dinner here in town and teach classes a couple of evenings a week and then go back to Hiram. Lee did the language and Walker did the psychology and education and Joe did economics, sociology, or history or whatever they needed that particular quarter. They also had men who came from Greenville. Dr. Evans I think came from Greenville, and there was Dr. Waldron who came over from Slippery Rock; they were really the first night teachers.

In those days, the credit was not given here at Youngstown College. It was actually kept on the Registrar's books back at the schools from which the teachers came. Hiram College kept all of the records of the students that Joe taught and in this way those students were able to get credit, not from Youngstown in those days, but from Hiram. And even now these schools maintain those records. Those were the first night teachers. Well, Joe went on doing this sort of thing and teaching in some

summer sessions until about 1937 when he came down to Youngstown full time. He had known Dr. Jones at Hiram and I have mentioned that Dr. Jones had been Assistant President there. By 1937 he moved Joe down here full time. And Joe came down and taught in summer sessions which were then something like six weeks or he would teach one six-week session and then go back. He taught full-time economics and sociology primarily.

Then about 1939 one of Joe's students from Hiram, John Burton, called Joe in June and suggested that it would be a good idea if Joe would come to New York and talk with Tom Dewey, in terms of helping with Dewey's bid for the presidency. John Burton worked for Nassau County in New York and was a tax person, and later became business manager and Assistant President at Cornell University. He just retired last year.

Joe wasn't much interested in this little gimmick but John said, "Well, we'll pay for your trip," and Joe decided that it would be a good way to see the World's Fair anyway, so he went to New York. Joe wasn't very interested in politics as such, although in 1933 he went out to California and did some special work for the government for the Roosevelt Administration and for Ickes, who was at that time Secretary of Agriculture. He came back. He had also done some special work for the Library of Congress but he wasn't really interested in it. He decided that he really wanted to teach and so when this call came about helping Dewey, he just wasn't too interested. But we went to New York and took two or three days vacation time. Dewey said, "Well, you know, my wife goes out with the fear of getting acid thrown in her face and I send my kids to school under armed guard." Dewey at that time, you recall, was kind of a racket-busting DA of the New York City area and Dutch Schultz and his bunch were being locked up at that point. He also said, "Here you are, a professor sitting back in your arm chair telling us how to run the world and not doing much about it." It kind of shamed Joe into going and helping him.

So that fall, 1939, the first semester, he went for a time to New York to work with Tom Dewey. He spent the summer of 1939 there and then he came back and taught until Christmas time. But he would frequently

go to New York on weekends. We were married over Thanksgiving and then the day after Christmas, Joe left for New York. He came back at the end of January.

Dr. Gould took over his classes during the month of January. I gave his tests. He got in here one morning at four o'clock on the Pennsylvania, graded his papers, got his grades in and I got mine in-- I was teaching biology at that time--and we took off February 1 and spent that whole winter of 1940 in Washington working for Tom Dewey. This entailed frequent train rides to New York too. But then we lost out to Wilkie and we came back and worked again at the university.

Of course Joe got back here and got teaching again, and then about 1942 or 1943, when the war had started, he felt that he should be doing something for the war effort. Even though he taught classes in the evening, he took leave of absence from the university and worked as this area's Director of the War Manpower Commission for the twelfth area of Ohio, including Western Pennsylvania. I didn't see very much of him during those war years when he was trying to get people to work the 48 hour week and he was working an 84 hour week. But he would come home at noon occasionally and nap and go back and he kept going. Well, he did this until about 1946 or 1947, when the war was over and he came back to the university and restarted his teaching. He remained here until the year we went State.

He did move over then to the Youngstown Educational Foundation because he stayed on one year, 1966-1967, after Dr. Jones had retired because Dr. Pugsley asked him to stay on. So he did that and then moved over to the Educational Foundation. But Joe loved to teach and even when he would get these offers weaning him away from the university, he still taught.

Republic Steel at one time wanted him to go and handle Personnel and he had another job offered to him by the government as of post WWII. They wanted him because of his Oxford education. They felt that he knew German fluently and could speak it fluently. They wanted him to come to Berlin and act as a liaison officer among the British, American, German and Russian administrative officers. His answer to

that was, "Gee, we'd be taking soap out of the hands of the Germans, and I don't want any part of it." I thought it would be a great idea to go because I wanted to work on my doctorate since I felt that this would be an easy way for me to brush up and become fluent in German. But he wanted no part of that. So he didn't do it. He came back and taught and thoroughly enjoyed teaching. Of course he had helped the university during the war when we were trying to get accredited by North Central; he was there working and helping in any way he could. He maintained touch with the university and, you see, his office was down at the Union Bank building so he wasn't far from the university. Prexy Jones was down at the house whenever Joe was home and they were working. We'd work around the kitchen table or in the living room or wherever.

But Joe thoroughly enjoyed teaching. Of course his real field was labor relations. His undergraduate had been on labor relations, and British labor education. Dewey was much interested in labor education. And the schools in New York State, Buffalo, Cornell and so on were teaching labor relations. So Dewey relied on him [Joe] a lot for this. You referred to the election night of 1952. He [Joe] would probably not have been Secretary of State. I think John Foster Dulles was the one that supported Dewey and would have been Secretary of State. But Joe would have been Secretary of Labor. And when Ike was elected in 1952, the night of the election, we had a phone call from Elliot Bell who was one of the financial editors of the New York Times, and still may be, although I think he may have retired by now. But they called Joe at that point and Ike invited him to come and be Secretary of Labor because they were still using the Dewey organization. But Joe wanted no part of that. He was back teaching at the university and felt that this was his real love. So he rejected that call but this was the way he was. I think he was basically very modest and really loved to teach.

He did a lot of labor arbitrating in this area. At one time the teamsters union here had, as he said, conferred upon him the dubious honor of naming him mediator for their union here in the city and he went out on many arbitration cases for them, Bendix Aluminum, McCreery's, and Youngstown Bus Company.

This was the sort of thing that he kind of moonlighted on. He used to take Miss Boyer along to take notes for him because she was a good secretary and with her legal training she could write up the briefs for him. That made it much easier. Then about all he had to do was make the decisions. He was much interested in it and tried to get the young people here aware of life. I think he came down here from Hiram because even though he was a thorough scholar, he felt that the kids at Hiram were living in an ivory tower whereas the students here at Youngstown were living real life.

Frequently he would have a son of a labor union organizer or maybe the organizer himself, a son of the owner of a plant or member of a board. He might have a truck driver or a clerk; he had all of these people in his classes. He felt there was a real exchange of ideas which was more meaningful than sitting and learning it out of a book. And he had the facility for picking up young men either at Hiram or here and kind of inspiring them and sending them on. When I look back at some of the people he helped with graduate scholarships and so on, he has quite a list of fine young men who are even retired themselves now, to his credit. This is what Joe thoroughly enjoyed doing and I think he was happy here as a prof.

Then when he moved over to the foundation, it made his retirement not quite as traumatic because he was still here, in touch with the kids two or three days a week and, as a result, it was a little more meaningful to him.

He thoroughly enjoyed life and, of course, enjoyed his golf. He coached the golf team. He liked tennis. He'd go fishing occasionally with Prexy Jones and Dike Beede and maybe Corly Fox, a cousin of Prexy's, or Prexy's brother Reese Jones. There always seemed to be three or four of them. The last year or two he went up to Canada with Frank Battin and Bill, a teacher at Girard, and enjoyed fishing. He liked the outdoors and I think this helped keep him healthy and keep his legs good.

He lived a pretty serene life. He had a hard life as a youngster. He was born in Kansas, moved to Nebraska and worked in beet fields when he was eight years old, carrying the water buckets for fifty

cents a week, living with his brothers in the sugar beet fields. Then he went out across the country with a threshing outfit cutting bands on threshing machines. He'd worked on a ranch one summer. As a youngster he'd had a hard time. One winter, I recall him telling me, he ate nothing but sour cherries they picked and mush and milk and he never wanted me to cook mush. I cooked fried mush one Sunday morning for breakfast and had some sausages and I thought it was a pretty good breakfast. Well, I guess that psychologically, this left too many sad memories for Joe from his past so I never cooked mush for him again.

He grew up and he went to Oxford from Cottner where he had worked as a young lad. He took the exams for Oxford and was able to pass them and was recommended by the committee from Nebraska. Then he graduated from Oxford in 1911, came back and taught at Phillips College down in Oklahoma, a little Christian Church school, and went from there to Eureka and during WWI he was head of the SATC, Student Army Training Command at Eureka College. During the war they sent somebody out from each school to go up to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, to learn what they were supposed to be doing. This was kind of the equivalent of our ROTC. While he was there he roomed with Knute Rockne and George Geautier, a famous coach at Ohio Wesleyan. And even when he was in the hospital, just before he died, Joe kept calling his roommate Knute. He thought he was back in his Knute Rockne days, I guess.

He had great respect for Rockne and Geautier and those boys. Because so many of those college presidents through the mid-west had nominated a person to go and because there weren't as many athletic teams during the first World War, they very often nominated the coach to go. So this company Joe was in was mostly coaches. He often laughed about the troops standing by singing, "The damned old faculty ain't what they used to be," as these guys would march by in Old Company M. And Joe said that they didn't have any trouble in athletic contests because there were so many of those good coaches on the team that they could usually whip any other company that was operating at Fort Sheridan. So he had some pleasant days at Eureka.

Then he came from Eureka to Hiram and then from Hiram to Youngstown. That was pretty much his circuit.

You asked about his testing. Yes. Joe felt--I suspect this was an outgrowth of Oxford--that not only should young men and women be able to understand things, they ought to be able to write what they understood. And I never saw him give too many A's. Usually he gave one or two A's, a lot of B's and C's and very few D's and F's. Especially in the latter years when he was teaching mostly senior students. There weren't too many failing grades given at this level, because of the caliber of students entering his classes I suppose. He gave D's and F's at the lower level when he was teaching beginning classes. He liked to give open book tests. I don't know that I ever saw him give a true-or-false test or multiple choice test.

He felt that students should be able to write. He would give an open book test chiefly because he felt that if they had done their studying all along, and if they had been in class, they had formed some opinions. And this was what he was interested in, their thinking and their use of material that was in the book. He was never one who wanted them to parrot back to him the facts. He wanted them to be able to use them. So most of the time he gave open book tests and he said he always knew from the way they wrote how many of them had really read their texts. Of course he had a pretty good idea of who had been coming to class, and who had been participating. He was philosophical about giving his grades and he insisted on good spelling, good writing, and good and logical thinking. I don't think he ever got too concerned about who cheated on a test and who didn't. I think that when he read the answers he knew pretty much what people were thinking. I heard a good many students who said that they cheated normally and yet when they got in Doc's class, they didn't cheat because they knew they were being trusted there. I suspect this is an outgrowth of his British education actually. I guess if the students are going to cheat, they're going to cheat anyway. Even with the "Prof" sitting there they devise ways and means to cheat. His philosophy was: I want to see what they've learned or how they're thinking about things generally. He had a lot of fun in his classes.

I remember one night when Leo Casey and Mike Kirwan were in one of his classes and Joe had made some comment about, or asked the question, "If it is true

that Youngstown is a little Chicago, what are you as a citizen going to do about it?" I remember him coming home and laughing because Leo had written on his paper, "I am going to observe the actions and attitudes of my illustrious professor and I will do likewise." I'm sure he got a pretty good grade for the answer to that question, because Joe thought he had turned the tables on him. But he enjoyed the students' alertness and enjoyed their friendship.

Very often the students would be in our living room at 12:30 or 1:00 in the morning. I'd go up to bed. I'd throw some stuff out for sandwiches or something. The students would be over having a bull session or a couple would drop in to ask a question and somehow or other, the other fellows always knew they were going to be there. There would be anywhere from four to a dozen to fifteen students sitting around the living room just "yakking" about anything generally and Joe enjoyed this. He enjoyed having the fellows drop in.

ES: Did Dewey request him to come personally?

MS: In 1939, yes. John Burton, a former student of Joe's at Hiram--Joe had helped him go to Northwestern on a scholarship--had told Tom Dewey about Joe. So Tom Dewey told John to get Joe up there to be labor advisor. So Joe actually assisted him with labor. Dewey was a sharp young man and he hired various experts from different areas; he had Anderson from Minnesota come down in agriculture and he had Joe come up for labor. And he had these four or five "experts" who would assist him with the writing of his speeches and kind of gear him in as to what was going on. He listened to them because he himself was still carrying on his law practice and he didn't have time to study all of these various areas, so he'd get these fellows that he relied on and would take their word for what was going on. Joe said Dewey had a fabulous memory. He was told something once and it was his. And so they'd all go up to New York and sit around writing his speeches or helping him write speeches as a group effort.

ES: Who was John Burton?

MS: John Burton was a man who graduated from Hiram in 1927. He was actually a Levittsburg boy. He went



on and graduated from Hiram and was a brilliant young economic student. Joe knew John couldn't go on to school without some scholarship help so Joe worked with the boys from Northwestern to engineer a scholarship for him in economics. John became a tax expert and got appointed by Dewey in the area of Nassau County, and really got them out of the red and into the black. And then when Dewey was governor of New York State, John was also the Treasurer there. He just handled things very very well and when Dewey left there was quite a balance left for the next governor, Rockefeller, I guess. They ran the finances in New York State pretty well. Then after Dewey had left the governorship, John went on as the business manager and became the Vice-President of Financial Affairs at Cornell University. He retired last year. I was up at Hiram Commencement then and he was given the award from Hiram College as the outstanding alumnus last year. He was very instrumental in building the Saint Lawrence Seaway from the financial end of it. He was a very fine gentleman.

ES: What was meant by taking soap from the Germans?

MS: Well, as you recall, during the war the German people were pretty well strapped. They didn't have much sugar, much fat or much of anything. And one of the things they needed at that time was soap. They really didn't have soap. And Joe felt that we would be taking food out of their mouths and soap out of their bathtubs. This was a figure of speech that he used.

ES: In what year was he first suggested as Secretary of Labor?

MS: Well, had Dewey been elected in 1948, he [Joe] would no doubt have been asked to be Secretary of Labor. The boys in the organization had this all figured out because Burton knew he'd be Secretary of the Treasury and Dulles would be Secretary of State and Joe would be Secretary of Labor. This was in 1940. In 1948, Joe didn't get involved in the election too much except from afar. He just told Dewey, "No." He'd gotten back to school from the war and he wasn't interested in going to help Dewey but he did help them on occasion with speeches and that sort of thing. If they asked for help, he'd go up to New York occasionally, but he didn't take such an

active role as in 1940. Of course, he was much interested and was kind of a sideliners. But Dewey, nonetheless, appreciated what Joe had done and when Ike went in in 1952, he knew the organization was still there. There was the night the call came and Joe just sat there and laughed. He said, "No way, I'm happy teaching and I'm going to stay teaching."

ES: Who made that call?

MS: Elliot Bell from the New York Times. Elliot had been the financial advisor and he'd been working with Dewey back in 1939.

ES: Dr. Smith turned him down flat?

MS: Yes, sir. In fact, when he answered the phone that night he said, "This is the Shrine of the Little Flower speaking," and [the voice at] the other end said, "I beg your pardon." Then he said, "This is Joe? This is Elliot Bell." He said, "Ike wants you to be Secretary of Labor." And Joe said, "No way, Elliot, you're out of your mind." And Elliot said, "You wouldn't consider it?" And Joe said, "No way, I'm happy teaching and I'm going to stay here." But he felt flattered, of course.

ES: What was the nature of his work in 1940 in Washington?

MS: Well, actually Dewey was not very well known and not too popular. Most of the time we reviewed the newspapers looking for anything that was written. We got assignments. I did most of the typing and a lot of the telephoning so I was kind of an unpaid secretary. We'd wander up to the Hill and pick up documents. If Dewey wanted to make a speech, we had to get documents before the speech was made. I graduated from college with a history major as an undergraduate, and I thought I knew pretty well how presidents were elected, but I learned the rough way how they really were elected.

Dewey, by legal training, had everything pretty well documented. He would make a speech and then the newspapers came out saying this was not so. The newspapers would read, for instance, that the Democrats had not made such and such a statement and they would start refuting things Dewey had said. We'd go up to the Hill to pick up the document from

which we had secured the quote and find that document disappeared into thin air. After that, when Dewey was getting ready to make a speech--he'd gotten burned once and that was enough--we learned to go up and get the books before the speech was made. We used to rely on Leonard Hall and Senator Durkin and those chaps up on the Hill. We'd go up and we'd meet them and say, "We want this book, or that book, or this pamphlet," and we'd get it. Of course, they knew why we were asking for it but those fellas, for the most part, were Republican. Many of them at that time were wooing Taft along because he was probably one of the most popular candidates at that time. No one had heard much about Wilkie then, but naturally Senator Taft had a lot of friends.

We would go up and get these books and we would take them back and sit on them in our hotel room. Very often though, Joe would put them in a briefcase and send me on the train to New York, and I'd go up and deliver them personally to Dewey's office, Transcontinental Research, on Madison Avenue. I'd hand them to Miss Maulden who was the secretary there in the office. We all called her Fort Maulden because if she got anything she hung on to it and no one got past her who wasn't supposed to get past her. This was a research organization that was set up to handle Dewey's stuff. Actually, John Foster Dulles and some of the attorneys in New York had talked Dewey into running and they were the ones who had helped finance and put up this office.

We knew we were being followed in Washington because when we went out there would always be a couple of plainclothesmen around. There would be beeps on our phone so we knew our phone was being tapped. When I hear about Watergate now I think, well, in 1939 we lived it.

At times we talked with newspapermen. I remember going over and talking with Bill Hard. We talked with the men who were writing for Time Magazine. Part of our job was to try to get some of the Washington men and some of the news writers on his [Dewey's] side and to try to get him a good press. We went to parties and even to the British Embassy in his interest. But basically we were there to do any special leg work he needed, to acquire material,

and to keep a listening ear to what was going on on the Hill.

ES: Who was Miss Boyer?

MS: Miss Boyer is now head of the Political Science Department. She, at that time, was Dr. Jones' secretary.

END OF INTERVIEW