

RUPERT LATTURE

September 27, 1982

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Prof. Charles Turner, interviewer

TURNER: Mr. Latture, we would like to ask you a bunch of early life and just where you were born and something about your early experience before you came to Washington and Lee.

LATTURE: Well, I was born in Sullivan County, Tennessee, which is about sixteen miles from Bristol, Tennessee. I was there until about fourteen, fifteen years old. I finished the fifth grade. I finished the fifth grade in this school that I attended, and that was all the school there was. There wasn't any more for me to go to. So I worked that winter, that year, driving a four-horse team hauling lumber from the area where we lived to the station at Piney Flats, Tennessee, and I drove four horses all winter long, hauling lumber.

The next year, my father and mother moved to Bristol, Tennessee, so we could go to school. There were six children in the family and they wanted us to get more schooling than I was able to get where we lived. So we moved to Bristol, Tennessee, and I attended school there until I finished high school. I went in and took—the two halves of the sixth grade were in the same room, so I took both the A and B section and finished the sixth grade in one term. The next year, the seventh and eighth grade were in the same room, and I took both of them to kind of catch up. So I finished the high school, however, and then the question was about going to college.

I thought I was going to the University of Tennessee, because I didn't think I could afford Washington and Lee, as it was at that time, because tuition was \$85 a

year, and I didn't have that much money to spare. So at any rate, during the summer, the principal of our school, William E. Anderson II, the nephew of William E. Anderson who was well known in Lexington, and was attorney general at one time of the state of Virginia. Mr. Anderson went to visit his uncle in Lexington. While he was here, he saw Dr. George H. Denny [phonetic], who was president of Washington and Lee, and they must have got in a conversation about possible students, and Dr. Denny told Mr. Anderson to tell me to come on up to Washington and Lee and he'd see that I got along all right here, which he meant by that, I think, that he would see that I got some financial aid or something of the sort.

At any rate, I decided to come to Washington and Lee then, although I'd already reserved a room at the University of Tennessee. I came here in 1911. Dr. Denny was president, and while he told me he'd look after me, he left Washington and Lee at the end of the year and went to the University of Alabama as president. We know that he'd started the big football teams down there that's still rolling. Dr. Denny was much interested in football, so that he had even the year I came in, we had several good football players come into the school. We had a very good record of football in those days when our teams could play on an even keel with VPI and University of Virginia and North Carolina and North Carolina State, teams like that.

At any rate, I came to Lexington with a friend of mine from Bristol. We'd graduated together, and he came along with me to Lexington. We roomed together, slept in the same bed for four years at a boarding house where we had our room and took our meals.

TURNER: What boarding house was this?

LATTURE: This was George Deaver's boarding house, which was across the street from the old Stonewall Jackson House.

Well, I did get some financial aid from home for two years, and after that I had to go on my own, because there were other children coming along, and my father was in the postal service and got a fair amount of salary, so that he couldn't help me after my second year, which I continued.

A very surprising thing happened to me. I came back to college my junior year and I had \$75 to see me through the year. When I got to my room, I found a note from Dr. Easter [phonetic], who was head of the French Department, saying that he'd like to see me as soon as I could get out to his house on Jefferson Street. So I went out to see Dr. Easter and wondered what in the world he wanted to see me about. He told me that Dean Cameron [phonetic] was ill and that he'd been asked to serve as dean of the college that year, and he wanted me take a section of elementary French to teach. That, of course, was a big surprise and meant a lot to me financially, because it paid \$250 for teaching the section for a year. So at any rate, that helped me meet my expenses.

Well, I didn't take much part in athletics, although in the class, in football and basketball, I did participate. Actually, the senior year, I was captain of the 1915 basketball team on the campus, and we won the championship of the school for the four academic classes and the two law classes. I rode on the boat crew for two years, actually three years, because the first year I was on the second crew, and then I rode on the first crew two years. We won one year and we lost one year. That, I suppose, is fair enough to break even.

An odd thing also is that Dr. Franklin Riley came. In my senior year, I had a class with him in history—Greek and Roman history. Then the next year when I was here to get my master's degree, Dr. Riley asked me to teach the course which I had had the year before, which shows you the kind of standing they had back in those days. So I was teaching two sections of French and one section of history,

which meant that I was comfortably fixed as far as eating and paying my room and board concerned. So I had that experience.

TURNER: Who was the fellow that roomed with you?

LATTURE: Samuel G. Keller from Bristol, Tennessee. His father ran a saloon. He was a saloon keeper, as they said, but I recall particularly the fact that Sam's father cautioned him about drinking. He was a saloon keeper, but he knew the evils of drink, and so his son, Sam, never took a drink at Washington and Lee, as far as I know. We got along without any liquor in our room.

Of course, the teachers I had that year were quite revealing, I think. The fact that I had English under a man who was here, Amos Lee Harold, was working for his master's degree and he taught a section of freshman English. Mr. Dalette [phonetic] taught the elementary French course. He was in the law school. He had worked with Dr. Easter at Randolph-Macon before he came to Washington and Lee. I had mathematics under a man by the name of Handliss [phonetic], Herbert Handliss, who was a law student and also a good basketball player. I had math with him, and had history with a man from down in Norfolk; I forgot his name now. I can think of it directly, maybe. But at any rate, four of my classes were with student instructors.

One class that I had with Dr. Letton [phonetic], who was well known in history, and the next year after I had worked with him, he went to Johns Hopkins as dean of the graduate school at Johns Hopkins. But that is something that doesn't happen anymore at Washington and Lee, to have a lot of student instructors. You can understand that when you say what I've already said, that tuition was \$85 a year and a good many students had \$50 scholarships.

A very interesting story involving "Captain Dick" Smith, who was well known on the campus for many years as the director of, well, I guess they call them graduate manager of athletics. I heard Captain Dick tell this story, which I think

2

may be probably to say here. Captain Dick came here from Fishburn Military Academy over at Waynesboro. He didn't have any money. He was a good baseball player. When he went through the line to register, he went to the treasurer's office. John L. Campbell, who was treasurer, said, "You don't have enough money to pay."

Captain Dick—he wasn't called Captain then, but called that later—he thought he had two scholarships, \$50 each. The school gave a \$50 scholarship to a student from a high school or preparatory school who had the best grades of those who applied to Washington and Lee. Well, at any rate, Captain Dick had that scholarship from Fishburn, and he thought he had another one from Dr. Denny himself.

Mr. Campbell told him that only one scholarship could be honored; he couldn't have two scholarships. So Captain Dick said he'd have to leave school, and he started to leave, packed up his things, and students gathered around to do something about it because he was a good baseball player. People took baseball pretty seriously in those days.

So the students went up to see Dr. Denny and told him the story. Dr. Denny said for Captain Dick to come up and see him, and he did, and he told him his story. Dr. Denny said, "Why didn't you tell me you didn't have any money?" Well, he thought he had two scholarships which were each \$50 and would put him through as far as tuition was concerned. Well, finally, Dr. Denny wrote him out a note for another scholarship so that he as able to stay.

So Captain Dick went over on Randolph Street and found a room that he could rent for \$5 a month. It had a double bed in it. So he came back up the street and met a student who was looking for a place to room. Captain Dick said, "Will you room with me for \$5 a month?" That's what he was paying for his room. So this boy said he'd pay \$5 a month, so the two of them slept together and spent the year that way.

Then he came up to the town again. There was a restaurant where ~~Albert~~ ^{ALVIN-} Dennis [phonetic] store is now, and he went in to see the proprietor of the restaurant and told him that he would like to do something to earn his meals. So the man told him, "You see that table over there? That table will seat eight people. If you get seven more boys to buy their meal tickets here and eat there, I'll give you your meals."

So Captain Dick went out and got students to take their meals there at this restaurant. [Laughter] So that was the way people did back in those days to get along and meet their requirements.

At any rate, I myself was interested in a good many things in college. I was very active in the YMCA, was president by my senior year of the YMCA, which was pretty active in those days. I was interested in the literary society. I won a [unclear] Medal in the Graham-Lees Literary Society. I went out in the country and served as superintendent of a Sunday school out at Poplar Hills, to pass away my Sunday afternoons, and there were several activities of one sort or another that I took part in.

Well, that probably leads me up to the matter of ODK [Omicron Delta Kappa]. My senior year, I roomed with Carl Fisher [phonetic], my best friend in college, and we got the idea of—started out with the thought of organizing the student assistants, the student instructors. That was the first idea. Then we changed that to selecting what we considered to be the leading students into an organization with some faculty members to deal with problems of students on the campus.

So we started that in 1914—December 3, 1914—with a public announcement made of the organization, which consisted of twelve students, two faculty members, and the president of the university. Dr. Henry Louis Smith was president of the university. Dr. Easter was my special friend because he'd taken me in as an instructor in French. Fisher's best friend was Professor Humphreys in engineering.

Fisher was in the Engineering school, and we had an engineering school in those days. So we had Fisher's favorite professor and my favorite professor, and the president of the university, and the twelve students. Sad to say now that I'm the only one in this group of fifteen still living. I don't know how that happened or why it happened, but that's the way it is.

Well, we got ODK started, and two of our alumni were at Johns Hopkins University doing graduate work, and we encouraged them to talk up ODK at Johns Hopkins, and that's the way we became the Beta chapter of the circle, we called it, ODK.

I was on the debate team against the University of Pittsburgh, and was wearing an ODK key, and the Pittsburgh members of the debating team were curious about that ODK key. So the result of that was that they organized a circle of ODK at the University of Pittsburgh. That's the way the organization got started, and, of course, as you know pretty well, more than 180 schools have circles of ODK, which is an amazing thing.

TURNER: Would you tell us something about the general purpose of ODK?

LATTURE: Well, the purpose of ODK, so we said, was to honor students who exhibited exceptional leadership qualities on the campus, and for them to undertake to do anything they could to promote the best interests of the students on the campus, and to have faculty members participate so that there would be the best possible relations between students and faculty members on our campus. I think it has worked to some extent along that line, although it has changed a little, but very little, since we started it. It's remarkable.

I guess one of the things that I should say with regard to my part was to design the key. The group wanted a symbol of some kind to represent the organization, so they asked people to make suggestions. Several suggestions were made as to keys and different forms of some emblems, but I happened to, when I was in philosophy

class, Dr. Howerton's [phonetic] philosophy class, I took a card out of my pocket and two coins of unequal size, and drew the circle and put the letters inside the circle, which is familiar on the campus now. But when they passed around the other suggestions on paper and nobody seemed to like any of them, so I gave this out, and the group felt that was the thing to do. So that was adopted as the symbol of ODK, and it hasn't been changed any since. It's remarkable that it should continue in just exactly the form in which it originated.

TURNER: Where is its headquarters?

LATTURE: Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky, the University of Kentucky. They have a full-time secretary now. That's just about a year ago they decided they had to have a full-time secretary, because with 180-some circles to keep track of, they couldn't do that and hold another job. One of the first national secretaries was William Mosley Brown [phonetic], who did that on the side. Then Dr. Bishop was secretary for many years, a very fine man in every respect, a splendid man who was executive secretary for many years and did a splendid job, and we're greatly dedicated to him for the service which he rendered in that capacity. He's still living and he's retired now from active duty, but he still lives in Cincinnati and is a real good friend of mine. I'm very fond of Bob Bishop.

TURNER: Would you tell us, you went into the service in the First World War. What time in your career was that?

LATTURE: As I said a while ago, I was active in the YMCA here, and when the First World War came on, I was asked to serve in some capacity in the YMCA, the national YMCA. I went down to Fort McPherson in Georgia to the officers' training camp, thinking I might go into the camp itself, but I hadn't been there long when I had a call from somebody in Washington—at least the officer at Fort McPherson said that I had been called, somebody wanted to speak to me, and I got on the

telephone and they said they would like for me to go to France to be with the French Army, and would I be willing to do that. So I said, "Yes, I'll do it."

So I went with the first group that went over in what they called the F____ de Soldats. We didn't know what we were going to do when we got over there. Actually, when General Pershing arrived in France in July of 1917, he marched with his contingent of American troops on the Champs d'Elysées, and soon discovered that the French morale was lower than people in this country realized. So they wanted to do something, and one of the things they did was to ask some Americans who could speak French to go along the front, being distributed among the French at the front, to counteract the German propaganda which was to be effected. People were being deceived by their leaders that America was not going to really help the war, and that what they should do is really throw down their arms and go home and look after their families—that sort of propaganda. But it was our business to explain to the French why America did not send over a big contingent of soldiers immediately after we declared war, because it took all of our soldiers we had to train the great number of civilians coming into the service. So that was the work of the F____ de Soldats.

This was an organization which was—I never took any combat training, but I was at the front for a year in this service around the Verdun area. I probably was one of the youngest of the group went over. Most of the people who went were French teachers in the colleges. I was about the youngest, so they put me up front in the Verdun area, which was a very interesting place. Of course, you probably are aware of the fact that more people, I suppose, died in that war, in that battle, than in any other battle in history. The place was just torn to pieces, of course, with the bombing that went on for weeks. The Germans took Verdun during the war, the French retook it, and I went into the service just as the French recaptured Verdun.

There was an underground fort badly battered, and one of the things we did was to furnish a room something like this—they called it a casement [phonetic], with a table and with a phonograph and some books, and some writing paper. That's one of the things that we did to be able to mingle with the French. We'd gather around and, of course, they were interested in Americans, find out information about what was going on, what they could expect. So that was a very interesting experience I had there in Fort Dumas [phonetic].

I was at an artillery camp for two weeks, and then go up to Verdun for two weeks, because two weeks was as long as they thought anybody's health would stay in the underground fort. So that was my experience there.

Then after the Americans got into the war, then that answered the question about what Americans were willing to do, so I went in the American Army and served as an interpreter then, and translated for the U.S. for another year. I was luck to get out, I suppose, without a scratch.

TURNER: Then when did you return to Washington and Lee again?

LATTURE: I came home in the end of the summer of 1919. I referred a whole ago to William Mosley Brown, who was one of the founders of ODK. Fisher and I had invited Brown to join us. He was the third member of the group to start with, and he had taken a position as the head of the Central Academy out in Patrick [phonetic] County, Virginia, and he had been offered later the principalship of the high school in Danville, his home town, and he wanted to take that, and they told him they'd relieve him at Central Academy if he'd find a replacement.

I arrived in New York, and William was at Columbia University studying that summer when I got back, and he met me and offered me the job. I didn't have any job or any money, and I had a wife that I'd married on my way to France, married on Tuesday night, sailed on Saturday morning, and I was gone for two years. It was quite a honeymoon, I guess.

At any rate, I took the job at Central Academy. At the end during that year, John Graham, who was a member of our faculty, a very popular man on our faculty, was teaching French and Spanish, and he decided to go to Princeton to study for his graduate degree. So Dr. Easter wrote to me and asked me if I would come to fill in for John Graham for two years. So I did, and they never did get rid of me since.

TURNER: Then when did you start teaching the courses in government and politics?

LATTURE: Well, I taught in the French Department four years, and then I was doing graduate work in the summer at the University of Chicago. Then I moved over into political science. I had majored in political science as an undergraduate.

TURNER: Would you tell us something about some of the interesting professors here? One in your department, I guess—

LATTURE: Dr. Easter was a very interesting man. They called him "Cutey" Eastern. He was a very witty, clever, pleasant man to deal with, he had a strange way of rating students by third or fourth decimal point sometimes. In class he would grade papers most meticulously. A student would ask, "Dr. Easter, how did I come out on that course?" He just chuckled and said, "Well, you almost passed that. You almost passed that, but not quite." [Laughter] He'd chuckle and tell him. Well, that was one of his characteristics.

There are nicknames we had for our professors then. "Syssy" Stevens in physics, I had a course with Dr. Stevens, and they called him Syssy Stevens because he was so systematic. You can't imagine how meticulous and systematic he was in his requirements. And "Slouch" [unclear] was philosophy. On morning one of his colleagues—

[Begin Tape 1, Side 2]

LATTURE: ... met him on the Colonnade, and he said, "Dr. [unclear], I see you had egg for breakfast this morning." [unclear]. He said, "No, that was yesterday morning." [Laughter]

In the law school, had "Sunny" Jimmy Staples [phonetic]. He was from Patrick County, by the way. Had "Jingles" Crow, who was in English, a very good teacher. He went from here to the University of South Carolina as president. He had seven daughters and not many of them got married. There were other professors. Jack Letton [phonetic], Dr. Letton, he was a very good teacher of history.

TURNER: He married someone here, didn't he—Dr. Letton.

LATTURE: Yes, Miss Junkin [phonetic]. Miss Junkin lived over the hill. He had two stepsons, Berty [unclear] and Billy Cox, very fine young men. Both of them were very fine people. Berty died a couple of years ago, and Billy Cox is still active. Very fine alumnus.

TURNER: Dr. Curl was quite a punkster, wasn't he?

LATTURE: I don't remember about that. I know that he was an interesting teacher. I had epic and lyric poetry with him. I remember that very well. I had Dr. Shannon, too, the father of Dr. Shannon who was the president of the University of Virginia for fifteen years, and who's a member of our board of trustees now. Dr. Shannon taught a very fine course in Chaucer. I was supposed to take Anglo-Saxon under Dr. [unclear], and he left and Dr. Shannon came in, and he was a specialist in Chaucer. So I took that course. I think probably the best course I ever had in college was his course on Chaucer.

I can tell you an interesting story about being valedictorian. I'm given credit for being valedictorian of the class, but that wasn't because I had the highest grade. There was a class that had a higher grade. But in those days the valedictorian was chosen by members of the senior class, and Morgan Keaton was a politician, and he and Dick Fowlkes, who became a doctor later, framed up to folks who want to be the

leader of the final ball, and Keaton wanted to be valedictorian. So they had an election, and folks elected the president of the class to lead the final ball, and Keaton would have been valedictorian. But when the end of the year came, Keaton flunked his degree.

So after the baccalaureate sermon at the end of the year, Dean Campbell called us together and said, "You don't have a valedictorian. He's flunked his degree. So you'll probably have to get along without a valedictorian."

At any rate, the members of the class met up in Reed Hall, which was the [unclear] at that time, and they finally resolved this problem by electing me valedictorian under those circumstances. The baccalaureate sermon already been preached. So I went to Dr. Shannon. He had to approve the valedictory address. At that time they had that requirement. He said, "Well, I think it's too late now probably to do anything. But we talked a little bit. He said, "You go to your room and write up something. See what you can do and bring it back to me tomorrow," which I did. He said, well, he thought that I could get by with that, and he made one or two suggestions. So that's the way I happened to be the valedictorian and valedictory speaker of the class.

TURNER: What year was that?

LATTURE: 1915. What I did, there was certainly nothing profound in what I had to say, but for the most part it was poking fun at Dr. Henry Lewis Smith. He had a lot of pet phrases that he used. For example, he'd say he wanted his boys to be locomotives, not boxcars, that sort of thing. He said he wanted to bring into Washington and Lee the cream of the South. So I started out my talk by saying that we were lucky to have gotten in under Dr. Denny, the year before Dr. Smith came, and bring in all that cream of the South, to swamp the campus with cream of the South. And that's just that sort of thing that I went through the rather brief remarks that seem to have been accepted.

TURNER: Where was the commencement held?

LATTURE: We had it in the chapel. Had no problem at that time. We could seat everybody they wanted a seat, I think, in the chapel.

TURNER: What was the enrollment that year?

LATTURE: It was around 600. The year I came in, it was 630 students, I think, and then it dropped some because at that time we didn't have any automatic rule, and students could come and stay as long as they wanted to, as long as their parents would support them, I guess you might say. So when Dr. Smith came, he wrote a lot of these boys that hadn't been doing any work that they needn't come back. So it cut the enrollment down to 500- and-some. Then it began to move back up later. But that was the enrollment. But I think it's interesting to note that they didn't have any automatic rule. They put in an automatic rule, which meant that the student had to pass half his courses in order to return.

TURNER: Mr. Latture, what field was Dr. Henry Lewis Smith in as a professor?

LATTURE: Physics. He was physics, and he is given credit for using first X-ray machine in operation, something like that. Do you have that little book called, let's see, Dr. Smith—

TURNER: No, I don't, sir. He also won a prize, didn't he, during the war, for some X-ray—

LATTURE: Well, Dr. Smith suggested that the propaganda, that they get a large number of balloons and attach the leaflets to these balloons and let them blow over Germany to make an appeal for peace, and so on. I don't know whether it was true. At any rate, he wanted to get a message to the Germans, and so he used the balloons as a messenger, as the carriers for these leaflets over into Germany. I think it is reported that Woodrow Wilson told him that he was one of the most effective features of propaganda against the Germans. Dr. Smith was quite an interesting

DR. SMITH
1915

man. He was a good friend of mine. Needless to say, I'm very fond of Dr. Smith. He was good to me in many ways.

TURNER: He was a good speaker.

LATTURE: Oh, yes. He had a tremendous vocabulary. He had specialized in synonyms. He used a lot of synonyms. He was a very good speaker. When Virginia gave England the statue of Washington, was it—that he was representing Virginia and went to England to deliver this statue, and made an address for the English people, I've forgotten now just where, Trafalgar Square, I think, somewhere.

TURNER: Tell us something about the period of Dr. Gaines here. He came in 1929 and he succeeded Dr. Henry Lewis Smith.

LATTURE: That's right. Dr. Smith was in a very bad accident out in far west, California, somewhere, out in Washington, I think, maybe, and he was in a very serious accident. He never was quite the same after that accident, so he retired. After that, he had been here for—started 1912 up to 1929, '28, '29.

Then Dr. Gaines came here from Wake Forest. Dr. Smith had come from Davidson. He had gone to school at Davidson and had taught there, and was president of Davidson. Then he came here from Davidson. Dr. Gaines came from Wake Forest to Washington and Lee. He was, of course, a very popular man. He was an excellent speaker, one of the best. I've never heard a man in my life that could hold an audience any better than Dr. Gaines. He was just a wonderful, orator speaker, one of the last of the orators of the South, really, in ways. You've seen the cartoon which John Chapman [phonetic] drew, in the chapel showing Dr. Gaines speaking, and the statue rising up to listen to Dr. Gaines. [Laughter] That was an excellent cartoon of John Chapman.

TURNER: And Dr. Gaines always taught a class, too, as the president?

—GAINES ROOM—

LATTURE: Not always, but he did teach the Bible as literature. He had an excellent grasp of that subject, and he was a really gifted teacher as well as speaker and president.

TURNER: Was he trained to be a professor of English?

LATTURE: Yes, English. He was a professor of English. He taught at Mississippi State, where he met Mrs. Gaines. She was the daughter of the dean. She was a rather frail person, and she didn't go to college, I believe, but they had asked him to serve as her tutor in English. She was somewhat younger than he, but they fell in love, and they married. So they had three sons that came to Washington and Lee.

TURNER: And all three of those sons were teachers at one time—professors at one time.

LATTURE: Yes, they all went in the field of education. Two of them are still at the University of Arizona. [unclear] is in administration; Edmund was teaching history.

TURNER: Didn't Dr. Gaines write quite a classic volume at one time on a Southern topic?

LATTURE: Yes. His book is well known. I forgot the title of it now, but it has to do with literature in the South.

TURNER: He had a great ability to raise money for the university, and he raised more money possibly than any one president up to his time.

LATTURE: Oh, yes, I think so. I had a little summary of things that he did along that line for the board of trustees. I did that several years ago, hoping that they would name the library for Dr. Gaines because of the fact that his acquaintance with Mr. and Mrs. duPont was very important. Dr. Gaines went to—well, a Washington and Lee alumnus, a lawyer by the name of Glasgow, Mr. William A. Glasgow, was Mr. duPont's lawyer, and he had the idea of getting Dr. Gaines to meet the duPonts, which he arranged and did, and they became very fond of Dr. and Mrs. Gaines. After Mr. duPont died, Mrs. duPont continued in her interest in Washington and

Lee and the Gaines family, so she gave Washington and Lee about six or seven million dollars altogether, which is quite a considerable sum, but we needed it, really. Those were hard days. At the end of the school year, I think she'd asked Dr. Gaines how much the deficit there was, and she gave enough to take it up.

Well, another interesting thing was that Mrs. duPont had a party and invited Dr. and Mrs. Gaines, and invited Mr. Pratt to the party. That's when Dr. Gaines met Mr. Pratt. They rode home from Wilmington on the train together and struck up quite a friendship. So Mr. Pratt invited Dr. and Mrs. Gaines down to Fredericksburg, and then they invited him up to Lexington. They saw a good deal of each other.

I recall particularly once when Dr. Gaines made a trip down to see Mr. Pratt, and he came back and he said he had a very pleasant visit. He didn't know whether it would amount to anything or not, but he said they had a very pleasant visit down there. Then several days or a week or two after that, he got a check from Mr. Pratt for \$50,000, which was quite a nice sum for those days. That was to provide for scholarships. It was anonymous; nobody was supposed to know where it came from, and nobody knew for a long time, I guess, that it came from Mr. Pratt. But that was the beginning of that relationship which eventuated into the tremendous of \$12 million which came from Mr. Pratt's estate eventually.

TURNER: He was in business. What business did he do?

LATTURE: He was with General Motors. He was with the duPont people, and then General Motors. I think duPont more or less took over General Motors. I'm not sure just what that relationship was, but at any rate, his wealth was accumulated through General Motors. A good thing he did it then rather than now. [Laughter]

Then there's another gift. These two I've mentioned, Dr. Gaines had something to do with.

TURNER: Mrs. Evans.

LATTURE: Mrs. Kelly Evans. Dr. Gaines had a friend named Jones, who was with Coca-Cola people, and, of course, Mrs. Evans had tremendous stock in the Coca-Cola Company. I recall Dr. Gaines asked his friend Jones about meeting Mrs. Evans, and he said, "Well, I can arrange it." Mrs. Evans lived over at Hot Spring, had a home there. He said, "You're too late, though." Told Dr. Gaines he was too late, says, "She's already arranged the disposition of her estate."

At any rate, he did arrange the meeting, and Mrs. Evans was charmed by Dr. Gaines, like many other people had been, so the outcome of that was that she gave Dr. Gaines a good deal. I know one of the things that she gave him for [unclear] was a ring, about a \$30,000 ring. At any rate, her first gift was \$10,000 to surface the tennis courts. I remember that very well.

Then, of course, another is the Student Center that a woman, Mrs. Fairfax, from Roanoke, he got acquainted with her, and she gave the money, or her family. I don't know the whole relationship with Mrs. Fairfax. I remember meeting her on the campus. What she gave was what's called the Fairfax Lounge you see over there. I forgot the name—the plaque on the front there when you go into the [unclear], there's a plaque on the side with the names of the people who gave money for that.

TURNER: Would you go back now and tell us about interesting, colorful professors, like the gentleman we were asking you about earlier who had classes at the corner store?

LATTURE: That was Professor Krobal [phonetic], who was very liberal, and he had classes down at the corner store where the boys would go down and could drink beer if they wanted to, I guess, and that was considered quite inappropriate then. They say that he got his wife off the picket line. She looked as if she had been on the picket lines. [Laughter] She was a rather odd person. Krobal was an interesting fellow. He had these [unclear] ideas, people thought at that time.

They used to have a kind of club, almost a club, up at McCrum's. At the back of the store there was a kind of elevated section there where they served meals, lunch. So three or four dozen faculty members would go up there for lunch, and they called that the McCrum Sibiki [phonetic] group of professors, because they would settle a good many questions and have a great deal of influence on faculty meetings as a result of this group which met there regularly. They settled a lot of questions. They were making policy for the university, I guess you might say. But that was an interesting group.

Of course, Larry Watkin was another interesting member of our faculty that wrote the book called *On Borrowed Time* and he sold the movie rights to that for \$25,000, and he built the house where Dr. Brush lives now.

TURNER: Could you tell us something about [unclear] Williams: He was a most colorful character when I arrived here.

LATTURE: Well, he was one of my good friends. I had him in class. Then he went into—I don't remember if it was after he graduated or not, but he went to—let's see, out in India, in that direction somewhere, as the representative of the American Consulate Services. He came back here and was looking for a job, and I recall that he had thought that he was going to get a job in Kentucky, probably at the [unclear] College or somewhere out there, and it turned out somebody else got the job. So when school started, he didn't have any job when he came over here looking for work.

At that time, Dr. Riley needed somebody to teach two sections of history, and I needed somebody in two sections of political science, so we [unclear] our wishes together and employed Hig [phonetic] to teach. [Tape recorder turned off.]

But Hig was a very popular fellow, because he had very strong opinions. He was a dedicated Democrat. He was a dedicated bachelor, too, I guess. He didn't like the idea of family members getting extra pay because of the number of children they

had. He was pretty conservative with regard to matters of that kind. But he would—

TURNER: He was a most popular teacher.

LATTURE: Very popular. He was very lenient with a lot of boys, too. That was one of the basis for his popularity, but he was a very likable fellow. We had offices side by side for years, and I was very fond of Hig.

TURNER: I ate by him at the table, at the Barker table, and I always remember him there as one of the interesting persons that I had conversation with.

LATTURE: Yes. Yes. He was always good for conversation and expressing his views, which were not always [unclear].

LATTURE: Didn't he have an apartment for many years with Mrs. Clarkson?

LATTURE: Yes, he did. He died there in Mrs. Clarkson's house, just died sitting in his chair.

TURNER: There was a wonderful picture of him in the old union, over the fireplace—

LATTURE: Yes. That's right.

TURNER: —with his pipe. And it was so characteristic. I wonder where that picture is today.

LATTURE: It ought to be around there somewhere. I don't know. They've taken the pictures out of Washington Hall. I wonder what that was for.

So it looks like we've about used up our time here, haven't we?

TURNER: We certainly appreciate your cooperation here.

LATTURE: I don't think this is much of a contribution, but—

TURNER: I do.

[End of interview]