

UFLC 30

Interviewee: A. E. Carpenter

Interviewer: Denise Stobbie

Date: February 6, 1986

S: [This is Denise Stobbie. Today is February 6, 1986. I am interviewing A. E. Carpenter for the University of Florida Oral History Archives.] Let me start by asking you your full name.

C: Archer Eugene Carpenter.

S: And your city of residence?

C: Orlando, Florida.

S: Your birth date?

C: October 5, 1897.

S: Your birthplace?

C: Roanoke, Virginia.

S: Where were you raised?

C: Virginia, Alabama, and Florida.

S: You were raised in Virginia. How did you come to Florida?

C: My father was a railroad official and he was moved to the Southeast by the railroads. In other words, it was a matter of food. But we moved first to Alabama, and then to Florida. In Florida, he was definitely with the railroads only. He took over a railroad that had a huge mileage of tracks, a total of forty-two miles, which ran from Tavares to Winter Garden and Clermont in Orange County. That is what brought me to Florida.

S: Did you ever work with him?

C: No.

S: You were too young?

C: Well, this was in 1912. I was young.

S: What was your father's name?

C: Charles A. Carpenter.

S: What education did you have before going to the University of Florida?

C: High school education.

S: And where was that?

C: Orlando and Jacksonville.

S: Why both places?

C: Because I lived two of my years in high school in Orlando and then moved to Jacksonville, where I got my high school degree. From there I went to the University.

S: When did you first enter the University of Florida?

C: [It was] 1916; I do not remember the exact date. That was the year I graduated from the high school.

S: So you had a high school diploma?

C: That is right.

S: How did you decide to enter the University?

C: Economics had a lot to do with it. My mother pushed very hard to send me to Princeton, but I refused to go. I did not have the money. Those boys up there had the money.

S: What did your parents want you to study?

C: They did not take any position on it and just left it up to me. I entered for an AB degree, or Bachelor of Arts, whichever you call it, and did not shift over to law until after two or three years. However, I knew many lawyers and I had a very close acquaintance with Judge [Robert Spratt] Cockrell, [professor (1919-1941)].

S: Was that before you went to law school?

C: And after.

S: How did you know him before law school?

C: Through the man that I lived next door to in Orlando, Judge T. P. Warlow. He and Louis C. Massey later took me into their law firm.

S: So, they knew Judge Cockrell?

C: Oh, yes. I found out years later they followed me all the way through high school and college, telling him what was going on with me.

S: That helped.

C: That helped a lot. I was walking down Orange Avenue one day, and I was still in college. I met Judge Warlow, and he asked me what I was going to do when I graduated. I told him I did not know. There was an abstract company in up state New York that I could have taken over, but I did not like winters there. He asked, "Would you consider a job in Orlando?" I said, "No, it would not be considered; if I was offered one, I would grab it."

S: And you did?

C: And I did.

S: That was Judge Warlow?

C: Yes. He was judge of the Criminal Court of Records for many years.

S: When you first came to the University as a freshman, was it a big school?

C: Oh, no, it was a little country school from my standpoint.

S: Had you seen bigger schools?

C: Yes, I had seen the University of Virginia and Princeton University. My finances would not let me consider either one of them.

S: How did you have the money to go to the University of Florida?

C: I had been working in an abstract office owned by my uncle for a good many years and that is where the beginning came from. My father paid about half of it. The other half I scrambled a lot for. No. That is not correct. I did work for a while at an abstract company in Gainesville, but that is all.

S: When did you enroll in the law school?

C: No way of telling.

- S: So, it was two or three years after you enrolled at the University?
- C: Probably.
- S: So, that would have been about 1918?
- C: About 1918. By 1917 I had made up my mind to try to get into law school.
- S: Why did you want to go to law school?
- C: Because my grandfather was a trial judge in upstate New York, under the New York system.
- S: And he influenced you?
- C: I quizzed him a great deal about my plans when we were fishing the trout streams in Westfield, New York. He was a big fisherman, and I took after him. Have you ever heard of how they fish up there? They wear hog nail shoes and boots and waders, and just wade down the streams fishing for these small speckled trout. And I did that for many years.
- S: And he told you about being a lawyer?
- C: We talked about law during those days. We would be sitting out for lunch on a rock in the middle of the day, and I would quiz him on things. He opened up a whole lot when he finally realized that I was really serious about wanting to go into law. He wanted to know where I wanted to practice. I said Florida because I liked the hot weather.
- S: So your grandfather influenced you to go into law.
- C: And the fact that I lived next door to Judge T. P. Warlow over here on American Street.
- S: How old were you when you were fishing with your grandfather up there?
- C: I was anywhere from age six on up to twenty-eight.
- S: And about when did you really get interested in law?
- C: In the early 1920s. You see, I lived next door to a criminal court judge here in Orlando. Through him and through my judge grandfather in upstate New York, I got interested in law.

- S: Now, when you entered law school, it was in a big, brick building on University Avenue. They now call it Bryan Hall. Do you remember that building?
- C: I remember the brick building. I took academic early work in a building on University Avenue. University Avenue goes east and west, I believe.
- S: Right.
- C: There was a north and south road on the west end of the university property, and there was a building there that was the law school at that time. First I went to one they called Language Hall [now Anderson Hall], then I shifted over when I went to the law school.
- S: The law school was pretty new when you enrolled; it had opened in 1909.
- C: Well, you see that was a new school then. That was a new building we went into.
- S: Was it nice?
- C: Oh, very nice. Of course, it had professors and they were very inquisitive. One of those professors looked at me one day and yelled at me. [He said,] "I have spoken to you three times, Mr. Carpenter, and you have paid no mind to me. What were you doing?" [I said,] "I was watching the loveliest little bird you ever saw on that limb, right there in the window."
- S: What professor was that?
- C: Oh, I do not know. It is hard to say.
- S: Here are three of them: Cockrell, [Clifford W.] Crandall, [professor (1914-1949), and [Harry Raymond] Trusler, [dean (1915-1947), professor (1909-1947)].
- C: Well, Crandall was my friend. It was either Trusler or Cockrell; I do not remember. Trusler was the dean at the time that I was there.
- S: These are the professors when you were there.
- C: I took Crandall and Trusler. Clifford W. Crandall, I think, is the one that I knew.
- S: He was the one that was there since 1913.
- C: John Howard Moore [professor 1919-1921], when I knew him, was called Miss Moore.

S: He was?

C: Yes.

S: Why?

C: Because he was so fussy in his ways. So he was known by the college students as Miss Moore. He knew his law all right, but he was so fussy [that] the boys had to do something.

S: What did he teach?

C: I could not tell you now; that is too far back. My mind does not retain that much.

S: You are doing fine.

S: Do you remember a professor [named] William Gordon Kline [1920-1923]?

C: No.

S: Some of these professors were there for only a short time.

C: I knew Dr. Murphree very well, thanks to his oldest daughter.

S: Did he ever teach at the college?

C: Not that I know of. I did not know him except as president of the university and the father of two girls, one of whom I was very fond. One day we had been to camp; it was during the World War, and we were in camp north of Atlanta. Now that the war was over, we went to find out whether we should stay there or complete school and get our degree, which would mean our commissions in reserve. There were about eight of us from the University of Florida. We talked it over together, and one of them piped up, "Gene, it is up to you to call Dr. Murphree and pay for the call." They laughed and said, "You can talk to the girls, too."

S: Did you call them?

C: Oh, I called them right then, and we made our decision. We decided to stay right on at the Camp Gordon north of Atlanta. Dr. Murphree told me: "Gene, listen. You are missed some more at Jackson Hall. If I were you, I would drop the whole thing. I will excuse you from any further military work at the university, and then you can carry a little more academic work and get to where you want to go." That worked out very nicely, knowing the president's daughters.

S: Were you in the reserve military?

C: I was taken in at the camp at Plattsburg; it was an officers' training camp one summer long. [We were] not really in the U.S. Army – I do not know what it was. It was a special training division for officers for the army while the war was still on. From there, I returned to the University. And that summer sport was over.

S: Had you already started law school at that time?

C: Let me think back to when the war was over. I do not remember. I went to the University in 1916, 1917, [and] 1918. I started my law work in 1919. I might have still been in the service, but I do not remember. I just told you all these things. My brain is not big enough.

S: While the war was on, were you in school that whole time, or did you go away and serve in the military?

C: I spent the summer at Plattsburg, New York.

S: And by the time you entered law school, was the war over?

C: No, I cannot tell you. I was still in college 1916-1917, 1917-1919, 1918-1919. I went into the military. I got orders that I had to go to camp Gordon in Atlanta, Georgia, and I was there when the armistice was signed.

S: And then you came back to Gainesville.

C: Then I came back to the University and continued my work on my degrees.

S: Were there many veterans of the war coming back to school?

C: Oh, yes. The school was down to a little fistful [of students]. You would be surprised at how few there were left at the university. I am guessing that around 200 men were all that were left.

S: During the war.

C: Yes. I was among those that left and I just do not know how low it got, maybe 150 men.

S: That must have been in 1918.

C: Yes, because the war ended in 1918, but I just do not remember the [exact] date.

S: Now, when you came back to school, were there a lot of other men coming

back?

C: Yes. When I first came back, it was deserted. I was in officers training camp in Atlanta, and they wanted our space the minute the war was over. They wanted space for returning, discharged men. So all of us that were in camp at that time – at the end of the war – were kicked out just as fast as they could get rid of us properly so that they would have room. They wanted the camp available for men who wanted to come back to be discharged there in Atlanta.

S: So you went on back to the University.

C: I went back. Well, of course the war had ended in the early fall, as I remember it, and Dr. Murphree suggested that a large group was coming back (I called it large; now it would be considered very small). He suggested we go ahead if we had things to do, and he said that if we wanted to get [some things] accomplished and come back at the beginning of the second term, [it would be fine]. A whole batch of us got together and voted on it, and we decided we would all go back at the beginning of the second term.

S: And what year would that have been?

C: It was the end of the 1918 or early 1919. [It was] just after Christmas of 1918.

S: And you said it was deserted when you first got back.

C: Oh, yes. I was one of the first to get back because I was right here in Florida, and it was during Christmas vacation when I got word it was time to come back.

S: When you started up with your classes that winter, how many people were in your class?

C: I could not possibly remember. It was small to start with, but before January or February after the end of the war, it was nearly normal. A large percentage of the students returned.

S: What subjects did Professor Trusler teach you?

C: He did very little teaching. He was head of the law department, and he was more of a supervisor than a teacher. I did go to one or two classes – I do not even remember what they were – under Trusler. But he tried to stay out. As long as he had a competent man, he stayed out of the teaching end if he could. But he was a good teacher.

S: He was?

- C: Yes, Trusler was a good teacher and a good man. I am gibing this statement now; I disliked him then. I just disliked the man, but he was a good teacher. He was well-educated, and when the cards were down, he was a fair man, though some of us did not think so at one time. But we put the screws on it, and it turned out he was a very fair man.
- S: Why did you not think so before?
- C: There are always jealousies, and all of us had lots of jealousies. Some men were given certain advantages that others were not given. Trusler was a good man, but we all utterly disliked him because he preferred Alpha Tau Omega fraternity over the other fraternities, and we did not like it. And often that was the way. I was the one that talked in different ways. So if I said something, I backed him right to the head man. I took a lot of these things right down in Trusler's lap, and he did not like it at all at first, but before I was out of there, he thought I was his best friend. We understood each other, but there was a time when we did not even speak.
- S: Because of that favoritism and that kind of thing?
- C: [You can] blame favoritism; but maybe it was not favoritism. Maybe it was me, or maybe it was the eight or ten men I was getting advice from. I just took the burden of it because I did not like the way it was going out. I knew the faculty very, very well. I used to eat my meals with two of them.
- S: Who was that?
- C: Dr. Larry Cox. Do you have a list?
- S: Yes, and I do not remember Cox.
- C: Well, there was a Cox; he was a lesser professor. I cannot think of the one who was my friend.
- S: Was it Crandall or Cockrell?
- C: Well, Crandall was a very close friend of mine and so was Cockrell. John Moore was young, and we called him Miss Moore. I do not remember Chapman. I do not remember Blusher and Walsh. But Trusler and Murphree both ended up as my very good friends. Trusler did not start out as a good friend, but we ended up understanding each other and it was good. Murphree was a very close friend of mine because before law school I used to date one of his daughters.
- S: Were your classes crowded with the men coming back from the war?

C: Not unduly so.

S: You all had seats.

C: I did not run into that in my classes. Other classes might have been crowded, but mine were not. They filled up very fast with returning men and those who left last were the first to come back in. I was one of them. My memory is that the war ended during the summer, and I was here in Orlando when it ended. I probably laid out all my plans, and the minute school opened, I went right back. My education was my first work then.

S: Where did you study when you were in law school?

C: Now, where do you mean, where did I study?

S: Where did you actually do your reading?

C: A great deal in the law library. But on the other hand, we would have lots of reading to do in our own books.

S: Where did you live?

C: The first two years I lived in dormitories, and then I moved across University Avenue into a rooming house in the back of a lot. It was right there on the university grounds. It stood on the southeast corner of the university grounds.

S: Was it across from where the law school was?

C: It was more across and back.

S: Were there rooming houses all along University Avenue?

C: Well, I do not remember the name of the street on the south side, [but on it] were half a dozen fraternity houses. Mine was right near the corner of University Avenue and the street that goes across the south end. I do not know the name of that street; it was a numbered street.

S: Was it University [Avenue] and Ninth Street?

C: No.

S: What fraternity were you in?

C: Pi Kappa Alpha. The Tri Deltas were the sorority. There was another fraternity

up about four blocks further east that most of my friends were in. I was the best Pike member they had.

S: How did you get around back then?

C: On your feet. Just a few boys could afford cars, and the rest of us walked. We used to hike to downtown regularly.

S: What did you go downtown for?

C: I went to attend church. I was very active in the Episcopal Church in those days and for many years afterwards. Also, we knew a lot of girls downtown, and we went down to see the girls.

S: Did you ever ride bicycles?

C: I never did there, but a lot of them did. Lots of bicycles were used.

S: How did your law professors get around?

C: I do not know. One of them had a bicycle, and I think the others had automobiles.

S: Did Trusler ride a bike?

C: I do not know. I do not remember. Let me see, where did Trusler live?

S: Did you ever go to his house?

C: Yes, but I cannot tell you where it was.

S: Which professor rode a bicycle?

C: That I cannot tell you. You are going back too far and I have a weak memory.

S: Some of them had cars, though?

C: Oh, yes, just a few cars. But that was 1916 to 1922. Of course, by 1922, cars were becoming more numerous. I went there in 1916. I came from Jacksonville, and to me it was just a little country college when I went there.

S: Not like it is now.

C: And I went there because my finances permitted me to do so. My mother

insisted that I go to Princeton. She even wrote to Princeton, and Princeton even got my grades. I was admitted if I wanted to come. She never told me that she did all of this.

I was the number one football follower. If they had a vacant upper berth where the team slept, that was my berth.

S: That was the University's team?

C: That was the University of Florida team. And I had about five friends on that team. I never did anything athletically except I was a member of the track team in long distance running. I thought nothing of running for five miles – in a dog trot, of course – not at high speed.

S: Did you do it for exercise back then?

C: No, we had a team. We competed with all the other schools that were close by.

S: Did you do that when you were in law school also?

C: No, that was when I was in the arts department. In the law school, I was strictly a lawyer.

S: Were you involved in any organizations in law school? Do you remember the John Marshall Debating Society?

C: No, I was not involved in any of them.

S: How about student government?

C: No, I dodged all those things as much as possible. The only thing I did was my social fraternity. I did not do any of those other things. I received several honors at graduation, and I have even forgotten what they are.

S: Were they academic honors?

C: Yes.

S: How were your grades?

C: We will not talk about it because you will say I am a brain.

S: Where did you graduate in your class?

C: They had a tie of three men as to who would be elected the leading student in

the class. They could not decide which one of the three to work it down to, and so they voted for all three.

S: Who were they?

C: It was L. C. Husten and me, and Bill Gibbits. He came from Tallahassee.

S: So you were in a tie for the top of the class?

C: That is right.

S: How did you get to the top of your class? Did you study a lot?

C: I was used to studying, and I always did my work. Compared to some of the other men, I did very little studying, but I had a lucky mind that retained a lot of things. So it came to me easily.

S: What professors do you think taught you the most? Here is a picture of some professors.

C: I knew Crandall and I knew Trusler. Cockrell is the man that did a lot for me.

S: What did he do for you?

C: He taught several classes, and I liked his classes. Let me just say that we understood each other, and the result was that I paid a lot of attention to his classes. I was probably actually at the top right along, but sometimes I asked him to put me down, and not at the top. I do not imagine many men had that experience. I did not want to be known as the person who was always number one.

S: Was that so you would fit in with the other men?

C: Yes. Exactly so. I did not want any of that going on. I do not remember this man TeSelle. I remember Crandall very well. He and Harry R. Trusler were the ones that I knew best. Now which one was Cockrell?

S: This is Cockrell, right there. I have another picture of him here.

C: Now, that looks more like him as I remember him more than this one does. And I would recognize Trusler anywhere. Crandall was the man that I really knew the best.

S: Did the professors you had teach you about practical law? Did they teach you to

be lawyers or teach you more theory?

C: I would say theory. I did not get any real practical law knowledge, that is, running law offices or consulting clients or jury training. I did not get things like that until I got out into a regular practice.

S: When you got out of school, what was your first position?

C: I never had but one position. When I got out of law school, I had three conferences with two lawyers here in Orlando, Massey and T. P. Warlow. They were the two leading lawyers in those days. Those men asked me to come and talk with them several times. Before I ever graduated, they gave me an offer to come with them. They gave me a proposition. They asked me what kind of proposition I would accept. I said, "Whatever you offer. It is accepted now; you don't even have to tell me." Massey looked at me and he said, "Independent, isn't he?"

I had met Judge Warlow on the street. Do you know where American Street is? It is right here at the end of Lake Lucerne. I lived in the second house on American Street, and Judge Warlow lived in the third house. Mr. Massey lived across the street. I had known them, and they had known me. They knew my habits and everything, and before I ever graduated, they offered me a position in their office.

S: Were they partners in a law firm?

C: Yes. The name of the firm was Massey and Warlow.

S: So that is where you got your practical experience.

C: Is this practical experience? You have a grandfather who is a trial judge in upstate New York and you spend many a day sitting at the foot of his rostrum, listening to trials. Is that practical?

S: It probably is the best kind you can get.

C: Well, I had that for three summers after I entered law school. I did not go to college in the summer at all, but I did go to law school in New York. I lived at my grandfather's home, and I had permission to come and sit at his rostrum any time I wanted to.

S: You spent your summers in New York?

C: Until I was twenty-five, I spent every summer in upstate New York.

S: Did you ever sit in on any trials in Gainesville while you were in law school?

C: Yes, half a dozen or so, but that is all.

S: Did your professors tell you to go down there and do that?

C: We were told about it, and they said that we could go. I went down to quite a number of them. Of course, it was not interesting to me because I had been to my grandfather's trials when he was trying cases so much of the time.

S: What city in New York was that?

C: Oswego. Do you know where Syracuse is?

S: Yes.

C: Well, Oswego is thirty miles north of Syracuse at the mouth of the river.

S: OK. Did you ever take trips home to Jacksonville while you were in law school?

C: From the university?

S: Yes.

C: About 60 or 70 percent of the weekends.

S: How would you get there?

C: On the train. My father was a railroad man, and I had annual passes to go on any railroad of south of Richmond and east of New Orleans.

S: Is that how you got to New York in the summers?

C: I had my trip passes, and I never bought a railroad ticket during those periods. I did not have annual passes north of Richmond, but I got a trip pass every time I wanted to go. My father was the manager of this little railroad which was not as big as your two fingers. It was forty-two miles of track. It ran from Tavares to Winter Garden and Ocoee. Did you ever hear of the little place?

S: Yes.

C: Well, that is what brought me to Florida.

S: Those places are just outside of Orlando here.

C: Oh, yes, within thirty miles.

S: What did his railroad carry? Was it a freight?

C: It had one passenger car because Uncle Sam and the railroad department made him pull one passenger car. That was the conductor's car. It was on a mixed train and it ran from Winter Garden and Ocoee. The two lines joined together and went up through the far side into Tavares. There was a theatre for the Seaboard railroad. For 75 percent of his life, my father worked for the Seaboard. That is the reason he took over this little railroad down here.

He went to Addison, Alabama, with the blast furnace. Do you know what that is? They make pig iron. They take iron ore and run it through the furnace, and then they end up with pig iron. They had two big furnaces out there at Addison, Alabama. Why did they call it pig iron? It came out from underneath the furnace down to a long rumbling where liquid iron was, scalding red hot. Then from this ran small ditches, and each of the little ditches had smaller ditches. Because of those smaller ditches with the big ditch, [it seemed like a] pig and its beneficiaries, and they called it pig iron. All just lined up there as if they were hugging up mama pigs.

S: When you studied at the law library, was there a librarian there?

C: Yes.

S: Do you remember who that was?

C: No.

S: Was it a woman?

C: Most of the time. She was a very helpful person. I cannot tell you her name.

S: Do you remember a woman named Priscilla Kennedy?

C: What were the years? Do you have the different ones by years?

S: Well, how about Agatha Freeman – Agatha Walsh?

C: That could have been one of them. I was there – I worked in the law library – from 1919 to 1922. I went to Gainesville in 1916. See, I took a six year course.

S: Now, it may be Priscilla Kennedy; that is the only other librarian I can think of.

C: Well, it could have been. I am not really sure. I lived in Orlando for two years, and then my family moved to Jacksonville. In Jacksonville, I graduated from

high school, and I went over to Gainesville and spent six years there.

S: Were you single the whole time that you were in school?

C: Single?

S: Yes.

C: Well, I did not even have a consistent date down here. I had one in Oswego, New York, who I used to see in the summer time.

S: Did you marry after you got out of law school?

C: I did not marry until I was out of school. And I have had two wives since.

S: Did you ever serve on a moot court team while you were in school?

C: Yes, but I had forgotten all about them.

S: I think they had a moot courtroom in that building.

C: Well, they had practice trials there. I handled a couple of them before I ever graduated.

S: But you did have some practice court sessions downtown?

C: Oh, yes. We had practice court down there.

S: Did you have real judge sit in on it?

C: No, I think one of the teachers would serve as judge, as I remember.

S: And you participated in those?

C: Oh, yes. Not only that, but in the summer, I used to go to about ten different trials and sit on the steps where my grandfather presided as judge, and I was just going in to sit. I took no part in any way; I just went to watch how he was handling it and how they were handling it. That is where I got some additional practice knowledge.

S: Did you use that after you got out of school? Did you serve as a trial lawyer?

C: Unfortunately, I did not like trial work. I lost one of the first trials, and I thought I should have won it. Before I was through, I got inside with one of the jurors to

find out what went on. I had written down all of the instructions given by the trial judge, and he said if he (meaning me) provides answers to all of these questions, he should have the ruling for him. I took it up to this one man that I knew, and I said: "Here are the judge's instructions, and yet I think that I proved everything that was needed to win the case. I was better equipped, and the jury went against me. It was a small judgement, but it did go against me." This man says, "I sat in on that, and they all agreed that you proved everything the judge said, but they said, 'Give the man a little something anyway.'"

S: So, you did not win that one.

C: So I did not win my first actual trial.

S: Was that a big case?

C: No, it was a small damage suit.

S: And is that when you decided that you did not like trial work?

C: Yes, I decided right then that I did not like trial work. I tried a few cases here. I was living in Orlando and Jacksonville, but my folks were living in Orlando, and I had a home to live in there with meals served and no expenses. So I decided that I would start out in Orlando. I also had the opening with the leading firm here in Orlando. It was T. P. Warlow and L. C. Massey. Both of them lived right over here on America Street. They were neighbors, and I used to play golf with Warlow. They gave me a chance and I grabbed it.

S: What kind of practice did you do with the firm?

C: It was purely civil. I did not handle any criminal cases at all. I asked to be excused from criminal cases. I did not like criminal law. Crandall wrote to a law firm in Orlando, and he recommended me for anything in civil trial work but nothing in criminal work.

S: Why is that?

C: They said I was not good at it. He came right out with it.

S: But he thought you were good in civil work?

C: In civil work, he said, "I would recommend him for any firm." I did not know about the correspondence then; I saw the correspondence years later. I had been a member of the firm for three years before I knew about all of that correspondence that went on.

S: So, you lived at home at first while you worked for Massey and Warlow?

C: Yes.

S: That would have been 1922.

C: 1922, 1923, and 1924, approximately.

S: Did you continue to make trips back to Gainesville every now and then for Homecoming?

C: Not regularly.

S: But you attended some meetings in Gainesville. Is that where they were?

C: They were in Gainesville.

S: That is when Raymond McGuire was president of the association.

C: Well, I rode up with Raymond two or three times because he wanted me to go with him.

S: Did you go up in a car?

C: Yes, it was his car. And I was looking at the age on here for McGuire.

S: I have the minutes of the meetings here.

C: Well, I thought McGuire was quite a number of years older than I.

S: This was one old alumni association, and here is your name. You were the recording secretary. So you were at a meeting with these men – McGuire, McKean, Mase, Cealy, and Hamilton – talking about the university.

C: John V. Sutton, G. F. Garret Olson Chillingsburg and Sutton I remember on that side. This is Gainesville; this is not in Orlando.

S: Right.

C: George McKean I remember, and then, of course, McGuire came from Orlando.

S: In some of these meetings, Raymond was talking about ways to improve the university. So you were involved in that?

C: Slightly. Raymond had a way of worming himself into things much more than I did. I had those railroad passes, and the result was that I returned to Orlando an immense number of times. I had friends here. I would take the train. Mind you, we did not have cars and busses like you have now. I would take the little old Jerkwater train from Gainesville over to Palatka, and there I would catch the Jacksonville to Tampa train and come down here generally at night and get here around 2:30 in the morning.

S: Would you spend the weekend?

C: I would come down on a Friday if I could get that afternoon off. I used to live in Orlando, and then my father got a much better job, and he was centered in Jacksonville. He ran from Charleston and Savannah south to Tampa. He was a freight solicitor; they called him a general freight agent. In the older days, he made good money until he lost his health. And then, I must say, the Seaboard [Coastline Railroad] was very good to him. They sent him back to Orlando, where he could live in a home, and all he did was solicit freight on the branch of the Seaboard that ran from Wildwood over to Orlando and out to Ocoee. They really made a little job for him. That is the reason I say they were awfully good to him. I have always felt very friendly towards the Seaboard. Of course, there is no such thing anymore.

S: Now, when you were at the law school, did you think it was a good law school?

C: Well, there were only two or three others that I knew about. One of my friends went to the University of Syracuse, and one of them went to Princeton. You see, my mother came from Oswego, New York, and my father came from Syracuse. I spent a great many summers right up there, and I had a great many friends who went to the University of Syracuse or Cornell. Cornell was very popular among the young group that I was with. I used to get letters at the beginning of May that would say, "When are you coming up? We want to save a space for you," and such and such. So I had two sets of friends my age, one in Orlando and Jacksonville and one in Oswego, New York.

S: So they went to those schools, and you came down here. Can you make a comparison of the law schools?

C: We made comparisons as to what we had covered and what we were called upon to do. I decided very early in my conversations with them that a man who is going to practice law in Florida would do a whole heap better to continue stay right in Florida. This was before I even got into law school.

S: Did your professors in law school teach you all about the Florida laws?

- C: Everything they handled, if there was a Florida decision on it, they brought that out very clearly. It was taught for students who were going to practice in Florida. And of course the Florida law just could not be omitted. You just had to know it, and they saw that we did know it.
- S: Who was the professor who knew a lot about Florida law?
- C: Trusler did. Was Cox in that group?
- S: You mentioned him as an assistant professor.
- C: He must have become a full professor later on, I think.
- S: These were the law professors right here. Well, these three, this was closer to your time.
- C: Well, now Cockrell was the one that I knew the best. Pridgen I did not know. I knew Stanley West, but that is all I can say. That is not to be derogatory at all.
- S: Did Stanley West work in the library?
- C: I did not know of him as an assistant librarian, but he must have been. It says so.
- S: Do you remember him teaching?
- C: All I remember is Stanley West and that so far as it goes. Did he teach?
- S: I do not know. So Trusler knew Florida law.
- C: Dean Fenn tape-recorded his lectures. I do not remember the name Fenn.
- S: No, he was at the school later – in the 1940s.
- C: TeSelle I heard of. The ones that I knew were Crandall, Trusler, Cockrell, and that is all.
- S: Do you remember your graduation ceremony?
- C: Not particularly.
- S: Did they give you a diploma?
- C: Yes, we got a diploma.

S: Who gave you that?

C: I do not remember. From the time that I knew that I was graduating, I had made reservations on a Pullman from Jacksonville to New York City, and I was going upstate New York. Before school was ever out, I had all of my reservations made to go north. My mother came from Oswego, New York, and my father came from Ithaca, New York.

S: So did you take a vacation in New York after you graduated from law school and before you started working in Orlando?

C: Yes, I did. How did you guess that?

S: Well, you said when you got out of school you went right up there.

C: Well, I took a month's vacation. Then I was walking along with Massey and Judge Warlow and one of them, I guess it was Massey, asked what kind of work did I do in abstract, and I told him just what I did. And he said, "You know, Tipton and I have been talking about you and what you will do when you get out of school. We do not know what our interest would be in you, and we can only pay you a very small salary to start with." I said, "Well, that is enough to pay for my groceries. You are accepted." He says, "Do you mean that?" I said, "Yes, Mr. Warlow, I would love to go into the firm."

S: Well, you must have been considered very highly to have an offer like that.

C: They looked at me and said, "What do you mean, you would love to go into our firm?" I said, "When I get through with my first year or two with you all, you are going to offer me a place in your firm." They looked at me, and said, "You're a little bit rash aren't you?" I said, "No, Mr. Massey. That is not rash. I know that if I work like hell, I can accomplish an immense amount of work. I know that if I am accepted into your law firm, I expect to do that. And I expect when two years--maybe one--is up, that you all will want to keep me here." But they could not promise that I would be a partner. They said, "Remember, nothing binding at all." I said, "It is just that I am hoping."

So when I got out of law school I told Massey, the senior partner, that I would like one month off before I went to work. He wanted to know where I was going. I said, "To Oswego, New York. It will be the last chance I will have to go up there and be with these friends who I have known for years and years, and I want to have one more month with them. That would terminate my upstate New York saga." So I went up there, and I came back, and I went to work with Massey and Warlow and stayed there until both Massey and Warlow had passed on.

Warlow had a son. We offered to take him into the firm, but on a certain basis. He said he could not go to work for that amount of money. So the man who was the son of the first two partners could only say no.

S: Was that after you had already formed this law firm, Carpenter & Carpenter?

C: No.

S: That is when you were still there.

C: I had not even graduated. Judge Cockrell had reason to believe that I would graduate. He had the idea – and Crandall did, too – that I would graduate.

S: They thought you were ready to graduate?

C: Yes, and this was about three months before graduation time. They always gave certain honors of mention to the best man in the class. Crandall called me in one day and said, "We have trouble." I said, "What is your trouble?" He said, "We have three men on our list to go in as number one in this year's graduating class, and we cannot pick out number one." I said, "Of course I would like it to be me; it would be foolish to say otherwise. You understand I would like to be number one, but you are telling me I am not, you are telling me I am one of these." Crandall said, "Yes, and I do not know what we are going to do about it because we can not get six men to agree." He said, "The funny thing is, they are split evenly between the three men who are up for consideration."

S: The six professors were voting?

C: Yes. The final decision came down to three, and those three were split. And I said, "Well, you know, that is an easy thing to solve. He said, "We do not think so." I said, "I do." He asked, "How would you solve it?" I said, "I would solve it by saying we got three men that are equally qualified for the position, we do not want this one or the other, and we are going to name three."

S: Were you friends with those other two?

C: Oh, sure. I was friends with all of those. You cannot be at a school for six years and not make enemies or friends. In the law school, I had a lot of friends because I worked. I did miss a couple of classes; I was the youngest in the family and I had to leave (with permission, of course), and when I came back, they told me what I had missed. Someone (I am trying to think which one of these men it was) and Crandall were talking to me, and they said, "What are we going to do about it?" They said, "You are going to be getting three awards, and if you all feel that is proper, I admire both of the other men and I will now offer to

step aside."

S: So you all three got the award.

C: I said, "Why not split it up?" And that is how it ended up. I did not know what they were going to do.

S: Did they make an announcement about it to the rest of the class?

C: Oh, they announced these names at graduation ceremonies. My memory is that these names were announced. And the man that made the announcements said that they are going to break all order because of the fact that the committee could not agree as to who to put in as number one. He said, "We have three men who could easily be called number one if you pulled the other two out, and a suggestion has been made that we appoint all three, and we are going to do so." So, anybody that would look back at the records of that year would find three names.

S: Do you remember any women students on the campus?

C: There were several. But, there were very, very few. Personally, I cannot think of any at this moment but one, and I do not know her name.

S: Was she a student?

C: Yes. There was at least one female student; she lived in Gainesville. You see, they did not have any women's dormitories, and this girl lived in Gainesville and was accepted as a student.

S: What did she study?

C: Law.

S: She was in the law school?

C: Yes, and she would make a good lawyer.

S: Did you ever have her in your classes?

C: Regularly. I do not know how she got back and forth. I do not remember. When we got into law, we were beginning to have automobiles. I did not have one because I was one of the poor boys. I was lucky to be there at school.

S: So she came from Gainesville every day?

C: Yes. She walked. It was a good walk.

S: I wonder what her name was.

C: I do not know.

S: I will have to see if we have any records on that.

C: See if you have books; they have to list students as well as faculty.

S: Now is this when you were in your first year of law school or was it later?

C: I cannot tell whether it was first, second, or third. It was either the fall of 1920 or 1921.

S: OK.

C: That is the nearest I can come to it.

S: It sounds like you were very mature for a law student.

C: I do not know why.

S: Well, from the dealing you had with professors, I think you were. I think you had learned a lot.

C: I had a next door neighbor who was a judge in criminal court of record in Orange County for many years. L. C. Massey was a very active lawyer, and he was on the state legislature for a great many years. The third member of that group, Clark Gritty, was just an ordinary young lawyer poking along, like me. They picked me because Judge Warlow lived next door, and he knew whether I went with the drunks or not. He also had two daughters, both of whom I knew. I was acquainted with one of them in church work. Of course, all of these things help in making acquaintances. So they had talked it all over and said they would like to make a proposition for two years. They said, "At the end of that time, we can take you in as a regular partner or kick you out; we have that privilege. We will employ you on a salary. It's very low – \$100 per month the first year and \$125 a month the second year."

S: How long did you work for that firm?

C: Until they died.

S: And when was that?

C: I cannot remember the dates.

S: And then did you go into solo practice?

C: At the end of two years, I was taken in as a regular partner in Massey, Warlow, and Carpenter. I was on a 25 percent basis. (In other words, if we made \$100, I got \$25 of it.) And then when Massey passed away, Warlow and I just stuck together. And when I tried to work in Warlow's son, Tim, Tim did not like amount of money he was making. I thought it was satisfactory for myself. We did not take in anybody else until after Judge Warlow died, and my son had graduated from law school. He decided that he would like to take a shot at it, and he did very satisfactorily.

S: So you and your son started working together.

C: Yes, very soon after Warlow passed away.

S: And is that when you became Carpenter & Carpenter?

C: Yes.

S: What year was that? Your son graduated in the 1950s.

C: He went in shortly after he graduated. He served a little time, a year or two first, earning just a salary. Then we just worked it into a partnership. But I cannot tell you the years. Both Massey and Warlow had died quite elderly men.

S: So Carpenter & Carpenter is what used to be Massey & Warlow & Carpenter? Is that right?

C: That is right. And Massey & Warlow & Carpenter used to be Massey & Warlow.

S: Before you came along.

C: Right. I cannot tell you the name of Massey's firm; it came of a law firm in Philadelphia. Warlow did a lot of his academic work in England, and then he migrated to the United States. He studied in Massey's law office; that is what a lot of men did in years past.

S: After Warlow died, did you practice alone for a while?

C: Yes, I did, for a short while. But it was Massey & Warlow, then Massey, Warlow & Carpenter, then Warlow & Carpenter, and then Carpenter & Carpenter. It was

a natural sequence.

S: Did your classmates in law school – the ones that you were your friends with – have nicknames for each other? Were you on a real friendly basis like that?

C: Yes, we had nicknames. But I cannot think of the different men and their nicknames. I was always known just as Eugene.

S: Later on they had a tradition of shuffling their feet. The students would shuffle their feet when somebody did not know the answer to a question or something like that.

C: That grew up after my time.

S: You did not do that?

C: No.

S: Did you ever play jokes on professors?

C: Well, the only thing is the man who got shipped for hazing.

S: Did they get kicked out?

C: They were kicked out from about the middle of November until the beginning of the next semester. They did do some hazing back in those days. They gave fantastic haircuts; that is what the hazing consisted of at that time. It was nothing that was permanent; they could grow the hair back. I sent one of my fraternity brothers over to get his hair cut, and that is the only thing that I did. They asked for the names of all the persons who took part in it. I told them I did. I said I asked one of the juniors in my fraternity to get his hair cut, and he very kindly went ahead and did it.

S: Did you get in trouble?

C: Yes, and I said, "As far as I am concerned, I back up these men. They did nothing that injured anybody permanently. We were thinking about that at all times, and I back them up."

S: What kind of haircut did they give them?

C: Anything you could think of. You might start here and just go right on back, or you do a criss-cross, or a half a head, anything you thought of that you could do with shears. I said, "Hair is going to grow back, and they are going to train it the

way they want to, and I do not see where we have injured anybody," except a few had their personality pulled down a little bit. I said, "It will not hurt them at all. Let them learn what life is."

S: So what kind of trouble did you get in?

C: We were indefinitely suspended.

S: By whom?

C: The president of the university. There was one man in Orlando who was in the same group. His name was Robert Duckworth. I do not know if you have ever heard of him or not. He is a real estate man here, and has been all of his life. He and I came home, and I reported it to my family while I was there. My mother asked me who I had hurt. A bunch of these kids had their feelings hurt when they got their hair cut. The hair would grow out. We felt that we were doing something that would not be at all injurious. All I did was send one man over there, and I am right with all of them. There was nothing done that would injure a man; it was not like hazing used to be.

I got a letter from Dr. Murphree asking me to come and see him some time at my next convenience. We talked the thing over at great length. I said, "Doctor, you know me; you have known me for years. You knew me even before I graduated from high school in Jacksonville, and you know what I do and don't do. I expect to receive the same punishment that anybody else does. I do not want any favoritism whatsoever. I think that the position that the university had been put in is wrong. I think that the men did nothing that was dangerous or injurious, and I will back them up." So when the list came out of those who were suspended, A. E. Carpenter was among them, which suited me fine because that kept my friendship with a whole lot of these men that I knew.

S: So they kicked you all out of law school?

C: This was before law school.

S: OK.

C: My memory is that we were in our last year before law school. I returned to Orlando and I told my mother what had happened. I said I did not know when we would go back to school, if at all. She said, "I heard about it before you told me." I said, "You did? From who?" She said, "Mrs. Duckworth. She lives here and her son was in the group in Gainesville. She and I sat there and talked. While we were talking, I got anxious to know what really did take place. So I called Dr. Murphree, the president of the university, and told him that you were returning home. He looked at the record and said the most that you did

was to tell one man to go and get his hair cut. He said you asked for the same punishment that anybody else got because you back up the whole thing. He said, `Now, I am going to tell you something that I expect you not to tell anybody but Mrs. Duckworth, who is supposed to be sitting with you. These boys will be permitted to come back with no penalty, in a very short time.'"

S: So you were permitted to go back to school.

C: Yes. Dr. Murphree said, "But please do not pass it on. Just console yourself and Mrs. Duckworth that we are going to put it through, and then it will be put out and about." That was probably about the middle of November – three or four weeks before Christmas – and when the second term started at the end of December, we were back at school.

S: It was all forgotten?

C: So far as we knew. But we who were involved formed a club.

S: You did?

C: Yes, into law school. One of the men had a great deal of curiosity, and he took the class averages during those four years (including three years of law) of the men who were suspended. He took their records and took the same of the rest of the students to see how they came out. Those kicked out averaged ahead of all the rest. Can you imagine that?

S: Do you ever remember someone bringing a bull to the law school?

C: I remember they had a cow.

S: Maybe it was a cow.

C: It was brought to school. Now, what for and why, I do not remember, but it was done while I was there.

S: It was brought to the law school?

C: Yes.

S: Somebody at one of the reunions mentioned putting a cow in one of the professor's offices. It might have been Cockrell.

C: Let me see. There was the Dean Trusler, Cockrell, Crandall, and Moore. We were talking about the antiquities and those are the things that just came along

and only lived for a short while, and that is all it amounts to.

S: Did you keep in touch with many of your law school classmates?

C: For awhile, yes, and gradually, they drifted off. I could not tell you where any of them live. One of them is supposed to live in Winter Garden and I cannot think of his name.

S: Bill Bivens?

C: It might be. We used to sing about old Bill Bivens.

S: You did?

C: Yes. College boys and men have all sorts of crazy ideas.

S: Would you say that you were respected by the other students? Were you a leader?

C: No. I never have been a leader and I am not a leader today. I have a retiring nature.

S: You were just one of the law students.

C: I was just one of the law students; that is what I wanted to be. Now with Crandall and Cockrell, I had a close relationship. I had developed a right close relationship with the dean.

S: Would you talk to them outside of classes?

C: Oh, sure.

S: In their offices?

C: No, in their homes. I visited those three in their homes many times.

S: What did you talk about?

C: Generally about law school and other things, student things.

S: Were the law professors trying to improve the law school back then? Did they want it to be a better school or a bigger school? It was still young back then.

C: I cannot remember having much of that put towards me. I did know that they

were trying to get the men to have a sufficient knowledge and balance to go in successfully to the practice of law. It was not to improve and benefit the law school; it was to benefit the men and the life they had. This was a very well-run school. I compared my instruction with those that went to other places in other states. My friends went to the University of Syracuse, Cornell, and Princeton. Those are three very selective schools.

S: And how did it compare?

C: What I got out of it was just as good as what they got out of it. Now, these were local men from around Oswego, New York. And of course, I came from Florida, but my parents came from right up in that area, and I used to spend all of my summers up there. My friends from those three schools that I mentioned would get together and discuss the different schools. I was the only southerner among the bunch. Of course, my people were upstate New Yorkers.

S: Well, when the professors were teaching classes, would they teach all of the law students at one time or were you broken up into different classes?

C: Well, we were in classes. There were about fifteen to the class – they were not big classes – and they would teach certain subjects. They were divided up by subject. Each of these professors would take a certain subject and then he would teach that subject. And each subject would meet about three times a week

S: Would you meet for an hour or two hours?

C: My memory is it was near two hours. There were two hours with about ten minutes between the classes.

S: Would the professors stand up and lecture or did they ask you questions?

C: Both. They had a desk sitting up in front facing the class. And they would lecture about half of the period, and then they would have question and answer period.

S: Did Trusler lecture to you?

C: Oh, yes.

S: And did they ever call on you in class?

C: Oh, yes, sure.

- S: Did you have to stand up and recite?
- C: No. You had to answer questions, which included a discussion of the legal politics. During law school, we were always called upon. We never knew who he was going to call on or what branch of it he would want us to talk about. Trusler in particular loved to take some side angle of a case – leave all of it out except this one side angle – and spend the whole period on the side angle. I found this out: you had better learn it or else you might get it shoved in your face examination time.
- S: So you learned it.
- C: I learned that very early.
- S: Was he a tough professor? Was he hard?
- C: The dean was not particularly hard; he was very fair. Now, I do not know other men felt about him, but I felt that he was very fair.
- S: How about Cockrell? Was he difficult? Were his classes hard?
- C: His classes and Cox's could be a little bit harder.
- S: How were his classes?
- C: They were easy for me because I knew Cox.
- S: Would Cockrell call on you?
- C: Yes, he would. All of them called on you for certain things. They would not try to cover the whole subject. But there would be certain parts of the subject that he would want covered, and he would call upon a student to introduce the subject. Then he would call upon the rest of the class to see if they had any objections to what the leader had said. I had my ideas criticized a good many times. And I have taken the whole period on a few questions that were assigned for the day. I would have my own questions, and I would be turned into the professor.
- S: What did they think of that?
- C: Oh, they liked it.
- S: They did. All of them? Which ones liked it?

- C: None of them objected to it. Trusler, of course, had his own position maintained, but you know, you could raise these things and not take advantage of the professor or the dean or anybody else. I would say, "Now gentlemen, this is my explanation of it as I see it. However, Dean Trusler may not see it the same way." They listened to my approach of it, and I wanted to hear the criticisms myself.
- S: Did the other students do the same thing – get up and ask questions?
- C: Oh, sure, all of them would once in awhile, but as a whole they would not. I did not have a fear of professors. Trusler was a professor, and I had known people of position, and position did not slow him down at all. I would just talk to him as an equal. One of them did go this far; he said, "Gene, where did you – at this early stage in the game – get this knowledge of the law and its handling? I would like to know now." I said, "For many summers, I used to go down and sit on the steps of the judge's rostrum and listen to the trials that went on. That judge was my grandfather."
- S: Which professor asked you that?
- C: I do not remember his name.
- S: Do you think it was Trusler?
- C: No, it was not Trusler; it may have been Cox.
- S: Crandall or Cox.
- C: Crandall is the one that I knew the best. If they wanted me to do anything they would send Crandall to have me do it.
- S: Did you like him?
- C: Oh, I was very fond of him because I understood him and he understood me. Actually, when I went to college I did not go there for play time, I went there to accomplish something. We had differences as to the law of some things quite a number of times.
- S: Did you learn a lot at UF's law school?
- C: Oh, yes. The thing is this: I have not found professors to be as austere as people make them out. I found that if you talk with them and express a reasonable idea as to why you are raising it, they will work with you. The fact is, I found these men that I had were very adaptable if you raised a question. If it

was a serious question, they would hang on to it right quick. If they knew the answer, they would say so; if they did not know the answer, they would say, "I don't have that answer. I will bring it to you tomorrow or the next day."

S: Well, that is good.

C: In those days, you did not have to have prior degree before going into the law college. I went in from a serious angle because I knew that I had a place to go, and I went in and seriously learned the law.

S: You think that the degree that you had gave you an advantage over students who came in without that?

C: Yes, I think it had its advantage, merely because you had some discipline in studying ahead of time. I think the discipline that you got from studying was the main thing. What you actually learned did not amount to too much, but you got the discipline.

S: We have covered a lot.

C: We have covered a lot. I will simply say this, that I have covered a lot in life.

S: What do you consider to be your greatest accomplishments in your professional career?

C: I cannot point to any one thing in my career. I never handled the big cases; I never sought the front of the group the way so many people do. I went to school to learn, and when I got out, I wanted a place to go. I wanted to go to Orlando.

S: Later on you had a son. Did you just have one child?

C: I had a daughter and a son. I tried to talk my son out of the law, but I did not succeed. He was correct because he has made a very good lawyer. He was correct; I was wrong. I can say it when I am wrong. My daughter was not interested in professions or anything of that nature. She got married, and she had six children. She wanted a large family. Unfortunately, she lost one boy, who passed away when he was about twelve. She raised five children. All of them are married now. I do not know how many grandchildren there are or how many children that branch of the family has produced. All are married and they live from Portland, Maine, across to Texas. They are all over the country.

S: I see that you have come to some reunions. Did you go to a College of Law reunion?

- C: Some time or another I did. I do not remember anything about the reunions. I just do not remember them. I did go to several of them, earlier. Now, I do not do anything except stay home.
- S: Are you getting ready to retire?
- C: Theoretically, I am already retired. A year ago, my son and I thought the son of one of our earlier partners was coming in, but he backed out because it was not enough money to him. My son wanted him to earn his money and not just get handout because his father used to be in the firm.
- S: Do you have other members in the firm, or is it just you and your son?
- C: It is just the two of us. We handle no jury trial work at all. I gave that up within three years of becoming a member of the bar. I found that I did not hold the trust of juries, so I got out of that. One case that I lost was a beautiful case, in my defense standpoint, but I lost it.
- S: You were telling me about that one.
- C: I have never tried another case, but I have done a lot of legal work since then.
- S: You have had a good, long career.
- C: Well, I think it is a long career.
- S: Yes, it is. Can you think of anything else that we need to cover?
- C: I think I have thrown too much at you.
- S: No, you have not. You have helped a tremendous amount; you have given us a lot of information. The things that you have told me about Trusler and Cockrell and Crandall could not be obtained except through the students who were in those classes.
- C: There are just few of us left, I guess.
- S: Yes, I need to go around and interview as many more as I can. It has been a few years.
- C: It has been a few years.
- S: Well, you still have a good memory of you law school days.

C: Those were good years. I did not have the money that some of the boys did, but I did have one advantage. My father was a railroad man, and that meant passes. Many a time I have come into Orlando by train. I would go to Palatka and then come down in the train. In those days, we did not have bus service like we have now. One day I arrived here, and my letter had not gotten through, so nobody met me at the old station down there on the corner. There I was; it was two o'clock in the morning. What would I do? I looked around, and thought, "Well, heck, my legs are still good," so I started walking. Do you know where Gatlin Avenue is?

S: No.

C: Do you know where Plaincastle is?

S: I think so.

C: Well, I had a hike of four and one-half miles. I started out a little after two in the morning, and before daybreak, I had made about two and one-half miles. They had not gotten my letter. My mother was spending the night out there by herself, and my brother was married and living in the north. My mother and father were separated and she had a house in town on America Street. It is gone now.

S: You could not call there. Did they have a telephone?

C: No, she did not have a telephone there at the farm. She did have a house in town, and she had a phone in that house.

S: Oh, but she was out there.

C: Right. I did not want to leave her the rest of the night, wondering what happened to me or whether I had come down or not, so I went on out. It was a black night, but it was not too bad. Many times, I left here on the midnight train going to Gainesville, and I would get into Palatka and sit on the bench for two hours. Then I would catch a train from Palatka to Gainesville. I would get there in time to walk out to the university and get to my first class. I had no sleep.

S: You had a busy life as a student.

C: I enjoyed my student life. I had railroad passes. I could go to St. Louis, Chicago, or New Orleans without paying railroad fare, if I would sit up. I used to follow the football team, if it went anywhere in the southeast. I think St. Louis was the farthest I ever went.

S: Are you talking about the Gator football team?

C: Yes. I was their chief yeller.

S: You did the cheers?

C: Yes, I did lots of cheering.

S: Would you do it at the stadium there?

C: Yes.

S: Would you lead the cheers?

C: I did in some. They had a regular cheer. But most of my cheerleading was with a bunch of the Florida men that were gathered together from all of the different places between here and New Orleans. We played one school in St. Louis. But I had passes, so I could go for nothing.

[End of the interview]