

- K: When you finished, sir, did you then have a law degree?
- P: I had a LL.D. degree when I finished, and I finished before I was twenty-one. And I had to get a court order to allow me to practice.
- K: I see.
- P: I had to get the court to remove my disabilities of non-age. I was just a little over twenty when I graduated.
- K: Did you have to take a bar exam?
- P: No, you didn't have to take a bar exam in those days. A graduate of the University of Florida was admitted on his diploma.
- K: Automatically?
- P: Yeah, automatically.
- K: So then did you come back here to practice?
- P: I came back here and started into practice and practiced a few months and I had...during the time I was at law school Professor Crandall said, "Mr. Peterson, they won't give a young lawyer much business to start on. And when I was a young man, I took a land clerk exam. And it was a wonderful experience, and so I'd advise you to try to get with a bigger firm or take one of those exams, or a similar exam." But we got interested. We went down to the post office and lo and behold they was going to give a land law clerk exam in about two months. Well, Maxwell Baxter, who later practiced at Sarasota and then at Fort Lauderdale, and I went down there and got the data about the examination and we took it. And we told some of the other boys about it and several of them took it too. But Maxwell and I boned up on it and we both passed the exam. And Maxwell was registered in Tennessee, and he was on the Tennessee register and I was on the Florida register and I was the only man on the Florida register, so I got an appointment pretty soon after I took the exam. And I went to Washington then, and it was a good experience. And the people were absolutely royal--treated me royally. It wasn't much like a government clerk. As a matter of fact when I went to the...I didn't report to the chief of the division; I reported to the assistant secretary of the interior.