

OREGON HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY HISTORY PROGRAM

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW

WITH

Keith and Betty Claycomb

Interview conducted March 18, 1999

by

Linda Weimer

SUMMARY

The interview with Keith and Betty Claycomb begins with Betty talking a little bit about herself and her early life. She brings us up to the point at which she met and married Keith; then Keith is given equal time to share stories about his life before meeting Betty. They were married in May of 1943, and in August of that year Keith was called to service in the U.S. Army. He talks about his career in the military, the various camps at which he was stationed—including Camp Adair in Corvallis, Oregon—and his brief run in with General George Marshall. He left the service in August 1946 and returned to the University of Oregon, completing his B.S. in 1947 and M.S. in 1948. He talks about coming to the University of Oregon Medical School to pursue his doctorate in biochemistry, and shares anecdotes about Dr. Olaf Larsell and Dr. Clare Peterson.

Keith graduated from UOMS in 1951, and began work as Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at the Dental School. In 1956, he supervised the move of the Dental School from its location in downtown Portland to a new facility on Marquam Hill. Betty was working in administration at the Dental School at that time; she and Keith share stories about the move and the old building. They also talk about Dean Harold Noyes and his dedication to the educational mission of the school. Keith talks about changes at the Dental School, and gives his view that education is becoming subordinate to research. As an aside, he mentions his two personal encounters with Linus Pauling and gives his impressions of the man.

Next, Keith moves on to talk about his efforts to recruit minorities to the Dental School. In the early 1970's, he set up the first office of minority student affairs at Dental, and was later tapped by President Bluemle to manage such a program for the University as a whole. After a brief aside on the effect of university consolidation on the administrative affairs of the Dental School, he returns to the subject of minority education. Concluding the discussion on student recruitment, Keith and Betty talk about the school's Junior Dental Institute for high school students interested in pursuing careers in dentistry.

The conversation moves on to consider the explosive growth of the campus and the impact of that growth on the local community. Keith and Betty swap stories about construction projects and the social life of a smaller campus. Local residents themselves, they were concerned about the need for additional parking. Keith, long-time member of the Homestead Neighborhood Association, talks about the development of the residential permit parking zones, some of the first in the city of Portland. He and Betty also share recollections of an earthquake that struck the area. Keith mentions that the University has always been very supportive of local community efforts to maintain the livability of the neighborhood.

Betty then discusses her work in the Dean's office during the tenure of Charles Holman, and Keith talks a little bit about the relationship between deans and the president after the university was consolidated in 1976. Keith touches on early research support at the Dental School. In closing, Keith and Betty briefly mention Dean Noyes' struggles with local practitioners over the curriculum, and the faculty exchange program at the Dental School. They also speculate on the hypothetical situation in which a vice president for medical affairs would have been established at Portland State University to oversee OHSU (rather than creating an office of President on the Hill). Lastly, Keith reflects on the image of the Dental School, which he regards as one of the best dental schools in the country.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Betty Claycomb: Early Years	1
Keith Claycomb: Early Years	3
Military Service in WWII	5
Doctoral Student at UOMS, 1948-1951	9
Professor of Biochemistry at the Dental School	12
Moving the Dental School to the Hill	13
Dean Harold J. Noyes	14
Changes in the Dental School	16
Linus Pauling	17
Minority Student Affairs	18
University Consolidation	21
More on Minority Recruitment	21
Junior Dental Institute	23
Growth of the Campus	24
Neighborhood Parking Committee	29
Earthquake on Marquam Hill	31
Town-Gown Relations	32
Dean Holman's Office	32
Deans Serving Presidents	34
Research at UOMS	35
Dean Noyes versus the "Old Dentists"	37
Exchange Faculty Program	38
Image of the Dental School	38
Index	40

Interview with Keith and Betty Claycomb
Interviewed by Linda Weimer
March 18, 1999
Site: Home of Keith and Betty Claycomb
Begin Tape 1, Side 1

WEIMER: This is an oral history interview with Keith and Betty Claycomb in their home. The date is March 18th, 1999, and I am Linda Weimer.

When we start our oral history interviews, we like to get some brief biographical information, so I think I'll start with Betty and ask her where she was born and raised.

B. CLAYCOMB: I was born in Eugene, Oregon, while my father was a GI Bill student at the U of O after World War I. And I grew up on a farm in Polk County, which was my grandfather's farm originally, my dad's one-sixth of it.

I went to the University of Oregon on a scholarship and stayed with a part-time job in a bank, and I met this one [nodding towards Keith] in an upstairs study room at the library. We were married during my senior year spring vacation. We finished out the school year. That summer he went off to active duty in World War II, and I mostly stayed in Eugene, and went to visit him when I could.

He came back from the war and got his bachelor's and his master's degrees, and I got my putting-hubby-through degree, I guess, although he was on the GI Bill and making as much money that way as I was. Then, for his Ph.D. he came to Portland, so I did too; and we lived in an apartment on Eleventh Avenue with a pull-down bed, which only went up with me once [laughter]. It was brand new and had four springs to lift it up.

He got his degree and went to work in Portland at the Dental School, and we adopted Johnny, and we couldn't get any more children for a long time, and then we adopted Mary, and they are fourteen years apart. And we bought this house and lived in it and remodeled it, and in 1986 it burned down. We tore down the wreckage and built the house you're in.

So that's me.

WEIMER: You skipped quite a bit in there [laughter].

B. CLAYCOMB: You want it day by day?

K. CLAYCOMB: You didn't put your date of marriage.

B. CLAYCOMB: Well, we were married in my senior year, the tenth of March, 1943, and so now we have fifty-six years in. So does he. He keeps saying *I've* been married.

K. CLAYCOMB: You've had more perfect years of marriage than I have.

B. CLAYCOMB: Yes, of course.

WEIMER: One of our themes is the Great Depression, how it affected families, and you were a farm family. How did it affect your family?

B. CLAYCOMB: Fortunately, our farm was in the Willamette Valley, and we had plenty of milk and could trade it for butter, and plenty of grain, which sold, and plenty of walnuts, which we sold. Some years we had to crack them to get them to sell. I did have a pair of shoes every year. And we were fairly self-sufficient. Not sugar, not coffee, but a lot of homegrown meat and vegetables.

WEIMER: What year was it when you went to University of Oregon?

B. CLAYCOMB: Thirty-eight.

WEIMER: At that time it wasn't that common for women to go on for higher education. What led you to go to the University of Oregon?

B. CLAYCOMB: Both my parents graduated from there. Prenatally I taught a Shakespeare class while my mother filled in for her sister, who was having surgery. Women did go to school; there just weren't as many of us.

WEIMER: Yes, I know they did. They even went to medical school, but sometimes it wasn't as expected, even for men at that time.

B. CLAYCOMB: Well, that's true.

K. CLAYCOMB: You have a hall named after one of your...

B. CLAYCOMB: Yes, Mary Watson Hall is a dormitory on the campus. She was my aunt. She was a Shakespeare prof.

WEIMER: So your family had a long history at the University of Oregon.

B. CLAYCOMB: Well, it is long now, isn't it [laughter]. It wasn't then.

WEIMER: What did you major in?

B. CLAYCOMB: My degree is in English lit. I majored mostly in redheads [laughter].

WEIMER: Is this in reference to your husband?

B. CLAYCOMB: Yes, and all the ones before him [laughter].

WEIMER: Well, I think we need to give fair time, so I'm going to ask Keith where he was born and raised.

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, I was born in Twin Falls, Idaho, in 1920, October 1920. And this part of this story, of course, is related to me by my parents. My father went up into what is now Sun Valley country as a hard rock miner. At the same time up there, before he became a miner, he was a truck driver; and my parents relate that one time driving through Deadwood, which is in the northern part of Idaho, there was a raging forest fire, and they were trying to get through, and the three of us were in the truck, and I guess I was enjoying it and they were scared to death.

But when I was about the age of four or so my mother and I lived on the Salmon River in the town of Salmon, and we ate on fish for a while, while Dad was gone, driving around. Basically, I guess, we didn't have much. Then, when I was about five, they went to Salt Lake City. Well, he did, as a hard rock miner in Bingham Canyon, and my mother, who was only—what was she...

B. CLAYCOMB: Eighteen years older.

K. CLAYCOMB: Eighteen years older than I was—took this little kid, when she was twenty-two, on a train into this town, Bingham, a hard rock mining town, to try and find my father. He hadn't deserted her, he'd just sent for her. But as I understand it, she went into the local bar, which was about the only thing that was around there, and asked if anybody knew Cecil Claycomb. "Yes," one fellow said, "Yes. He and I work together at the mine. He's on shift but I'm about ready to go up there. Why don't you come to my place and stay there and I'll tell him where you are." And that worked that way. I understand that we lived in a pretty interesting environment up there [laughing]; my baby sitters were ladies of the street, but I guess they're darn good baby sitters.

Anyway, that's where we lived until we left—they always wanted to come to Oregon, at least my father did—again, this story was related to me—and so we went back to Twin Falls. And my father by then bought a Model T, and that was really something. He was going to drive to Portland. And his family was in all kinds of straits, and all, so he stayed there to help them out. In the meantime, his car was stolen, so we ended up staying in Twin Falls with Dad working in automotive repairs.

And I remember during the Depression I went downtown to deposit my father's check. I can remember he worked for fifty cents an hour, ten hours a day, six days a week. But I had never known hunger as such, and I'd never known not having a place to stay. And everybody else was poor, so we didn't know we were poor. But I remember going down to deposit my dad's check at the bank with another kid, and the kid says, "My dad said the bank's going to close." And so when I went to deposit the check, I said, "They say the bank's going to close." The fellow says, "Oh, no, we're not going to close." That was the last weekend they were open. They did close. I don't know how this kid had the information. But, of course, that put us in all kinds of chaotic state, because we had no money. He stayed in Twin Falls long enough to start working again as a salesman, car salesman. As the Depression deepened, he lost his job. He got a job in Salt Lake City, and my parents had to sell the car to get enough money to go to Salt Lake City. And I was about, good gosh, thirteen or fourteen when we got there. It would have been about '34, somewhere in there.

B. CLAYCOMB: You were in junior high?

K. CLAYCOMB: No, I finished grade school in Twin Falls; and when we lived in Salt Lake City, I went to junior high, Bryant Junior High for a couple of years. Then I went to West High for a year, and we moved, and I ended up at South High. I graduated in—what was it? Christmas of '37. I'm a little vague because we had to leave at the end of the Christmastime because Dad had lost his job and we were going back to Idaho. I do know I didn't go through a '36 June graduation, so it had to be Christmas of '36, 1936. I left school, then, but I had been a good enough student that I had all kinds of good grades and records so I could come back and go to commencement in '37.

And in 1937, I lived in Twin Falls, Idaho and I wanted to go to college. The reason I wanted to go to college was because I'd been taken on an airplane ride, and I just wanted to be a pilot. It was with a fellow that was a friend of Dad's. And my buddy and I decided we'd go to Long Beach College—I don't know why there—and we sent our transcripts. Well, that didn't come about. And then, while I was working at a service station in Twin Falls, Idaho, in the summer of 1939, my folks came to Portland. I joined them about, oh, I don't know, a couple of months later, and I lived over on the northwest side from the end of 1939 until the fall of 1940, when I went to the University of Oregon.

And the reason I went to the University of Oregon was my father had a friend who called on a service station in Eugene that was looking for help at thirty-five cents an hour. In the meantime, I was working down in Portland at the West Bearing Company—in fact it's still in existence—as a delivery boy, and I was able so save up a hundred dollars. So I went to Eugene with a hundred dollars in my pocket and lived in a cooperative house. It was the Campbell Club.

When I was in school I was told that, well, you've got to have a major and a minor. I'd liked chemistry in high school, so I said, "Oh, chemistry." And so I was there at Oregon

when it was in transition. When I first started chemistry, you could not get a degree in it at Oregon, only at Oregon State. By the time I was ready to get a degree, both schools gave them.

It was in the fall of '40 when I met this lady. I had made a mistake and had a date with another girl at the same time. I always wondered what would have happened. But anyway, I just went with this one. And it's a good thing I did, because I have very atrocious spelling, and my English was never that good, and she was my English tutor and typist. In fact, she typed all my theses.

While in Salt Lake City I'd been in ROTC, and so when I went to Oregon I jumped into sophomore ROTC, even though I was a freshman, and went there for three years in Eugene; and in the fall of 1943—well, that spring of '43, I was told I'd go into the service soon, but we never knew when we were going. And finally, after I was in La Grande working at the railroad, I think it was...

B. CLAYCOMB: Your parents lived in La Grande by then.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah, my parents lived in La Grande. That's right. They had lived in Pendleton, and I spent a summer there; then they lived in La Grande. I was in La Grande working when the military said, "Come on, you're going."

B. CLAYCOMB: Yes. "Leave yesterday," is what they said.

K. CLAYCOMB: So in August of 1943 I went in the service. I was a senior ROTC student at the time, and we were supposed to have gone and gotten commissioned by a summer camp at Fort Lewis. Well, the war changed all that, and I was sent back to Fort Benning, Georgia, the Infantry School. And all this came about because I wanted to become a pilot. When I was at the university I was told that, "Well, you're ROTC, you've got to be infantry, you can't be Air Corps." And, therefore, I stayed in infantry instead of Air Corps. And the only reason I'd gone to school was that I wanted to be a pilot.

So I went into the infantry ROTC, and that's where I ended up, back in the Infantry School, with quite a few people from the University of Oregon. And I failed out of Officers Candidate School on my birthday, October 19, 1943.

WEIMER: You obviously remember it [laughter].

B. CLAYCOMB: All alone, then, he was.

K. CLAYCOMB: I was kicked out.

And a little anecdote about that is that—you see, my legal name is Cecil K. My father

detested Cecil—he was named Cecil—but my mother and his mother wanted me to be called after him. So he said, “All right, but he’ll go by his middle name.” All right. That sounds real good in a family, but in the military I was not Keith Claycomb, I was Cecil K. So I had to write my checks—I remember on the day I was kicked out I went to get some money. I wrote a check, and I had to write it Cecil K., and it went to her [Betty’s] bank, where she was working at the time, and they bounced it because my account was Keith Claycomb. By the time it got back to the military I was in trouble for writing a bogus check. That’s one of her stories.

B. CLAYCOMB: Yes. It wasn’t the only check he wrote, but other times they remembered to ask me if it was really him and made me sign the check too, but this time they didn’t speak to me about it. Not everybody remembered that I had a married name.

K. CLAYCOMB: So anyway, that’s it. So I went from there to teaching basic training in the military. I’d never taken it, but that didn’t make any difference [laughter]. I went and taught it there at Benning. I stayed in Benning until—I may be giving you too much stuff, I don’t know.

WEIMER: Keep going.

K. CLAYCOMB: Stayed there until January with my buddy, the good friend Hal LaCroix, who’d also been kicked out of class 412A. We were out in a bivouac on New Year’s Eve when we got the message that we’d been both accepted to the Air Corps. So we left there, went into town and got ready to go to Florida; and we went down to Miami Beach, Florida. And that was in January of 1944. We stayed there for, oh, about a month or so and took all of our tests. Then we got separated, and I was sent to Arkansas—Little Rock, Arkansas.

B. CLAYCOMB: Stuttgart.

K. CLAYCOMB: That’s right, Stuttgart Army Air Field at Little Rock, Arkansas. And we started in the Air Corps. But then Hap Arnold, who was the commanding general of the Air Corps, said, “We don’t need you now. We didn’t get that many killed in England and Europe and all,” and, therefore, we were sent back to the infantry.

So I went to Indiana—to Camp Atterbury, Indiana. And by then I had come on home—I hadn’t ever had a leave—I’ll take that back: I had gone down to where my dad was born in Indiana—Vincennes, Indiana—but that’s the only time I’d ever had any time off in the service. So I was able to take a few days and come here and get Betty, and we went back to Indiana. She has a better story on that.

But anyway, I stayed in Indiana in the 106th Division. I was a gunner, an 81 millimeter gunner, for a heavy weapons company. And we were going to go on Louisiana maneuvers,

and I thought, I don't want to go on Louisiana maneuvers. So I put in for Officers Candidate School, I was accepted, orders were cut, and then the division was activated. And they're the ones that went over into Europe. They were that green division on the line spread over a twenty-five mile front where the Germans came through in the Battle of the Bulge. I talked to a major later. I guess I was lucky. I could have been killed there.

B. CLAYCOMB: Most of them were killed.

K. CLAYCOMB: So I went to Officer Candidate School, Class 360. Anyway, my serial number, officer's serial number, ended in 7510, and there's a guy named Senator Bob Dole whose number ended in 7518.

WEIMER: Is this the Bob Dole that we all know?

K. CLAYCOMB: That's the Bob Dole you know. I was never personally acquainted with him, even though we were just eight men apart, but the buddy I'm going to be with next week down in Disneyland, who lives in Pasadena, he and Dole spent a night in a pup tent in Italy. We graduated November 18, 1944. I went up to Fort Meade, Maryland, to be a training instructor.

B. CLAYCOMB: Half the class went to Italy and half the class stayed in the States. Quite a lot of them went to Fort Meade.

K. CLAYCOMB: Just about half the class went overseas, and the other half of us went to a training division, and we were at Meade. Betty was able to join me when I was at Fort Meade. We stayed—I can't remember the dates.

B. CLAYCOMB: I was there at Fort Benning, but, of course, you only had one night out a week. And then we drove home in somebody else's car that lived in Portland.

We had to help her get home, and he had to fly back, and I had to stay here until we saved up enough money for me to go to Maryland, which I did.

K. CLAYCOMB: That's right, because we stayed at Meade from November of '44 to about July '45.

B. CLAYCOMB: Yeah. Orders said 1 July for Camp Adair.

K. CLAYCOMB: Okay—at Fort Meade, and then we were shipped out here to Camp Adair, Oregon. Do you know where that is? It's by Corvallis.

WEIMER: Yes, I've heard of that.

K. CLAYCOMB: Twenty miles from her folks' farm.

WEIMER: Oh, that's a coincidence.

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, it sure was because, during my junior-senior year, I had worked out there building the camp. So it was kind of like coming home. At the time I worked there, I said I'd never want to live in a place like this. Man, that was paradise compared to some places I have stayed in the United States, camps.

So anyway, we lived at Camp Adair until August '45.

B. CLAYCOMB: The war was over.

K. CLAYCOMB: The war in the East was over, and I was on leave to go to Japan, and they dropped the atom bomb when I was at Camp Adair. So that—I think it was in August, wasn't it?

B. CLAYCOMB: Yes, I think so. Everything happened about the tenth of August.

K. CLAYCOMB: That ended a need for Camp Adair, Oregon.

A little aside, at the VE day celebration I had a troop of recruits, replacements—we were at a replacement training center at Ft. Meade—and we paraded on the streets of New York in the celebration, a ticker tape parade. And that was something to try and keep those guys together, because they kept getting pulled into doorways by young women. I can remember that as a young man.

Anyway, I left Oregon, flew back east, New York, to Washington, D.C., on my way to Camp Pickett, Virginia. And I did run into a gentleman and his wife at the junior officers club in Washington, D.C.; and I must not have had proper senses, because all I can remember is I bumped into this gentleman coming in, and he had a little circle on his shoulder, five little stars. General Marshall. Of course, I was very apologetic. He was the nicest gentleman. That's the only time I ever met him. "Don't worry about it, son," or something like that.

So then I went to Camp Pickett, Virginia. And we were involved in redeployment of people. I never did really get what the whole function was, but that's where I was.

Then I was scheduled to go on repatriation, to go over and be in a grave detail in Europe, and I had no desire to do that, and, anyway, I wanted to get into chemistry. The war was over, and we were getting demobilized, and I wanted to go back to school. I had three years of chemistry when I went in the service. So I went to the Pentagon in Washington D.C. to get transferred, where I ran into one other second lieutenant, and we shook hands, because we were the only low-ranking officers I saw around that place. Then I went over to a place

called Gravelly Point, where the chemical warfare service was, and I got transferred to the chemical warfare service. That was in March of 1946, and I stayed there until August of 1946, got promoted to a first lieutenant, and then was separated from the service. So I got back into Oregon in August 1946.

B. CLAYCOMB: In time to go to school.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah, 1946. In fact, we went out and lived on the farm, and then—for that bit of summer until school started, went down to Oregon, and, basically, the rest is history.

B. CLAYCOMB: The rest of it has me in it.

K. CLAYCOMB: I got my bachelor's degree in '47, I got my master's in '48; and I came up here to the Medical School in September 1948 because my professor of biochemistry was a graduate from here, and he knew Dr. West and Dr. Van Bruggen. Actually, I think he knew them down in St. Louis, but I'm a little vague right in there.

B. CLAYCOMB: I think he went to St. Louis with Dr. West.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah. So anyway, I started here in the fall of 1948 in biochemistry.

WEIMER: And this was with the Medical School?

B. CLAYCOMB: Um-hmm.

K. CLAYCOMB: It was the University of Oregon Medical School.

WEIMER: The Dental School at that time was still down on Northeast...

K. CLAYCOMB: It was over there off of—where the Metro is now, on north—gee whiz.

B. CLAYCOMB: Oregon.

K. CLAYCOMB: Oregon Street, just off of...

B. CLAYCOMB: It is now called the Forum Building or something like that.

WEIMER: Tell me what the school was like in 1948.

B. CLAYCOMB: The roof leaked.

WEIMER: You were in Mackenzie Hall?

K. CLAYCOMB: We were in—actually, behind—there was a Quonset hut that was built, a Quonset hut out into where...

B. CLAYCOMB: I think she means the Medical School.

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, I was up here in 1948, that's when I'm talking about. Where we stayed it was in the Quonset hut. Where I had—the chemistry department was right along that—well, opposite where the fountain is. You know where the fountain is?

WEIMER: Um-hmm.

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, right in there you come into the front, and there's where the chemistry department was, and if you continued on to where the atrium is there now is where they put the Quonset hut. That's long gone. That's where we worked with radioactivity. I was working with and learned how to use radioactive carbon. We were one of the foremost people in doing it in those days.

The school was quite small. I had the fortune of knowing Dean Baird. It was a cohesive little group. I took histology from Dr. Olaf Larsell. I remember one—the reason I remember this, it was a final in the fall of 1948. I got hepatitis. Do you remember I got hepatitis?

B. CLAYCOMB: Um-hmm.

K. CLAYCOMB: I was really sick, and I was popping aspirin and water. We had an eight o'clock examination in which is now the registrar's office, I think. It was Room 1. It was a cafeteria later and everything else. I think it's now the registrar's office. I've lost track of it.

Anyway, I had an eight o'clock exam. We're in there, and I'm just getting over this darn hepatitis, and drinking a lot of water and all, and the message came down that Dr. Larsell had forgotten he had an eight o'clock class for us. Oh, we were livid. But, what the heck, there was nothing to do.

So about nine o'clock he showed up to give us the test, and during the test he said—somebody turned it in, and he said, "Oh, I didn't want a transverse section of the bronchioles, I wanted a sagittal section. There's a great difference about those two." And he says, "Turn your paper over, and you can put the new diagram"—he wanted us to draw a diagram of a sagittal section, slice through the bronchioles. So, okay, we did that, got it done.

Later I was called into his office. I didn't pass. I had a 71 percent on the test—I was a graduate student, of course—and I needed at least a 75. And he said, "You didn't answer this

question properly.” And, of course, it’s been a long time and I’ve forgotten a lot of the details. I just remember my side. And I said, “But you told me, Dr. Larsell, I could do it on the back.” He turned it over, and he said, “Oh. Oh, yes.” It was worth twenty-five points—I can still remember this—and I thought, “Boy, that’s it. That’ll put me up above 90 percent.” He never changed my grade. He never said a thing. He says, “Well, all right, okay.” Well, obviously, he had changed it somewhere, because I passed the course [laughter].

[End of Tape 1, Side 1/Begin Side 2]

WEIMER: We’re on side two of tape one, and you were just relating your story about Dr. Larsell.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah. He was a real fine gentleman, because when I was doing my Ph.D. language, French and German, he set up the examination area for me. I actually took them up here, and then they were sent to Eugene, the language department. And the French department really were a little bit uppy-uppy about my French. I’d been taking a course down here at Vanport—it wasn’t Vanport, it was Portland State then. I don’t quite remember what it was, but I wasn’t doing very well in it, and he got me through some how. I don’t think he was a friend of the French department. Anyway, I took my degree at University of Oregon Medical School.

There was at the time, too, another very fine gentleman, Dr. Osgood. He was in hematology. He was quite a renowned authority, and I took courses from him. Other fine people, one was Ty Hutchens. When I was a student, he had just come to the university, there, and he developed their radioactive diagnostics department. I have known Ty for quite a few years.

And, then, I ended up in the spring of ’51, when I was to graduate, with a growth on the inside of my right leg, and I went to Dr. Clare Peterson, who was a friend of Ty Hutchens. As a graduate student, you had entree to a lot of people you didn’t have as a regular student. And they decided that they should remove it. So they did. It turned out to be a fatty lymphoma, a benign fatty tumor.

B. CLAYCOMB: It was a weird one, though. Somebody drove to Seattle with it to get the diagnosis.

WEIMER: To double check.

K. CLAYCOMB: Um-hmm. It was—and you get this type of thing, “Well, in all my years,” such and such.

Now, Dr. Peterson was a horrible person to take a lecture from, he was such a soft-spoken individual, but he sure had the nurse support around there. If you were his patient,

you didn't worry about anything.

A little aside, too, is that I was teaching nursing students at that time—that was one of my assignments in the biochemistry department—and the night before my surgery, they stood outside in the hallway, and in very loud voices, were arguing about who got to give me the enema [laughter].

So I had the surgery. And in those days they took out a big chunk and wrapped up the leg and all. And I was going to go fishing, and I still wanted to go fishing, so Betty and I went down the Alsea fishing.

B. CLAYCOMB: It was my only week of vacation that whole year.

K. CLAYCOMB: And we went down and went fishing, and I hung up, so she had to go out and unsnag me.

B. CLAYCOMB: I had to wade into the water, if anybody did. And we called Portland every night, we called Van Bruggen, and finally one night Ruth, Mrs. Van Bruggen, said, "No, I'll tell you. It's benign." Then he could get wet [laughter].

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, they were deciding whether I'd have to come right back and they'd go in and do more extensive surgery, because initially they thought it was Hodgkin's Disease. It turned out not to be.

And then we were looking around for a job. We graduated in 1951, and I was going to look for a job, and I'd had an offer down in Baylor, Texas, and one in—was that Cambridge or Harvard? I've forgotten which one it was where I had an offer of a job.

Well, I was very fortunate. We were young in the isotope business and just getting started in medicine to use them for diagnostic work. I did my research studying cholesterol synthesis in rats. The Dental School had been just taken over by the state, and they were going from just a part-time teacher who—one of the people in Van Bruggen's department who had been teaching over at the Dental School told me they were going full-time, and I got the job. I started at \$5,800 a year in September of 1951, and I stayed there with them—I started as an assistant professor, didn't I?

B. CLAYCOMB: Associate, I think.

K. CLAYCOMB: No, I went up to associate and then on up to full. But I stayed there, and in 1956 I was in charge of moving the Dental School to the Hill.

WEIMER: Tell me about that.

B. CLAYCOMB: They had one telephone: mine.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah, that's right. She did a lot. She was the headquarters here.

But I was in charge of moving the whole thing, and so I hired dental students at a dollar an hour, and we moved that whole school in that summer of 1956.

B. CLAYCOMB: His crew didn't drive the trucks. They hired a truck company.

K. CLAYCOMB: Oh, yeah, we hired Irvington Transfer. And we moved that entire institution, with everything in there. That was an interesting thing. One instructor, Nils Phatak, who was a physiologist and pharmacologist, he walked into his office at the old school, took his coat off of a coat tree, and we never saw him again until everything was moved in up here on the Hill and his coat tree was back in his office so he could take his hat off and put on it.

WEIMER: He vanished, in other words?

K. CLAYCOMB: [Laughter] He just vanished. An interesting thing, though, moving that institution. Had the students—in fact, I don't think anyone's on the faculty anymore. They've all retired. It was—oh, heck, Murray Bartley and Bob Sheridan, and a whole lot of others, especially Dean Gatewood, an assistant professor of biochemistry, that have all since retired. And were functioning by the fall.

B. CLAYCOMB: Well, remember, that was more than forty years ago, and we were grown up then.

K. CLAYCOMB: We were functioning by the fall of 1956. We had that whole thing moved up here and rolling.

WEIMER: You moved the old equipment. I heard there was very old equipment in that building. Did you get any new stuff when you built the new building?

B. CLAYCOMB: Oh, he did, yes. When he first went to work they told him, "We are going to move over here, we think"—and presently it came true—"and so you may order lab benches for the chemistry lab. If you can fit them into this room and make them fit into this room in the new place, then you can have them now, because Collins has time to build them now."

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah. That was Ivan Collins.

B. CLAYCOMB: And so the first thing he brought home were room sizes and little squares, little rectangles of paper to push around. And we met Ivan Collins.

K. CLAYCOMB: He's the one whose small, miniature wagons are at the Oregon Historical Society. This is the person that designed the desk and the benches. And that's right, we had to design them for the old place and the new.

And while the legislature was in session—who were seeing whether we needed a new school, and all this stuff—the dean had us strategically place buckets around for catching water that would come in, was supposed to come in, at the old school [laughter].

B. CLAYCOMB: It did drip in some of those places. But if the legislators were visiting, there were always more buckets, I think [laughter].

K. CLAYCOMB: Oh, yeah. That was to make sure that they saw that we needed a new school.

And when we moved up here, in some respects it was kind of bad, because we were, you might say, big fish in a small pool. But when we got up here, we just a little teeny fish.

B. CLAYCOMB: At the bottom of the Hill, yet.

K. CLAYCOMB: At the bottom of the Hill, because they just—well, we're down the way, there. But, of course, this—if I remember right, I think we paid \$2 million for that whole building. Actually, it's still a pretty good building.

B. CLAYCOMB: They keep fixing it.

K. CLAYCOMB: So I was there, and along in about 1960 sometime, I became chairman of the admissions committee, as well as I had gotten an assistant professorship, full professorship somewhere along there. You'd have to look at the archives.

B. CLAYCOMB: Pretty soon after you were there you were a full professor.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah, a full professor, chairman of admissions. In those days we had both the dental hygiene and the dental students under one person, and I had a full-time secretary for that. And I was chair of the admissions committee, and somewhere along in there they split off hygiene from the dental student admissions, which was good. And I was there for about ten years as chair, and then I went to Australia on a sabbatical. Lou Terkla was dean at that time. The first dean I worked under was Dean Noyes.

B. CLAYCOMB: Harold J.

K. CLAYCOMB: Hal Noyes, who had both an M.D. and a dental degree. And he came out of the Noyes family, one of whom had received a Nobel Prize in chemistry. It was quite a family of educators. Hal Noyes was a good, good dean.

B. CLAYCOMB: He was the last of his family tree. They had one daughter.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah. And then Lou Terkla became dean.

WEIMER: Tell me about Dean Noyes, because not that many people now remember him. What was he like as a dean?

K. CLAYCOMB: He was a fine man. When I first met him, here I'm just a young instructor, just joined the faculty. We went to a party at one of the faculty's house, Marshall Snyder—he was the—in those days it was bacteriologist—his house, and he—I was saying Dean Noyes this and Dean Noyes that, and he says, “Keith, I'm Hal. You have to remember that.” And, then, people were talking about this operative dentistry, science this and that, and such as that, and he says, “Wait a minute. I've got one dental school, and we're here to teach students.”

B. CLAYCOMB: They didn't have to be big, either. Our son John was very small, and he met Dean Noyes, and he said, “If you're my daddy's boss, why aren't you as big as my daddy?” [Laughter] And Dean Noyes says, “Johnny, when I was your size, I didn't like vegetables much, and I didn't eat my vegetables. And I might have been as big as your daddy if I'd done that.” So we never had anymore vegetable trouble either.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yes. It's too bad that most of the people around that knew him—Don Porter knew him well, but most of the people that knew him, knew him in his latter diabetic years when he was old and tired.

WEIMER: So he was impaired, health problems impaired his administration?

K. CLAYCOMB: Oh, yeah.

B. CLAYCOMB: At sixty-five, we said, “It's criminal to make him quit,” but we should have let him.

WEIMER: At sixty-five years of age?

B. CLAYCOMB: He was fine then.

K. CLAYCOMB: And Dean Noyes was really very good. He came to me at the old school when I was a first year teacher and said, “What's your grade breakdown?” And I told him. And he says, “It seems like it's right to me.”

And he never gave me any chewing, you might say, except once when I and our anatomist, Ellis Jump, were concerned that the young ladies who came into hygiene, they

didn't have to have college to enter into hygiene, and so we were taking them out of high school. Well, some of them had gone to college before coming in, and it seemed to us, Ellis Jump and myself—he was the co-chairman of this admissions committee—that it was such a waste of talent to sit around and not have to do anything while—because they'd had chemistry or they'd had something else or this. So we tried to get the dean to agree to pay for their tuition at Portland State so they could fill in and get a broader education. He didn't really move very fast on it, kind of drag his heels, so we authorized it. I will say this much: he picked up the tab. But he told us that he didn't think what we did was right [laughter]. That's the only time I ever was chastised, pulled up short. But he always supported us.

And I think that he did a good thing, because he was interested in the science of dentistry. At the time I joined the Dental School there were only five dental schools, I think, in the United States that had their own science department. He wanted his, and so he set it up, and we had our own science department. I was the first full-time head of biochemistry. He had the people ahead of me, he had a full-time microbiologist, Marshall Snyder, and he had...

B. CLAYCOMB: Ellis Jump.

K. CLAYCOMB: And Ellis Jump.

B. CLAYCOMB: Jump was full-time.

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, Ellis Jump was head of anatomy, and I think he was a Harvard graduate. Anyway, he surrounded himself with, I think, some pretty good people. Of course, I thought I was too, I guess.

B. CLAYCOMB: He went to Brown, didn't he?

K. CLAYCOMB: I think so, but I can't remember.

B. CLAYCOMB: Marshall Snyder. I know Myrtle did. Ellis Jump was somewhere back in New England, because in the summertime he was a sturdy young guide to lead people up Mount Washington.

K. CLAYCOMB: Noyes then had surrounded himself with these people, and he wanted the science department, and we had one. That's kind of interesting now to see they're all gone again. He thought to have them as separate identities, their own individual identity, and now, of course, they're all back to where they no longer have individual departments. And I have my own thoughts on that, but that's my point of view.

WEIMER: Yes, but I guess I should ask what were the consequences of going back to the old way, of losing the individual departments?

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, I've been out quite a while from the institution, now. I retired in '85.

I think that it's money driven. At least, I feel, that when I was there the main purpose was education. We were trying to—that doesn't mean they're not getting it now. Our primary purpose was teaching students. We got in a real argument one time at a faculty meeting. One person said, "Well, we've got to have research, teaching, and professional advancement," which, of course, is the stuff that we go by. But Noyes said, "Yes, but the minute we quit taking in students, we close our doors," and to keep bringing us back to the point that we were there to serve a function for the people of Oregon, and that was to provide a place for their children to be educated as dentists and to provide dentists for the state of Oregon. I think he did a good job. He took a technical school and made it into a very fine institution.

Getting back to your question—I know I'm evading it—since I'm not in the center over there, I don't know how it is going now. I do know I've had friends who are a little closer to it, and they think that somehow they're losing their drive toward the primary function of education, and it's almost all research now. But again...

B. CLAYCOMB: Well, the business of "bring your money if you want to move to Oregon" is kind of scary.

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, but when you're on the outside looking in and you have your own prejudices, it's pretty hard to look at it with an objective point of view unless you were involved in the study of it. I get most of my information and feeling from serving as the neighborhood representative to the Hill parking committee, which I've been on ever since the parking committee was established. So I don't know, I think it's going to probably take a more scholarly person than myself to sit down, though, and look at what's going on.

And don't forget, it's a different time. When I was teaching, we used to laugh about, "Well, they know all about water except how to boil it." Now they know all about the atomic structure of something, and we're down at the molecular level and the submolecular level.

B. CLAYCOMB: What did Toshi say, it's all gene study now?

K. CLAYCOMB: Oh, yeah. When I first started, we just talked about the pus material, you might say, that researchers found in nuclear material. And Linus Pauling and his genetic work, and then Watson and Crick, who had the advantage of having Linus Pauling's son in their department in London. They were pumping him while Linus Pauling was trying to elucidate the structure of nucleic acids. We were teaching, initially, about some of the structure, but we didn't know until they came up with the double helix.

I might mention that I met Linus Pauling personally twice. The first time was, let's see: I think I presented the paper in San Francisco in '48, the spring of '48, before I came up

to the school here. And I was up in the pressroom, because Betty had worked for the ACS Press—and she can tell you that story—at the American Chemical Society in San Francisco. Up in the pressroom Linus Pauling was showing people a picture from the Land Camera—which was Polaroid, the first Polaroid, and he was showing a picture of himself from it. He was excited, just like a kid.

And, then, the next time I met Linus Pauling was when—I was involved here in setting up the first chemical society in Portland. They'd always had one at Eugene, and we were kind of an offshoot of the one from Eugene, and set up here the American Chemical Society Portland Section, and we had Linus Pauling, then, to come and talk to us, and that's how I met him. I was involved in that section when I was very young. I was chairman of it and helped set it up.

And along the same way, as we've been down to our school here, another one of my accomplishments is after sabbatical, I came back from Australia in 1971, I was looking at—we were talking about minority students, the lack of them in the school, and I thought that since my research was basically stopped when I was in Australia, because I didn't have the equipment that I needed, and all that, I decided I'd better see what else I was going to do, and I thought that we'd better get something going on minority recruitment. We better do it the way we want it or it's going to be shoved down our throats. So I established the first minority program in the Dental School under Dean Terkla, who was very supportive.

And, then, when Bluemle came in as the president, when the university unified in 1976 I think it was, he found out about our Dental School minority program and asked me to become his special Assistant for Minority Student Affairs. And I think this was brought about because Vera Katz was in the legislature, and she put in the budget notes a direction that they would address this problem. It's something that's in the archive there somewhere. And so I became, then, Director of Minority Student Affairs for the university, for the newly-formed university, and I hired the staff and worked—I got the grant. We had a grant of—I've forgotten how many hundred thousand dollars now. Quite a bit of money.

B. CLAYCOMB: It doesn't sound like so much anymore.

K. CLAYCOMB: No. In those days it was.

B. CLAYCOMB: I didn't have to type all that. They hired a temp from somewhere, a young man who rode his bicycle up into the biochem department. I was down editing and doing some of the typing, and the temp stuck his head in and said, "Are the pages mixed up? You seem to be saying the same thing over again" [laughter]. So we gave him a little instruction in how you divide up a grant request among all the committee, and they all have to have all of it, and he went away happy and typed it beautifully.

K. CLAYCOMB: So I set this up in '71, the minority student affairs, and eventually it

moved out of my office into an office over in what is Gaines Hall. I had two full-time people. And I was director of that—well, let's see. Dr. Bluemle left and Dr. Leonard Laster came on, and I was a director of his initially, Assistant to the President for Minority Student Affairs. I was trying to replace the director under me, and Len said he wasn't available to do an interview. He had to go somewhere. And so the guy, the fellow that was to be interviewed, said he wasn't going to take the job.

B. CLAYCOMB: Was that Ollie?

K. CLAYCOMB: No, that was a fellow who was up in Seattle. But Ollie came in after that, and I wanted to get Ollie on it, Ollie (Olvin) Moreland, who had been the one I'd had initially. He had left and gone to Harvard to get a Ph.D. in education and had come back.

B. CLAYCOMB: And Terry, big, good-looking, curly-headed Terry. I can't remember his last name.

K. CLAYCOMB: I can't either. I think it was Rollins.

Anyway, Laster and I had a falling out. He said, "Well, you can go get another person." And I told him, I said, "No, Dr. Laster, I can't. I've given you several chances, and that's it." Well, immediately I was no longer Assistant to the President for Minority Student Affairs, I was under Steve Bauer, who was the financial officer for the Director of Student Affairs [laughter]. So I was the Director of Minority Student Affairs, but it was all right. It worked out, and I got a staff going. In the meantime, I'm still doing biochemistry with the department.

But when I came back from Australia, from the sabbatical, I spent most of my time in administration and teaching the hygienists. The students were going through this rebellious age, that is, the dental students: "I know more about testing than you know about—you can't do these questions, you can't do that question, you can't teach us this way, you can't teach us that way, and you told me this and that." And I thought, hell with it. I'd rather teach the hygienists, because I had a lot more fun [laughter].

B. CLAYCOMB: So Dean C. Gatewood and Walter Gabler got the boys.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah. I should mention I had Dean Gatewood as an assistant for all the time from the old school to the new school, and he...

B. CLAYCOMB: Except for the first year.

K. CLAYCOMB: Hmm?

B. CLAYCOMB: He came during the first year, didn't he?

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah. He was just fantastic on the teaching and the help and all the other. Without him I couldn't have done this other stuff, the minority student affairs and this type of thing.

B. CLAYCOMB: Or the admissions.

K. CLAYCOMB: Or the admissions, because it was going all the time.

B. CLAYCOMB: Dean Noyes had a lot of committees. Dean Gatewood was on several of them; you were on several.

K. CLAYCOMB: One time I was on five committees at that school.

WEIMER: That's a real time commitment.

K. CLAYCOMB: Too many, because I was also involved in the American Chemical Society, its local section; I also was involved with my military career, because I spent about thirty-five years in the military. I was active in the reserve. So I've retired from both of them now.

So anyway, on the minority student affairs, I stayed there until about the time Laster was getting ready to leave, and I told Steve Bauer that I'd just had it. Steve Bauer was the one. I said it's just too much. It goes on. And anyway, as I could say, I said, "Outside of being white, Protestant, and old, I was a perfect choice for director."

B. CLAYCOMB: Male.

K. CLAYCOMB: Male—and old male. I'm ideal for this job [laughter].

B. CLAYCOMB: So then there was Beth—what was Beth's name?

K. CLAYCOMB: Who?

B. CLAYCOMB: Beth.

K. CLAYCOMB: Oh, yeah. Beth was the one I hired.

B. CLAYCOMB: You hired her, and she was director after you had gone.

K. CLAYCOMB: And I had Kantor there, too, and the other...

B. CLAYCOMB: Who?

K. CLAYCOMB: Kantor, Steve Kantor's wife. I've forgotten now. I'm sorry, I've just forgotten some of the names. But it went on, and then I dropped out in about—well, actually, about 1985 when I dropped all ties to it, because I was leaving the institution and I was going to retire.

And, basically, that's about it. I got paid to do what I loved to do, work with people. I think I put it very well when I said in my retirement letter that I think it was time for me to move from center stage.

WEIMER: Since you've had such a long history with the Dental School, and, of course, with the Medical School too, and you briefly mentioned that when the Dental School came up here from northeast Portland to the Hill that it changed from being the big fish to a little fish, can we talk about that a little bit? What were the changes?

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, we used to call our own shots, and when we moved on the Hill initially, before we became part of the thing, we were all under the University of Oregon.

B. CLAYCOMB: But that was a distant stepmother.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah. Basically we were an independent institution. We called our own shots, had our own business office, had our own library, had our own cafeteria.

WEIMER: And that even continued while you were up here, but it was when you consolidated, it would change.

B. CLAYCOMB: When it was all organized with—even when Bluemle was at the top, it was—it began to be uncomfortable.

K. CLAYCOMB: And it really made sense in a lot of respects, because the business office up there for the university, they could take—Mavis Petty was our business manager, and she went up there, for the business up there, and I think her prime responsibility was the Dental School. And those types of things really made sense from an economic point of view, and you got more room. For instance, my grant that I had was the one that set up the learning center on the sixth floor in the Dental School. That was the learning center there initially, because in those days it was quite a bit of money. I think it was \$16,000 they took from my minority student grant to equip the study cubicles.

And, then, we didn't get our grant renewed after the first time because Washington, D.C. reviewers did not think that we had enough numbers.

WEIMER: And numbers meaning?

K. CLAYCOMB: Students.

B. CLAYCOMB: Minority students.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah. We were just told that, “Because you don’t have enough numbers. You know, you’re not doing as much.” Well, we didn’t include Asians.

WEIMER: You did not consider them minorities?

B. CLAYCOMB: No. Heck, no.

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, they were up there, they had good grades, a good record, they could compete with everybody. And I’ve had friends both at the university and up—I mean, down at Oregon and up here, and all. They were good students. We didn’t consider them minorities needing the help.

B. CLAYCOMB: They had no handicaps.

K. CLAYCOMB: No. We took our limited resources to help the others.

[End of Tape 1, Side 2/Begin Tape 2, Side 1]

WEIMER: We’re on tape two, side one, and you were just talking about the numbers. You lost your grant.

K. CLAYCOMB: Minority students. Well, if we’d included Asians, we could have overwhelmed them with numbers. But the point was, they weren’t having trouble getting into our institution, and I thought that it was to help get the minorities who were underrepresented into our school. But my thought was—and I had our one black professor, Clarence Pruitt, help me to set up the grant, and his perspective was to get them educated, start down in the grade school. The next thing, we had to go to college to get them right then, but then to go back into the high school and go back to the grade schools and start the pipeline concept to get young people saying, “This is what I want to do; We’ll go here,” and on up, and to start working, because it’s the only way I could sell it to this institution of primarily Caucasian people, because I had to sell this type of program to the medical people as well as to the dental people. It wasn’t any easier in the Dental School than it was in medical. I had a lot of support. I worked with the different deans and the dean of nursing, who—would you believe I’ve forgotten her name now?

B. CLAYCOMB: Lindgren?

K. CLAYCOMB: Lindgren.

WEIMER: Or Lindeman?

K. CLAYCOMB: Lindeman, Carol Lindeman. I worked with her and with her staff and with Kendall, John Kendall, Dean of the Medical School. A very supportive person was Louis Terkla, Dean of the School of Dentistry. And I remember going to faculty meetings in the Medical School to sell the program. My program, I think, made sense, and that was, get them qualified and interested before they come in, because the worst thing you could do would be bring a young person into such a competitive environment with inadequate qualifications, because I think it would be criminal. We wanted to increase the numbers, but we wanted it such that they earned their way in, and the only preference they got was the fact that if they're equally matched, they could get in. And we were successful; I think we were successful.

And the only one that I see, though, and talk to, or write to at Christmastime, is the American Indian, who after she graduated, she went into public health service. But anyway, that's enough on that program. I thought it was a good program. I still do.

B. CLAYCOMB: There was another program. You weren't so much involved in it, but that junior thing in the summers. She needs to get that down in the history somewhere.

K. CLAYCOMB: I'm trying to remember what it was. The Junior Dental Institute.

WEIMER: Was it something like a career day?

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah.

B. CLAYCOMB: Two weeks, wasn't it?

K. CLAYCOMB: Two weeks. Was it a week or two weeks? They still have it, I think, at the Dental School.

B. CLAYCOMB: Jack Clinton knows.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah, Jack Clinton would know, the dean down there. We were involved in getting high school students, to get them interested in going into dentistry, and they'd come to the Dental School. And, of course, my department fell pretty flat. They weren't interested in chemistry; they were interested in hand stuff and dentistry. But that's what it did. And we did fund some of that initially from the grant and associated costs. We were involved in it. In fact, I'll have to admit that I was involved in a lot of things at school. I have an active mouth [laughter].

WEIMER: When do you think, approximately, that career week started?

K. CLAYCOMB: I can't—I have to say it must have been the early seventies.

WEIMER: Oh, okay. So it wasn't something from the forties or fifties.

B. CLAYCOMB: I don't believe so.

K. CLAYCOMB: We never had the facilities until we got up here on this Hill.

WEIMER: So it was after the move.

K. CLAYCOMB: Oh, yeah. Most of my career is after the move. We were up here in '56. I was only with them five years before we moved.

B. CLAYCOMB: The parking at the old school was really neat. It was all packed into about a quarter of a block, and he [Keith] and Tedford shared a space, so whoever was behind took both of them to the bank or to lunch or wherever they had to go.

K. CLAYCOMB: Oh, yeah, over at the old place.

WEIMER: Northeast Portland.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah, Northeast Portland.

WEIMER: Well, let's talk about the campus itself, because you've mentioned parking, and you were on the committee, about the growth of the campus.

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, when we came, you could stand there right out by the fountain...

B. CLAYCOMB: There wasn't any fountain.

K. CLAYCOMB: There wasn't any fountain, but where it is, that's the location, and bend on over the little—there was a bank there, just a dirt bank, and there was Gibbs Street running down, and then beyond that was a canyon. And while I was a student in '48, they started to fill in the canyon and put a road up to it, Campus Drive. And as I recall, or it was told to me—and I don't know whether there was any truth to it or not, but I think there was—that they had to do it in a different biennium because of money, so they put the Campus Drive road in while I was still a student. In fact, I had just started being a student.

B. CLAYCOMB: I rode the bus, while you were a student, up and down Sam Jackson Park Road.

K. CLAYCOMB: Um-hmm.

B. CLAYCOMB: Campus Drive.

K. CLAYCOMB: I'm talking about Campus Drive; it was put in because of the split in the budget year. I don't quite understand it.

And then the Dental School building was started there, and also Hospital South. I don't know what it is now.

B. CLAYCOMB: It's University Hospital, isn't it?

WEIMER: Yes. It's gone through several name changes.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yes. And that's when that was put in there. Actually, a friend of mine was a foreman on that job, helped build it.

B. CLAYCOMB: The first year we lived in Portland I worked in what is now continuing education. We called it, what, postgrad? And Dr. Holman was the director of hospitals and clinics...

K. CLAYCOMB: And you were at the old Multnomah County Hospital.

B. CLAYCOMB: ...and my desk was a Multnomah County Hospital admitting office, because that's close to where Dr. Holman's office was. And they were in the process of building what became the carbon 14 isotope lab for Keith to move into on our wedding anniversary in March.

I was dealing with doctors who had graduated and gone to war and got a little brochure from us that said, "We're giving a catch-up course in this or this or this, and your GI Bill will cover it." And they came back by the dozens. And they walked into Mackenzie Hall, where they could stand on this side and see Mount Hood and walk straight through and see Mount St. Helens, and there was that sign that said *No Admittance, Isotopes*. They were testy. But it was something new and exciting; it wasn't just rabbits, you know.

K. CLAYCOMB: Oh, to tell you about the size of the institution, Dr. West, a quite famous doctor—I don't know if you ever knew him.

WEIMER: No.

K. CLAYCOMB: He was head of Biochemistry, and his assistant was Dr. Todd, and Dr. Van Bruggen was the third member of the department. Well, Dr. West and Dr. Todd were real rifle enthusiasts, and Todd used to load his own shells with black powder, and we'd go to his place and shoot. Dr. West was interested. Well, since I was in the military reserve, they

were interested in the weapons, so I remember I brought a carbine to the Medical School. They looked at it, and we went downstairs which was right in the center—it used to be just a dirt embankment. It's now the cafeteria—and we shot the guns in there [laughter]. And out in the back where the parking lot is now, right next to the new Basic Science addition, Dr. West had his horseshoe pit, and they used to play at noon there.

And, then, Dr. West told me an anecdote about—this was when the school was small, of course. When he first came there, he came from St. Louis. He knew the Coris—Carl F. and Gerty T. Cori—who were Nobel Prize winners. He, West, was going to destroy some sodium. So he went out—he was a young man then—on a cold, snowy day, December—and threw the sodium into a container. Well, it was too much, and it blew up and caught on fire, and it took some of the paint off of Dean Baird's car [laughter]. And that's all I can remember on that.

But anyway, the school was very small. We had the County Hospital and Doernbecher Hospital...

B. CLAYCOMB: That was part of a building.

K. CLAYCOMB: ...and the—what was it? Doernbecher, and then the administration building hooked onto the...

B. CLAYCOMB: And the library.

K. CLAYCOMB: ...old building. The old building is that part behind the fountain.

B. CLAYCOMB: The Old Library was there, and that's where we had our PG, Postgraduate Program, classes.

K. CLAYCOMB: Oh, yeah, Bertha Hallam in there. She was a terrific gal. She helped us a lot.

WEIMER: And the old library was in Mackenzie Hall.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah, about where you are. In fact, you're in about the third floor of the Old Library, aren't you?

WEIMER: Yes. I'm on the third floor of the Old Library. But that—oh, that's right, because I've got my dates mixed up. I think when she started, they had probably a very small library in Mackenzie Hall, but then they moved over in '39 to the Old Library that we know of now.

B. CLAYCOMB: The Old Library Auditorium and all.

WEIMER: Right.

K. CLAYCOMB: And then they came in with the research building. It was one of the first big buildings built up here. They started the research building there. And, then, what was it? Vollum Institute was next.

B. CLAYCOMB: Oh, boy, I don't know what came next.

K. CLAYCOMB: And then the new science area, and in there somewhere we got...

B. CLAYCOMB: They've got buildings I don't even know which order they come in, but there is record of that.

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, it used to be you could—we had really what you call a campus, in that it had trees and grass, and I think that our administrators since that time have looked and said, “Oh, there's a tree. Let's put a building there” [laughter].

B. CLAYCOMB: “If there's room for a couple of trees, there's room for a building.” Well, when the Mark Hatfield building—all they took out there were a couple of lilacs.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah. We used to—of course, where the BICC building is now and the Emergency and all that...

B. CLAYCOMB: That was the Green bus stop.

K. CLAYCOMB: ...there used to be down there—yeah, that's the Green bus stop I talked about in the letter, in that story. And, then, down there, there used to be two tennis courts, and the activity building...

B. CLAYCOMB: And we said, that means it's Sam Jackson Park.

K. CLAYCOMB: ...the sports and fitness center was built after we got on the Hill, I think sometime in the sixties, because here we are, teaching health, and have no place to work out. When that was built, they still had the two tennis courts, and they had that, and they put in the one handball court and the basketball court upstairs and the squash...

B. CLAYCOMB: And there was a lot of fight about putting in a swimming pool, but it didn't go in.

K. CLAYCOMB: No. They didn't have the money for it.

B. CLAYCOMB: They didn't have the money, and the people who were for it kept saying, "This is supported by fees, you know. It will be paid for." "Oh, we can't afford to do it," and they didn't.

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, however, it did get built. I wasn't an insider on that. I played up there. We played volleyball initially up on the hill, up on the tennis court, and then later on we played in the activity building. And that basically was it. Then, the administration building right next to it, that used to be lawn. I remember when some of the dental students, they had a party up there. It was under the auspices of the university, it was all right, and they had a kegger right there. In those days it seemed like the students stayed around the institution. Their parties, and all, were around the institution. Well, of course, those days are gone now.

B. CLAYCOMB: It still sounds like Friday afternoon on a sunny day, though, if it is Friday afternoon. It's a little louder than any other day of the week.

K. CLAYCOMB: And as the campus grew—it used to be people that lived here drove down, and I used to drive to work. I think I paid three dollars a month for parking there. I will have to admit, my being department chairman, I did have a better chance of getting parking. And it was assigned parking. When I was in Australia I had to walk from the place I lived about fifteen minutes to a railroad station and ride another fifteen to a half an hour into town. So when I came back, I decided—and by then they raised the fee to something like ten dollars a month, and I decided, well, this is kind of ridiculous. I can really walk.

B. CLAYCOMB: His next complaint was, "I've had these shoes for years, and they never wore out. Look at them, they're all worn out" [laughter].

K. CLAYCOMB: We bought up here knowing full well the Dental School was moving up here. So we bought the old house. We paid—I was making \$5,800 a year, and the house we were buying we were paying \$15,000. That shows you have times have changed.

B. CLAYCOMB: Three years' wages will buy a house.

K. CLAYCOMB: Probably about true yet.

B. CLAYCOMB: Maybe. Well, for a department head [laughs].

K. CLAYCOMB: So the school was quite small, but I was lucky to live in a time when I knew a lot of people, having been a student up at the Medical School and having been in a department that was a very, very moving, lots of action, department. Quite a few times they'd have M.D.s down there to do research; they had a combination degree that I was thinking about applying for, M.D./Ph.D., and one way or the other we decided not to.

B. CLAYCOMB: It was an ultimatum.

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, my wife didn't want me to.

WEIMER: Tell me about the neighborhood. How did the neighborhood react? I mean, there's this big giant down there, and...

B. CLAYCOMB: It's been there a long time, and it's always been big as far as the neighbors are concerned.

K. CLAYCOMB: And it has always been a member of the neighborhood. I think this has been the biggest thing. When we first were setting up residential parking—we had to do this, because this is one gigantic parking lot—you couldn't pull a car away from the front of your place and have a place to come back to. Well, Jim McGill was the vice president at that time. Ralph Tuomi—and I'd known Ralph from the military, because when we went to active duty, he was a motor sergeant and I was an officer on the general staff, so Ralph and I go way back. We were talking, and they were supporting our setting up a parking program, partly because they just built a big building, and they needed to have more people park for it.

B. CLAYCOMB: The streets were free.

K. CLAYCOMB: So we had this set up to get the parking going. I was chair of the neighborhood association when we established this parking thing here. I didn't do it, though; Helen Farrens is the one that really did it. She is the one that was a driver of the neighborhood, of getting the parking in, residential parking.

B. CLAYCOMB: She is a long, long-retired librarian.

K. CLAYCOMB: I think it was Goose Hollow that set up the first one in Portland, permit parking. I'd just have to check, but I think that, and I think we were the second one.

WEIMER: And what is the official name of the neighborhood...

B. CLAYCOMB: Homestead.

K. CLAYCOMB: Homestead Neighborhood Association. This is a homestead...

B. CLAYCOMB: From Ninth up it is the Portland City Homestead Block. Below Ninth it's one of those others. It's not Terwilliger, but Helen could tell you.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah. In fact, if you want somebody to tell you about the history of some of this, it's Helen Farrens.

So the neighborhood had it set up in about—1985, I think, is when I was chair, or '84,

right in there. That's when I became the chair after I got...

B. CLAYCOMB: When you were retired or you were working? Were you still working when you were fussing with the neighborhood and people were snapping at you for trying to be all things to all people?

K. CLAYCOMB: If I remember right, I think I had retired and was just there quarter time, and I was learning to use the computers. This was about the time I was learning to use the computers, and I was chair of our neighborhood and secretary of the Southwest Neighborhood, Incorporated. The city of Portland has neighborhoods that form together, the Southwest Neighborhood Coalition and the Southeast Neighborhood and this, and then they...

B. CLAYCOMB: Northwest Neighbors—North Northwest Neighbors.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah. And the chair of that—they're all under—it used to be the Office of Neighborhood Affairs. Now it's not neighborhood affairs anymore, it's...

B. CLAYCOMB: It's still ONA, isn't it?

K. CLAYCOMB: No, no. They've changed it. Maybe it is A, maybe it's assistance, or something. It's changed. We had a coalition. That's where I met Ron Herndon and really liked the guy. We didn't always agree together, but he was good. And then that's when I became chair of the Southwest Neighbors, Incorporated, which is this whole neighborhood area that's all in the southwest.

We had, initially, a very small campus, and it's like everything else; you either grow or you die. We grew. We just kept growing, and people retired, and more people and younger came up, and before long they retired. We've lived here because I loved the location, and I do. I still go down to the school—well, I know only a few people now at the Dental School anymore. I go down there, and at the Medical School I know a couple, and that's about it.

B. CLAYCOMB: But the campus used to be very different. There was a bridge across the gully, sort of where...

K. CLAYCOMB: It is now.

B. CLAYCOMB: ...the Doernbecher is again.

K. CLAYCOMB: No, no.

B. CLAYCOMB: Or the Veterans.

K. CLAYCOMB: Where the physical plant is, right there on there curve, used to be there was an apartment house down in there, and behind the apartment house was this—or in front—was a boardwalk, up high, so the students could go across and get off of Veterans Hospital Road. People lived there...

B. CLAYCOMB: They took it down to put the physical plant in.

K. CLAYCOMB: The university bought the land.

B. CLAYCOMB: And then they bought the rest of it when they were getting around to Doernbecher and the parking lot and all that stuff. The most fun building for me to watch was University Hospital, because I was working in Dr. Holman's office at Multnomah County Hospital. And we'd just come right out in front, and the last month I was in the clinic building, in the...

K. CLAYCOMB: Administration building?

B. CLAYCOMB: No, for the social service lady. That was right in front.

K. CLAYCOMB: I don't remember the building.

B. CLAYCOMB: You'd just walk out into the parking area in front of the buildings and lean down and watch them pour concrete, and then in a week or two they'd be closer and closer, and it was very visible, and fun to watch them do that.

We had the first earthquake in Portland while I worked in that office. I'd been there one month.

K. CLAYCOMB: When I was in the lab, in the isotopic lab. I remember that, we had an earthquake. I wondered who was shaking things.

WEIMER: Was there any damage?

B. CLAYCOMB: Not particularly.

K. CLAYCOMB: I think we lost a few reagents in the hot lab, but that's about it.

B. CLAYCOMB: Shirley and I, in the clinic building, thought the beds in Doernbecher were rolling over our heads, and finally she said, "No, I think it must be an earthquake," and we stood in the doorway together. The people in the other end, in spite of what the door said, *No Admittance, Isotopes*, and so forth, they all went bursting in to see what people were doing in there that was making the building jump. We went outdoors finally, and someone sitting in an open windowsill on the ledge with a phone in her hand said,

“It’s doing it downtown too.” So then we knew it was an earthquake.

K. CLAYCOMB: I don’t know of any damage that was done. A few bottles may have been knocked off of the shelves.

One thing I wanted to mention, that the university has been good. Now, a lot of us, like myself, have worked at the university, we lived up here, retired, and stayed here. But I have always felt they were supportive, like when I was talking about Jim McGill and them. They could have overwhelmed the neighborhood at that time with the cars. They really could. If they had fought this thing, I don’t think it would have gone through. I don’t think we would have had residential parking—we might now because of the changing times—if it hadn’t been for the university’s support.

Under Dr. Bluemle, I think, or Laster, I’ve forgotten which one—well, Ralph Tuomi gave us the use of a room over in the—well, we call it CDRC nowadays—for the neighborhood affairs. And they assigned—in those days it was Gordon Ranta, and, of course, now it’s Mark Kemball. All of them have been topnotch people to work with. They’ve represented the university; the university has been good to us; the presidents have always come over one time to talk to the neighborhood. And people have tried to show that it’s an adversary relationship, but it isn’t. It’s good. And this is why we have a good time up here.

B. CLAYCOMB: Well, we did go down to the City Council and fight the university to keep Ninth Avenue from getting like downtown.

K. CLAYCOMB: Oh, that wasn’t City Council, that was the State Board of Higher Education at Portland State. When I was chair, they were going to—the State Board wanted to move on over and take the Veterans Hospital Road on up to Tenth, and we went down there to the board meeting, as did the University, and fought it. And it was all in our own self-interests, we thought, because, let’s face it, this is desirable property. If this thing, the University, kept coming up the hill—we’ve got the only flat land now, and they’ve taken up the top down there, and so we fought them. And that’s when it became the boundary: the Veterans Hospital Road is the boundary.

WEIMER: Well, Betty, I wanted to ask you a little about your work up here. You just mentioned that you worked in Dean Holman’s office.

B. CLAYCOMB: I was assistant to the one person who ran the graduate programs, all these one-week and two-week courses. She really didn’t need me, and I couldn’t afford the magazines I had time to read on the job. But we published a syllabus for each and every one of these classes, and somebody had to type them and somebody had to take them downtown and get them copied and bound. There weren’t copiers everywhere. We went to a printing company. Offset printing hadn’t been invented. And somebody had to sort of sit and monitor the coming and going over at the library. When we walked from the county admitting office

over to the library—we couldn't do it inside a building, we'd come out through the lawn and along the paths, because the buildings didn't come together then. Lots of four-leaf clovers in that grass.

There just was too little to do. I worked for anybody else in the admitting office, or Dr. Holman's really, truly, own secretary. She was secretary of the interns' and residents' wives at the time I was sitting there, and so I got to type the postcards saying "There'll be a meeting" to all of them for her. And once in a while I even wrote letters for Dr. Holman, and he would not dictate the letters, he would just say, "Sign 'Chuck'," or, "Sign it Director of Clinics." And if he didn't like what I said, he'd change it and I'd go back and do it over. But years later, to my absolute astonishment, he remembered me and my name and my husband, who had never had anything at all much to do with him.

Finally, I said, "I am just tired of not doing anything all day long. I'm going to quit this job and go find a better one." And the gals in the business office said, "Wait just a minute. Go down for a month and work for Mrs. B.," whatever her name was, "in social service so somebody can go on vacation." And I did that for a month, and that was hard work, but they didn't need me when whoever came back. So then I went to work for ESCO, which was then called Electric Steel Foundry Company, and they made all sorts of marvelous things out of steel. Great big bulldozer buckets and little, bitty pipes to put pineapple juice through, and logging chains. You cast half the links, and then you set it up with the link up, and then pour the one in between.

And that was fine until he had been working for the Dental School for a year, and we adopted Johnny, and I had somebody to come home for. Then I quit and came home. Since then they have paid me to be on the election board, and I've been on jury duty twice, and everything else has been free.

WEIMER: Can you tell me a little bit about Dean Holman?

B. CLAYCOMB: Not very much, no.

WEIMER: He seems to be the forgotten dean between Dean Baird and the presidents that we've had.

K. CLAYCOMB: He administered the graduate program for the whole medical center, basically, didn't he?

B. CLAYCOMB: Well, I don't know what all he did, because Cynthia took most of his stuff.

K. CLAYCOMB: Who the dickens is alive that would know that now? Is Bertha Hallam still alive?

B. CLAYCOMB: I don't think so.

WEIMER: No, I don't think she is.

B. CLAYCOMB: Gwynn Brice.

B. CLAYCOMB: Gwynn Brice is still alive.

WEIMER: And we've interviewed her. I think she did say...

K. CLAYCOMB: That's right. Gwynn was so good to me, too, when I was trying to find out if I was going to be hired at the Dental School, and she looked into it.

B. CLAYCOMB: She was good to you when she said to bring me over there and put me to work.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah, she opened up the thing and...

B. CLAYCOMB: He and Dr. Van Bruggen picked up a little note that says, "We have a job available," and I came up and got it.

K. CLAYCOMB: She's the one that's still around that knows probably more about this institution than anybody.

WEIMER: She's been a help with giving me names of people to interview.

K. CLAYCOMB: Oh, good.

I was very fortunate. I was assistant to two presidents, on their direct staffs, on a first-name basis. Bluemle was a fine man. He went back to become, what was it? At Pittsburgh?

WEIMER: Philadelphia? In Pennsylvania.

K. CLAYCOMB: Philadelphia.

WEIMER: What was it like having a president who ran the show, rather than the dean?

K. CLAYCOMB: In my case, I had no problem. I suppose it's because of the military background. I'm used to serving under different people at the same time.

I think the relationship between Terkla and Bluemle was good, and when I went to

work for Bluemle as the president, he said, “Well, you’ve got to have more money.” And I said, “Yes, but I think it has to come out of Terkla’s budget.” He said, “Well, I’ll put some in for it.” I thought they had a good relationship.

Laster was a hard man to really know. I worked—like I said, I worked under him for a long time. Steve Bauer then was his assistant, and I ended up under Steve Bauer because I questioned Laster’s management, I guess. That doesn’t mean he was wrong and I was right, it’s just that I never felt at ease.

[End of Tape 2, Side 1/Begin Tape 2, Side 2]

WEIMER: This is side two of our tape two, and you were just mentioning Dr. Peter Kohler. We may have missed that on that last tape.

K. CLAYCOMB: Dr. Kohler I met at a retreat just before I retired, and since then I’ve talked to him, and he knows my first name and all that, it isn’t a case of that, but I never was on his staff as such, and so I can’t really say anything on that relationship.

I don’t know—as I look at it, the deans still run their independent institutions, and the overall coordination is by the administration under the president’s office.

I remember one time the Dental School was very angry in that Dean Terkla had gone to the legislature to get money for the Dental School, but it got siphoned off when it came into the university, because the president had that right to do it. I don’t remember all the particulars of it. Lou would probably know that. But on the whole, we more or less run our own show, and I imagine a lot like that.

But money now is a big dictating thing, there’s no doubt. Even when I was still on the faculty, if you wanted to have a new person, they had to come in with money. That’s real good when you’ve got young people, but somewhere along the line these young people get tired of constantly having to fight to get grants and do this all the time, and I think they start looking for state support. And a lot of them would like to spend more time teaching and more time on different types of research, and I think this is when you start seeing a problem with them. But, again, I haven’t been in that field in a long time.

WEIMER: Talking about research, there have been some comments that the Medical School in particular, and also the Dental School, were not research oriented enough.

B. CLAYCOMB: Oh, my word.

WEIMER: Give me your observations.

K. CLAYCOMB: Initially, I don’t think we were. When I joined the Dental School,

Marshall Snyder, the microbiologist, was the only one really doing research, and he got me into doing research then as a young biochemist. When we came to the new school, by then we had science people: Snyder and myself, Jump wasn't so much involved in research and neither was Phatak, but the pathologists were wanting to set up for research, and initially just within our own bailiwick was where we did the research, and then later on they added the eighth floor completely, and that became the animal quarters, because we didn't have any animals at that time, except—well, lab rats and such. We were oriented toward research.

We did get federal money—but we had to get federal money, of course. The state paid our—I think it worked out that basically we knew, at least in the Dental School, that the state paid your basic funds, money, to run the thing, and you had to go and get your research money, and I think that's about the way it works. People that did research wanted to do it, and they did the research, and they worked it in with the teaching and the other. Then later, and even the time that I was there, and such, it became the driving force. And, then, you have people that don't like to teach, but they love to do research. Then, you have those that want to be career people. They're willing to look at Widget 1, Widget 2, Widget 3, Widget 4, you name them, if it keeps them in the same groove, you might say.

Somebody else you could talk to would be Bill Connor, Sonja's husband, because he'd been there a long time and done a lot of research continuously. He'd be a lot more versed than I am, of course, in the medical area.

So I think it was a growing thing. That's why I've got some of my ex-colleagues that are kind of grouching that they're so research oriented because of money and not because of drive. Now, whether that's true or not, I don't know. I do know even in my own field, chemistry—and I read some of the journals—I view with a little quizzicalness some of the things that they're doing, as if they were more after money and that they're letting the money kind of warp their view. And, of course, this is heresy to say that. But I think the term 'scientist' is overused—that's my personal feeling—and that it's quite a bit money driven, and, yet, market—they call it market driven, and that's where a lot of advances come from.

I'm very glad that I lived at the time I did, that I got to teach, I got paid to do what I loved to do, and I had terrific associations, both with my colleagues and with the students. I have no complaints. I had one offer after I'd been at the school for several years to go back to Kansas City—a friend and I had taken our masters' degrees together—and set up and work in their radioactive isotopes in clinical diagnosis. And it would be just about—not quite a doubling of the salary I was getting here.

B. CLAYCOMB: But you had to take a plane to go skiing.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah, you had to do that. The Ozarks were fairly close, you could go there, but the departmental people used to go to Acapulco or they'd go here or they'd go up there. Betty and I looked it over and said we stayed here initially because we liked the

land, and we'll be darned if we're going to move now. So that's the end of the story.

WEIMER: Well, this is the time for me to ask if you have anything to add that I've forgotten to ask about.

K. CLAYCOMB: What are the royalties [laughter]?

B. CLAYCOMB: Yes. How much royalties do we get? Who's going to sell this?

K. CLAYCOMB: Well, a lot of it is disjointed, and all, and it's remembrances. And I remember when we had our history thing down here at the last emeritus thing, that Mary Ann Lockwood and I looked at each other and says, "That ain't true" [laughter].

WEIMER: I remember someone came up to Joan and said that whatever we had said about Dean Noyes—and we didn't say too much about him—was wrong, and we ended up doing an interview with him, and he couldn't remember what we had said that was wrong. But we're still learning, so, obviously, we make mistakes.

K. CLAYCOMB: Hey, Noyes took on the State of Oregon dentists. They wanted to tell him how to run his dental school, and he took them to court, if I remember right. He was the dean and he'd set up the programs, and he did. He established a good foundation.

WEIMER: I should ask, because one of our themes is town-gown relations, and, of course, when we had the first Medical School Hospital, there was contention there. But did the Dental School ever have that problem, other than the fact that they wanted to run the school and Dean Noyes said no?

B. CLAYCOMB: And that wasn't really town, that was old dentists against...

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah, it was the old dentists. Here came this fellow in, he was an M.D. and a dentist. He never practiced medicine, I don't think.

B. CLAYCOMB: He wasn't very big, either.

K. CLAYCOMB: He wasn't too large, but he was an educator. And these people were "fill and bill" (cavity and money), you see. That's the term they used for it. And he was an educator, and they didn't think that dentists needed to know anything about science, didn't need to know anything else. And he won. It was his school, and they'd do his curriculum his way. He really set up the science of dentistry here. Before that, it was just a technical school.

B. CLAYCOMB: When we went to Australia, this was brought home to us very clearly. We had physicians who were *mister* and dentists who were *mister*, and there were some, of course, who were *doctor*. They'd had more school, but they could go out and

practice as *mister*.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah. I was at the University of New South Wales School of Dentistry Institute, which was in downtown Sydney, right by the railroad station. In fact, our good friend that I was there with just was here to visit us this last week, I think. He's retired now.

I suppose, as I wind down, the thing that I'm regretting the most is I'm losing contact with everybody.

B. CLAYCOMB: We still have good Japanese contacts. There was an international dental research meeting in Vancouver, B.C. Ken, Dr. Knox, came from Sydney before the meeting and visited us and left on the tenth of March. Two of the names on that picture on the wall, there—you can't read them unless you can read Japanese—one of those names, two of the names on the paper, came after the meeting from Vancouver, B.C., and stayed with us for three days. And they're young. Dr. Kuroki is not as young as he was when we first met him. He was a graduate student then and had a job chauffeuring the extra people around while Keith talked to the brass.

K. CLAYCOMB: That's another area that I got into under Terkla, later under Van Hassel, too. I was in charge of the exchange faculty program. We had many people from Japan coming here, and we've had some from here go over there, like Tom Shearer still does, Dr. Shearer. Dr. Terkla was instrumental in my establishing such a program in 1980. And that was another title I had at the time. Under Van Hassel it was about the last of it, because I just wound down then.

WEIMER: Well, I think a good concluding question is, what is the image of OHSU, or the Dental School in particular?

K. CLAYCOMB: I think it's an outstanding institution in the United States. I've been many places—when I was a young man, I'd go someplace, and they'd say, "Oh, that's Dean Noyes'—that's old Hal Noyes' school." That shows you it's really something. And "Dean Baird's school." Those two guys got along good together.

B. CLAYCOMB: And he wasn't very big either [laughter].

K. CLAYCOMB: No. And, then, little history—of course, Bertha could have told you this. One time there was a dean under a dean. The dean of nursing was under the dean of medicine. This is what really brought about, I think, the formation of the health science university, because how do you have a dean under a dean?

And my personal feeling—I don't know how it worked out—we should have had a vice president for medical affairs from Portland State, since they're close to here, running it,

and we'd still have the deans around. Now, whether we'd have grown or it would have been all with Portland State, I don't know. It's going to take a historian to sort it out. But at one time we thought this is the way it should go. A vice president for medical affairs, and then we have our institutions. It didn't go that way. I used to go to—I've talked to the board members. I've been pretty fortunate. I've known a lot of people to talk to. I don't know whether they listened, but at least I talked to them [laughter].

B. CLAYCOMB: Well, it doesn't make sense anymore to be a University of Oregon thing in Portland and Eugene. That doesn't work. Now that there's Portland State, it might work.

K. CLAYCOMB: Oh, yeah. But they had to have it part of a university, because you couldn't be a separate-standing dental school and—well, you could, that's what it was before, but it was much better to be part of the state.

They still have a good reputation. The people still—we have a lot of retired servicemen, some who have gone to this school and some haven't, in the Dental School, and they work there because they think it's one of the best schools in the country. So I'm very proud to have associated with them.

And I would assume the Medical School has gone on. They've had—of course, people like Bob Koler and I were students together. He's a terrific individual. I'm so sorry to see Dave Bristow died a while back. We were all students together.

WEIMER: You've had a long history, a long career together.

K. CLAYCOMB: Oh, it's been terrific. Very long, but they've been good people. I've enjoyed them all.

WEIMER: Well, I would like to thank both of you very much for your time and your information, and I appreciate it very much.

K. CLAYCOMB: Yeah. I think we probably should pay you for sitting here and listening to us reminisce and jump back and forth, I guess [laughter].

[End of interview]

INDEX

A

American Chemical Society Portland Section, 18

B

Baird, David W.E., 10, 26
Bartley, Murray H., Jr., 13
Bauer, Steve, 19, 35
Bluemle, Lewis (Bill), 18, 21, 34-35
Bristow, J. David, 39

C

Camp Adair (Oregon), 7-8
Camp Atterbury (Indiana), 6
campus growth, 24-28, 30-31, 32
Claycomb, Cecil K. (Keith)
 biographical information, 3-4
 career, 36-37
 education, 4-5, 9-11
 health, 11-12
 military service, 5-9
 research, 12
 sabbatical, 18, 28, 38
Claycomb, Elizabeth (Betty)
 biographical information, 1-2
 career, 33
 education, 2-3
Clinton, Jack W., 23
Collins, Ivan, 13-14
Connor, William (Bill), 36

D

Depression, Great, 2, 4
Dockery, Gwynn Brice, 34
Dole, Robert J., 7

E

earthquake, Portland, 31-32
ESCO Corporation, 33

F

Farrens, Helen, 29
Fort Benning (Georgia), 5
Fort Meade (Maryland), 7

G

Gabler, Walter, 19
Gatewood, Dean C., 13, 19-20
Gravelly Point (Virginia), 9

H

Hallam, Bertha, 26
Herndon, Ron, 30
Holman, Charles, 32-33
Homestead Neighborhood Association, 29
Hutchens, Tyra, 11

J

Jump, Ellis, 16, 36

K

Katz, Vera, 18
Kemball, Mark, 32
Kendall, John, 23
Knox, Ken, 38
Kohler, Peter, 35
Koler, Robert, 39
Kuroki, Toshikazu, 17, 38

L

Larsell, Olaf, 10-11
Laster, Leonard, 19, 35
Lindeman, Carol, 23

M

Marshall, George C., 8
McGill, James (Jim), 29, 32
minority recruitment, 18-23
Moreland, Olvin (Ollie), 19

N

Noyes, Harold J., 14-17, 37

INDEX

O

Office of Neighborhood Involvement, 30
Osgood, Edwin, 11

P

parking, 28
parking committee, 17, 29-30, 32
Pauling, Linus, 17-18
Peterson, Clare, 11-12
Petty, Mavis, 21
Phatak, Nils, 13, 36
Porter, Donald, 15
Pruitt, Clarence, 22

R

Ranta, Gordon, 32

S

Sam Jackson Park, 27
Shearer, Thomas, 38
Sheridan, Robert J., 13
Snyder, Marshall, 15, 16, 36
Stuttgart Army Air Field (Arkansas), 6

T

Terkla, Louis G., 14, 18, 23, 35, 38
Todd, Wilbert R., 25-26
town-gown relationships, 29, 32, 37
Tuomi, Ralph, 29, 32

U

university consolidation, 21, 34-35, 38-39
University of Oregon, 2, 4-5
University of Oregon Dental School, 9, 12
admissions, 14
dental hygiene program, 16
departments, 16-17
faculty exchange program, 38
funding, 14, 21, 35-36
image, 38-39
junior dental institute, 23-24
move to Marquam Hill, 12-13
Northeast Oregon Street, 24
research, 17, 35-36
University of Oregon Medical School,
buildings, 9-10
social culture, 28
University of Oregon Medical School Library, 26

V

Van Bruggen, John T., 9, 12, 25

W

West, E.S. (Edward Staunton), 9, 25-26