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Bruce Leslie 0:02

Today, August 24 2000, I will be interviewing Professor Lee Derby. We are in the Emeritus lounge of Drake Memorial Library. And I am Bruce Leslie. Lee, could you tell us a little bit about your background, your childhood and education.

Orlo Derby 0:24

This is not a very distinguished biography, I think. But anyway, I was born in Syracuse on March 1 1911. And I went to the elementary and secondary schools in Syracuse, New York, and Syracuse University after that. Starting in 1927 and ending up in 1931 with a Bachelor of Arts. I majored in English and minored in history. And I was interested primarily in teacher education. I wanted to become a teacher. Unfortunately, there were no jobs in 1931 when I graduated. So, everyone I asked about jobs said, well, What experience do you have? And obviously you haven't had any experience if you haven't had a job. So I volunteered to teach in the Syracuse schools for nothing in order to get some experience. And interestingly enough, on the upshot of that was that the superintendent of schools, who was the former high school administrator knew me and on the basis of my volunteering in the schools, He said to me, later on, we have a job here in Syracuse and if you would like to have it, well I'll recommend you. So I got a job in Syracuse in about 1934. And finally, I stayed there several years, taught in Porter School, which is up in the West End, very largely Polish and Italian section at that time I taught English and math and began taking some graduate work beyond the master's degree on a doctorate at Syracuse. I was interested there in a professor who had come from Iowa, and Bill Young became later the director of elementary education in the state department and I asked him about the doctorate. He suggested I go somewhere else rather than Syracuse. Interestingly enough, so I, although he was teaching there himself. I applied down at Columbia, since that was the primary teaching or Education School college at that time in the United States with Julian Kilpatrick and all of those people who had done a lot of work in education, primarily in elementary education. So, I was matriculated there and took the eight hours of exams that were necessary and somehow passed them and finally through the dead end of much summer school work and evening work and I managed to complete the course of study down Columbia with a year in residence in 1939 to 1940. I received the degree in 1942 a doctor of education because they made a distinction between the doctorates down there one which they recommended for people who are interested in, in the actual public schools was the EDD and not the research degree which was a PhD. Anyway, I specialized in educational psychology with reading as a primary emphasis under people like Gates and several other people who were outstanding in reading at that time. I completed my degree just before I went into the service. I was scheduled to go into the service in 1941. But I got a deferment so that I could complete the degree. They went along with it the board. So in September 42, I was inducted in the service and took basic training and officer training and became a second lieutenant in 1943. I bounced around in the service in several different places and finally went overseas to The Philippines, which were going into the last of the actual fighting, and later in the Gulf at that time, and went to Manila, and when we were in Manila at the army depot there replacement depot we got news of the dropping of the atomic

bomb. And that was followed a couple of days later by the second bomb which had dropped on Nagasaki. And all of a sudden, people seemed to think that the end of the war was coming, as it did very shortly after that. We took place to park in the occupation of Japan going up to Japan, with at least 500 vessels strung up behind us all brightly lighted because the peace had been declared they trusted that the Japanese submarines who were still there would honor the Emperor's dictate that they should stop fighting. And it was a gorgeous sight that 500 vessels stretching out from horizon to horizon with the lights all on brightly. I spent a year in the occupation of Japan in 1945 and 46 and came back and was very much interested in Japan got in touch with Japanese officials there and education people and was able to go back as a Fulbrighter in 1954 and in 1954. 1958 I went back to Japan but as a Asia foundation grantee I got a later Fulbright to Singapore in 1959. So I was in the education department of Brockport from 1942 to 74. I retired in 74.

Bruce Leslie 8:25

You said from 19

Orlo Derby 8:27

42 to 74.

Bruce Leslie 8:30

Or I thought you said

Orlo Derby 8:31

Well there was a period Yeah. 42 to 46. I was in the service, but I came back from in 46 spent the rest of the time 46 to 74.

Bruce Leslie 8:42

So have you were you already appointed to Brockport before you entered the service? Okay. Could you tell us a little bit about how you came to be appointed?

Orlo Derby 8:50

Yes.

Bruce Leslie 8:51

To Brockport

Orlo Derby 8:51

I was teaching I had a year as a sabbatical on a sabbatical leave Teaching down in Cortland, I wanted to get into the teachers colleges. And I was told the best way to do it was probably to go in and teach in the campus School, which was the school that was normally for the training of teachers and attached to all each of the teachers colleges. So I did I taught a sixth grade there for one year from someone who had a sabbatical leave for here. And at the end of that time I was out of a job. The state had cut out half of the all the elementary school positions and the campus school. They believed I think that the community should run their own campus schools if they wanted to, rather than expecting the state to bear the burden of the whole thing. So they just arbitrarily at that time, cut out half the teachers I was the last one on. So I was laid off. And Harry Degirlth. He was the principal or the president of Cortland at that time I knew quite well and He liked me anyway. He said, Well, he said you're going to have to go but he said, let me inquire around to see if I can get some idea of a job in the various colleges. Of course, he was well known all of them were. And so, he said to me, finally after he had inquired, there's a job up in Brockport, if you're interested in going up there. It's a temporary job and so it's a job that the person was going half time on sabbatical Leave And so I applied up there and interviewed Hartwell, who had been newly appointed himself to be the president. And he said, We you were a major in English and so on, done some graduate work, I believe in English. Anyway, he says we normally expect that we'll have somebody here who has an advanced degree in English. And I told him that I was interested in elementary education. And but he said we'll take you on as a a replacement for the person who's going away for a year. And in the meantime, you continue with your education down in Columbia, if you wish we'll consider the prospect all over again in a year's time. So I came up and taught English for a year up here had Peg Hair (?) who was later on to be a professor here at the college. I had her as a student, Jeanette D'Agostino and several other people they kid me about that from time to time.

Bruce Leslie 12:32

Which year was that? Lee?

Orlo Derby 12:33

That was 1942. Let's see ooh it was 46. Yeah, I got out September 46.

Bruce Leslie 12:44

Now, you mentioned earlier something about 1942. Had you been connected with

Orlo Derby 12:48

I was down at Cortland in 1941, 42. That was the year down there

Bruce Leslie 12:58

and so you went straight from Cortland into the service.

Orlo Derby 13:00

Yeah,

Bruce Leslie 13:01

okay, right.

Orlo Derby 13:02

No, or wait a minute, no, I was here a year. Let's see, we have to back up a little bit. I was in Cortland in 1941 to 42 and following 42 I was here. And so I went in the service. can't be right. Can it? I was in the service in 42 to 46. So I was in Cortland in 1941.

Bruce Leslie 13:38

I think I saw somewhere your name was listed at Brockport as 1941

Orlo Derby 13:43

41

Bruce Leslie 13:44

could it have been 1940 and 41 in courtland?

Orlo Derby 13:48

And apparently that was it 1940, 39 and 40 in Cortland, I guess. Yeah, this is wrong. I've got

Bruce Leslie 14:05

I'll start again.

Orlo Derby 14:06

Yeah. So I was here at 41 and 42 41 and to June 42. And in the fall of that year I was inducted

Bruce Leslie 14:23

so when you taught peg hair or Jeanette D'Agostino, I suppose that was after you came back from the service.

Orlo Derby 14:29

No, that was in 41 40. Let me see now that was in 41 and 42

Bruce Leslie 14:38

Oh,

Orlo Derby 14:39

they were young, I think they graduated in 43 yeah, that was the year, which I was up here just temporarily until I went into the service

Bruce Leslie 14:51

right

Orlo Derby 14:51

yeah.

Bruce Leslie 14:53

So your first contact with Brockport was probably in September of 1941 then.

Orlo Derby 14:59

Yeah.

Bruce Leslie 15:00

Can you do you remember what your first impressions of Brockport were?

Orlo Derby 15:05

It was the single building you know and a brand new building. I wasn't in the old school they just torn down the old and put up the new building. But the flat country didn't impress me after Cortland because Cortland was built up on a hill you know, and then a lot of hills around it Central New York and so I was not particularly impressed by the building. The building was fine, but the surroundings I thought were not very, very good. I got a warm welcome call from Blaine Delancey who was head of the English department and from Jim Edmonds who was (unintelligible) There, and from the rest of them. They understood what my situation was, and I'm sure made me feel right at home. So, the service was a very worthwhile. I've never regretted being a service, except some of the times I was in the service that uh. But from the standpoint of getting out of it safely and soundly and with the experiences I had in it I'm awful glad that I was able to get advantage take advantage of it. I was at various times. I had two schools in down at Fort Eustis. I was appointed there. They didn't know what to make of a Doctor of Education. As a brand new second lieutenant. And they made me head of the schools, the literacy schools, the army ran literacy schools for those people who hadn't learned to read or write you know. And our proudest moment was when we got kids come in there and then in six weeks, get them to be able to write a very simple letter home you know saying, I am well and I hope you are well. things here are okay and Goodbye, that sort of thing, which we were able to do with some of them in six weeks. Many of them we were never able to do that in six weeks, or in any length of time, but a considerable number we were able to do it. We had about 400 in the two schools 200 in each. Each school That was conducted right on the base. And Then I was sent to to camp Davis, in North Carolina and became a drill instructor and the camp preparing the second young recruits young second lieutenants after they'd had basic training. They were selected out of course and turned into second lieutenants. This was the time of the Battle of the Bulge and they were using up an awful lot of Second Lieutenants. And so we were training the ones or later on, transferred over from anti aircraft artillery which was my specialty into infantry. So I came back finally to Brockport when I was discharged in 1946. I stopped in Albany, to see Herman Cooper, who was the director of teacher education for the whole state. And I wanted to I was still wearing my uniform. I said, is it? Is it true that if you were once a member of the college that you are free to return at the close of the war to the same position you occupied before? He said, Yes, that's

absolutely true. They're, they're trying to put somebody else in that he said, but don't take any backdoor (?) problem and make sure that you apply for that and are guaranteed it because you are guaranteed by federal law to take that position. It was Ray Conrad By the way, and George Anselm who was the head of the department at that time wanted very much to have that job. And he didn't know me, of course, because I didn't know him. He wasn't there at the time I was there before. So, but I came back and became a member of the department. And they got a job for Ray Conrad who became a member of the department too.

Bruce Leslie 20:43

Was this the English department or the education

Orlo Derby 20:46

No this was the education department

Bruce Leslie 20:47

education department

Orlo Derby 20:48

Because I'd gotten my doctorate in education In the meantime

Bruce Leslie 20:56

Yeah.

Orlo Derby 20:57

Well, as the Place was in a ferment not so much right at that time. But later on, there began to be a great deal of ferment to change the place from a three year college. Specializing just in teacher preparation to a general liberal arts college or currently eligible (?) Arts and Sciences. seems interesting to me that it was once possible in 1921. To be able to teach rural school in one year spent in a normal school. Real interesting. well beyond that, before that, you could teach in a rural school, without any normal experience, anybody who well had been through high school himself and show, a reasonable degree of aptitude a trustee could appoint and did appoint. So that whole business of teacher preparation was upon the wish in most cases, they hoped to do that but at one time that was a very hit and miss sort of situation. I think it was 20 and 21.

Bruce Leslie 22:29

Yes. about them,

Orlo Derby 22:30

many of them did, did you,

Bruce Leslie 22:33

yes. Or possibly just before World War One. There was a period where you could get certified for a rural school one year

Orlo Derby 22:41

one year in the rural school course yeah.

Bruce Leslie 22:43

Two years, I think for urban. That's right. So when you were here first, it was still three years

Orlo Derby 22:53

It was a three year course yeah.

Bruce Leslie 22:54

And then when you returned, it had become

Orlo Derby 22:56

They'd changed to four

Bruce Leslie 22:57

right?

Orlo Derby 22:58

Yeah. And then after in 1940 see it was 38, when they changed to a four year course.

Bruce Leslie 23:08

I think that's when the idea began, but there was no class of it might be 1942. there's no graduating class either 1941 or 42.

Orlo Derby 23:17

And then in three years and then change it to four years,

Bruce Leslie 23:20

yeah,

Orlo Derby 23:21

I think they gave the degree in 42 if I remember right.

Bruce Leslie 23:24

I believe that's right. There's no class of 41 I believe. So you taught in the last year of the normal school? Yeah. And then when you came back, it was a State Teachers College

Orlo Derby 23:33

Yes it was right.

Bruce Leslie 23:38

Before we go on, could I just ask, did you ever see John Dewey at teachers college

Orlo Derby 23:42

Yes, not often he had retired. And we our contact with him was more in the nature of having him come over to the college. Once in a while, give a talk and

Bruce Leslie 23:57

what were your impressions of him?

Orlo Derby 23:58

He was a little a Little old Man who spoke in a very ordinary voice without much emphasis. Kilpatrick was another man who was quite outstanding. And he spoke with a lot more emphasis was a bigger man and seemed to have a little more emphasis a little more forcefulness to his talk. Yeah. But they were not teaching courses as such. They were giving just occasional talks and lectures.

Bruce Leslie 24:40

Still, that must have been a privilege.

Orlo Derby 24:42

Yeah, I was glad to do it, because here were these people who had written all the books,

Bruce Leslie 24:47

Yes they were still legends.

Orlo Derby 24:50

Right?

Bruce Leslie 24:51

I think you may be the only person I've talked to who saw John Dewey in person,

Orlo Derby 24:54

Oh is that right?

Bruce Leslie 24:55

Yeah. I still assign Some of his books in classes.

Orlo Derby 25:02

Oh, I wouldn't doubt I wouldn't doubt it at all.

Bruce Leslie 25:08

So you returned in 1946 to the Department of Education?

Orlo Derby 25:12

Yeah.

Bruce Leslie 25:13

And how did you find Brockport had it changed much?

Orlo Derby 25:16

Brockport had an influx of GIs it was fantastic, really. they brought to the place a vigor which the younger students didn't have it brought a lot of conflict or not conflict so much well I guess conflict between the women and the girls and the fellows, because the fellows were older men they were 2, 3, 4 years older than the average student was. So the girls were still the same ages. So it made quite a difference in it (?) And many of them wanted to get married right away to somebody and they, they didn't want to be rushed that much. So there was a quite a little difficulty.

Bruce Leslie 26:12

Do you mean? Was it the men who wanted to get married?

Orlo Derby 26:14

Oh, yeah,

Bruce Leslie 26:15

I see.

Orlo Derby 26:15

And well, I think that the women wanted to too men felt that they had lost time and wanted to get started a long delayed education, as well as a family. So they were very serious, much more serious than the women were at that particular time. We had a great change in attitude toward the college I think Dr. Hartwell had of course come here with the idea, I'm sure, that although he never said that to me. I used to talk with him. He used to say that. Well, he had been brought, he had been a superintendent of schools in Rochester and buffalo. And he had been brought in already to get the college, I think, interested in thinking about becoming more than just a teacher preparation institution. So, although he didn't initiate very much himself, I guess, actually, he made the way for Dr. tower. Who did do quite a lot of Innovation. The four year plan came about 42 I guess it was, and Hartwell was there until 44 I think. Health and Physical Education was introduced in 45. I remember Ernie Tuttle who was head of the physical education was going down to Albany time and time again to get the whole arrangement set up. And of course, I got a different feeling entirely when I went back to Cortland, because I'd been there a year. When before I knew anything about Brockport becoming Phys Ed, they were not interested in having Brockport Phys Ed. And they weren't for 15 years, even though we'd had it for 15 years. I doubt know if they've ever become reconciled with that because they wanted to be the sole Physical Education School in the state.

Bruce Leslie 26:15

Were were they fighting it through Herman Cooper or do you know, how they fought it?

Orlo Derby 28:01

I doubt if, Herman Cooper would have listened very much to that, they were they did well, first of all, they tried to beat us in every particular sport that they possibly could. And invented a few to show us up, if at all possible their soccer coach was had several national championships he used to regularly beat West Point. places like that, you know, Penn State. He was outstanding. And I knew him very well.

Bruce Leslie 29:33

This is Hudley Parker.

Orlo Derby 29:34

No, the coach down in Cortland.

Bruce Leslie 29:38

Cortland, Right.

Orlo Derby 29:39

Yeah. Fred Holloway was his name. And he had he coached or he was an instructor in skiing. Also when I took skiing from him. I went out with the fellows when I was there for the year and skied with them. went through another period of instruction as the undergraduates did Had a lot of fun in fact, I was really sorry see the snow go finally. Even though it was him so far as I was concerned (?) The soccer coach he used to come up when he would play Brockport in soccer and walk over to my house on Centennial Avenue and spend the time and then have the college bus come up around and pick him up. Take him back to Cortland a very funny man.

Bruce Leslie 30:37

How did he feel about Huntley Parker producing his great teams.

Orlo Derby 30:41

He knew Hadley Parker, these fellers were all in the same group. They were down in Springfield. Parker was at Springfield. And so was Fred Holloway. And most of the ohys people had been trained down there in the first place.

Bruce Leslie 30:59

And Bob boozier was too I think

Orlo Derby 31:00

Yeah, I wouldn't doubt it. But it was an outstanding school at one time. I suppose it still is.

Bruce Leslie 31:16

Right So, by the late 1940s, the school's growing a great deal at least for a couple years there are a number of GIs, Health and Physical Education has been added to the curriculum. So it's become something of a different college than you first saw. I take it

Orlo Derby 31:35

Yes. Yes, the course was increased, and of course, a different pattern, where they were expected to take more of the what we called liberal arts subjects, I suppose or the science subjects math subjects, rather than more of a pattern of more methodology and psychology and that sort so They were getting a more well rounded education, no question about it. I was in favor of it, of course. But I could see their point because the college had been going for a long time. And they knew very well and they had a great deal of success. You can catch it in some of the alumni reunions now. For the people who graduated before the four year program was initiated. And they did very well teaching they felt and they didn't see any particular good reason why it should be increased to a four year course rather than a three year course. But, of course, it was a better course and a better preparation, no question about it. There is an explosion in the Faculty of course. I have down here. What you probably have down there were nine new positions in 1946 and 18 in 47. And 8 in 48, and six in 49 and 21 in 1950. And all this sort of thing led to lots of people around here. More faculty than we used to have students of course

Bruce Leslie 32:30

did that change the nature of the institution Very much do you think or did was it just a larger version of the same institution?

Orlo Derby 33:32

I think it did. Because the institution which had been with 30 or 40, faculty members 50 had a closeness and a. Everybody knew everybody, of course, and they knew what they did. And so it was a limited sort of thing. But one which made for a great deal of fellowship and a great deal of oh good feeling among one another the people and the faculty.

Bruce Leslie 34:08

Could I stop you for a second? You said you talked to Ernest Hartwell often. Could you tell us a little bit about Ernest Hartwell

Orlo Derby 34:15

he was had come from Buffalo of course. He was interested in having his own way. I remember very well one of the faculty members. I don't know. I don't think I'll give it his name. But he told me that he had a conference with him one time Dr. Hartwell, he used to hang out down in the men's john down in the basement floor. And he'd sit there for and smoke his pipe for oh an hour at a time or more and talk with people as almost a private conference (unintelligible). But one of

the faculty members told me that he had told him that he'd like him to teach a particular subject in English a particular period of time or something. And then he asked him what Hartwell asked him what he thought about it. And the person said, Well, I don't think much of it I would have to do a lot of preparation. I'd just soon teach the thing that I have been teaching. He said, Oh you don't think you'd be interested in it and he said no and he said I don't give a god damn what you'd be interested in or not that's what you're gonna do. And He said yes Dr. Hartwell and he walked out. End of talk whatever he asked (?) I don't know how you could put that into a

Bruce Leslie 36:07

how would you compare Hartwell's personality to Donald tower's

Orlo Derby 36:12

oh very different very different. tower was also very firm in his ideas but he would never use that kind of language. He would be just as firm and he would get his way. And he'd do it with a smile. And then, you knew, had something in back of him that was not smiling.

Bruce Leslie 36:44

How did faculty tend to feel about Tower

Orlo Derby 36:47

they loved him. They thought he created a good impression on them. He would Well, he would be with them. His wife was circulated among the faculty all the time they had teas, which Sally Jackson used to put on all the while. I mean, regularly once a month or maybe once every two or three months. Faculty teas and faculty gettogethers. And he was very affable, very friendly, easy to easy to get along with.

Bruce Leslie 37:32

So, was it Sally Jackson who'd run teas rather than with the president?

Orlo Derby 37:38

Yeah. Well, I think it was the president through Sally Jackson probably, I think he was probably instrumental in doing that.

Bruce Leslie 37:46

And where did Sally Jackson live?

Orlo Derby 37:48

Oh Sally Jackson lived right across the street from the college. But she had a faculty room. There was a faculty room next to the main office. In the old building and she was she taught home economics and biology I think at one time see she'd been to Cornell one of the only a few women who were admitted down there during the time she was there. Anyway she she was home ec and she used to get up some delicious cake and stuff and Have a tea in the main social room they head down next to the main office.

Bruce Leslie 38:40

Would this just be faculty or would this be family is

Orlo Derby 38:43

Just faculty pretty much at the after hour it might be usually three or four o'clock in the afternoon.

Bruce Leslie 38:52

these seem to have been legendary events.

Orlo Derby 38:54

Yeah, they used to take place it was an accepted thing

Bruce Leslie 39:02

Sometimes I hear people say that Donald tower was quite formal. Would that be a fair

Orlo Derby 39:07

He tended to be more formal than well, I don't know than Hartwell. Hartwell was a little unapproachable. Not exactly. He liked people, certain people more than others, I think whereas tower tended to be rather bland toward most people. tower'd had a good back background of

course for teacher education. superintendent of schools in the Marinag (?). And He, one of his teachers was one of the people he encouraged to go to into teaching was a fellow who had graduated from NYU and At the time was working at a gas station that was Mike Aletta (?). And he became acquainted with Mike aletta and encouraged him to go back and take the certification requirements and so on for teaching and he was a lifelong friend of mike aletta from the marinag days 'cause aletta lived down there when tower went to oswego he brought mike aletta up with him and then he moved over here from oswego he brought him over here.

Bruce Leslie

Did you know anything about tower's relationship with herman cooper?

Orlo Derby

No not really but I always had the feelings they were very cordial with one another he used to introduce him with a smile when he used to come up and talk to the faculty the speech would be pretty much the same from year to year it was the same speech he'd deliver at all the other teachers colleges I'm sure on his annual visit But he was introduced by tower and we clapped duly clapped at the end every time enjoyed it and we had the feeling that cooper was very much I in favor of teachers colleges and did everything he could to get us raises and salary and generally to promote teacher education through the state

Bruce Leslie

Let me stop you there.

Bruce Leslie 0:01

Oh, I've been watching the sound but we do

Orlo A Derby 0:04

I think a a big happening under Tower let's see no I guess it was under Hartwell the student faculty association faculty Student Association,

Bruce Leslie 0:22

I think that I believe SFA came under Tower early in his presidency, I believe.

Orlo A Derby 0:29

He well, they got football introduced in 1947. Apparently, I was at the meeting when they got the whole student body to agree to pay a little more student tax than they had been paying in order to buy uniforms and Whatever was needed for to introduce football to the college, of course the phys ed group wanted football introduced because that was part of their training of course, phys

ed people. And they could get uniforms for the for a certain number of people which were practice uniforms. But if you have have to have game uniforms then you've got something else on the whole (?). We set that at a hundred dollars apiece and at the time I think it was about 4500 dollars we were figuring it would take to equip the football program and the students volunteered to make that at a big meeting they had in the auditorium Of course Hudley Parker was the coach of the soccer had some very good teams. Very good. He He was another one of the Springfield people.

Bruce Leslie 2:30

So the PE program was very much a Springfield program. It sounds like

Orlo A Derby 2:35

Well, I don't know, I've never compared the curricula of the two institutions but I'm sure it was influenced a great deal by that because they certainly were. Some of the other people Waydin (?) was not from Springfield. He was from

Bruce Leslie 2:54

big 10 somewhere I think.

Orlo A Derby 2:57

I think it was five o (?) Illinois, or somewhere out there.

Bruce Leslie 3:08

Could you tell me a bit about the dominant pedagogy in the education department? Was it influenced by Dewey and progressivism, or both?

Orlo A Derby 3:17

I think all of us were influenced by, by that, because they were coming out of an era when pretty largely drill and skills, teaching them skills and so on was the dominant thing in schools and memorization a lot of memorization, and the idea of educating the whole child which Julian Fitzpatrick and those boys, education as experience was a brand new idea. And, of course, many of them had gone down to Columbia for courses. Particularly summer school courses and things of that sort. I don't know how many of them at that time, got a master's degree down there. I

think some of them had. I know most of the people who taught in the education department had gone there at one time or another.

Bruce Leslie 4:20

Yes, I looked at the catalog and quite a number of also many of the critic teachers did.

Orlo A Derby 4:24

Yeah.

Bruce Leslie 4:28

What was the role of the critic teacher?

Orlo A Derby 4:33

Well, a critic teacher was a person who did just that. They operated they were in charge of a classroom. And they were called critic teachers and they had student teachers into the room and they would help them along, give them any kind of help they could and in teaching, lessons, and The whole thing while they were there, have daily conferences with them of course, and tell them what they thought would be better to do and improve the general classroom situation. And they got the impression in some cases of being rather critical. A critic teacher but critical teachers coming down rather hard. Some of them particularly there was one of them who apparently got quite a name and you'll find coming up occasionally among people who come back to for alumni situations. And she was a person who was highly critical and most of the girls thought she was very critical of the girls, but would let the fellows get off with murder So, I don't want to mention her name, but she had a sister who taught at Teachers College in Columbia. And in fact I had some units, I guess, with a course (unintelligible).

Bruce Leslie 6:25

How much time would a student spend in the campus school in their in their four years?

Orlo A Derby 6:30

It was more there a matter of having. See the thing became too big for everybody to have an experience on the campus school. The idea originally was to have one teaching experience on the campus school and another one off campus. But it didn't. It got to the point where it couldn't

happen we had eight rooms, I guess eight Teachers and we had like 3, 400 at the time who we had to accomodate and we couldn't get them in. So it became a matter of mostly going out somewhere else. And we used to campus schools became largely participation, matters of the having kids come in or students come in and teach maybe one little phase of a lesson rather than spending six weeks there. And or watching demonstrations by the teacher, and then getting together for talks afterwards to point out what they were trying to do and how well it came out and so on.

Bruce Leslie 7:48

Do you have any sense when this was that the student body got too big to have everyone

Orlo A Derby 7:53

Yeah this was the latter part of the 40s

Bruce Leslie 7:58

and one thing I've never understood Did the PE people also participate in the campus school in the same way

Orlo A Derby 8:05

They did at Cortland they used to come down and the PE students used to be assigned two grades and take the whole class out for play or for exercise or something like that I've never seen that here. We didn't do that. First we didn't start the PE program until later on. And they had it very well organized down in Cortland. No, I don't think they did too much with they may have done a little bit of play experience, but I don't think much here. I don't believe so. We started it up and I was one of the ones who helped start it up in the local school. And they took to it rather enthusiastically because At the time, having an extra person in the room and getting a chance to, for them to do some teaching relieved their own teachers. And they began to welcome idea of teacher. Whereas there was originally something of friction between the local school and the campus school. In a way, justifiably so. Sometimes the campus school was regarded as the one for professors' children (unintelligible). And it was accepted that they would be a little brighter or a little more interested or a little something else than ordinary children. And so the public schools generally tended to think that it was sort of an or they criticized it because it was an elite place and they would pick out any chance they could where it fell short to try to bring them down to their level. But once we got in participation and student teaching in the local school, I think that situation improved quite a lot. We were helping them. Schools generally like people to come as participants it was another hand in the school and another person who could help out

and of course student teachers, particularly it was there at least a six or seven weeks stint of having full time personal classroom in addition to the Regular teacher

Bruce Leslie 10:55

What did the term cadet mean? I've come across teaching cadet.

Orlo A Derby 11:01

A student teacher,

Bruce Leslie 11:02

Just student, just meant student teacher Thank you

Orlo A Derby 11:06

(Unintelligible) the term came from I think probably was borrowed from the army of course, like cadet teachers.

Bruce Leslie 11:16

Do you remember anything particularly about the ITTP program.

Orlo A Derby 11:21

Yeah. Many of the ITTP people were very good people. And they wanted the job. And they took this means of getting one. Now. Oftentimes they were liberal arts people who had whether you'd sometimes get some very carping criticisms of teachers colleges, from liberal arts people and a great many times a feeling that, well, after all, they'd had the recognized education. The teachers college people, were for the most part practitioners or not really people who understood the theory or the background thing. But they did. So frequently they would me too but a superior attitude, I think, not all of them by any means. I don't know whether even a percentage, but you'd get various individuals at times who would be very critical of our reasons for doing things and why we needed to have for instance, instruction and reading when everybody knew how to read answer so they can teach kids to read. Feeling that were able to do it themselves, obviously we're well prepared to do it for somebody else. On the other hand, they did fulfill a need. And they did at one time. Get a certain number of people. I don't know what the numbers were, how big the numbers were, I think it ran into the hundreds over over a period of time over several years. I felt

that generally, we did a better job of teacher education, than the teacher education than the ITTP program did. But this was an emergency deal. And so if you couldn't do anything else, why this helped out, but I had the same reaction to the kind of thing that we're doing now with a lot of people when you get people who have been successful in business or have been successful in doing anything Else who now feel thatb maybe they'd like to take up teaching because teaching offers a pretty good job and pretty good income compared with what it used to.

Bruce Leslie 14:12

It's interesting that the state has just begun another program. That's the same would you remember when ITTP ended or when the best years were.

Orlo A Derby 14:24

I don't Remember, I think I don't think I got that down. I know Devlin mention ITTP. And I don't know whether we can get at it.

Bruce Leslie 14:45

Yeah believe it begins in 1948. But I never knew when it ended,

Orlo A Derby 14:51

to 63 1948 at the same time the ITTP or intensive teacher training program was begun as an emergency measure. under the provisions liberal arts graduates could attend intensive summer school program at one of the nine teachers colleges in the state, then begin teaching in the fall under special certificate certificates could be made permanent if the candidate continued successful teaching and through additional summer sessions or extension courses, completed the program for 30 graduate hours or a master's degree Brockport therefore launched in the same summer two distinct graduate programs. One was designed for the teachers college graduates who wish to improve his professional preparations with a master's degree. And the other was a special emergency program whereby liberal arts graduates that's the ITTP without any professional preparation, could secure a teacher certification, and the necessary professional work. 16 were in the ITTP in 1948 a thing which ended soon as the emergency ended you know.

Bruce Leslie 16:08

May I ask you another question and that is, do you do you know why Brockport did not train secondary teachers until I guess it was the early 1960s.

Orlo A Derby 16:22

I guess it was just a continuation of the same program. I'm sure the the old line (?) colleges were very much interested in us not preparing any secondary teachers, because they had done that for a long time.

Bruce Leslie 16:44

would those be

Orlo A Derby 16:44

And we haddone the elementary and whether or not Oh, I know there was quite a lot of feeling about this. Because when we got out of it out of the elementary, I mean expanded it to include the secondary. There were a lot of us people who felt that we were taking away their lifeblood.

Bruce Leslie 17:08

Were these private colleges that felt that

Orlo A Derby 17:10

Private colleges, yeah

Bruce Leslie 17:12

Do you know if colleges in the area opposed it?

Orlo A Derby 17:14

I don't think they actually opposed in a wholesale fashion no I think it was more in the nature of making comments and trying to get the state not to do it. They wielded a lot of influence of course you know, because they'd been around for a long time, and the people in the state who were in charge of things listened to the the old line colleges or the liberal arts colleges or whatever you want to call them for a long time and I'm sure postponed for all Long time this degree granting business private (?) Teachers College.

Bruce Leslie 18:08

So do you think it was the regents that opposed?

Orlo A Derby 18:11

Regents, yeah, Certainly. I'm sure about that.

Bruce Leslie 18:17

did moving into secondary education change the nature of Brockport much

Orlo A Derby 18:26

Like the college itself you mean?

Bruce Leslie 18:27

Yes.

Orlo A Derby 18:34

I think it gave us a wider horizon. A good deal From what we had had previously. As preparing for teaching elementary children is somewhat different from preparing to teach high school people not necessarily, you know, it's it's a matter of perspective isn't it. Because I suppose you could say it's more elevated in a sense to teach high school than it is Elementary School. I'm sure a lot of people felt that way. I've taught both places. I've Never felt that way I thought it was a big job in either way, you know, to do the job and whoever it does a good job. That's my vote regardless of the level where you're talking about. But I am sure there was a feeling on the part of a lot of people that secondary teaching, or preparation, which included material for liberal arts programs was far more important than what occurred in many teachers colleges.

Bruce Leslie 20:03

Did the beginning of secondary certification change your work? Or did you stay primarily with training? elementary teachers?

Orlo A Derby 20:12

No, it didn't. Not my work because I was in elementary education and I was interested in continuing on with it. I know a lot of people came in who were secondary people primarily. And they tended to develop their own program, their own curriculum, and be pretty much by themselves. I think but we communicated back and forth. I don't think there was any strict sharp demarcation between them

Bruce Leslie 20:54

how were

Orlo A Derby 20:55

Except they were in different departments, you know, science people were by themselves pretty well, they were not primarily interested in in elementary, although some of them were. Some of them were primarily interested in teaching science in elementary

Bruce Leslie 21:10

Do you remember who that would be? Which of the science people

Orlo A Derby 21:12

Well I think the what are the two boys? Ir Ir

Bruce Leslie 21:18

Ira Gear?

Orlo A Derby 21:18

Ira and who's his brother? They're both dead now.

Bruce Leslie 21:25

I don't know.

Orlo A Derby 21:28

Ira and Charlie, Charlie Gear, Charlie. Think Charlie. I think both of them were here. Weren't they

Bruce Leslie 21:38

Irawas I didn't know about it Charlie. But he might have benn

Orlo A Derby 21:42

Ira Taught elementary science I think science for elementary children, I believe So anyway, there were some people who were interested in elementary science.

Bruce Leslie 21:58

Could you talk a little bit about the nature of the social life and the college community in the tower years. You've talked a little bit about the teas but I was wondering if you could talk a bit more to tell us whether faculty got together what kind of social events there were and so on.

Orlo A Derby 22:18

I don't think faculty got together very much as faculty. I think we've done it more of late years than we used to do. With with tower. I don't remember having dinners for instance of which men and their faculty members and their wives would be invited to take place. It was mostly faculty members themselves who were invited to partake of anything like that.

Bruce Leslie 22:55

Were there Christmas parties or anything of that sort?

Orlo A Derby 23:05

Usually they would be of a general nature they would include students too that is the music people, you know, Haynes, Pauline Haynes would have Christmas celebrations that would include putting on little skits or plays or something of that sort. During Christmas or during Easter. Something of that type

Bruce Leslie 23:32

And I've heard something about a faculty variety show does that?

Orlo A Derby 23:40

Yeah, yeah. There were faculty on Lou Hetler came in and Sid not Sid but Archer, Russ Archer came in, and they were interested in putting on plays and they put on quite a few plays that involved faculty members. Now some of them he mentions in his book. Outstanding ones they took one of them over to Germany, I think.

Bruce Leslie 24:13

Yeah. Wayne dedman mentions that in the book.

Orlo A Derby 24:20

I acted in one of two of them I had a minor part in them. And quite a few of the faculty members did. I think Wayne Dedman in a couple several of them very entertaining

Bruce Leslie 24:36

I'll have to ask him. He did not admit that to me. I will have to ask him about that

Orlo A Derby 24:44

He did, I think he was in one or several.

Bruce Leslie 24:50

If we turn to the curriculum in the 1950s How did you feel about Brockports teacher training program and the education that students received in the 1950s

Orlo A Derby 25:02

in elementary

Bruce Leslie 25:04

in elementary, yes

Orlo A Derby 25:07

I thought they did a very good job. outstanding job. Now as to how I could get that it would be simply that our teachers were in demand. They were sought out at the time of hiring people. As far as I know, most of the people got placed one way or another. Most of the time. We had quite a number who were taken down by Long Island, down toward New York City and places like that. I had a feeling they were in demand. I have nothing to back that up, particularly but I noticed that people (unintelligible) placement certainly. Give you an idea.

Bruce Leslie 26:07

How did you feel about the balance of Liberal Arts and pedagogy?

Orlo A Derby 26:15

Well, I don't think these programs were I do think these programs were revised to include an amount of liberal arts for every everyone in the programs, so that I don't think there was any great conflict between the ones I think most people, particularly when teachers began to get criticisms that oh they didn't know Spanish with kids for instance who were Spanish speaking, or they didn't have any background in teaching math. They had background in all of those things, but they may not have been the kinds of situations which were particularly talked about at the time. Oftentimes, you'd get parents who had read an article on teaching math the new way or something of that sort and wondered why their kid the teachers weren't teaching that way. When these were innovative things there's a lot of times where I might've been a little scatterbrained, you know, were important to the person who was writing the article, but not particularly important in the preparation of teachers. I think we did a good job generally.

Bruce Leslie 27:53

one specific question I know you'd remember, suddenly, an early secondary curriculum appears In the 1956 catalog, I don't know if you remember that. And I don't know if that was just a change in certification rather than anything more important. I don't know if that rings any bells.

Orlo A Derby 28:10

I remember he speaks about it in his book somewhere.

Bruce Leslie 28:13

Yeah That's right here.

Orlo A Derby 28:14

I don't remember what, what he said about it.

Bruce Leslie 28:17

But I think we am I correct that the elementary curriculum had trained teachers through eighth grade. All along.

Orlo A Derby 28:24

Yeah.

Bruce Leslie 28:25

Okay. So then it was really just a a minor adjustment, I suspect.

Orlo A Derby 28:28

Yeah.

Bruce Leslie 28:29

In certification.

Orlo A Derby 28:30

Yeah, from six to nine.

Bruce Leslie 28:34

Yeah, yeah. (Unintelligible) Yeah. I think that that explains that would make sense. What was the relationship between the faculty in education in the subject departments and PE did they get along or was there a lot? Did you feel a lot of tension?

Orlo A Derby 28:56

Yeah, I'd say they got along very well. Most of the PE people were very popular. Hudley Parker and Whitehead and Folkland, Jim Folkland and Bob Boozer. So I'd say there was a good relationship between them. You know I don't think there's any conflict as far as that goes we had little disagreements sometimes. Well, Bob boozer was a wrestler down in Pennsylvania, and he always felt they were teaching wrestling. Not quite the right way. Well, no, it was different from what he had been doing. But you can't argue with the results as far as wrestling goes. They've done very well here.

Bruce Leslie 30:00

Yes it's sort of what I hear that is it correct that Donald tower highly valued the idea of the faculty feeling like a family?

Orlo A Derby 30:09

Oh yeah Yeah, I think so. Yeah, I think he intended tried to do that same time he was dead against some of the things that would happen if somebody got somebody pregnant he was not very happy about that

Bruce Leslie 30:35

Was it getting a student pregnant

Orlo A Derby 30:37

Remember getting a student pregnant nothing like

Bruce Leslie 30:41

So was that the end of the faculty members job?

Orlo A Derby 30:44

Oh, well, no, I don't know that I ever came to that. It In some cases it tended to disturb his equilibrium. I hope you aren't putting this down this way because these are going to sounds like hell to anybody. who would be (?) highly critical. And I don't mean to be.

Bruce Leslie 31:16

I'd like to move into the 1960s in a minute, but is there anything else about the 1940s and 50s that you'd like to talk about?

Orlo A Derby 31:26

No not particularly I don't know about that. Never heard that

Bruce Leslie 31:36

Okay,

Orlo A Derby 31:38

I was in charge of graduate. I was the graduate Dean for a year or two during oh must've been about 1960s, early 60s, maybe something like that simply for education, and we tried to get the best students there. So we're doing whatever we could do. We established sort of a standard by which they could be admitted which was around to be average (?) thing. many exceptions were made. (Unintelligible)

Bruce Leslie 32:38

Do you know or what is your impression as to why President tower left?

Orlo A Derby 32:46

I don't know. I thought he was just wanted to retire. Did you I didn't haven't heard any things to the effect that he was dissatisfied or anything like that.

Bruce Leslie 33:00

I've heard some people have said that some. Some people have said they thought he decided he'd be uncomfortable under Gould and left, but I think most people conclude as you did, do you remember anything about the process of selecting Al Brown and how he came to become president?

Orlo A Derby 33:20

I was on the committee. And the committee voted to turn him down. because he had been in education, and then he went into this manpower program. And we didn't see the connection at all

between that and the job he was doing, or had been doing out of Eastern Michigan there. But Lo and behold, I'd better not say that Frost was a prominent member of the thing and the our committee met one day. And Frost came in, and said that you turn this man down, it would be very unfortunate. Well we we had voted that he was not the most prominent candidate from that we concluded that they'd already given him the job. And that it was useless for us to try to do anything about it. You're gonna raise some hackles. If you Put this out.

Bruce Leslie 35:02

I've already heard some more stories. So had brown do you have any idea of how frost got to know Brown had had brown gone to Albany even though

Orlo A Derby 35:16

I don't know what the procedure was he may have had some. I'm sure he had some contact with him before we saw him. But I have no actual facts to back that up

Bruce Leslie 35:27

right. But had brown been brought to campus and then you before you turned him down do you remember or

Orlo A Derby 35:33

I don't remember seeing him before he was he was there. He came to interview us. And we got the impression that with him it was all or nothing. That is he decided to avail himself of this opportunity and that we were not really (Unintelligible) our decision wasn't really very important in the whole thing. And I'm sure he was right. Now, he didn't say that in so many words. But he said that, there are many opportunities around. And those of us, or me, questiond and have other opportunities as well as this? Well, we didn't at least I didn't have any great reaction to that, because it's always part of the game you know and we recognize brown as being, I think, a very capable person. We didn't know whether we wanted him Here,

Bruce Leslie 37:01

and it was because you, you questioned?

Orlo A Derby 37:04

Well, the difference between brown and tower was so obvious I thought. He was a person who was all business but not really warm, friendly. kinda person we'd been used to. Now that's my impression yeah.

Bruce Leslie 37:27

Did

Orlo A Derby 37:28

I think it was other people on the committee felt the same way.

Bruce Leslie 37:33

So did brown arrive under a bit of a cloud at Brockport, that a committee had turned him down.

Orlo A Derby 37:45

I don't think it was widespread that he'd been turned down. I think this was simply a committee reaction. And I don't think they would've made it public at all. As far I know

Bruce Leslie 37:58

right?

Orlo A Derby 38:01

You know, I don't think so I Think Brown was very confident, you know, brown, I think he'd been assured as far as I know that he would be. But I have no actual facts to back this

Bruce Leslie 38:23

up, you know, these are all conjecture. So you think he'd been assured by Albany that he had support or?

Orlo A Derby 38:30

Well, it looks awfully much like that to us. Because when frost came, he as much as stated that.

Bruce Leslie 38:42

And did you get a sense what it would be support for or would it be for growth or just support to be president?

Orlo A Derby 38:48

No, it may have had some feeling they had that he would be a good person to put in in order to make the place grow. I don't know.

Bruce Leslie 38:59

So you think Brown had some assurances from Albany then perhaps

Orlo A Derby 39:03

Well he probably did, yeah.

Bruce Leslie 39:13

Why don't we stop there?

Bruce Leslie 0:00

So how did brown then do when he came when he came to Brockport Lee?

Orlo A Derby 0:07

Well, I think we had a great many innovations immediately.

Bruce Leslie 0:17

And You mentioned the nursing program among them.

Orlo A Derby 0:19

Yeah. Yeah. The Peace Corps program, international philosophical year, Dedman says in his book that research was and writing of articles and so on was greatly emphasized by Brown. I wasn't particularly aware of that. I took him in one or two articles that I did published them. But I

didn't know this was great deal with a lot of people. He brought Klaus Kramer here, I think didn't he Klaus Kramer yeah from Colorado. He was a person who wrote a lot of textbooks. In elementary math, which I had the feeling Brown wanted. I mean, publications of almost any kind The international philosophical year I think was a big deal with him the Peace Corps.

Bruce Leslie 1:42

I think it was about then that the new campus school was was opened. I wonder how you felt about that

Orlo A Derby 1:48

the new wing was on.

Bruce Leslie 1:50

Or I was thinking of what's now Cooper building, I think which was, I believe was opened about 1965 or 66.

Orlo A Derby 1:58

Yeah. Yes, as I remember, they put a new wing an extension out to to what was the avenue

Bruce Leslie 2:15

Holley Street

Orlo A Derby 2:16

Holley, no, an up and down thing that had about four classrooms in it. I think they were still using the other part of it if I remember right I think. I think it was later on that dance started taking over some of that and so on. Yeah. Yeah, they kept on going pretty well. until Of course. They got the new building over on the other side. But it was a good good deal.

Bruce Leslie 2:51

Did that building work? Was it well designed?

Orlo A Derby 2:54

Oh, I think so. We were doing a thing. They had television rooms you know. Established in a one way vision screens all that sort of thing. And that was a useful thing.

Bruce Leslie 3:09

Was there any particular hallmarks of Brockport's education program then and that you remember I've heard television talked about as something that was

Orlo A Derby 3:23

the television, of course was well important, I think, in a but it was easily cut out when the time came to cut 'em out you know. All of a sudden, we weren't doing television teaching anymore. I don't know who Stopped that. Whether it was just a general feeling that it was time to do it.

Bruce Leslie 3:56

How did you feel about the way the education department and teacher training evolved under brown in those, last years of your career

Orlo A Derby 4:07

I never felt that Brown was very much interested in teacher training. Some of his opinions that he would express would be not highly critical of teaching those elementary teachers more in the nature of laughing at them. And ridicule

Bruce Leslie 4:41

Do your remember any of the kinds of things he said that

Orlo A Derby 4:46

Just trying to think of some of them. No I think it was more in the nature of just feeling that this was really not An important part of the job at Brockport I think so I think that was his feeling I'm sure he would throttle me if I said that.

Bruce Leslie 5:18

So you felt he ridiculed elementary teachers or did you feel that he ridiculed the faculty

Orlo A Derby 5:24

I think the level the level of work he felt was pretty low. That is I think he was more in sympathy with secondary and above than he was with Elementary.

Bruce Leslie 5:47

Did your area. How did your new one (?) getting resources under brown did?

Orlo A Derby 5:55

Well, most of the stuff we got It seems to me was due to somebody writing a grant. A lot of grants were written

Bruce Leslie 6:13

under Brown who became the the leaders in the education department or who did you feel were his favorites?

Orlo A Derby 6:25

Well, I think who had the international philosophical year. I think he was. I can't get his name

Bruce Leslie 6:40

Kiefer,

Orlo A Derby 6:41

Kiefer. Kiefer, I think was a favorite of his I don't know anybody else who was a favorite Kiefer was really in that program not fooling around with elementary at all.

Bruce Leslie 7:06

Did you feel

Orlo A Derby 7:07

I don't know anybody actually in the elementary area who was a favorite of Brown

Bruce Leslie 7:15

was Nazca in elementary or

Orlo A Derby 7:17

Nazca was in elementary Yeah Nazca wrote a lot of grants. And I think he was probably you know, he may have been a favorite of browns. I think getting money was important.

Bruce Leslie 7:39

Did the students change much in the 19 in the brown years?

Orlo A Derby 7:48

I don't have any interaction to them (?) Not that I know of is there a feeling that they did a lot to raise standards?

Bruce Leslie 8:08

People are very mixed on that. We get very, very different opinions about it.

Orlo A Derby 8:19

I think he was interested in students, lots of students as far as emphasizing scholarship or anything of that sort and I'm not sure he much of that (?)

Bruce Leslie 8:34

so it was his emphasis on growth, that particularly caught your attention.

Orlo A Derby 8:39

I think so

Bruce Leslie 8:40

Okay, and then you retired when Lee

Orlo A Derby 8:44

1974

Bruce Leslie 8:45

1974 and did any particular reason to retire at that point?

Orlo A Derby 8:57

My wife had died and I married another wife. And we wanted to go to England. And I got a chance to go to England and become a lecturer over there in one of the colleges,

Bruce Leslie 9:16

which college was that

Orlo A Derby 9:19

Teacher Training College in oh what's the big town on the East Coast?

Hull

Hull, yeah. Hull teacher training college their teacher training is done pretty largely in separate Teachers Colleges you know it's a very good year there. Very good year aside from when the fishing fleet when brought all the codfish back you know and you could smell that over the whole city. Very interesting. The fish was cheap. Fish fries were very good and they were cheap.

Bruce Leslie 10:05

So you've spent quite a few years overseas and you were in Japan. You were in England. You said you were also in the Philippines.

Orlo A Derby 10:13

Singapore

Bruce Leslie 10:13

Singapore, right.

Orlo A Derby 10:15

There a year in Singapore it was a very interesting time. Good time. Okay, saw all the Kodak people coming over and having oh glossy setups, you know, I was a Fulbright grant Singapore and was reasonably well off there. Yeah I was reasonably well off, but Kodak people came in and immediately got got homes in the most expensive places, all paid for by Kodak a Children's Center, the American School with tuition about well, above whatever'd be comparable with a very fine private school in the United States all paid for by Kodak. I couldn't afford to send my girls to that school. So I I said, How about my teaching a grade or two and having my daughter come having that apply? And that worked. Alright. I was able to do that. So Debbie went to the American

Bruce Leslie 11:35

school. That's the American School in Singapore,

Orlo A Derby 11:37

Singapore. The rest of the people were all Kodak or General Motors or GTE or some one of those big outfits you know. Very glossy, expensive (?). very bossy (?). It made me feel a little as Much as though I'd come to the wrong place. But Singapore was a very interesting place. A lot of fun to be there. See the different interactions between the native population, Malays and the Chinese who had come in and dominated the whole commercial area including a political scene. The Lee Kuan Yew came to power as premier of Singapore with the help of the labor union, Chinese labor union and once he was there, he told China they're going to follow a very independent line. And they better keep their hands off Singapore which was interesting because Singapore is a little bit of an island straight. And We got there after the Japanese had been there and it was a different kind of situation. You find a place which they've been advertising as a place to buy, you know, down by the seashore beautiful place very cheap. And I asked some of the natives about that, faculty members about it, they said no, you better not monkey around with that at all. That's a place they buried the people they killed during the occupation. And their

ghosts inhabit the place. That's what they said all the people they waded out into the waters and then shot were buried in places right were there. Really.

Bruce Leslie 14:04

Yeah.

Orlo A Derby 14:05

They were not very much in favor of Japanese yet the Japanese very interesting because I had been to Japan and taught up there before and they they welcomed me with open arms. Japanese people who are in oh appliance or auto or things of that sort would have group meetings You know, when they found that I was had been to Japan talking at Japanese colleges. They were very They thought I was a great guy.

Bruce Leslie 14:40

Well, we should probably be bringing this to an end.

Orlo A Derby 14:43

I have to because I am picking up a fellow who who is 80 I think as a (?) be judicious about these comments because some of them would be burned going Over my own career and this situation with Brockport. I don't remember a lot of the situations as clearly as I'd like to. But it happens when you get to be 89.

Bruce Leslie 15:15

Lee thank you very much for taking this time and for sharing these valuable memories.

Orlo A Derby 15:20

You're very welcome.

Bruce Leslie 15:21

Thank you.