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Western Kentucky University

UA3/8 Thomas Meredith's Papers

Series 9 Interviews / Oral History

Item 1 Tall Tale Tom

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Biographical/Historical Note:

The president's office was created in 1906. The search for a new president began with Kern Alexander's resignation announcement on April 11, 1988. The Board of Regents elected Thomas Meredith as president August 5 and installed September 21, 1988. Under Meredith's leadership, the campus expanded with the purchase of the Bowling Green Center, creation the Institute of Economic Development and the implementation of the first strategic plan Western XXI. He also hired WKU's first female vice president, Barbara Burch. Meredith had served the university for a little over eight years when he announced his resignation February 5, 1997.

Thomas Carter Meredith was born in Owensboro December 7, 1941. He obtained his BS from Kentucky Wesleyan in 1963, his MS from WKU in 1966 and his PhD from the University of Mississippi in 1971. His early career was spent teaching high school in Owensboro, Kentucky and LaHarpe, Illinois. From there he moved into administrative positions in Jeffersonville, Indiana and the board of trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning in Mississippi. Meredith was vice chancellor for executive affairs at the University of Mississippi when he came to WKU in 1988.

Description: Satirical song regarding Thomas Meredith's trip to Europe at WKU expense. Song also references WKU Foundation administrator Robert Rutledge as "Texas Bob." Song written and performed by T.K. Stand.

Dates: 1994

Formats: 1 audiotape, 1 wav file, 1 mp3 file

Subject Analytics:

Folk songs

Meredith, Thomas Carter, 1941-

Rutledge, Robert

Satire

Songs

Western Kentucky University

Accession Information: These records were transferred to the WKU Archives from the President's Office in accordance with the records retention schedule.

Access Restrictions: none

Preferred Citation: UA3/8/9/1 Tall Tale Tom, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

Processing Information: Transcription by Suellyn Lathrop, 2014.

Lyrics

UA3.8.9.1 ~ Records

04/22/2014

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
Tape 1	1	00:00:00	<p><i>Gather 'round people, hear a sad tale, but true About a man who thinks that he's been fooling me and you His name is Tall Tale Tom He don't like telling where the money is gone</i></p> <p><i>Now Tom had a sidekick known as Texas Bob And Bob, well he was kind of b-b-b-between jobs Tommy called up Bobby and he said Bobby "You ought to come on up to Bowling Green, It's the prettiest little town with the most affordable housing that you've ever seen."</i></p> <p><i>His name is Tall Tale Tom He don't like telling where the money is gone</i></p> <p><i>Well Tommy and Bobby they cooked up a scheme And a new foundation came into being To celebrate they partied down at Opryland And they ran up a tab of over six grand Grown men, Opryland, Over six grand</i></p> <p><i>His name is Tall Tale Tom He don't like telling where the money is gone</i></p> <p><i>Now summertime was the time that Tom liked to get away But first he looked around for someone else to pay He heard that there were colleges in England and France This had to be checked out, he got approved for four grand England, France, four grand</i></p> <p><i>I could've told him that, I rented Shadowlands at the video store for two bucks</i></p> <p><i>But Tommy wasn't done yet he still needed some pocket cash And Texas Bob well he was in charge of the Foundation stash Bobby gave Tommy about 500 more Said bon voyage Tom as he walked out the door Bon voyage to 500 more</i></p> <p><i>His name is Tall Tale Tom He don't like telling where the money is gone</i></p> <p><i>Well Tommy must've had a good time 'cause it was hard to recall The business that he did and the people that he saw Except at the college in France there was nobody home So he and the missus just looked around on their own They had a grand old time on four and one half grand</i></p> <p><i>Four and one half grand but at least that was cheaper than if they'd gone to Opryland</i></p>