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Oral History Interview: Houston G. Young

Houston G. Young

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Young's Career Started Early

By John G. Morgan
Staff Writer

From his first job as a 10-year-old boy, driving a two-horse wagon at 25 cents a day near the Lost Creek community in Harrison County, Houston G. Young advanced to the highest financial and political circles in West Virginia.

He participated in decisions to select an architect and a site for the State Capitol.

He was instrumental in the creation of the State Sinking Fund Commission, an agency that has saved taxpayers many millions of dollars. He had a key role in the final settlement of the Virginia debt.

Young served as secretary of state from 1917 to 1925. Until his recent retirement, he was a highly successful investment banker and president of the municipal bond firm, Young, Moore and Co. Inc.

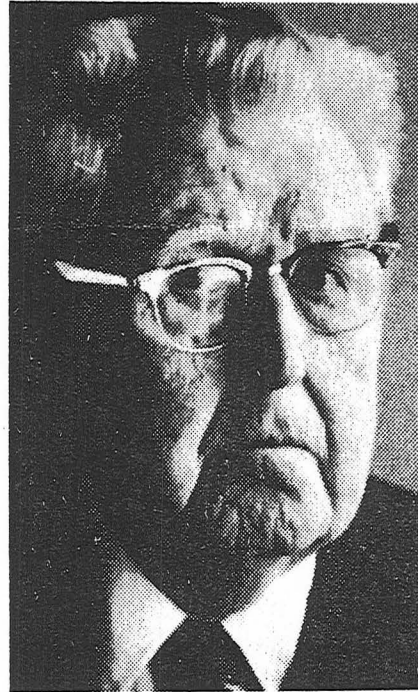
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NOW 93, he knows perhaps better than anyone living today that the Capitol might have been located on the other side of the river.

In fact, as secretary of the State Building Commission about 1922, he recommended a location on the other side. He talks about it:

"I wanted to make Kanawha County build a monumental bridge across the Kanawha River, just about where the Capitol is now, and then I wanted to acquire the mountain side and about 60 acres where Charleston Memorial Hospital now is on the south side of the river."

Young says he just about had the votes on the commission to approve his recommendation when opposition arose from Fred Staunton, a commission member



Houston G. Young
A Matter of Choice

Dover and Young collaborated on the work about eight years before the fund was written into law in 1921. Young's efforts won wide bipartisan support for the fund commission, empowered to require local governments to lay levies in support of bond issues and provide for short term investment of bond money.

Taxpayers benefited through improved credit ratings for local governments, lower interest rates on bonds and higher returns on investments.

the distinct possibility of being charged with conflict of interest. He was quoted as saying there was nothing wrong with the proposed site, and the building should be located there, but "it's not going to be there."

Although Young was disappointed about the ultimate turndown of his proposal, he felt then and now that Staunton's position "furnished to me the example of outstanding integrity."

As Young looks down on the Capitol from his apartment in Imperial Towers today, does he feel it would have made much difference if the commission had chosen the south side location?

The initial cost of the unoccupied south side property would have been less, he says, and later years have shown the need for additional land. He roughly estimates that the original site actually purchased for the present location embraced eight to 16 acres and numerous houses.

Young was a major figure in the search for and selection of an architect for a new Capitol after the old one burned Jan. 3, 1921.

"The commission appointed me, a committee of one, to go to Washington and talk to the supervising architect of the treasury."

With the assistance of that official and others, Young reached the conclusion that the eminent architect, Cass Gilbert, should design the West Virginia Capitol.

Although the commission considered other architects, it eventually accepted Young's recommendation of Gilbert by unanimous vote.

YOUNG HEAPS praise on E. A. Dover, who was chief accountant in the tax commissioner's office, for the fundamental fiscal work that led to establishment of the sinking fund.

Young collaborated with Gov. John J. Cornwell in 1919 to take the final steps for payment of the Virginia debt, meaning a large amount West Virginia had owed Virginia for many years. The settlement amounted to about \$13 million in West Virginia bonds, payable by 1939.

The Loyalty and Permanent Endowment Fund for needy high school students long has been a project close to the heart of Young. This was established as the result of a resolution he introduced at a session of the West Virginia University Alumnus Assn. in 1937.

In 1924 Young unsuccessfully sought the Republican nomination for governor, finishing fourth in a field of six. He won the nomination for Congress in 1942, but was defeated in the general election by Democrat Joe L. Smith of Beckley.

Young was born Oct. 10, 1882, on a farm near Lost Creek. At the age of 10 he hauled rocks in a wagon for 25 cents a day and also landed another job.

"I got a job making the fires in the one-room schoolhouse . . . , and it was only a four-month school. I got four dollars a month. And when wpring came I had the \$16.

Radio Education Program Begins Today

A radio series titled "You, Me and Our Schools" will begin at 5 p.m. today on station WKLC.

Sponsored by the Kanawha Coalition for Quality Education, the 15-minute programs will be aired each Monday for four weeks. Each program will focus on a specialized educational topic, with an expert leading panel discussion. Today's topic is learning disabilities and how to recognize them.



ORAL HISTORY

GIFT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, Houston G. Young, the undersigned, of
302 Imperial Towers, Charleston, County of Kanawha, State
of West Virginia, grant, convey, and transfer to the James E.
Morrow Library Associates, a division of The Marshall University Foundation,
Inc., an educational and eleemosynary institution, all my right, title,
interest, and literary property rights in and to my testimony recorded on
September 5, 1975, to be used for scholarly purposes, including
study and rights to reproduction.

- ~~initial~~ Open and usable after my review.
- ~~initial~~ Closed for a period of _____ years.
- initial Closed for my lifetime.
- initial Closed for my lifetime unless special permission is gained from me or my assigns.

Date September 5, 1975

Houston G. Young
(Signature - Interviewee)
302 - Imperial Towers
Address
Charleston, W. Va. 25301

Date September 5, 1975

John G. Morgan
(Signature - Witness)

The Charleston Gazette

The State Newspaper

September 5, 1975

Information relating to an interview with Houston G. Young, 92, of Charleston, for the Oral History of Appalachia project at Marshall University:

Mr. Young signed a release form, which is attached.

A photograph also is attached.

The interview was just short of two hours, or most of both sides of a 60-minute tape.

Mr. Young talked about life on a farm when he was a boy in Harrison County, near the Lost Creek community, his education in public schools and what is now West Virginia Wesleyan College. He discusses his two terms as secretary of state, 1917 to 1925, his unsuccessful campaign for the Republican nomination for governor in 1924, the establishment of the State Sinking Fund and the ~~the~~ savings the fund has ~~been~~ effected for local governments, and his role in the selection of Cass Gilbert, the architect for the State Capitol.

An Interview With:
Houston G. Young

Conducted By:
John Morgan

Place:
Charleston, W.Va.

Date:
September 5, 1975

Transcribed by:
Brenda Perego

NOS: This is an interview with Houston Goff Young, (Spells) H-O-U-S-T-O-N, G-O-F-F, Y-O-U-N-G. Mr. Young lives at Imperial Towers, Charleston. He was born October 10, 1882, today's date is September 5, 1975. Mr. Young is being interviewed by John G. Morgan of the Charleston Gazette.*

JGM: It's working now. Uh, I have your date of birth as October 10, 1882.

HGY: That's right.

JGM: Uh, now another thing, I'll be asking you questions, but if you just want to sound off on anything you feel like that's alright. And I don't want to dominate the (HGY: Alright.), uh, conversation. Now you, you were born on a farm in Harrison County?

HGY: Yes sir, near Lost Creek, West Virginia.

JGM: Uh, now who were your parents?

HGY: David S. and Sarah Pickins Young.

JGM: She was a Pickins?

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: Uh, did you, what was the occupation of your father at the time?

HGY: Farmer.

JGM: Farmer, uh, do you remember very much about your boyhood, were you born and reared at, at this place, er?

HGY: Yes, I sure do remember. Uh, my mother's uncle, uh, had given her the farm. And uh, uh, he had a little cabin, uh, just beside the well, and uh, I had a sister,

*Dr. O. Norman Simpkins is presenting the introduction, which was excluded from the interview.

who's now deceased, somewhat younger than I, four years I think. I remember that he took us walking down the road, uh, must have been very very young, but I remember very distinctly. My great grandmother, uh, was the sister of Woodrow Wilson's grandfather. My grandfather was William Wilson Young and he got that Wilson from his mother, and he was born over in Augusta County, Virginia.

JGM: Now that, uh, give me that again, your?

HGY: My great grandmother, uh, was Woodrow Wilson's grand, was a sister of Woodrow Wilson's grandfather. They were all Presbyterians.

JGM: What was Woodrow Wilson's grandfather's name?

HGY: I don't know.

JGM: And, uh, what was your great grandmother's name?

HGY: I don't know.

JGM: Yeah. You know there is, that, that does make you an relative of the president, uh, I mean you both had the same, uh, family tree way back there.

HGY: That's right.

JGM: Now where does the Goff come from in your name?

HGY: Uh, I was born, uh, in October, and uh, in that year, uh, uh, General Nathan Goff was first elected to congress, that broke the back of the democratic party in West Virginia for years to come. And my father who was a member of the Republican County Executive Committee for fifty years, had served as election official at the precinct that day, uh, that month, I'm not certain whether it was the same day or not, and uh, I got the Houston from my father, my uh, father's brother, he died very young, and uh, I got that Goff from General Nathan Goff.

JGM: Uh, huh. I'm going to stop this a minute and see if we're picking it up. (Break in tape). Uh, did your parents live to be quite old, er?

HGY: Uh, my mother died rather young at 58.

JGM: Remember what year that was?

HGY: Yes, uh, 1908.

JGM: And your father?

HGY: Uh, he died at 92.

JGM: He lived to be 92?

HGY: Uh, huh. Uh, do some figuring here. 1844 and add 92 to it.

JGM: 1936.

HGY: 1936.

JGM: Did he ever do anything besides farming?

HGY: Yes, he was, uh, what was known as County Road Overseer.

JGM: Yeah.

HGY: And the first job I ever had, was ten years old, was driving a two horse wagon, and uh, then working on the roads, pick up the rocks and put them in, the uh, bed. And uh, I got twenty five cents a day.

JGM: Twenty five cents a day.

HGY: Yeah. And I remember, uh, uh, that the roads, uh, passed right in front of the home of Iris C. Post, a beautiful two story red brick building, uh, where Melva Edison Post, Post was formed, was born. And we would stop in the back yard cause there was a nice well of water there, uh, and uh, Mrs. Post would bring us buttermilk. So I knew Melva Edison Post, uh, who had gone to Prep School at what was known as the academy in Buchanan, and it preceded West Virginia Conference Seminary, where I started as a prep student in the spring of 1889. I graduated there in 1902, and uh.

JGM: Was that considered a religious school then, or uh?

HGY: The, I think it was a baptist school.

JGM: What I mean to say, is did you have any, uh, religious meanings at that time or aspirations for ministry or anything like that?

HGY: Oh no, oh no, uh.

JGM: What, what did you study there? Just a general AB degree, er, general?

HGY: No, I was there as a prep student.

JGM: As a prep student?

HGY: Yeah. Course it's not comparable to high school.

JGM: Yeah.

HGY: I went to the university this fall of 1902 and I took two years academic and two years law, which you could do at that time and get a degree in double LB.

JGM: What is double LB, uh?

HGY: Bachelor of law.

JGM: Bachelor of law?

HGY: Uh, huh.

JGM: Do you remember, uh, anything else about life on the farm at that time, did you have regular chores to do, er?

HGY: Oh yes, uh, I got up at dawn, milk the cows, fed the hogs, fed the chickens, uh, and when I was about ten I got a job, uh, uh, making the fires in the one room school house, uh, and those first years, uh, it was only a four month school. I got four, four dollars a month. And when spring came I had the sixteen dollars.

JGM: Saved it all.

HGY: And when I, uh, went to Wesleyan I went to West Virginia Conference Seminary, uh, I had enough money set aside to pay my expenses for the first three years.

JGM: Three of um?

HGY: Uh, huh.

JGM: Do you recall, uh, bout how much it would take at that time?

HGY: I think about two hundred dollars a year.

JGM: Well, did you do these chores, uh, from the time you were a small boy until you left home?

HGY: Oh yes. Uh, yes.

JGM: When you started to the seminary was that about the point that you left home, er, did it come later when you?

HGY: No, I still spent the summer at home until I was, until I was about nineteen. I remember one summer that I clerked in a grocery store in Clarksburg.

JGM: Huh. Uh, did you have any brothers and sisters?

HGY: Yes, I had a brother Lincoln L. Young, who was sheriff of Harrison County, and he died at about 92.

JGM: Really?

HGY: Uh, I had a sister, uh, who married a guy by the name of Johnson. He was a salesman and she died along about, uh, bout the turn of the century.

JGM: Uh, huh.

HGY: And I had another sister Edna, who married a boy by the name of Whitesal(?), and she died, uh, a couple of years ago at 85. (Inaudible)

JGM: Well, the travel then, of course, was by horse and buggy?

HGY: Yes.

JGM: Uh, you were living, your, your farm was near Lost Creek, you say?

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: And uh, was Lost Creek the nearest community, er, town that you?

HGY: Well, at that time there was a, a country store at, uh, Craigmore, uh, and that was our base at that time. There was a post office there too. So I would get down there on, usually on Saturday, and uh, take the farm produce, and uh, trade it in for coffee, sugar, and products that we might want on the farm and couldn't be raised there. I saw very little cash.

JGM: Right. Where did you go to public school?

HGY: At this one house school where I, uh.

JGM: Did it have a (break in tape.) I guess the family at that time was pretty closely knit, was it not?

HGY: Oh yes.

JGM: Uh, uh, was your, were your parents pretty strict, uh, they expect you, uh, to do these chores all the time?

HGY: Well, I don't think they had to be.

JGM: Was much discipline necessary as far as you were concerned?

HGY: I don't think so.

JGM: You don't remember vividly any, uh, severe spankings you got or anything like?

HGY: No.

JGM: Uh, did your family go to church regularly then?

HGY: Yeah. My grandmother Young, uh, my grandfather Young founded Gnatty, (spells) G-N-A double T-Y Creek Presbyterian Church.

JGM: Really? Right there in that same community?

HGY: Um, mmm. And they build a farm next to the church.

JGM: Huh.

HGY: And uh, I first went to Sunday school where she was the teacher.

JGM: Uh, huh. Well the church probably established before you were born, wasn't it, er?

HGY: I don't know.

JGM: Who was the boss in the home, did your father tend to run things more than your mother, er, the, your mother sort of the boss?

HGY: Well, my mother was the boss of the house, but outside of that my father was.

JGM: Did you have persons other than members of the family, being members of the family living with you, like in-laws or grandparents or?

HGY: No, except Mark, mother's uncle.

JGM: Have any servants, er, boarders?

HGY: Well, I remember we had a colored woman, who lived in the house for awhile.

JGM: She did housework?

HGY: Um, mmm, and the cooking.

JGM: Was there any particular age at that time when a child was considered an adult?

HGY: I don't know.

JGM: Now you started at the, uh, seminary, I think you said in 1902?

HGY: No, I graduated in 1902.

JGM: Graduated in 1902.

HGY: Went there in the spring of 1908 (inaudible).

JGM: Graduated in 1902, and then did you enter the university

the same year, er?

HGY: Yeah. Left home. I remember when I first heard of the assassina-assassination of William McKinley. I was walking down a street and a pretty hot day, and up the street came a boy by the name of Davidson and Stone Street on a bicycle and the dust was flying right and left and he told me that McKinley had been shot. I forget what year that was.

JGM: It was in 1901, I believe.

HGY: 1901.

JGM: So you would have been, uh, nineteen years old at that time?

HGY: Eighteen, I guess.

JGM: Do you remember anything about how the people reacted to things like that then?

HGY: Oh, they were terribly shocked.

JGM: Huh.

HGY: Uh, they had great affection for McKinley, and uh.

JGM: Course he had a very strong successor, Roosevelt.

HGY: Yep. Yes, he dominated everything he touched.

JGM: At the time (inaudible) you were married November 6, 1907 to Francis Virginia Chester.

HGY: That's right.

JGM: Uh, where was she from?

HGY: Fairmont. Her father was a physician.

JGM: Do you recall his name?

HGY: James W. Chester.

JGM: Was he related possibly to the Presbyterian minister here?

HGY: I don't think so, I don't think so.

JGM: She is, she is now deceased?

HGY: Yes.

JGM: Do you recall what year that was?

HGY: October 31, 1963.

JGM: Don't let me ask you questions, if the questions are too fast or hurry you any.

HGY: No, I'm done practically.

JGM: And if you get tired or anything just tell me. You received your law degree from the university in nineteen, seven?

HGY: Six.

JGM: Six? 1906? I got somewhere it was 1907. Uh, did you study any particular aspects of the law?

HGY: No.

JGM: Do you recall what, what made you decide to go to law school?

HGY: I had it in mind from the time I was just six years old.

JGM: Really?

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: Then in 1907, uh, after practicing law for something like nine months, you uh, joined the dispatch as Secretary of State.

HGY: As Chief Clerk.

JGM: As Chief Clerk, that was Mr. Swisher.

HGY: Charles W. Swisher.

JGM: Yeah. The, uh, you were elected Secretary of State yourself.

HGY: In 1916.

JGM: And then again in 1920.

HGY: That's right.

JGM: Did, did you run in 1924 or just decided?

HGY: Run for governor.

JGM: Run for governor?

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: That, that was against, uh, Charles.

HGY: All four was nominated. The other two candidates were Swisher and Attorney General Hanley.

JGM: Do you recall, uh, what did you finish, second or?

HGY: I finished fourth.

JGM: Really?

HGY: Yeah. I only carried one county.

JGM: In all?

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: So it was Core first and then.

HGY: Hanley the second, Swisher third, and I was fourth.

JGM: Do you attribute your position to, uh, that you didn't campaign very hard, or, how can you account for that?

HGY: Well, when I announced, I thought I would get the support of the republican administration. My old boss, Swisher, succeeded in getting them to support him. If he had announced before I did, I wouldn't have run against him, but then as much as I had already announced I felt no obligation to quit.

JGM: Right.

HGY: Uh, so it left three candidates in southern West Virginia.

Hanley from Logan, old Swisher and myself from Kanawha, and Core had the whole northern West Virginia, which was a republican end, end, uh, which was dominately republican.

JGM: Huh.

HGY: So he beat Hanley by about 5,000 votes.

JGM: Did you, did you cam-personally campaign statewide, or?

HGY: Oh yes.

JGM: How did you get around then, uh?

HGY: Mostly by rail.

JGM: You didn't make so call whistle stop speeches?

HGY: No, I didn't do that. I didn't make too many speeches. I remember I made one in Point Pleasant, one in Buchanan, one in Clarksburg.

JGM: Was it mostly, uh, to serve a man to man person to person campaign, er?

HGY: Yes.

JGM: Uh, did you do any mailing out of literature?

HGY: Oh, some, I didn't have too much money.

JGM: Uh, huh. I guess when you go into each, each county, you probably, uh, maybe go to the courthouse meet some of the, uh, people there and talk to the key republican.

HGY: Yeah. That was a matter of campaigning in those days.

JGM: Did you ever run again for any public office, er?

HGY: Yeah, I ran for congress in 1942, uh, I got beat 3,238. I was nominated in the primary without opposition. Joe Smith beat me.

JGM: Let's see, your, your residence was here then?

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: And he was an incumbent at that time?

HGY: Yeah, that's uh, that's the last year he ran.

JGM: So that was a pretty hard race, when you run against an incumbent.

HGY: Well, uh, the district was about 60,000 democratic and I carried Kanawha County by 5,000 votes, I only liked 300 carrying Raliegh County. I carried Joe Smith's own precinct.

JGM: You did?

HGY: Yeah. But I got beat badly in Logan and wherever it was possible for a republican to race.

JGM: His home precinct was at, the Beckley area.

HGY: Um, mmm.

JGM: I would say that was quite a showing for a republican at that time.

HGY: Uh, well uh, on the face of it, yes. But that's the year that Nealy ran against Revercomb for the United States Senate.

JGM: Yes.

HGY: And uh, uh, thousands of the leading democrats, uh, voted against Nealy.

JGM: Yeah.

HGY: And uh, uh, some of that washed off on Joe, so it, it was a pretty good showing, but uh, not as good as it appeared on the face.

JGM: Yeah.

HGY: It was the year, it was just a general rebellion against Nealy.

JGM: Uh, what would you consider the, sort of the highlight of your eight years as Secretary of State?

HGY: E. A. Dover, who was Chief Accountant in the tax commissioner's office, was a brilliant boy. Townsend had brought him here from Ohio when he was tax commissioner, uh, he was the brother of Elmer Dover. Who was secretary to Mark Hinland(?), United States Senator, who backed McKinley for president in 1904. Was it 1904, no 1896, 1896. And uh, for eight years we collaborated and worked together on what was the State Sinking, is now the State Sinking Fund Commission, uh, I was Secretary of State first under John J. Cornwell, who is at the top of some of the great men I've known.

JGM: Really?

HGY: Yeah, he was a genius. He had run for governor in 1904 against William M. O. Dawson, and he only got beat by 8,000. Uh, Theodore Roosevelt carried the state about 40,000. He had more different elements of strength than any man that I ever knew. He was editor of his, and owner of his home town newspaper. He was president of his bank, he was a tremendous lawyer.

JGM: He was from Romney, wasn't he?

HGY: Yes, uh, both in his office and at the bar, he was a tremendous public speaker. A wonderful personality and above all adherently honest, uh.

JGM: Well, he was the only, uh, democrat elected to a major public office, in, uh, that year, wasn't he?

HGY: That's right.

JGM: 1916?

HGY: That's right, he was elected, that's the year, that uh, that Wilson beat Hughes, uh, the second time. He didn't beat Hughes the second time, but he was elected the second time that year. And uh, the uh, slogan, war in the east, no, war in the west, peace in the east, thank god for Wilson. No, no it's just the opposite, war in the east, (JGM: Yeah.) peace in the west, (JGM: Yeah.) thank god for Wilson. Uh, and that uh, brought out thousands of

the young boys for Wilson cause they didn't want no war. So I was elected that year by only about 2,700 and Cornwell was elected by about the same. He beat Hyra E. Robinson.

JGM: Who, uh, who was a member of the Supreme Court, wasn't he?

HGY: He resigned from the Supreme Court to run for governor.

JGM: Yes.

HGY: And uh, did I say that Dover and I worked on that Sinking Fund Commission for eight years, for we finally came out with it. We came out with it after we had the promise of Cornwell who was retiring, and Morgan who was just coming in that they would recommend to the legislature the passage of the act. And it was, uh, enacted in 1921, and uh, without Dover it couldn't have been done because he was a genius in, in figures and that he had examined, uh, the fiscal affairs of every county, school board, and municipality in the state, and uh, he knew where the weak spots were. And uh, I always thought that without me, uh, it couldn't have been an act cause I succeeded in getting Judge (inaudible) the, and the chairman of both the republican and democratic state committees, both national committees of the democratic and republican parties to support the bill. And it passed almost over one, almost unanimous.

JGM: Tell me, uh, why do you call it the State Sinking Fund?

HGY: Well, it's made up, of money which is appropriated for the retirement of bonds and that's known as a Sinking Fund.

JGM: Because it, it uh, sinks as it's paid off, is that where the name comes from, the fund?

HGY: It sinks the public debt.

JGM: Sinks the public debt.

HGY: Yeah, see, and eventually pays it off.

JGM: I see. I never could quite understand where that word sink came from. But it, end the, it takes care of the public debt, sinks it.

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: I see.

HGY: And we made the, uh, state tax commissioner the chairman cause he had this power over the different counties and municipalities to make them lay a levy sufficient to pay off the debt.

JGM: Now, now right there is the key purpose of the Sinking Fund, isn't it?

HFY: That's right.

JGM: Can, can you tell me, just for the record what, what the purpose of the fund is?

HGY: Well, we had, had a lot of defaults and uh, a lot of slow coupons over the years to come, and this required the different counties and municipalities to, uh, send this money to the State Sinking Fund Commission, and, and the commission had the power to make the municipalities do that and to lay a levy sufficient to pay off those bonds. And the result was that it had a tremendous impact, uh, on the bond market in West Virginia. Then the Sinking Fund Commission had the power to use that money while it was in their possession to buy short time government bonds and short time municipal bonds. Then when that, those bonds became due, to use it for the payment of the principal interest on the bonds.

JGM: So whatever they made would be for the benefit of the county that put it in there.

HGY: That's right.

JGM: Or the municipality?

HGY: That's right. And I haven't checked up last year's, but the year before last, uh, that earning was six million dollars.

JGM: Really?

HGY: For one year.

JGM: That was just the investments by the Sinking Fund?

HGY: That's right.

JGM: Quite a figure.

HGY: Alot of money. Now a certain percentage of that, uh, was used for, uh, applied to the amount that the different municipalities in the counties had to send in for Sinking Fund purposes for next year. And uh, some of it was retained, uh, for the purpose of capital investment. I hesitate to say what the percentage of either is, but uh, the six million dollars that was earned year before last went either for that purpose or for the purpose of capital investment.

JGM: Well now, is that the capital investment by the local government body or?

HGY: Some of it by the state.

JGM: Some of it by the state.

HGY: Yeah, for instance, the uh, uh, dormitories of the university got, those earnings, uh, went to the capital investment of the dormitories. So it's impossible to figure out what's what.

JGM: Uh, I think in addition to, uh, the establishment of the Sinking Fund, which, which I believe you consider your main accomplishment while serving as Secretary of State.

HGY: That's right.

JGM: Uh, incidently, whatever became of Mr. Dover, do you know, uh?

HGY: He died.

JGM: Did he go on to any other higher positions or anything?

HGY: Oh no, no he retired, uh, when uh, Ernest James was tax commissioner.

JGM: I see. Now also as, as Secretary of State, you served on the State Billing Commission, did you not, er?

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: And.

- HGY: I did, I wasn't on the commission, I was secretary without a vote.
- JGM: I see. And that, this was during the time that the capitol site was selected?
- HGY: That's right.
- JGM: And plans were made for the building?
- HGY: That's right. I wanted to, to make Kanawha County build a monumental bridge across the Kanawha River, just about where the capitol now is, and then I wanted to acquire the mountain side and about 60 acres where Charleston Memorial Hospital now is on the south side of the river.
- JGM: Morris Harvey too, uh?
- HGY: Morris Harvey, no it didn't extend down that far.
- JGM: I see.
- HGY: Uh, and had the, uh, I just about had the votes to do it and Fred Stanton who was president of the Kanawha Bank and Trust Company and was also president of the Kanawha Land Company, which own all that land up there. Came to me one day and he said, "Houston, you're doing something I don't like." Well I said, "Mr. Stanton, if I'm doing something you don't like, you tell me what it is and I'll quit." Said, "What is it?" He said, "Well, you just about got this commission ready to buy this site, south of Kanawha." And I said, "What's wrong with that?" He said, "There isn't anything wrong with it," said, "that's where it ought to be, but it's not going to be there." Well I said, "Why?" I had bought the deed by the contract of interest. "Well," he said, "I'm president of the Kanawha Land Company and we own that property over there, and if the capitol should go over there, it'd create a bombshell in West Virginia the like of which you've never heard of, and you forget about it." "I'm not going to stand for it." And I said, "Well, why don't you resign, let the commission do what it wants to do?" He said, "I'm not going to do that either," he said, "that would be collusion, and uh, I can't do it." I said, "Alright, have you told the commission that?" He said, "I sure have,

I told them that I was going to talk to you." And that was the end of that.

JGM: Now do I understand that he was a member of the commission?

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: Building commission?

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: And president of the Kanawha Land Company?

HGY: That's right.

JGM: And I think you said president of something else.

HGY: Kanawha Bank and Trust Company. He was quite a man.

JGM: He must have been.

HGY: Quite a man.

JGM: Well now, he was doing this, uh, apparently, uh, uh, very sincerely and, uh, for fear of being accused of conflict of interest.

HGY: Well, he knew he would be.

JGM: Yeah.

HGY: And he knew there was a conflict of interest. But I hadn't thought about it.

JGM: Yeah. Uh, how do you, uh, uh, rate him then as a public official after making a decision like this?

HGY: Well, most men were honest in those days, uh, but he furnish to me the example of outstanding integrity.

JGM: Was he, now Fred Stanton, was he the same Fred Stanton who was, uh, perhaps his son was associated with the Daily Mail after, er?

HGY: No, his nephew.

JGM: Nephew, that was his nephew with the Daily Mail?

HGY: Yeah. He only had one child, Mrs. Arthur M. Hill, who's still living.

JGM: Was, Mrs. Arthur M. Hill, was she related to Bonner Hill or?

HGY: Oh no.

JGM: That uh.

HGY: Oh no, her husband was, uh, as I, pretty well later was divorced from her and he married some girl in Washington. And they had an estate in Lewisburg.

JGM: Huh.

HGY: He's now dead.

JGM: Do you think, uh, that back when the state did not ultimately take the side that you wanted, uh, has it made any difference, er, would it have been better to have located it on, on the other side of the river?

HGY: Well, uh, at that time the present site was almost wholly occupied, uh, with private residencies, and uh, the cost of the site would have been less.

JGM: Huh.

HGY: And we would have had to, sixty acres and the hill tops.

JGM: Uh, huh.

HGY: Uh.

JGM: Was the hill tops in addition to the sixty acres?

HGY: Yes.

JGM: Uh, huh.

HGY: Yes.

JGM: Is most, the sixty acres was mostly level land?

HGY: All level land.

JGM: Uh, huh.

HGY: Uh, we would have had to, uh, greater opportunities for development, and the future years have shown that we needed more land.

JGM: Uh, huh.

HGY: Than the original, uh, site of property acquired by the, by the Capitol Building Commission.

JGM: Do you recall the, the acreage in the amount of the site, in the site actually acquired?

HGY: I think approximately eight acres, I'm not certain.

JGM: Really? I would have thought, I was thinking it was more than that.

HGY: Might have been sixteen.

JGM: Yeah, I was going to guess twenty, but I.

HGY: No I don't think so.

JGM: Might as well change the tape (break in tape). The site was purchased approximately when, uh?

HGY: Well, the capitol burn in 1921.

JGM: Yes.

HGY: January the third, nineteen twenty one.

JGM: And the baseboard capitol burn in '27, I think.

HGY: Well, I, I don't know when that, present site was acquired.

JGM: Uh, huh.

HGY: Uh.

JGM: Do you recall about when you started looking for an architect, was?

HGY: Yeah. Uh, the legislature in 1921, uh, created the

Capitol Building Commission.

JGM: How many members did it have, uh?

HGY: All five, I think.

JGM: Uh, huh.

HGY: Uh, Governor Morgan, Herbert Fitzpatrick, Harry Candon, William McCal, and Fred Stanton. I think those were the original. Uh, must have been seven, Gohen Arnold the President of the Senate, and Ed Guigley the Speaker of the House, must have been the seven. Uh, the commission appointed me, a committee of one, to go to Washington and talk to the Architect of the Treasury, and uh, I stopped at the Washington Hotel and then in the lobby I ran across Gohen Arnold.

JGM: Who?

HGY: Gohen Arnold.

JGM: Golen?

HGY: Gohen, (spells) G-O-H-E-N. Was President of the Senate and a member of the commission. And uh, he knew I was coming over there but he didn't know that was the day. So I told him I'd come, come there to see the super-Supervising Architect of the Treasury. And I asked him if he didn't want to go with me. He said yes he had some time and he'd just go. Well we went by the Lincoln Memorial, and uh, all you've got to do is to see that in order to be impressed with everybody who had anything to do with it. And uh, there we found out that a man by the name of Bacon was the architect and when we got to the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury we were both literary full of Bacon (laughs), and uh, in the conversation the, uh, we couldn't keep from showing that he was our preference. And finally I said to the super art-super, I could see that, that he wasn't very much impressed. And uh, finally I said to the super-Supervisor Architect of the Treasury, uh, "You don't seem to be too much in favor of Mr. Bacon." He said, "Well, I can understand your, your opinion, that he is probably the greatest architect of the century." But he said, "Stop there," said, "he isn't able to follow through." He said, "He's a genius, and it's, and of course,"

he said, "he didn't, he didn't do, uh, Lincoln himself, uh, this sculptor by the name of French did that." Uh, but he said, "If we hadn't had the, uh, engineers of the War Department, we'd of never got the damn thing built." And I said, "Well, that's quite important, I thought that was one of the duties of the architect to see, see everything come out." He said, "It is, there's Bacon's weakness." Said, "As I understand your proposition, you've got to have an architect that not only can devise the building, but you've got to have one that will follow through, be the boss, clear to the combination." I said, "Yes sir, that's right." And uh, we had, uh, in mind, uh, uh, McKim, Meade and White, uh, but all three of them were out of the picture. McKim and Meade were both retired, Harry (inaudible) had killed White, and uh, they didn't have the great geniuses that they originally had. So he dismissed them, and uh, we had been recommended, uh, Cass Gilbert. Howard Sutherland had called, he was United States Senator at that time, and uh, Gilbert had devised the Montana, or Minnesota, I believe Minnesota.

JGM: I think it is Minnesota.

HGY: Minnesota. And uh, the United States Senator from Minnesota, uh, had called Sutherland about it, I forget his name and after we had, we were done with the, uh, Supervising Architect of the Treasury, I went to Sutherland's office and I asked him if he couldn't call up the senator from Minnesota and ask him if I could see him. And Sutherland called him, well he said, "I was just fixing to leave for the day, uh, if Mr. Young has time to wait, uh, uh, I'll just come by your office." Uh, so that's the first time I ever had a United States Senator come someplace to see me," (laughter). And the last (laughter). Uh, so he talked to us about Cass Gilbert. Well I came back to Charleston, and uh, I told the commission that my recommendation is Cass Gilbert and uh.

JGM: Wait a minute, let me ask what sold you on Cass Gilbert, why did you?

HGY: Well, the Supervising Architect of the Treasury.

JGM: Yeah.

HGY: And a matter of elimination.

JGM: Yeah.

HGY: Uh, he said he had the ability to follow through.

JGM: Yeah.

HGY: He was the boss and he was a great architect and he was completely honest. And uh, he recommended him. So I went along and so did Arnold went along with his recommendation.

JGM: I'm not sure Arnold's position, what?

HGY: He was President of the Senate.

JGM: President of the Senate.

HGY: Yeah. So, uh, he's now dead.

JGM: President of the, uh.

HGY: State Senate. Uh, he was the grand nephew of, of uh, Stonewall Jackson. Uh, his grandmother was a sister of Stonewall's aunt and she stayed with the union.

JGM: Huh. Where you, uh, able immediately to convince the Building Commission.

HGY: No. I didn't try to. I went along with their decision to call in architects, so they called, uh, McKim, Meade, and White, uh, Cass Gilbert, and three or four other architects, architects of firms whose names I forget. And uh, I remember that, uh, I was walking around Charleston with McKim, Meade and White's representative, who's name I forget, and when they got to right in front of the First Presbyterian Church, he looked up and said, "My god, I see ghosts." And I said, "Well, what ghosts do you see?" He said, "That church over there is an exact duplicate of a church in New York devised, devised, devised by Stanford White." And uh, he said, "Some architect stole it," (laughter). And uh, well, that poor fella, uh, died very soon after with a heart attack, oh Bacon is the other one, one of the others that we had, was the Lincoln Memorial.

JGM: I see.

HGY: And uh, of course he very greatly impressed the Capitol

Building Commission. Finally Mr. Stanton said, "Mr. Bacon, you don't seem to want this job." Mr. Bacon said, "No, that's not exactly right, Mr. Stanton." He said, "Mr. Young has driven me around this whole Kanawha valley," and he said, "the opportunity for an architect here is such that you see very few places." Said, "These mountain tops here remind you of great piles, uh, driven down into earth and this Kanawha River gives great possibilities, the whole outlay here is the dream of an architect." "But if you ask me whether you think you should employ me, the answer is no." Mr. Stanton very much agasped said, "Well, why Mr. Bacon?" He criticized himself in just about the same terms as the Architect of the Treasury had criticized him, and that was the last of Bacon (laughter).

JGM: That's very interesting.

HGY: It is.

JGM: I'm not sure.

HGY: He died very soon after this.

JGM: Really? I'm not sure what he meant by mountains driven by piles.

HGY: Well, these hill tops here.

JGM: Yeah.

HGY: Uh, you know, they I think they cut into them, for instance down here there's a cut into it and another one up Kanawha City cut into it, and there's another one east that's cut in.

JGM: Yeah. You mean they cut into them to build roads, er?

HGY: Well, uh, naturally.

JGM: Oh, you mean the natural, uh?

HGY: Natural contour.

JGM: Natural contour.

HGY: Yeah, of the, of the land, the division.

JGM: The uh, river divides the mountains?

HGY: No, the little streams divide the mountains.

JGM: I see. I see what you mean.

HGY: For instance, for instance, the division, the division right down here, at the bottom of, uh, Round Mill Road.

JGM: Right.

HGY: There's one there. Uh, there's another one down here where, uh, the Appalachian Highway goes across.

JGM: Right where, that's Fair Branch down there?

HGY: Yeah, Fair Branch.

JGM: And this up here is Porter Hollow or Union Mission?

HGY: Porter Hollow, I think. And then there's, then there's Union Mission.

JGM: Yes. Then after eliminating Bacon, uh, was Gilbert the next one, er?

HGY: Well, he was the final decision, uh, unanimous.

JGM: They pretty much buy the same argument that you bought, so to speak, uh, uh?

HGY: Well, I think so, I think it was a matter of elimination, they eliminated Bacon for the reasons I've given, they eliminated McKim, Meade and White because of the principal was all dead. And uh, the other architects were not too well known, and uh, Cass Gilbert had a history of outstanding buildings.

JGM: Yeah. Uh, do you recall your first meeting with him?

HGY: Gilbert?

JGM: Yes.

HGY: I reckon it was when he first came before the commission.

JGM: What sort of an impression did he make at that time?

HGY: Very good.

JGM: In terms of being, knew what he was doing?

HGY: Oh, he had a wonderful personality.

JGM: He did?

HGY: Yeah, he knew how to put it over.

JGM: Uh, how did he speak to the commission, did he talk in terms of, uh, what he generally had in mind for a capitol, or?

HGY: I don't think so, I don't think he went into that.

JGM: So then later he came up with his grand design?

HGY: Yeah. Oh yes, he hadn't even thought about a design at the time.

JGM: Well his, I understand it's sort of, uh, uh, a long classical greek sort of a design, or?

HGY: I don't know, I don't know. I don't know much about architecture.

JGM: Well, it certainly is a tremendous building, I mean, it seems that whatever else West Virginia has, it has a capitol.

HGY: It's a beautiful building.

JGM: Do you have any, uh, do you feel that his choice of architecture was the right one, er?

HGY: Yes.

JGM: Would, uh.

HGY: He was my recommendation.

JGM: But, I mean type of building he designed, uh, do you have any objection to it at all, or would you have build it any?

HGY: No, I don't think so. I wouldn't know enough about architecture. I wouldn't want myself as a critic.

JGM: Yeah. Uh, it did, uh, required the moving a lot of, a lot of houses.

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: Was the community quite upset about, the whole thing, er, they uh, pretty much go along with what was happening at that time?

HGY: Well, they got to, very good prices for their homes, but those who had to relocate had to pay big prices for homes too.

JGM: Huh.

HGY: So they didn't, uh, come out ahead very much, if any.

JGM: Several of the homes were, were quite a number of them, I guess, where transported across the river on some sort of a ferry.

HGY: Not very many.

JGM: Not very many? Can you see the capitol from here.

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: Ever look over there at it thinking about the days of construction?

HGY: No (laughter).

JGM: Uh, you must have some thoughts in times when you drive by there, er, think about it for any reason. Must feel some sort of, some sense of accomplishment as being a key man in the selection of the architect.

HGY: Oh, I don't know that I do. Uh, uh, I get along pretty good.

JGM: Did you notice that, uh, Governor Moore is building a science and culture center over there?

HGY: Yep.

JGM: I think that will be an asset to the capitol complex.

HGY: I don't know much about science (laughter).

JGM: There's been some criticism, uh, not only with that building, but buildings, well particularly with some of the office buildings erected previously as being somewhat out of harmony with the, the beauty of the capitol, that, that kind of criticism doesn't bother you, I guess?

HGY: Sure does.

JGM: It does? Well is, I have long understood that, that Gilbert had a grand design for not only the construction of the capitol, but further development of the grounds, are you familiar at all.

HGY: I don't know about that. I've heard that statement made, but I don't know anything about it.

JGM: In fact I heard one time he had a archives and history building planned, but I was never able to tie down where it was or what it was.

HGY: He died not too long after it, you know.

JGM: Is that right?

HGY: Yeah, and uh.

JGM: He, when did, excuse me.

HGY: His son succeeded him.

JGM: Wonder whatever became of the original capitol plans, do you have any idea?

HGY: I don't know, I suppose he has them, or his successor has them.

JGM: Did, did you continue on the commission throughout the, uh, well as long as you were Secretary of State, were you, uh, secretary of the commission too; well then I see the building commission was created about 1921, I guess.

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: So as long as you served as Secretary of State.

HGY: Yeah, I remained secretary.

JGM: Huh.

HGY: And then after, uh, uh, I don't know, uh, I know that I resigned when they started construction because I knew that, uh, that I might be a fairly good bookkeeper for then, that uh, I didn't know anything about building.

JGM: Uh, huh.

HGY: And uh, I recommended Bonner Hill, and he succeeded me.

JGM: Uh.

HGY: I didn't get any pay.

JGM: Yes. Well I, I didn't realise, I had just assumed the Secretary of State was an ex officio member.

HGY: No.

JGM: Uh.

HGY: No, he was, he was selected by the commission.

JGM: I see. So Bonner Hill could move right in as (HGY: Yeah.) successor?

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: I guess he knew something about construction.

HGY: Didn't know near as much as he thought he did (laughter). Uh, he was a foreigner in the sight of Cass Gilbert.

JGM: Really?

HGY: Yes.

JGM: Well, I suppose you consider your service on the building commission as also as a part of a outstanding part of your public career.

HGY: Oh, I don't know, uh, I was simply the, uh, kept the minutes, and uh, uh, I think Cass Gilbert would have been selected anyway, uh, you see he was brought to the attention of the commission by Howard Sutherland.

JGM: Huh.

HGY: Who at that time was a United States Senator. And uh, I think they would have finally come to Cass Gilbert.

JGM: Huh.

HGY: Wasn't anybody else that measured up, except Bacon, and he measured only to a degree.

JGM: Uh, huh.

HGY: So I, uh, uh, that was a very able commission.

JGM: Uh, huh.

HGY: Uh, nobody told them what to do. I don't know that, uh, my recommendation had any barring, I doubt if it did, uh.

JGM: I believe, uh, that you were also pretty instrumental in the final payment of the Virginia, so call Virginia debt.

HGY: Yeah. Uh, I think that's a statement that's a little broad, uh, Cornwell was called upon to make the final decision with the legislatures consent, and he wanted a republican to share the burden, and I had had to, uh, several years of experience as Secretary of the State, secretary of an executive director of the State Sinking Fund Commission, which had to do with public debt, and uh, he asked me if I'd collaborate with him. And of course I told him I would. So he took me to all the meetings that he had on the Virginia debt, and uh, his chief advisor, however, was, uh, his son-in-law, by the name of Ailes. (Spells) A-I-L-E-S, who had married his only daughter, and he at that time was the managing director of the National City Banks, uh, that debt portfolio and he knew this belongs at one side down in. So he took, uh, Cornwell took his advice, and, and of course I knew how to evaluate his advice better than Cornwell did, because of my experience. He had, he had had limited

experience. But, uh, he was guided somewhat of my opinion of what Ailes gve him, and uh, you couldn't help but follow Ailes, cause he knew what he was doing, only to that extent. Uh, Cornwell could have gotten along very well without me.

JGM: Huh.

HGY: But he, he thought it smart to have some republican collaborating with him. He never said that to me but I always knew that's, uh, that's how he felt. Cause he was a political genius.

JGM: Well, the auditor at that time, Mr. Darce, he had something to do with it too, didn't he, uh?

HGY: No.

JGM: He didn't? Well, according to my notes the, uh, Supreme Court in 1915 gave, uh, Virginia a judgement against West Virginia for twelve point three million dollars.

HGY: Yes.

JGM: Then the interest accumulated on that till 1919, the debt reached fourteen and a half million dollars.

HGY: Yes.

JGM: Then the legislature agreed to pay off about a million dollars in cash.

HGY: Yes.

JGM: And then the state paid off the remainder of something like thirteen million dollars.

HGY: Yes.

JGM: In, uh, West Virginia state bonds.

HGY: That's right.

JGM: And.

HGY: And then they laid a levy pay off the bonds.

JGM: Is that right?

HGY: Well, I'll never forget, I went to Huntington to hear Governor Hughes, uh, make a speech in November 1916, or maybe October, and uh, he was elected on the court when the Virginia debt was decided.

JGM: Uh, this governor, he was the governor of Virginia?

HGY: No, governor for California.

JGM: Oh. And he was on the, he had been on the.

HGY: Governor, governor of New York.

JGM: Governor of New York?

HGY: He was governor of New York. And somebody in the audience said, "What about the Virginia debt?" Some democratic voice. Mr. Hughes pointed his finger at him, he said, "That sir, is a suit which was determined by the unanimous decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, and it should have the blessing of every other American citizen." And he got quite a hand on that.

JGM: I should think so.

HGY: That's what he was suppose to have got.

JGM: Uh, huh (laughs).

HGY: And he carried West Virginia, all except one vote, a derelict, a political derelict, by the name of J.W. Dawson. No relation to William M. O. Dawson. And excepted the position. Can you turn that off?

HGY: (Tape resumed.) I've, uh, on the Electral College, during the campaign he resign and came out for Wilson and the republicans appointed, uh, S. A. Scott, of Fayette County to succeed him. Well, he was so late in getting his name on the ballot that he got beat by a few hundred votes, other that that, all the Electral's Colleagues from West Virginia were republicans. And the, this democrat who succeeded, who succeeded in the election was from Roane County, I forget his name, and uh, of course he supported Wilson.

JGM: Huh. Uh, this was the election of 1916?

HGY: 1916.

JGM: Yeah. Uh, when you, uh, heard Hughes at, uh, Huntington, was that the same year?

HGY: Oh yes.

JGM: Uh, when he was running for president?

HGY: Yes.

JGM: And uh, and he was governor at that time?

HGY: No, he were not governor. I don't think he was, I'm not certain.

JGM: But he had been.

HGY: He'd been governor of New York. Either had been or was.

JGM: And he had also served on the Supreme Court.

HGY: No, not at that time.

JGM: Oh, he came on the Supreme Court later?

HGY: Yeah.

JGM: I see.

HGY: Harding appointed him after 1920.

JGM: I see. Yeah, you've also been quite active in, according to what I've read, uh, with the West Virginia University Alumnus.

HGY: Yep.

JGM: Uh, the establishment particularly of the Loyalty and Permanent Endowment Fund.

HGY: Uh, in 1937 and '38, uh, I was the president of the West Virginia University Alumnus Association and in 1937 at the annual meeting of the association, I introduced a

resolution creating Loyalty Permanent Endowment Fund. Uh, the law firm of, uh, Nile Jackson Knight, and Nile Jackson kind of an old fellow, was suggested by the Kanawha Valley Bank, uh, who was to be appointed trustee as the draftsman for the fund. The late John C. Morrison was the chief draftsman and he collaborated with Edward W. Knight of the firm, Arthur S. Dayton, uh, an expert on federal taxation and Homer A. Holt, who had been attorney general and was one of the state's great governors. And they came up with an indenture creating the fund. And that was approved by the honor association in 1938, and I hand you here with a copy of the last report.

JGM: Is this, this money is invested in the, uh.

HGY: In the income.

JGM: The income is used?

HGY: The income is used.

JGM: You know bout how much?

HGY: I also hand you the West Virginia University Alumnus Magazine of the fall of 1975, which contains a reference to this by Paul Buxton Martin, retiring president of the Alumnus Association.

JGM: Right.

HGY: You may keep both those, I have extra copies.

JGM: Good.

HGY: And uh, I have, the uh, indenture provides for a trust committee, uh, the original committee was composed of Dr. Gory Hogg as chairman, and Judge Burkes Stavairk of Clarksburg, and Charles E. Hodges of Charleston as the other members.

JGM: Uh, huh.

HGY: The present trust committee is composed of Robert H. Seakay of Charleston, as chairman, Dennis L. McCoroy of Pittsburgh, and Clay Miller of Spencer as members. David W. Jacobs, who is retiring executive secretary of the Alumnus Association.

uh, has been and still is the executive secretary since the foundation.

JGM: Huh.

HGY: Uh.

JGM: Uh, this is created pri-primarily to help needy high school students and such?

HGY: Uh, so far it's been exclusively for that.

JGM: Yes.

HGY: They have the power to divert some of the earnings to the university if they see fit, but they've never seen fit to do so yet.

JGM: Uh, huh.

HGY: And, uh, the present market value of the securities is \$739,000,987.

JGM: That's quite an accumulation.

HGY: Yeah. And we have a, a yearly gross income of \$50,000.

JGM: And that's, that's what goes to the students.

HGY: Well, not the gross.

JGM: Yeah, but most, most of it.

HGY: Most of it. Uh, this year we're spending, uh, about 35,000 for the students. And it yields approximately 7½%, uh, I uh, of course introduced the resolution creating the fund, but the credit for developing it goes very greatly to David W. Jacobs.

JGM: He's the man you mentioned who's been with it since it's (HGY: Yeah.) beginning.

HGY: Uh, very few people realize that he has been and still is the leader in the outstanding development of the fund. His writings in the Alumnus Magazine has been responsible for hundreds of contributions to the fund. His ability

to recommend to the trust committee the recipients of awards for scholarships has resulted in the graduation of most of the outstanding students who have been successful after graduation. That's the story of the Sinking Fund Commission. You'll note, let me have that, that, that.

JGM: This one?

HGY: Paul Martin did this article of the Alumnus Magazine and Jacobs says this, the even greater thing about the Endowment Fund is that it will enable many more hundreds to attend WVU in the years ahead.

JGM: Do you have some surviving children, uh?

HGY: I have a daughter, Mary Francis Carter, who's husband was William J. Carter, West Virginia Counselor for Union Fund, died in 1969.

JGM: And her husband died, uh, he had, your, yeah, your daughter is still living?

HGY: Carter died, she's still living.

JGM: Yes. That was the only child, uh?

HGY: Well, I had a son killed in Texas in 1938.

JGM: Really, what was his name?

HGY: Chester Young.

JGM: I want to ask you that inevitable question, uh, to what do you attribute your long life?

HGY: I don't know.

JGM: Have any, uh, good living habits, er?

HGY: My habits have been pretty good.

JGM: Really?

HGY: I played a lot of golf and alot of exercise.

JGM: Is there any rule of health you would suggest to a

young person?

HGY: Quite your smoking.

JGM: You don't smoke at all?

HGY: No sir.

JGM: Uh, any drinking habits, er?

HGY: Water, water.

JGM: Uh, get a good night's sleep every night?

HGY: No, not anymore. I used to.

JGM: You have your weight pretty well under control, or?

HGY: Oh, I guess so.

JGM: I want to ask you this, what do you think of our present governor, if you care to comment at all?

HGY: I think he's been a great governor. Of course, he's had some good breaks, uh, he's had the money.

JGM: Yes.

HGY: But remember that he wouldn't have had that money because the people wouldn't have voted for it unless they had faith in him.

JGM: Yes.

HGY: And as a result, he has brought to almost completion the most outstanding road program of any state in the union. Remember that here in Charleston, is the crossroads of 7, highway 77, 79, 64, and also the road ended at Lincoln and Mingo Counties period.

JGM: Do you have any, uh, forecast on who will be the next governor?

HGY: None whatever.

JGM: Any, any kind of other comments that you'd like to make

that would be appropriate, do you think?

HGY: I'm very glad to have been here for the last 92 years. It has been almost a century of wonderful development, not only in the world, but in the United States and the state of West Virginia. I'm particularly glad to have seen the agreement in the Far East. Is it Far East of Near East?

JGM: I think they call it the Middle East.

HGY: Middle East.

JGM: Yeah, sometimes Near East.

HGY: Uh, which I think protends peace and while the ability to wage war has increased because of developments during the last few years, I think the desire to have peace has been accentuated very much by the ability that nations have to destroy each other and I don't think they want to do it, and I don't think they will. I have three grandchildren, all getting along, prospering and two lovely great granddaughters. I hate to leave them. That's it.

JGM: Thank you very much, Mr. Young.