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### Oral History Interview: Cora P. Teel

Cora P. Teel

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ORAL HISTORY

*1702  
MOH-2*

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I, CORA P. Teel, the undersigned,  
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The Marshall University Foundation, INC., an educational and  
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DATE 11 Feb '86

Cora P. Teel  
(Signature - Interviewee)

1531 Walker Ct, Huntington W. Va.  
(Address)

25701

DATE 11 Feb 86

Dwain L. Lumberg III  
(Signature - Witness)

*MOH-2  
2-11-86*

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY HISTORY

AN INTERVIEW WITH: Cora F. Teel

CONDUCTED BY: Donovan Guesenberry. III

February 11, 1986

TRANSCRIBED BY: Jessica Elza

TYPED BY: Gina Kehali Kates

OHAP Catalog Number: MUH - 2

DQ: ...no. I've already tested the microphones ...the microphones are okay.

CT: If I do that then you can't hear what I'm [interrupted]

DQ: That's right. If you do that I can't hear what you're saying. [she laughs] But in the meantime, today is the 11th of February, 1966. I'm interviewing Cora Teel in her of-office at the top of the library in...in the ...her little archivist room here which is really kinda neat and cute, and it's got all of her archivist stuff laying all around. I always liked this room - it's so comfortable, and I'm Donovan Quesenberry. And this is for Dr. Sawrey's Oral History class, and our project is Marshall University.

DQ: And here we go. [pause] So Cora, what...what's your full name? [pause] Cora Teel, but what else?

CT: Um, my mi-middle name is Ann. (Cora Ann Teel) And my maiden name is Proffitt. (I didn't know that) Yeah.

DQ: Oh, Proffitt.

CT: [spelling maiden name] P-r-o-f-f-i-t-t.

DQ: Uh, that's a good [pause] free enterprise name. [laughter] It's all-American, dollar signs. Doh!

CT: Well, I won't go into the jokes that have been made about it. [laughter]

DQ: Oh, come on, tell me one. [she laughs] Okay, you don't have to tell me one. Um, are you a West Virginia native?

CT: No, I was born in Wilmington, Delaware, but my parents are from west Virginia. And when I was uh, eleven or twelve, we moved back here. So, I'm kinda semi-native.

DQ: well, were you born here and then moved away and then came back or you were born there and then [interrupted] (I was, I was born there.) Oh..

CT: My parents were born here and went to school here and went over before World War II. My dad went over to work in the shipyards in Wilmington. (in Delaware.) In Delaware, uh-huh.

DQ: What shipyard was that?

CT: Dravo. (Dravo, is it still active?) Well, the Dravo corporations are still active. I don't know if they still have their shipyard or not cause [interrupted] (Oh) the reason we came back here was they were shutting down a lot of the operation after the war.

DQ: What were they building, liberty ships?

CT: They built everything, cruisers, uh [interrupted]

DQ: Ah, they built military ships, too.

CT: Yeah, cause he couldn't, to his great frustration, couldn't get into the army because Dravo kept getting him deferred status [interrupted] (Hmm.) for uh, defense work. So he ended up teaching welding to women and uh.... (To Rosy, huh?) Yeah. Rosy the [laughter] welder and to uh, uh, Chinese, uh, men that were sent over here.

DD: To learn that type of thing. Uh-huh. Huh. Nationalist Chinese or [interrupted]

CT: Well, we never knew what happened to them when they went back. Uh, at that time, of course, there wasn't a Nationalist China as we know it now.

CT: Uh, so these...well, now as a matter of fact, he used to talk about uh, there were thirteen of them, and twelve of them spoke mandarin. (Mmm.) And one was from Canton. (Canton, huh?) And, so, he...that one...the others...they couldn't understand each other. So they...[laughter] because the dialects were so different. (right.) So they had a time with him. But, uh...

DD: I could just see now [starts talking like he is explaining something to a foreigner] This is metal, this is weld toge-he-he. That would be funny. [she laughs] What was your father's name? His [interrupted]

CT: Charles, Charles Proffitt. (Charles Proffitt. Uh-huh.

DD: What was his middle name?

CT: Dale. (Do you remember when he was born?) Uh, 1917.

DD: 1917, oh wow, during the war. (uh, yeah.) Yeah. (Yeah.) What was your mather's m-maiden name?

CT: Uh, Anna Juanita Car-Carder. [spells Carder] C-a-r-d-e-r.

DD: Hmm, Carter. Any relation to the peanut clan down South?

CT: Uh, [spelling last name] D-E-R.

DG: Carter? Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you said Carter. [pause]

Um, are you an only munchkin?

CT: Yes. [a little laugh follows]

DG: Really? [says this when she laughs]

CT: Yeah.

DG: Ah, is that good, bad, or indifferent?

CT: Um-m, I don't know [she giggles] It has it's advantages,  
Uh, and disadvantages.

DG: Did your mom work during the war?

CT: She didn't work during the war. Uh, when I started to  
[pause] school, she sold Avon for about a year. And then  
she went to work in Wilmington in a shoe store and (hmm)  
then she worked there til uh, just before we came back to  
West Virginia. And she...but she hasn't worked since we  
came back here.

DG: Where did you live when you came back here?

CT: When we moved back here, we moved back in December in the  
middle of the school year and we moved in...moved in with my  
grandparents in Huntington, my mother's mother and father.  
And I finished the sixth grade at uh, Emmons.

DG: Here in Huntington? (Uh-huh) Oh, okay.

CT: And, uh, then that summer we moved to Point Pleasant, and uh,  
we st...stayed...well then, that's where we stayed  
permanently after that.

DQ: Where...where did you graduate high school?

CT: Point Pleasant High School.

DQ: Point Pleasant. (Uh-hmm) What year was that?

CT: '58.

DQ: '58. [pause] And then you went to college?

CT: Yeah.

DQ: Where?

CT: Marshall.

DQ: And you got your masters here in history.

CT: Well, there was....a lot happened between the time I started in '58 and the time I got my masters in history, but, yeah..

DQ: And now you're an archivist here at the library.

CT: Yeah, right.

DQ: A lot happened. Anything real interesting?

CT: Well....

DQ: The way...I remember you said you lived in Detroit. Did you live during Detroit's...

CT: Uh, no, I didn't live in Detroit. I went to Detroit.

DQ: During the riots?

CT: Uh, no, no, it was just before the riots, I guess.

I...yeah, yeah, it was the year before the riots. Uh, because they were in '67.



DD: Um-hmm.

CT: Uh, well, what I did between 1958 and 1963 was to gra...get my bachelor's degree and get married and have 2 kids...and move away to <sup>Kerr</sup> ~~Canton~~, Ohio and teach school for three years, and come back to Huntington.

DD: Um-huh.

CT: In '67 and work here and there until I got my job in the library, which was in 1973.

DD: How do you like the job here?

CT: I...love it; it's great. [laughter]

DD: You have such a zest for your work. Uh, so what's it like being a archivist here?

CT: Well, I can't compare it to anything because I've never been an archivist anywhere else. Uh...

DD: Well, to other types of work, then.

CT: Well, it's the thing that's....that I finally discovered after trying several different careers that uh, this is the thing I'm best suited to do. So for me, it's uh, the best thing that ever happened to me. Uh, I have the temperament for the job.

DD: Oh, what type of temperament is that?

CT: Well [pause] you have to be able to organize [clears throat] uh, things, the material that comes in...the papers and documents. Uh, it helps to have a...to be able to pay attention to the...to the details of things but at the same

time, you can't get it in all...in, you know, in all of the details and on paperwork. Uh, that's why the history degree was very valuable because it, uh...

[interruption -intercom] Special collection call on line one.

DQ: is that you?

CT: It's the department, I'm hoping somebody else will get the phone.

DQ: Sorry about that. Uh, that was m., Mrs. uh, Naza downstairs was.....(yeah) um...[he laughs] Oh, how I don't want that on tape. Anything [they both laugh] um, well, when did you first meet Dr. Clagg?

CT: He came over here in uh...I think, it was in 1979, the first time he came over, doing some background work on the Cam Henderson book. (Uh-huh) Um, and I did a little bit of searching in uh, uh...president's files during the time that Henderson was here, uh, looking for various things. But he didn't get started on the, uh, on my part of the material, uh, until about 1981. And that's when he started coming over pretty regularly [corrected herself] regularly, and then he uh, he went through the scrapbooks of newspaper clipping that we have, uh, for the Henderson years. That would be from 1935 to 1955. (Um-hmm) And, uh, that was...that was basically what he used. He went through everyone of those, uh, volumes. And there's about three volumes per year, so it was about 60. Approximately 60, notebooks full of newspaper clippings.

DQ: Just for the benefit of the tape, we're now talking about Dr. Sam Clagg, Chairman of the Geography department, the subject really of this interview. His last name is spelled C-L-A-G-G. Right?

CT: Um-hmm.

DQ: Right. Um, when you first met him in '79, I guess he'd been here for approximately 20 years, at that point. Right. What had you heard about him?

CT: I had heard that he was a pretty intimidating character. [she laughs] (Really?) Yes [still laughing] He had quite a reputation for being pretty scary.

DQ: Had you had any personal experience just to back that up at that point and time?

CT: No.

DQ: What...it was just all hearsay?

CT: Yeah.

DQ: Any interesting stories? [she laughs]

CT: Well, all that I heard mainly was, uh, how he, uh, ran the faculty by virtue of his position on the university council.

DQ: What was his position?

CT: Uh, he was president of the university council for quite a number of years, and the university council more or less is the governing body of the faculty, the standing faculty committees. [she sighs] And uh, they have the...the university council has various functions that you'll find

outlined in the faculty greenbook and the faculty manual. I won't go into that here. (Um-hmm) But, uh, one of the things they can do...one of the things that the council does do is conduct the faculty meetings. And Dr. Clagg was, uh, had the reputation for, uh, engineering the meetings. [pause] And I'm not commenting on this one way or the other. [This is just that uh, I had heard about him. (uh-huh) before he ever came over here to work. The other, uh, thing I heard about him after I came to work in the library, was that he was the single, uh, person responsible for the librarians not getting anywhere in their attempt to get faculty status.

DD: Huh.

[pause]

DD: Of course, you're not a librarian...you're an archivist.

CT: That's right.

DD: Uh, so, uh, okay. [pause] So, Dr. Clagg, um, how would you...how would you what's the word I want to...how would you classify, how would you describe his role as president. Would you say, he's a good leader, a bad leader, an organizer?

CT: Well, now you're jumping around here...

DD: I am, aren't I? (to..) [pause] How would you describe his leadership abilities?

[pause]

CT: Well, I'd say he must be a pretty effective leader, or he wouldn't have maintained the position in the council that he

did for so many years. Uh, [pause] he, uh, [pause] he was  
th...the faculty representative on the advisory council to  
the Board of Regents. And which at the time, I guess, was  
one of the highest positions that a faculty member could be  
elected to because it meant that he went to Charleston and he  
was the liaison for the faculty to the board, and, uh, that  
indicates a recognition by the faculty, that, in spite of  
his reputation, he was somebody who could get things done  
and who would, uh, take the job seriously.

DQ: Okay. Getting back to his research on the book, he started  
an in '81 you say?

CT: Well, as far as my end of the research was concerned uh, I  
don't know how long he worked on the book before he started  
over here in the library, cause he had access to the uh,  
papers that the family had saved and I don't know and I  
don't know what the process was before he started into the  
secondary material.

DQ: That was his interest in Cam Henderson.

CT: Well, he, uh, had played under Henderson. Henderson got him  
to Marshall,.... (Uh-huh) uh, in 1939, and then when he, uh,  
came back after the war, uh, he was an assistant coach under  
Henderson, football coach. Uh, so he played under him and  
then worked with him both.

DQ: When you worked with him here at the library, with Dr.  
Clagg, did he ever talk about his relationship with c-with  
Henderson, Cam Henderson?

CT: It's hard to remember now. I'm...I can't...I'm sure he did but I can't remember. (Oh) What he said.4

DQ: Let's see. Henderson, that's H-E-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. Can Henderson, a coach at Marshall. Uh, what type of work did he have you to do when you all were working on that book?

CT: Well, I verified, or tried to verify things for him, uh, if he ran across a reference to something and didn't have a satisfactory explanation for it or a source for it, I'd try to...try to track it down. For example, uh, Henderson was known as "The Old Man", and we tried to figure out where that nickname came from, and uh, I started with the newspapers on microfilm for the summer of 1935 when Henderson was hired and read hundreds and hundreds of inches of sports columnists between 1935 to 1955, trying to find that and other various things, uh...

DQ: Looking for the documents, the documentation.

CT: Looking for documentation for that, and then just whatever else came up that uh, he wanted to have a source on. [pause]

DQ: How would you characterize his research. Professional?

DQ: Extremely professional. As I had....I've done or tried..tried to do verifications for other people, and I never had anybody pursue things so thoroughly as Dr. Clagg. Uh, be...no matter how many answers I came up with on anything, he always had a question that I didn't have an answer to, and I always had to go back a second or third time to uh, to get the answer. It really made me learn a lot about what research is, and uh, how when you think you

have an answer to anything, there's always that one other elusive question that you haven't answered.

DQ: In working that close to... with him and, and going back again and again, did you get a feel for the way his-he works? Did you get a f...an idea or did sometimes did you, yeah, I guess that's what I'm trying to ask. Did you ...feel for the way he thinks about things?

CT: Well, just about the time I had thought I had figured out the way he thinks about things then I found out that there was a...always something more. It goes back to this idea that when I think...when I would think that I had found everything he needed, then he always came up with [laughing] another angle or another question on it. And, uh, there's no end to the depth of now, I guess an electrocuriosity that he has a lot of times.

DQ: How was he [interrupted]

CT: He...he was always fond of saying and is always fond of saying that you can never know too much about something. And that characterizes him pretty well, I think, in that aspect.

DQ: He said that many times?

CT: Yes.

DQ: Hmm. Well, that's interesting.

CT: And you can carry that a long way, it means that uh, you can never read too much, you can never absorb too much. There's

always something more there to be un. gotten out of a book  
or, you know, what ever.

DD: How long did you two work together on that project?

CT: Uh, well. [pause] we didn't really work together that long,  
uh, because the book came out in November '81, [pause] and I  
remember him...him coming over here in the Spring of '81,  
but it might of been the Spring of '80.

[pause]

DD: It would almost have to be the Spring of '80, then. [pause]  
Wouldn't it?

CT: Well, [....]

DD: By the time it got back to the publishers?

CT: I'm not sure. I just...I don't remember. [pause]  
Hum.[pause]

DD: Cora's got a copy of the book and she's looking through it  
now. What...what does that inscription s..say that he wrote  
to you on that?

CT: Uh, you read it.

DD: Okay. For Cora Teel, with thanks for all of your help. To  
express my appreciation requires something I do not have.  
Words?

CT: Words.

DD: Okay. To express my appreciation requires words I do not  
have. Happy reading. Sam Clagg, November '81. and you



wrote down 30, November '81 on the side. That's your writing, isn't it?

CT: Yeah, that's the date...

DQ: That's the date that he gave it to you?

CT: Yeah.

DQ: And this is the Sam Clagg book. [pause] The name of the book is The Cam Henderson Story: His Life and Times by Sam Clagg.

[pause]

Did Dr. Clagg ever talk about his military background to you?

CT: Yes, he, uh, told me various things about being in the marine corps. Uh,...

DQ: What office did he hold in the marine corps?

CT: Well, he was commissioned a lieutenant and graduated from Marshall in '43. (Uh-huh) And, I don't know what rank he held at the end of the war. He uh, went to China when the war was over and got malaria there, and then I don't...but I don't know what the details are about...what his rank was...

DQ: Didn't...he fought in the Pacific, didn't he? (Yeah.) The Island <sup>HOBBING</sup> ~~Hecking~~ campaign? (Yeah.) And then he went to what part of China?

CT: I'm not sure where he was.

DQ: Was he ever in Southeast Asia?

CT: I don't know if he was or not.

DQ: I'm sure he went to Hong Kong in the Phillipines. Did he ever talk about that?

CT: No, I don't....

DQ: So, basically he just told you about how...do you...did he ever talk about which islands he was on in the Pacific?

CT: Uh, I know he was on ~~Pacific~~ *Pacific*

DQ: Um, that's in the Marshall. I think.

CT: And, I don't want to say what else because I might be wrong and if he finds out he'll pounce on me. [they both laugh]

DQ: What do you mean by that he'll pounce on you? [she laughs] You're joking. (Yeah.) Yeah. I'm going to have to turn this tape, it's almost over. There are a few minutes left. I don't want to take a chance on it.

End of side 1.

Side 2.

DQ: ...in the slot in just a few seconds. I think that's got it. Um, he came back to Marshall after the war. (Right) Did he remain in the military [pause] or do you know? Did he ever talk about his...what his...his military work after he got back here?

CT: He...Yes. I, uh, I don't know the details about he..he stayed in the reserves. (Uh-huh) Uh, and retired with a rank of Colonel.

DQ: L.S. or Third Colonel?

CT: I don't know, uh, he..he had said, but I can't remember.  
[pause] And I think he taught some mapping uh, at ~~Guatemala~~<sup>Guatemala</sup>  
but I'm not sure about that; I'm not...I..I've had  
recollections that he did some work for the military when he  
came back here but I..I'm not real clear about it.

DQ: Um-hmm. [pause] In your opinion, how did the military affect  
Dr. Clagg's life?

CT: Well, I'm sure it must have had a great influence on it just  
like it did to thousands and thousands of men who got caught  
up in...in that at that particular time in their lives. Uh,  
I would tend to think that it brought out the best in him,  
and uh, maybe hastened the process of developing those  
leadership characteristics that you're talking about.

DQ: What did you see while you were working with him that  
reminded you of his military background?

CT: Well, I don't know that much about military people generally  
but the things that... the characteristics that he  
displayed, which may or may not have anything to do with  
being...having a military background, uh, persistence and uh,  
well, persistence after the truth no matter what the truth  
reveals and then facing that and dealing with it, uh. It's  
kinda hard for me to draw conclusions on something I don't  
really know a lot about.

DQ: In the military area.

CT: Yeah.

DQ: Okay. Uh, then let me switch...switch tracks there a little bit. Dr. Clagg is a good leader and you demonstrated that wi...in...with his position with the faculty. How did he get what he wanted?

CT: I don't know how he did it with the faculty. Dealing with him on a personal level, just from my dealings with him here in this department, he has an ability to make people want to work for him and to perform well. And, he uses various methods to uh, to foster that.

DQ: what are those methods?

CT: Well, there's I guess, fairly obvious ones except that not very many people bother to use them. One thing was always being very appreciative of any help that uh, he got, and praising a person for the results or for the work that they've done. And, uh, that goes a real long way in this kind of job because we don't get that very often, and, uh, you like to be told that you're doing a good job and that what you've done is worthwhile. And there aren't very many people that took the time to do that. So, when someone comes along and does do that, that just makes you want to work all the harder for them. Because we all like praise, we all like to be told we're doing a good job. And it works wonders.

DQ: Really? [she laughs]

CT: Yes, it does. (It works wonders on you?) Yeah.

DQ: So Dr. Clagg knew how to...to get what he wanted out of you in...in dealing with that book.

CT: Well, that makes it sound a little bit manipulative and I don't think it was that, but I...this is just the way he is....he's

DQ: Uh-huh. What other techniques does he use? [pause] What happens when you make a mistake? How did he handle that?

CT: I tried never to make a mistake. [they laugh] That's the other...uh, side effect of this kind of thing. You don't want to make a mistake. I'm sure I did. Well, he handles that very well. That's another characteristic I'd say, he's fairly flexible. So, there was always a chance to make a last minute correction or last minute change..if..if it had to be done, you know, in the manuscript or in his notes or anything. And I..if we're talking about leadership qualities, I guess that's probably another primary one is to be able to adapt [pause] to circumstances. [pause]

DQ: Did he work with anyone else while he was up here?

CT: Um, he might have, I don't know. If I wasn't here when he came in, if he needed a book or something, he may have talked to other people.

DQ: Nobody else got a copy of his book, though. (No.)(she laughs) Uh...[pause] Did he ever talk about his family?

CT: He talked about his background, uh, to a certain extent. He grew up in the West End of Huntington on West 14th Street. And uh, he had a younger brother.

DQ: Do you know the brother's name?

CT: His name was Harry and he died, uh, in his 60's sometime. He was fairly young.

DQ: Do you know what...why...why he died? He died in his 60's?

CT: Yes, I think it was hear...heart problem.

DQ: Hum. Um, what um, did he talk about his marriage and family?

CT: N..no, not...not to any great extent at all. Um, one time, when we were going through the scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, he found a clipping of...of some kind of home-rec project that was going on on campus. And there was a picture of his wife in there. It was some, uh, sometime between '48 and '55, I think, and he pointed that out. But he...it was mostly professional stuff that we talked about or...or him.

DQ: He has, what, one daughter?

CT: He has a daughter.

DQ: And she's an educator, too, isn't she?

CT: Yeah.

DQ: Is he still married by the way?

CT: Yeah.

DQ: I thought so.

CT: Oh, yeah.

DQ: Where do they live?

CT: Um, Taylor Road, which is out by the Ramada Inn. I think it is now. It used to be the Stone Lodge. Out on Route 60.

DQ: Okay. I know where that is. Out on Route 60.

CT: Um-hmm.

DQ: Toward the mall.

CT: Yeah.

DQ: East of Huntington.

CT: Right [pause]

DQ: After the book came out, did you see Dr. Moffat very often?

CT: Dr. Moffat?

DQ: Uh, Dr. Moffat. What am I talking about! Dr. Clagg. Did you do any more work for him or work with him on anything?

CT: Yeah, after that, um, anytime he had a question about something that the answer might be found up here, he would call me and he still does call me, uh, to track down little details of things. Uh, and then he uh, he may have done this before the book, but I became more conscious of it after the book. He teaches a class in West Virginia Geography and after uh, from about that time, that he was working on the book, uh, at least I started noticing more. His students came over and did a lot of reading assignments. [interruption on intercom]

Maria, you have a telephone call on line one.

CT: And he...he has sent a lot of business our way through classes and uh, those projects that the students work on. Not necessarily in the archives but just in the West Virginia collection in general.

DQ: What did that do to your routine? Help it, hinder it?

CT: [pause] Well, in the kind of work that goes on up here, you don't get a routine, because you have to be ready to drop one thing to...to meet the demands of the moment. So, if you're working on something and a student comes in and needs information, uh, you have to be ready to...

DQ: Kinda like, if somebody wants to do an interview.

CT: Yes. [they both laugh]

DQ: Uh, so it was just every now and then you would do things for him since then.

CT: Yeah.

DQ: Are you...what are you working together on now?

CT: Right now we're on the sesquicentennial committee...

DQ: How do you spell that word?

CT: Oh, gosh....S-E-S-Q-U-I-C-E-N-T-E-N-N-I-A-L.

DQ: What is his position on that?

CT: He's chairman of it.

DQ: He's chairman. [pause] And yours?

CT: I'm secretary.



DQ: When was this committee formed?

CT: Well, it was put together in an informal way. Oh, in '82 or '83. And I had done some preliminary work for him at about that time. And what I...and this is an example of the kinds of things I, uh, do. He needed a list of public schools similar in size to Marshall, who were having or who had just had a similar kind of anniversary, and he..i went through the almanacs to get a list of the school, because the almanac gives the founding date. And, so we just, you know, we went through and uh, narrowed it down to, oh, 15 or 20 schools. And uh, then he took it from there and wrote to the schools and inquired about any kind of anniversary celebration they were...were having or had had and what they did, uh, how long they worked on it, and just various uh, general questions like that to give us an..or to give him an idea of how to get started on it. Course he had been given an assignment by the president or by somebody at that time. Uh...

DQ: Just for the sake of clearing, what is the purpose of the committee?

CT: The purpose of the committee is to plan the events that will be uh, that will take place during the calendar year of 1987 to celebrate Marshall's 150th anniversary.

DQ: What have you accomplished to date?

CT: Uh, we've had some meetings, we have a series of committees. We've made some decisions on some things we want to do. We want to uh, put out a pictorial history of Marshall that would be...uh, not...it wouldn't be like Dr. Mottat's

nistory of Marshall. It would be just more of pictorial, probably a soft-bound booklet. And we want to bring in some outstanding speakers and kinda space them throughout the year. Uh, we're really hoping that we can get the chief justice of the United States to come since we are named for the chief justice.

DD: For the chief justice.

CT: Yeah.

DD: Is that going to be an academic year?

CT: A caldendar year. From January til' December.

DD: Okay. '87.

CT: Uh-huh.

DD: Pictorial history of Marshall speakers?

CT: Well, there are other things. We would like to produce uh, an half hour documentary history of Marshall, uh, through WPBY. We'd like to have some uh. have some televised uh, short pieces on Marshall. Someone's called them the Marshall minutes. Similar to the bicentennial minutes. And...

DD: On radio and television?

CT: Well, well...yeah, televised, video taped or televised, but I guess they could run on televis...or radio, too. And to that end, we've already got a grant, a planning grant from the Humanities Foundation of West Virginia to prepare samples of these. For the spring too uh, attract potential, uh, donors or underwriters for some of these things. We are

also hoping that the fine arts building will be ready to open up in '87. and we'd like to have...uh, you know, some kind of big an...opening ceremony and tie that into the sesquicentennial, too. The artist series will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in '86-'87, so they're gonna get started this fall with some really special programs on the artist series stuff. And then that will tie in with our 150th.

DQ: What has been Dr. Clagg's role in all of these projects?

CT: Well, as chairman of the committee, he's uh, is, you know, the chairman of...of each meeting and, uh, sets up the meeting dates, and uh, organized this, uh, into committees at our first meeting, which was in September of 1985. And, uh, since...we...we've had general committee meetings since then, but then uh, our sub-committees have been meeting to work on the various activities. Uh, the alumni committee was working with uh, Linda Holmes, alumni director to uh, focus alumni weekend and homecoming weekend. For 1987, we'll have a sesquicentennial theme. We're planning uh, reunions of various student groups. One thing they'd like to do, for example, is have a reunion of all the people that went to the lab school.

DQ: Hmm. But now that's very interesting. There's another individual this semester on our project that is doing a...something on the lab school.

CT: Oh.

DQ: Uh, could you tell me a little bit more about that?

CT: About what, the lab school?

CQ: The...the...the. No about the sesquis committee's plans for  
reun...the reunion. Has anything definitely been  
done...definite?

CT: Uh, so far I know they want..to do it, and they have one  
person on the committee who's very interested in working on  
it. And uh, they have talked about how they would go about  
getting a list. And we h..have all the student records over  
here in the archives, so uh, everyone as far as I know,  
everyone who attended from, oh, 1935 or so uh, we have a  
record of them, we have their student record, their student  
files here. Uh, we're not too good on records for very long  
before that. (Oh) Cause the lab school started in 1902.  
There was a training school. (Right) And uh, I don't know,  
I don't know how far back this committee wants to go on it  
but, and I don't know if they want to limit it to the people  
who graduated from the high school or if they want to open  
it up to everybody who ever attended, or just, you know,  
what their plans are at this point.

DQ: How had Dr. Clagg handled the committee to date? What are  
your impressions of the way he handles the committee?

CT: I'm so busy being in the [laughs while speaking] middle of  
it that I [stop laughing] haven't really thought about it.  
We just....we sit around, uh, we have a steering committee  
and we sit and talk about what needs to be done, and we give  
him our ideas and then he takes those and draws up an agenda  
if...if that's what we need or uh...

DQ: Is he well organized?

CT: Oh yeah, yeah. (Meticulous?) Yeah, and then very open to ideas and, you know, again flexible and....

DQ: Are there any factions on the committee. Some people wanting one thing, some people wanting another?

CT: So far I haven't detected anything like that. Everybody's pretty realists, as far as what we hope to do and what we think we can realistically do. (Uh-huh) Uh, and a lot of it depends on how much money we can raise, because it pretty much has to be self-supporting.

DQ: What has Dr. Clagg done about the money situation?

CT: Well, he got me to write a grant [little giggle] for a planning grant, and of course we hope that we can produce some good audio-visual material for the planning meeting, so that we will attract some donations that can be matched by the Humanities Foundation. And possibly other sources. One thing we are hoping is that, for example, that uh, some of the civic groups in town would help sponsor, say a specific speaker. If they would be interested in uh, having somebody really outstanding coming uh, and would be willing to, you know, pay their uh, pay their way here, you know: contribute in some way. (Uh-huh) Uh...

DQ: I wanna change tracks again. We don't have too much more time to go on this tape, and there are a couple of questions I wanted to ask you. Um, how does the, in your opinion, how does the faculty look at Dr. Clagg?

CT: Well [both speak at same time]

DQ: He's getting ready, of course he's getting ready to retire now, and he...he's out. (Yeah.) Is that a relief?

CT: Well, I'm sure there are the...there is a fraction of the faculty that is very relieved, [clears throat] and that sees this as an opportunity now to make what they think will be progress. Uh...

DQ: Dr. Clagg sort of led that one fraction of the faculty. There were, before Nitzschke, the pre-president, there was kinda two groups here on campus wasn't there. Dr. Clagg sort of was the head of one, uh, lead one?

CT: Well, I think there were three groups. I think there were a couple of people like Dr. Clagg who wanted to uh, see that things got done. And then there was a group that didn't agree that the things he wanted to get done were the things that ought to be done. Or in a negative sense, that the things he didn't want done, they...

DQ: they wanted.

CT: They wanted done. And then, there was a vast majority of faculty who don't know anything about what goes on and don't [they both laugh] don't care as long as they get a paycheck.

DQ: How did uh, Dr. Clagg fight them?

CT: Well, I can't really say, I...

DQ: Was he successful?

CT: Being denied faculty status all these [laughter] years.

DQ: So, you're an activist!

CT: I've never been privied to the maneuvreurs, uh [giggles]

DQ: What were an...any of the rumors that you heard?

CT: Well, one thing, I heard have heard for years and years long before I ever knew him was that he had stooges in the audience that were ready to jump up and call for votes at critical times, and their table things at critical times.

DQ: I'd say that would be a characteristic of a very smart [she laughs] uh, uh...how do...how do...how...how does Nitzschke and Clagg get along?

CT: I don't have any idea.

DQ: Are they on the same side in a lot of issues?

CT: I don't know that either. I...I just don't know. I don't know that much about Nitzschke. President Nitzschke.

DQ: What are some of the...the more interesting projects that Dr. Clagg has been able to accomplish here at Marshall while he's been here? That he's been involved in. If you could just list a few for....

CT: Oh, gosh, I hadn't really thought about this kind of thing. Um, the thing that comes to my mind [taped skipped]

DQ: So, basically, what are those same things that he has written?

CT: Well, he wrote a geography text book uh, for West Virginia and for the state of Virginia that's uh, it has a little fact book and then a soft bound set of maps, uh, for

exercises. He wrote the West Virginia Almanac that came out  
in '76 during the bicentennial and in the fif [tape ends]