

HB I want to start off by getting some biographical data so if you would give me your name and some information about where and when you were born.

DM I was born in Marion County, Georgia in 1922, March 8. Soon after that my father and mother and I - I was the first of 3 children, all boys - soon after that we moved to Ellaville, Georgia, Schley County, and I went to high school there. Then after that I went to Georgia Southwestern which was a two-year college at that time. I commuted to Americus, only 14 miles.

HB Tell me your mother and father's name.

DM Her name is Aurie and she's in a nursing home in Buena Vista and she's 96 years old.

HB That's amazing.

DM And my father died many, many years ago, about 40 years ago.

HB What kind of work did your father do?

DM He was a Primitive Baptist minister and he did a lot of other jobs to make a living but that was his calling.

HB Was he from the Buena Vista area, Marion County?

DM Marion County. Both of them. My mother and father married brothers and sisters and that was very typical during that time. People didn't move around a lot and their families were only about three miles apart.

HB Did your mother work outside the home?

DM No, she never did.

HB That was not as typical back then I suppose as it is now. I don't think I've ever met any of your siblings, but I remember you speaking of your brother who was sheriff in Marion County for a while. Tell me about your brothers?

DM Well, I have one other, Johnny died several years ago, he was the sheriff and the one we call Buddy is still alive and doing very well. He has three sons, four or five grandchildren.

HB Was he the one who had the son who was the baseball player?

DM That's Buddy.

HB And he still lives in the Marion County area?

DM Yes, he works for some big agricultural concern down there.

HB And you're the oldest then?

DM I am the oldest. My father lived to be about 55 and my brother lived to be about 54, something like that, my oldest son lived to be 40, and I can't understand why I'm still going at 74.

HB Apparently you got your mothers' genes.

DM Yeah, but got my father's coloring and shape and such.

HB That's a whole other science I guess, knowing where we get everything from.

But I think a lot of people who have known you for a while and know your age are still amazed with the condition that you are apparently in. You look awfully healthy.

DM Well I tell you, I won't give you the name, but at the golf course Friday a week ago they asked me if I was a senior citizen and asked a fellow who is 56 if he was and gave him the senior discount. Everybody got a big kick out of that. Of course I had my hat on and that shaded a lot of my age.

HB Tell me a little bit about your growing up prior to starting to elementary school. Did you live out in the country?

DM Yes, we lived on a farm and my mother and father did me a great service. I never did like to chop cotton, hoe cotton or pick cotton. That just didn't appeal to me, not many other people either, and so they gave me an opportunity to read and study and I took advantage of it because I've said many times in my life that the reason that I'm in college work today is because of the cotton field. I didn't want to stay there. Of course, now days they use mechanical equipment. Cotton was real low and not very high off the ground you see, and it was hard work because everything had to be done by hand.

HB So they didn't require you to go out into the fields?

DM I did a great deal, I did my share, but they let me know, I think, in a very quiet way that if I was going to get out of that cotton field I was going to have to do something else other than pick cotton.

HB They encouraged you to read and study then. Did either one of them have a college education?

DM No, oh no. At that time it was very severe, in fact a high school education was practically, well I'd say there probably wasn't over half a-dozen with a high school education in the whole county. We're talking about times that have changed a lot. I think there is where I got my interest, there and at Americus, in the two-year colleges because Americus gave me an opportunity.

HB At that time it was a two-year college?

DM Yes and I had no way in this world the finances to go to college and so I was able to work part time down there and got through.

HB What would be a typical day as say a four or five year old back in that time?

DM You know, I don't remember.

HB I don't either.

DM I remember at Christmas time that we would get oranges and raisins. Remember those raisins that had seeds in them, and this was quite something. People today, even my kids, never understood that oranges were only for Christmas, you know, and apples, ambrosia and such.

HB Where did you start elementary school?

DM I went to Ellaville Elementary and High School and about the only thing I did in high school was to play basketball and softball.

HB That was an all in one, first grade through 12th grade school?

DM Yes.

HB About how many were in your graduating senior class?

DM 20 something.

HB Not asking you to reveal any deep dark secrets, but how was your academic work in high school?

DM I wasn't the top, I wasn't the bottom, I was up maybe top five or ten. I never made an effort to worry about grades.

HB Can you recall anything, say one or more factors, that really got you interested in going on to college instead of the cotton fields. Were there other people, other than your Mom and Dad that supported the idea? How did that all come about?

DM Well they, my mother and father, supported it, but by that time I had already decided that I was going ahead if I could and so my father took me down to Americus and arranged it.

HB Any teachers or other people like that that might of influenced you from high school on?

DM Yes; the coach influenced me some, but I don't have any particular ones that stand out.

HB How long did you play basketball?

DM I played every year. See high school was only 11 then and you could play from 8th until 11th.

HB Now you're about 6'2".

DM No, I'm 6', a little over. Used to be 6'1" but now I'm only 6'. No really, I think I've shrunk about three quarters of an inch since I was a kid.

HB But you, what position did you play, that was fairly tall then wasn't it?

DM Yeah, but I was thin. I only weighed 155 lbs. My only recollection about basketball was one time that I went up for a ball with a guy that weighed 200 something and I broke my collar bone and that put me out of action for quite some time.

HB You didn't get a lot of scholarship offers to play basketball?

DM (Laughter) No, first of all there was no such thing at that time and the second is that, no, I didn't take that very seriously. Now my wife was all state in basketball and she took her basketball seriously. If they'd had a professional league she probably would have ended up there.

HB How did you and George meet?

DM In class at the University of Georgia.

HB OK, before we get to that, tell me a little bit about Americus, Georgia Southwestern, was it called Georgia Southwestern then?

DM Yes.

HB What was your major?

DM Well at that time we didn't have majors as such. I was just working on an associate degree. And at the end of that time, jobs weren't abundant and I didn't know what I could do and there was not much I could do. War was coming on so through

DM No, I'm 6', a little over. Used to be 6'1" but now I'm only 6'. No really, I think I've shrunk about three quarters of an inch since I was a kid.

HB But you, what position did you play, that was fairly tall then wasn't it?

DM Yeah, but I was thin. I only weighed 155 lbs. My only recollection about basketball was one time that I went up for a ball with a guy that weighed 200 something and I broke my collar bone and that put me out of action for quite some time.

HB You didn't get a lot of scholarship offers to play basketball?

DM (Laughter) No, first of all there was no such thing at that time and the second is that, no, I didn't take that very seriously. Now my wife was all state in basketball and she took her basketball seriously. If they'd had a professional league she probably would have ended up there.

HB How did you and George meet?

DM In class at the University of Georgia.

HB OK, before we get to that, tell me a little bit about Americus, Georgia Southwestern, was it called Georgia Southwestern then?

DM Yes.

HB What was your major?

DM Well at that time we didn't have majors as such. I was just working on an associate degree. And at the end of that time, jobs weren't abundant and I didn't know what I could do and there was not much I could do. War was coming on so through

my fathers efforts, he had heard about it from some people in his church up in Butler, I was named principal of Wesley Grade School. I was 19 at the time. It was a four-teacher school.

HB Where was it located?

DM In Butler County.

HB Now Dr. Walraven told me that he had only two years of college, not necessarily a two-year degree out of University of Chattanooga and at that time in Georgia you could teach with two years of college.

DM Well as a matter of fact most people did have two years of college.

Baccalaureates were long and far apart.

HB So tell me about your Principalship.

DM Well I made about, with my supplement as principal, I made about \$90 a month and I had no car and I boarded very near the school and I remember I paid \$19 a month for a room and two meals a day. Actually it was three meals a day. We generally ate at school. By that time the government was giving the schools mostly pork and beans and such as that and we'd open them up and heat those pork and beans, and the kids and I would eat them and have a big time.

HB Tell me the details of how you came to be named principal.

DM A person from one of my father's churches told him that they were looking for a principal.

HB You had finished high school when you were 16 or 17, so you were finishing two-years of college at age 19, OK.

DM So I went up for interviews, got it. I think the reason I got the job was because of my father, no doubt, because they had, I think, the correct assumption that a ministers son ought to be a paragon of virtue.

HB No doubt. How many students and teachers?

DM We had four teachers and the only problem I had was in two fields. One is teaching math without being able to use trig, they hadn't had trig yet and you have to teach math to 7th graders without the trig and that was hard. The other thing is that the high school students came back - we were kind of a pooling area - and they would distribute them around to the various areas, and so we had a lot of high school students there that were as old or older than I was.

HB How long were you at Wesley?

DM I was there a year and then the war was coming on and I knew I couldn't stay. I went to Martha Mills in Thomaston and got a job in the Personnel Department and worked there until I was drafted.

HB Do you remember the exact date when you were drafted, what year?

DM I have it somewhere but I...one thing, I don't generally dwell on the past. I never have and even today a lot of my friends are always talking about what happened and such as that, but I guess I'm an eternal optimist. I always think about what's

coming up and look forward to things. In fact, this is the first time I've talked about all this in 30 or 40 years.

HB I think a person's heritage is one of the most important things but a person's future is probably more important. I know you've talked before about your role in the World War II as a medic, in the medical corps or whatever they called it then, could you tell us about that.

DM Well, when they drafted us, all the ones throughout the country that were drafted that particular week went into the medical corps and I was sent down to Camp Hudelon? in Texas and

HB How do you spell Hudelon?

DM I don't know, I hadn't thought about that since I left there. I never did like that place, but it was down near Polasis??, Texas and very close to the coast there. A few things that I remember about that place. One is that they we would go out on maneuvers and such things and poison ivy and mosquitos would just bug those guys from up north. They didn't bother the other boys that had been living with them. But the other thing is, we had to dig fox holes at that time - this is in basic training - and that soil down there is nothing but a black rubber-like stuff. You could take a pick and you drive it down, but the pick's going to bounce back farther than you hit it because of the soil. But it was typical basic training there. I stayed there a little bit as I was the pharmacist for our division. I guess it was because I was one of the few that had two

years of college, and one of the ones that could read and do simple arithmetic.

HB You served in Europe?

DM Yes, we left there and went up near Amarillo and from there to New Jersey.

From there we jumped across the ocean to England, stayed there a few months. When we went across to France they had already captured it quite some time ago probably two weeks or more I guess and so we followed them on. I don't generally, I haven't talked about my war experiences because a lot of them I've tried to repress and such. I guess one reason is that I lost so many of my friends in there. We probably lost two-thirds of our outfit.

HB This was after the landing at Normandy?

DM Yes, after Normandy we stayed in the apple orchards for a couple of weeks and we headed on up. Our first winter there was in the Belgium area up in the mountains and that was an experience for a fellow who had never seen snow before in his life except for just a little bit, but nothing like that. We were waist deep in snow.

HB When were you discharged?

DM I don't know. It must have been '43 or '44.

HB And where did you come back to?

DM I had a lot of opportunities in the service but I didn't want to stay. I didn't want to go to OCS. I came back and I made application to the GI Bill which is the greatest thing that ever happened to this country as far as I'm concerned. I could go any place I

wanted because of the GI, well just about anyplace. I made application to two places, one the University of Alabama and the other to the University of Georgia.

HB The big question is were you accepted at the University of Alabama?

DM I was accepted at the University of Alabama. I had my bags packed to go to Alabama and when I got the notice from University of Georgia. The reason I went to University of Georgia was because I had a cousin who had also been over in Europe and that had transportation and that was the way I could go over and get back.

HB When you came back from Europe did you return to the Ellaville, Marion County area?

DM Well, my folks by then had moved back to Marion County, so I went back there. But I was only there a week, I think, after I got back that I took off to school.

HB So you went to Athens, did you live in the dorm?

DM Yeah, I lived in a dorm and I remember out on Ag Hill and there were two of us in the room and we had a little balcony, one of the few that had balcony's. We could sit out there and watch the Bulldogs practice. Wally Butts was coach then, quite an experience.

HB He was quite a man. Now you had already two years at Americus at Georgia Southwestern, how long did you stay at University of Georgia at Athens?

DM I stayed about two years, three years. What happened is before I finished my baccalaureate I was invited to go take graduate work with Charles Hudgins. Charles

was one of the leaders in the country in the business of counselor education and so he offered me a scholarship and assistantship.

HB Had you already gotten your undergraduate degree?

DM No, I'd already gotten my baccalaureate and he offered the assistantship to me for my work on my masters. So I stayed there as his graduate assistant and that was quite an honor for two reasons. One, it's hard because not many people, he could only take one and he had a lot of people that wanted them. But being able to work with him was an honor because he was one of the finest persons that ever lived. During that summer Mike Zeran, who was then with the Office of Education, came down to teach a course at the University of Georgia. He was a visiting professor and he had quite a name in this particular field. He had publications galore and I took the course and so he told me that whenever I got ready to continue my education to let him know. And so I remembered that, but after I finished my degree I got married and we moved to Atlanta where I took a job at what was then the University of Georgia Extension Division at Georgia State which is now Georgia State University and I stayed there a year, I think it was a year or two, that's when our daughter was born. And then from there contacted Ohio State and Colorado and Kansas and Michigan State and Oregon State. At Oregon State, Frank Zeran remembered me and gave me a good deal as his graduate assistant. So we packed up a little girl, Meri Lynn, and George and I went to Oregon.

HB OK, so you finished up your undergraduate degree at the University, stayed on under Dr. Hudgins, had a class with Frank Zeran from the Department of Education, finished your masters degree, worked at what is now Georgia State the extension in Atlanta for a year or two.

DM Dr. Zeran had then moved over to Oregon State as Dean of the College of Education Psychology.

HB It's like being in the right place at the right time.

DM I have been unusually fortunate, truly blessed all my life. I got that assistantship with Hudgins, I got that assistantship with Zeran. They had many, many graduate assistants at Oregon State but I was Zeran's only one. And there's nothing like being the Dean's boy. I filled in classes for him, taught the classes when he was in Washington and other places, and I also taught courses over the state. He worked out my schedule so I could do this. Many times I'd go across to Albany, I was at Corvallis, go across to Albany which was 10 miles over there, and catch the train, go down to Klamath Falls, teach a course, spend the night there, come back home the next morning. One time I traveled all the way up past Portland once a week. These were good days for me. I loved Oregon and, the people were unusually nice, even though there again I was the youngest person in the classroom, I had no particular problem.

HB Now we're talking late 40's early 50's?

DM Yeah, '48-'49.

HB Your masters degree, specifically what was the name of the degree.

DM Master in Education.

HB And you got an education doctorate?

DM Yes, see they didn't offer the Ph.D. at Oregon State. Oregon State is the Georgia Tech of Oregon, it's an engineering school. They only offer the technical degrees and they call those Ed.D. a technical degree.

HB How long did you stay at Oregon State?

DM Two years. People have often asked about the Ed.D. and Ph.D. The difference in Oregon at that time was that if I had gone to the University of Oregon I would have had to taken a foreign language and since I didn't I had to take this degree.

END OF TAPE SIDE 1

HB Could you can get me a date on your degree? We're getting up closer to present time now. Let me go back, you've already met George and have actually gotten married and already had one child by this time. Let's go back and talk about your circumstances surrounding meeting your lovely wife who's probably a better golfer than you.

DM She's a better athlete all around. We had a class together and I was attracted to her. She was about the cutest little thing I had ever seen in my life to tell you the truth, and we courted a lot.

HB This was when you were finishing your undergraduate or the masters?

DM Undergraduate. My father married us in my brother Johnny's house down at Ellaville.

HB Now George is from Cherry Log up near Ellijay. What county is that?

DM Gilmer.

HB Now she played basketball in high school?

DM Yeah.

HB Did she play any collegiate ball?

DM No.

HB She was strictly a student then? What was her major?

DM Education. She started her masters but she never did finish it because she dropped out for us to move to Atlanta.

HB Meri Lynn was born before you went to Oregon State. When did the other children come along?

DM Well next came David, born at the University of Mississippi. He was born at Oxford and our next one, Sari, was born at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson and our fourth, Kenny, was born over in Augusta, Georgia.

HB What were the circumstances surrounding your moving from Oregon to Oxford?

DM Well, you have to go back and realize that a doctorate at that time was something that is very scarce and colleges were actively recruiting the people contrary to now where you have to send in 50 or 100 applications. If they could find somebody

that's recommended by the Dean, they hired them without all fanfare and such. I had several what I consider real good offers. I remember one around Fargo or something in that area - these were administrative positions as well - and we looked up the temperature and found that it was one of the coldest places in the country and so we erased that. And another offer position was at a college in Kentucky, Berea. They were very interested in me and such but when I found out that you couldn't smoke I erased that because I smoked a pipe then. And then there were others, I went to Arkansas State for an interview and a fellow named Love, he was a Vice President, anyway the Dean of Students over at Ole Miss called me and asked me if I would come over to Oxford when I finish the interview there. And so Arkansas State agreed that would be alright, and so, when I went over, there I found my home. I stayed there as Director of Student Activities. Let me say that Director of Student Activities was entirely a new position. They'd never had one. The old Dean of Men and Dean of Women had retired or were retiring and so they were setting up a new administration. So I stayed there in that position. Interesting enough, one of my responsibilities was fraternities, had nothing to do with sororities, but fraternities and student government and such and I didn't even know the Greek letters when I went there. But then after that the Chancellor, J.D. Williams, was a con artist like some of the others, he talked me into being the Director of Personnel for Ole Miss when the previous one left, so I held down one-and-a-half jobs for a year. And then when the medical center in Jackson

was opened they talked me into going down there - there was a cadre of us that were asked to go down, or was sent down. That was a new position entirely, a new school, new buildings. Buildings weren't even complete when we got there.

HB So the Medical College had never existed?

DM No, just started. They had two years of medical school up at Ole Miss campus but this was putting the full degree down in the new buildings and that school did very well. I stayed there for nine years. I loved it there and then I went to a meeting over at South Carolina, actually I went over to look at the new dorms at South Carolina because we were getting ready to build some and they had an interesting new concept. I know you remember where they had the core and such that's something that was new at that time. And I went over there and stopped back at the Medical College visiting, looking around, and I ran into a fellow named Harry O'Rear.

HB You just showed up in Augusta?

DM No, I had an appointment to come down and visit them.

HB Just to look it over not for employment or anything?

DM Yeah right, and so Dr. O'Rear, another very important person in my life, one of the brightest most forward thinking persons I think I've known. Anyhow he and I, somehow I got to meet him, I didn't expect to get to meet him.

HB He was president then?

DM Yeah and he asked me, there was two or three of us there, and he asked me what

kind of arrangement would I suggest and such as that and so I told him and he said how would you like to do that and anyhow it ended up that I went over there. Now that was completely new, if you remember they had a registrar there who retired and director of admissions there who had retired, that woman I can't think of her name.

HB Was Bob Smith the Registrar?

DM No we brought Bob in. We had one secretary that was left over from all the turmoil and so that was my first real start from scratch. No my first one was over at Ole Miss, the second one was the Medical Center in Jackson. You know I have never followed anyone yet in my life, that's something that few people can say. Anyhow I stayed there about 10 years and loved that place, still do.

HB I want to come back to the Medical College and then of course to Floyd but I'd like to go back a little bit and just talk about some things in general before we talk specifically college and we've been going about 55 minutes now and I don't know if you're getting tired or brain dead or what.

DM I've been brain dead for years.

HB I know that golfing is important to you and of course I've talked with Dr. Walraven about his golf exploits. Golfing was important not only to yourself but to the college in general. You still play a lot of golf even today don't you?

DM Well, I had a reputation as the person who played golf all the time. That wasn't true, it was more talk. I do play a lot now and I enjoy it. Gardening, yard work and

all of that - anything outdoors I enjoy very much.

HB Do you still have a garden even today?

DM Oh well, we had a real good garden this year but all that 100-110 degree heat and no water just about ruined it. But see I grow apples (looking out the window) and by the way I pulled those (on the table) for Walraven.

HB Are those pears?

DM No, those are apples. We put up, my wife and I have made preserves till we have preserved ourselves. But I have raspberries, I have several three kinds of raspberries, yellow, red and black, and I have several kinds of plums and I have nectarines and peaches. Made peaches galore this year, best peaches I've ever made. I have pears and like I said, apples.

HB Did you have any figs this year?

DM Not many. Didn't have enough because there's a special person I save the figs for. But what happened this year was that the birds got them, what few we had.

HB About a week ago we opened up the last jar of fig preserves that we made from the figs you gave us last year. We only use them when Peggy makes biscuits.

DM I was going to suggest you go out and see if there is any on the tree, I have not looked in a week or two. But when I came here I liked the people here and I have a lot of friends, and it's easy when you have friends. For example, like in golf, golf has been awfully good to me. I used golf, that's how we got the nursing program from Ben

Ansley. Over at Coosa Country Club, Ben talked me into doing that because I knew what a problem it was at that time.

HB And that conversation took place on the golf course?

DM Yes and the other thing is that many presidents would go visit other states either looking for jobs or building contacts such as that. I built more of my contacts in the community. Remember we used to have the superintendent of the county schools, superintendent of the city schools and Coosa Valley Tech officials and others that we played with all the time and so golf was more than a game to me. Golf was a way that we had a chance to get out and meet people.

HB As Dr. Walraven said, it was a place you could in a casual way talk about problems.

DM Right, and actually our relationship with Coosa Valley Tech came about partially through golf and continued through golf and one reason we never had any problems was because Derwood Powell, Wes and I and Tom Berry and you at times and others were in contact with various ones and it was a friendship type of arrangement and business at the same time, but it was the best of both worlds.

HB Do you still get to play with some of these people - some of the old timers on the Floyd College tour?

DM Yes, last Friday we had a kind of a reunion. We had Ernie Martin up from Atlanta. Ernie is one of the three or four people that left us over my tenure down at the

college, but he left in friendly terms - we think the world of Ernie. Ernie and Scott Callan, his wife works there you know, and Charlie Blalock, Jack Sharp and Forrest McKelvey. Forrest was Representative for many years and a good friend of ours. There was Steve Burns, there were about nine of us that played.

HB Did you play down at Callier's?

DM No, we played out at the new course at Stonebridge. And it was rather interesting. I think that most of those guys when they think back at their college experience, think back to that tournament that we had.

HB Wesley said that he still had some of the papers that he would look up for me with handicaps and schedules and the names of the tournaments.

DM We enjoyed going off to the various places like over at Guntersville, various courses and places, but the only thing I regret about that is that I couldn't play as well then as I can now. I'm playing the best golf of my days.

HB I got to a plateau and just never could improve and that's one reason I quit, I just never got passed it. I don't know what it was.

DM Well, I just changed my swing, now I get 30-50 yds more.

HB Probably with less effort. How's retirement?

DM Well, I have never had a job that I didn't enjoy. I've always looked forward to going to work at every job I've ever had including the time that I worked one summer down at Rich's as a service representative, I enjoyed that. I did not enjoy cotton

picking and such as that but I'm talking about the real jobs. I enjoyed being down at Floyd College, the people, I enjoyed the community. But I'll tell you one thing, I enjoy retirement more than anything I've ever done. It's hard to believe. I prepared myself for it.

HB How did you do that?

DM Mentally. I think it's awfully hard for some people to just jump from total commitment to one thing to a total commitment to something else or to nothing, most people do it to nothing, and I was able to jump into like this coffee club and these other things.

HB What is the coffee club?

DM It's just a group of retirees that meet once a week. John Bertrand is member, former President of Berry. Randall Minor was a member until he died recently, we miss him very much, and some physicians, other people.

HB Where do you meet?

DM We meet over at Duffy's. And so it's those contacts that I have a lot of. I have some golfing buddies from there and I have some golfing buddies from the college and I have golfing buddies from Coosa and so I have the opportunity to play with a group every day of the week. You say that some courses are closed on Monday but I have a friend who is over at Horseleg Creek, we play occasionally, that's open on Monday. Stonebridge is open on Monday and I have a lot of friends that belong down to Meadow

Lakes and that's open on Monday, so I don't have a problem with finding a place. But if I didn't have those opportunities, it'd be a little different.

HB I didn't realize until I was talking with Dr. Walraven but believe it or not he actually had golf instruction when he was in college.

DM He did? I don't want to comment on that. One of the great disappointments in my life is Wes getting cancer because we had planned to spend our lives, we were before he got to where he couldn't, but we would play once or twice a week over here and then we switched times I'd play with him down at Cherokee in Cedartown and then he'd play with me up at Coosa so we had a thing going for us until that happened.

HB But you've never had any formal instruction in golf?

DM Oh no.

HB Did your interest in golf start when you came to Floyd?

DM My interest in golf started before I came over here. Just a few months before I came over here my wife insisted that we go - you know where Daniel Field is in Augusta, you know the golf course there they call it the Cabbage Patch - she literally forced me to go over there with her several times. And so I played there several times I guess for about 6 months once every month, something like that, and I came over here and started.

HB Do the two of you get to play much together anymore?

DM Not much, she has her own friends that play.

HB Now I want you to be honest, when you do play together what's the outcome?

DM I'd say about even.

HB She's just a natural athlete is that right?

DM Yeah, she's not as strong as I am, she doesn't take as much exercise as I do. She doesn't play nearly as much as I do, but if she were coming along now I would imagine that she would be headed for the pro circuit.

HB Your health seems to be real good.

DM Yeah, it's hard to believe but I don't have anything that I know of that's serious.

HB I think you surprised a lot of people at your retirement when they discovered what your age was then.

DM Well, I've never had anything except pride in my age but a lot of people didn't know it I'm sure. Several people asked me why I retired and of course I told them that was I was coming up on mandatory retirement and I couldn't say anything about that because I'm one of the ones that was so much in favor of it over the years in our president's meetings and such. I thought that 70 was a good age to have for retirement.

HB Would you recommend it?

DM Well, if I had it to do over with I would retire when I was 65. One reason I didn't want to retire was because I was afraid that there'd be too much turmoil there at the college.

HB Looking back over the long haul, things have developed real well. Reflecting

back, are there some other directions perhaps that you wish you had gone?

DM No, there are a lot of things that I wish I had done and I don't want to mention those, but I'm at the state of life that I'm about as happy with myself as I've ever been. I have no regrets. There are things of course that I wish had not happened, but I don't have a guilty conscience about things. But I wish I could have done more for ones that made my life possible.

HB We are approaching the end of the tape so this might be a good time to close out today and see if we can get together again to talk specifically about Floyd College and how that came about.

DM Let me tell you, do you have time for one thing? To show you how times have changed, it took a year and a half or almost two years for them to find somebody to replace me. It went through all these committees and all these interviews and such as that. But in order to get me, George Simpson called me one day and said, "Dave, how about coming up, I want to talk to you about going to Rome." And I talked to Harry O'Rear and Harry said, "yep, he's already talked to me about it," and said, "you better go," or something to that effect. I went up and talked to him and he said, "I want you to start now in about a month" and that was it. There were no interviews, no other than with him, he simply picked me out and sent me up here.

HB Wes and I talked about pretty much the same thing because you recall you and I were over in Athens interviewing faculty prospects and Dr. Walraven was across the

hall from me and later on you mentioned his name to me and I said yeah I met him there - he's a nice guy - you ought to check into him, and Wesley gave me all the background and said that you finally got him down to the Chancellors office and I don't think he actually went in to see the Chancellor but you were in there and the two of you came out and the Chancellor said, "congratulations Dean."

DM Actually, Wes and Linda came over to Augusta. That's where we talked about it. And you know of all things, I have been fortunate that I've been able to work with some people - for example there was never any doubt in my mind who was going to be Student Affairs at Floyd.

HB At one point there was in mine.

DM I can understand that. But I was kind of surprised that you took it. But anyhow, there was not any doubt and with Tom Melton there was never really any doubt because he's the most knowledgeable one in the System. But with the Dean it was different. Horace Sturgess was the president of Kennesaw, and so when I called Horace, he didn't downgrade Wes but he didn't praise him either, he didn't give me any encouragement. In fact, I think if I remember correctly he said I don't know whether he's the guy that you're looking for.

HB He knew he was about to lose him.

DM And I knew Horace and I knew that what he was doing was trying to save Wes. But there again, there was never anybody really under consideration for that position.

Now that's very unusual.

HB Well I've never regretted it. I'd like to go back in a little more detail on that next time we get together I'd like to know the circumstances surrounding your being named President of Floyd College, I'd like to go back and go into a little bit more detail on that. When would be the best time to come back?

DM Anytime in the morning, no I can do it anytime. I didn't realize that so much time had passed. I haven't talked this much in so long.

HB That'll do you good, you might have a headache when its all over though.

END OF TAPE