

OSBORNE: This afternoon is June 21, 1978 and seated in my office in the college library and across from me is W. A. Rice more familiarly known as Bill who was Chairman of the Geology Department.

REMINISCENCES

RICE: Rocky.

OF

WILLIAM A. RICE

OSBORNE: Rocky, a two years?

RICE: Three years.

OSBORNE: Three years.

RICE: It sure does.

OSBORNE: But he's still been on campus, he's a fixture here at the college. I want to talk with him a little bit about his background, how he came to the college, some of his experiences on the campus. Let's start off first, did you grow up in Delaware, Bill?

Interview by
N. Yost Osborne
June 21, 1978

RICE: Delaware, Ohio. For clarity.

OSBORNE: Yes. All right.

RICE: And Ohio Wesleyan and Yale, two years at Utah State Ag. where you were supposed to vote ya in faculty meetings and I voted as I darn pleased. That was only two years.

OSBORNE: Prepared by the Rodman Public Library
for the Oral History Project, Alliance, Ohio.

RICE: Why should I?

1978

OSBORNE: That's

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RICE: That seemed to be wrong. And a year with Shell Oil Company, a year at Chapel Hill and that was the winter of 1910 Pearl Harbor so I went to the T.V.A. labs. And then I started fishing for a smaller college in and near Ohio. And after some preliminary flirtations, here I am.

OSBORNE: Okay. Well, when I was in college here one of the teachers, although she was in administration, was Sarah Stevenson. I took history with Sarah and sometime, a couple of years after you were here I happened to run into her and she mentioned something about this, is there a Professor Rice. And I said yes, Bill. She said, you mean Abbott. And I never knew what the A stood for until she had mentioned that. But you've been known as Bill on the campus here.

RICE: I made that change between high school and college from my middle name to my first.

OSBORNE: I see.

RICE: Which is alright, it's a convenience.

OSBORNE: Was that a family name?

RICE: Yes, it's my mother's family name.

OSBORNE: That's what I wondered.

RICE: And I remember Sarah from my early days in Delaware. Her father was one of my father's colleagues at Ohio Wesleyan until Stevenson died prematurely.

OSBORNE: Well now just to digress a bit your father came here to, I remember his staying with you here for a number of years until his passing. But was his father connected with old Wesleyan in the east?

RICE: Yes, in Connecticut. He was the Geology Department there from, oh, probably 67 or some such time until about 1910 or so when he retired. I couldn't give a retirement date.

OSBORNE: Well, then your father was at Ohio Wesleyan.

RICE: Yes.

OSBORNE: And he was in Biology was it?

RICE: He was in Zoology. Of course the "chair" of Zoology was rather wide spread, he taught some Botany before he got a Botanist in. He taught Geology for a year before one of his old sidekicks Westgate came. Just as Lamb here was referred to when starting out occupying the sette of natural sciences.

OSBORNE: Right. That covered a lot in those days.

RICE: Yeah, and he covered it pretty well.

OSBORNE: Yes, right. Well, what was your interest, you went into Geology on your own. Did this background have anything to do with it?

RICE: Well a family background had something to do with it. My favorite professor whom I had known as far back as I can remember because there was my father's close friend who was a Geologist. I've always been interested in shapes and patterns and colors and textures. If I took a, well I did take the Kuder test here once when we were giving it, for the heck of it, and I had a high interest in science. A still higher interest in art. And the two do overlap in many respects, both are a matter of design and pattern and fit.

OSBORNE: Well, when you came you were a one man department. Isn't that right?

RICE: Yeah, Mount was out of date then. And it took us a while to make a two man department. And Bob Wiese came '64. And incidentally all I did for Bob was show him the out crops, the collections which were a mess, and tell him the boiling points of the executives, in so far as I had discovered them. And he is the man who modernized the department, expanded and revised the curriculum. I was tied up in things like Geography and Physical Science Course, which was one of our temporary, admirations in curriculum.

OSBORNE: That was a general education approach.

RICE: Yes. Well, it was long overdue that he was made officially the head of the department. Heck, if you get a young man in there with new ideas you turn him loose.

OSBORNE: What would your area be in Geology: how would you describe your speciality or interest?

RICE: I never specialized, of course I grew up on fossil bearing rocks in Ohio and have been interested in land forms as a development largely by erosion. My dissertation is on old sedimentary and igneous rocks in Canada, working for the T.V.A. I was sort of an off breed mineralogist both about our mineral raw materials and on the darndest things that the chemists and engineers made by intent by accident. Of course you can handle natural rocky substance or an artificial rocky substance by a similar microscopic technique.

OSBORNE: Well now to go back a minute, you indicated that Professor Lamb was occupying a pretty large chair in natural history. And although your catalog description read Geology, there were many students who would have said probably it was

a large cloak of natural philosophy or some such title that you occupied because you didn't confine yourself just to shapes of rocks and convolutions of the land. You taught so many subjects in your teaching. This is a part of your approach isn't it?

RICE: Oh, I suppose it was. If you scatter yourself widely enough occasionally you hit something. What is it they say, a specialist knows more and more about less and less until he knows everything about nothing. The generalist knows less and less about more and more and in turn becomes mentally unbuttoned.

OSBORNE: Well I think, many students seriously felt stimulated because of this spread over into other fields and the trying on ideas not just rocks but....

RICE: Well, why not.

OSBORNE: I think this is a mark of an interesting, of a good teacher, Bill.

RICE: Well, spotty, but it was fun. Of course I learned a lot from those kids too. Including a few things that I shouldn't and then they learned a few things that they shouldn't.

OSBORNE: Well I think it's the reports. And the students come back who ask about you, the stories they tell; it's been, you've been a colorful and stimulating teacher.

RICE: Well it really has Yost. Before the efficiency experts got rid of the loop holes and pleasant interludes in our curriculum. And then we had chapel two days a week for two classes and two days a week for the other two classes. Of

course there was a period in the morning that half of the campus was loose. And the snack bars in the old fraternity house here off the corner of the campus now the Admin. annex or in the basement of Miller certainly we're built for Methodist togetherness.

OSBORNE: Yeah.

RICE: And unless it was football or basketball season and a couple of my colleagues and a couple of coaches were doing pass mortums on the games the conversation never got anywhere. And no class distention between the Freshmen and the senior faculty members, and not very reverent. I'd say if it's interesting, let's look at it, it doesn't have to be a rock.

OSBORNE: Right. And I suppose you spent as many hours drinking coffee as in the classroom, if you'd analysis it.

RICE: Yes, this is a confession but that's close to it, in fact some of the classrooms have been in the coffee shop.

OSBORNE: Well that's interesting atmosphere and it does promote a good give and take like that. Did you know Charles Ketcham before you came to the college?

RICE: No, I didn't. I think I had heard the name, but he graduated from college just in time to be a Chaplain in World War I and I was born in 1912, and there was not much overlap in our schooling.

OSBORNE: Right.

RICE: My father knew him, recognized the name. Of course Dad was on the Athletic committee and Ketcham was in track. What I know of his Ohio Wesleyan years I've heard either from him or

from my father since I came here. Professor Lamb was here and

OSBORNE: I didn't know if because of his connection whether you might have known about him or not. It might of been one of the reasons that you got in.

RICE: That may of had some influence. But I think Ketcham played that perfectly fair. Actually for what Mount was offering then there were not many candidates for the vacancy in Geology.

OSBORNE: Yes, that's probably right. Well now Professor Lamb was still active and quite lucid when you arrived wasn't he?

RICE: Moderantly active. He would get out and work in his garden and as I get older I can began to understand the pace of that work.

OSBORNE: Yes.

RICE: And he was quite lucid, extremely discursive. And it was rather hard to get a conversation to arrive at a point, in a reasonable length of time, but clear. And some very interesting recollections which I tried to write down and I hope eventually to get a few bits and pieces of information edited from his own recording and so forth.

OSBORNE: Yes.

RICE: See now that I'm retired I have a chance to throw away papers like this pile that I just gave you.

OSBORNE: All right.

RICE: And every hundreth paper is worth looking at and maybe annotated for posterity.

OSBORNE: Well I think, of course Professor Lamb was here and I think after him was Cooper and then there was Osborne Fuller and then a fellow by the name of MacKnight and then I think you were the next person to....

RICE: Percy Strong was in there. And he was doing a good job in the field and then practically all in a matter of ten months he was gone. A man and a quarter. A man.

OSBORNE: I don't know where he went. campus. Which of course

RICE: Yeah, that's where I knew him.

OSBORNE: I see.

RICE: In fact he and Westgate worked out a paper there. Fuller went to Ohio State and it was during Fuller's stay that Lamb was officially retired, that would have been in the very early 40's. haven't done anything.

OSBORNE: Yes. ever let Zoology grow at a full status up there

RICE: MacKnight I think ran less than a year here which was in the shuffle. most of it was.

OSBORNE: During the war years. we just this spring that Marietta

RICE: During the war. I think he asked to be relieved from his contract practically in mid term. Certainly in mid year. been one of their strong points for many years.

OSBORNE: But what I was going to point out, that for the length of time that the subject has been taught there have probably been fewer people in that department than any other department on campus. RICE: That was a separately funded affair.

RICE: Yes. And I still say it should get more emphasis. I thought we had it going, I figured that when I retired they could get in a full time young squirt. In fact I'm not so sure

I would have retired, if I hadn't seen that possibility. We were running about a two and a half man department there.

OSBORNE: Well I forgot to mention Percy Strong was here.

RICE: Percy Strong was in there. And he was doing a good job in paleo and then practically all in a matter of ten months the department was cut to about a man and a quarter. A man and a rented course from somebody off campus. Which of course does not add to the faculty.

OSBORNE: Right.

RICE: It adds to the teaching but not to the faculty.

OSBORNE: I suppose though there is a pattern: I think Hiram gave up Geology long ago didn't they? A number of years back. They haven't done anything.

RICE: They never let Geology grow at a full stature up there and part of it was handled by a man who was essentially a Biologist. I think most of it was.

OSBORNE: I think someone told me just this spring that Marietta was giving up their Petroleum emphasis down there, which had been one of their strong points for many years.

RICE: That was a separately funded affair.

OSBORNE: Oh.

RICE: I don't know what it was, but it is independent of the Geology Department.

OSBORNE: I see.

RICE: And I think it was rather long in Petroleum Engineering and I doubt if it ever rose to the stature of schools like Tulsa,

a couple in Texas, and so on.

OSBORNE: But I think over the years though, I just pointed that out that Mount Union had a distinction for the emphasis that it did have. Now you may have thought that it should have more, but the emphasis it did have.

RICE: Well Lamb had no push. Lamb was pushed around by his colleagues and I can see why. And then there were attempts in my early years, and I was less polite about them. And colleagues are tending to play the numbers game. If you can get more noise out of a tuba then you buy a tuba instead of a flute.

OSBORNE: Well I don't know what, certainly you would think with space exploration, with the critical area in minerals that some people would think just on practical ground this would justify, some emphasis on Geology.

RICE: I think that Geology is one of our salvation sciences, partly for minerals which you mentioned, and some of the technological boys to the contrary. We are going to find substitutes. We're going to learn how to do without on some of those things. Now if it comes to fuel where you can make substitutes out of corn husks expensively. But even more in terms of the nature of the Geologic process, what is going on on the surface of the ground. Can we afford to take this ground out of agriculture and pave it and put high rise apartments on it. And what about our surface and underground water supplies. This is as important as Ecology, in fact it is the substrate of Biological Ecology as any Ecologist can tell you. And in the Geologic process we deal with the surface and near surface

movement of materials under various conditions. A botanist can not operate without a geological substrate and incidentally the green stuff growing on top of it actually modifies all of the erosional process which is obvious. No, it ought to be part of the educated person's common sense, and it used to be.

OSBORNE: Right. Well maybe with the emphasis....

RICE: Back when Geography was not dissolved in Social Studies kids grade schools got some redimentary Geology.

OSBORNE: Maybe with this thrust that Harvard, the emphasis, that Harvard and some other schools are trying to make on more of a core curriculum, maybe we'll have something of that coming back.

RICE: Well I would hope so.

OSBORNE: Even effect us here eventually and we'll catch up with it. Well, something else I'd like to touch upon, I think during your career here you've been a gadfly in the best sense of the word. Not only in faculty meetings but in the Dynamo and in other places on the campus. And I think you've not only taken a great relish in it but it's been something that's been needed on many, many occasions.

RICE: Well thanks for that past tense of the word. My motives have been mixed Yost. Sometimes I've been a gadfly because it had to be done and sometimes I did it in the same way with the small boy throwing pebbles in the pond to watch the ripples. There's a certain amount of experimental deviltry in that. Well, Yost any small, closed community tends to become absurd. In fact I'm not sure but what the whole world is absurd but if somebody presents a different viewpoint then some of the

absurdities show up. You know I had the most fun in class I would simply bring the globe in and mount it upside down on its spindles and the kids would say you've got it upside down. I said what do you mean upside down? Which end is up?

OSBORNE: I remember years ago when we used to have Freshmen receptions, you remember at the beginning of the year, the faculty would line up and would meet all the Freshmen.

RICE: Oh, the gauntlet?

OSBORNE: Yes. On one occasion the faculty had gathered early, before, or some of the faculty and you were one of the ones and you came in, remember to the reading room of the library. And there were three or four people in there and you jumped up and clicked your heels and let out a war hoop, you said, "I've always wanted to yell in the library reading room." I was interested in the reaction. Being the Librarian it didn't bother me in the least but two or three other people said, "that's that Bill Rice, you'd think in a library he'd know better." And they just, I mean the sense of convention you know, they just couldn't.... But afterwards one of them came around and said, "I didn't want to say it at the time but I've always wanted to do the same thing, but I just didn't have nerve enough to say it."

RICE: That's like old Bobby Stauffer. He's the only one radical in that crowd. I deny that story, Yost, I have no recollection.

OSBORNE: Don't you?

RICE: I think you're dreaming it.

OSBORNE: No. No. I'll swear to that.

RICE: Add it to the legend.

OSBORNE: I'll add it to the legend, right. Right. Well, speaking about legends on the campus. A number of, three or four years ago I was talking to a number of students and I said I think this is an age of conformity and faculty have become conformists. And I said, as I look back when I was a student there was Isaac Taylor-Headland and there was Pop Eckler and Mary Eckler and there were a number of others and they were what we would call characters and I just don't think there are characters on the campus today and the students all sort of smiled and said, well you just aren't with it there. There are still characters.

RICE: I remember that. And everyone of them stood there laughing. Well, you laid yourself open on that, Yost.

OSBORNE: Well, I suppose maybe being a part of the establishment you don't view it in quite the same way. What I was going to lead up to in your experience here if there were individuals who have come and gone, the administration or faculty that you consider to be distinctive or unusual in any sense like that.

RICE: Well, of course when I came here perhaps the legends on the campus were Pappy Pappenhagen who ran a chemistry department very skillfully and Frosty Shollenberger who was sort of a bull in the woods and tried to terrify people occasionally. We got along fine. And Bill Morgan who in addition to a very level headed job on campus which I'm sure you have recorded and should.

OSBORNE: Yes.

RICE: Has been a power in the community for sabriety in the broadest sense of the term and the Ecklers. And I liked them all. And I might say that one of that crowd, one of those no longer living offered us some wine in our early years here on a summer afternoon when we were sitting on the front porch. And they brought it to us in tea cups and said we have wine glasses but we're afraid the damn Dean might drive by. We just as soon have him think we were drinking tea. It was alright with me, it tasted very much the same either way.

OSBORNE: Of course remember....

RICE: And Bob Stauffer, whom I never had quite the nerve to call Bob Stauffer until later, was a very quiet and yet very effective influence for clarity and intellectual integrity on the campus. I'm sure that I'm missing some.... There, of course there were Dolly and Martha Engle and Engle had done a good job in teaching anatomy and probably never gotten full credit for it.

OSBORNE: That's right.

RICE: I said Dolly and Martha. I should have said Ohmer and Martha. And Martha, I guess, did a lot of work for you in the library.

OSBORNE: As cataloger. Right.

RICE: What I remember most is when they were putting on Medea in the basement of Chapman on an improvised stage and they didn't have enough backstage room so some of the cast spilled over through the steam tunnel into the then new library basement for more dressing room. Martha Engle paged the elevator one day and it arrived half full of naked Greek warriors.

OSBORNE: Yes, I remember when they used the basement, that was quite a classic setting for the production.

RICE: Yeah, I'm sorry that I missed that because we had a whiz of a Medea that year.

OSBORNE: That was quite good. I remember when John Gunnell - that was before your time - in the early 40's, when he came, he wanted to do some Noll Coward sophisticated comedies and of course there was profanity and also cocktails. Charles Ket-cham said this will have to be tea and you might have one "damn" but you'll have to cut out all the rest of the dialogue. John Gunnell was just beside himself. He had gone to Yale to work-shops there but he had to conform, he had to do that to put it on.

RICE: Oh I think that was true. This place was at least on the surface rather straight laced when I came.

OSBORNE: Yes, it was still, very much.

RICE: But gee I've stretched some of the lacing. They also stretched the minds of the faculty because they were not that bold.

OSBORNE: Yes, well I think it's interesting in that connection that Melvin Hyde who probably still carried this concept of a very Victorian straight laced operation later on when he retired as President of Evansville and came back. He used to laugh and smile about it. He said, "If I were here I would do it much differently." But at that time this was a different experience for him.

RICE: Well Melvin was pretty young to be a Dean, overworked.

He ran a tight ship. He griped me from here to breakfast a couple of times. But I had a good deal of respect and liking for him as well as disagreement. And he mellowed as he became older, and surer of himself. I believe he was a swell college President.

OSBORNE: Yes. Well that was....
RICE: And then, well Bill Morgan ran a holding operation in
OSBORNE: I'm sure. When he left he called me over and gave me the Dean's office and did it very well. Was he right after some letters that he had received and he said put these in a historical file to be opened in thirty years when the people are no longer here. And he said, these are letters that I would have fired off a real sharp retort to when I first came but he said I've learned to sort of take the punches and live with that. And as you say when he left he was beginning to mellow at that point. Well we had Bill Wesley after that and then Francis Christie. That was a time with Christie that we, many people felt that we were going to intellectually reform things and put some things in motion but they never just really got far enough. At least they didn't do what we had hoped.

OSBORNE: Right.
RICE: Well I think that is true. I did not get any intellectual stimulation from Wesley. I got a tremendous amount from Francis Christie. So, I think, did the whole faculty. And I think part of the trouble right in there was that, Mount was looking in two directions. One was toward academic excellence; and I hate to put it crudly but the other was towards prettified architecture and decor. And my impression is well rounded that there was a budgetary pull both ways there. And some good faculty members left partly because they couldn't get what they needed here. Thank God a good deal of the decor that was inflicted upon us has been quietly disposed of or worn out.

OSBORNE: Yes, attrition has taken care of that.

RICE: I don't mind the money that went into it but the esthetic corruption of the students was what irked me.

OSBORNE: Yes. Well that was....

RICE: And then, well Bill Morgan ran a holding operation in the Dean's office and did it very well. Was he right after Christie or was he after Bernie?

OSBORNE: He was after Bernie.

RICE: Well Bernie did not stay long enough to make a major impress on the campus.

OSBORNE: Right.

RICE: So in a sense we ran through his career on momentum. And Morgan quite rightly was not instituting new policies. He was getting the machinery in working order where it needed oiling.

OSBORNE: Right.

RICE: And, I got a funny by play on that one day. I did something and, in connection with that irregular appearance of an exam for the student. And I simply called up Morgan and told him what I had done. Well he must of had one too many students that day and he said I had no right to do that. I think he was off base. But I said well I'm sorry but I've already done it, and _____. I won't do it again. He had to make a great many decisions very fast. And you see the effect. We had about four years there where we did not have the continuity that could have led to, shall we say a recognition of the academic excellence that we have for the most part had, but have never been

able to sell because we were selling buildings, and style.

And we went through some curriculum revisions. Now no school should ever have to go through a major curriculum revision and it simply means that you've got something like a thermostat which does not respond correctly. You should go through steady curricular revision.

OSBORNE: Okay now we're on.

RICE: All right. Do you remember where the tape was?

OSBORNE: Oh, I think you were talking there about the publicity release.

RICE: Oh, a recent graduate had become a large part of our publicity department. He was doing interviews of faculty, and he went around to the Ecklers house, and he had two faculty members to interview there; they both had books all over the place and climbing the walls in orderly shelves and they were books the Ecklers had looked into. Hundreds of them. More books than this kid had seen in all of his life. And the publicity came out that Professor Eckler was an expert on George Meredith, which was true. "He has read all of George Meredith's novels, he has read thirty-seven books." And we kidded the Ecklers, "they had read thirty-seven books." To have read thirty-seven books. I used to persuade students to read a book, and one girl, the daughter of a colleague and a senior said that is the first book that I've read in college. She enjoyed it. But I couldn't quite twist her arm into reading another.

OSBORNE: Well I don't know this is something that's baffled me from the time I've been here. What we can do, the atmosphere on this campus. There are other campuses where there's a different

ethos and that's just a part of it but here it's almost something looked down upon by a great many if you....

RICE: Yes it is. Well I've heard freshmen being counseled: this is a party school. I've heard that by staff as well as by students, acting as counselors, and students. Just as the blind shall lead the blind and both shall fall in the pit, in daily venacular conversations. Now we've sold ourselves short.

OSBORNE: Well we were, we were coming up on the progression there, administratively. I'm not trying to have you make a comment on that but I'd just be interested in your relationship with DeBow who was a different kind of Dean than any we had before or had since probably. BeBow Freed. Or if you want to make no comment we'll let it go at that.

RICE: I liked him very much, respected, and admired him. I think in some respects he had an impossible position. He knew in detail what was going on on this campus and he did it by walking around and talking with people and listening to people. He scared me one day, I was practicing the base part for something, we were singing in the chorale, in one of the cubby holes in the music hall. I took it out of the house out of courtesy to the family. 'Till I learned the tune. I just about fell off the piano stool there was this man peering in the door. Three o'clock on Sunday afternoon curious to see what was happening. I think he brought us too much of the efficiency and proper procedure. God knows we needed it, some of the efficiencies and some of the procedures. And he did stimulate certain of the services on the campus to function this year instead of next. Of course I'm a little bitter here because he

took Percy Strong out of Geology into quarter time or something like that in admissions. And the quarter time was, it was about third quarter before we, you saw what was left of Percy. But I think this accounting of how many student hours does a professor teach on the campus is ultimately self destructive on a campus. Now I remember, I'm not picking on Sociology, but we had an argument that the Sociology department should be allowed to put in some new courses because they had a large growing program. And I got the Dean to strike that out, I think he'd written it. That it was not a department's function to grow indefinitely it was the school's function to pass judgments on what it should be doing collectively. As far as the program that was requested was concerned, it was okay and I would be glad to vote for the program but I would not be willing to vote for it if it was justified in those terms. Sorry I only thought of it afterwards, one might say this is a fine caviar let's feed it.

OSBORNE: Well it's interesting you'd make the observation that DeBow went around and no one on the administration for years at least have done that.

RICE: Christie did.

OSBORNE: Yes, but this was in a period of time. But someone on the faculty was pointed out, when it was pointed that DeBow was doing this and listening and said the only other person on the faculty who does this is Bill Rice, which is an interesting comparison at that. And I think that's something that you did over the period of years you were here. You listened not only to students in your major in Geology but you listened to students in music and over at the center and other places you met with them.

RICE: Well, the Geology basement was to damn cold. I had to go and get some coffee to get warm.

OSBORNE: Well I'm sure that's an excuse but that's not the real reason. I think you.... The "plombiers" are doing it.

RICE: Curiosity. That's right. That's right. Boy they....

OSBORNE: Yes. But I think it was a good leavening. Many of the rest of us were to busy or too formal.

RICE: Chick Sales did it.

OSBORNE: Yes, I think Chick did that, some of that.

RICE: Bob Wiese had his eye out.

OSBORNE: Yes.

RICE: You'd be surprised what Bob knows that he shouldn't.

OSBORNE: Yes.

RICE: And there are people doing that all the time and you see it's accidental that I'm in science. I entered college as an English major. Let's say it's a hereditary disease. They practically flipped a coin with Zoology. In a different environment I might have later grown up as an instrument designer. In fact I did some of that with the TVA. I flirted, I've fixed plumbing, I've done things to the house that are overdue and I could not merely afford to hire them done. Some of them I could not get done at any cost.

OSBORNE: Well I think this is true today.

RICE: Well you learn that in the laboratory. After all if you can fix a microscope you ought to be able to fix a kitchen faucet.

OSBORNE: At the prices today you'd better be able to fix it yourself.

RICE: Yeah, oh yeah. Yes, yes, yes. The alchemist dreamed to turn lead into gold. The "plombiers" are doing it.

OSBORNE: Yes. That's right. That's right. Boy they....

RICE: It's simply, I have never highly specialized in any one thing. I sort of specialized in one specialization. I think this has a certain amount of survival value.

OSBORNE: Right. Right. Well I think the, one girl come into the library one time and was surprised and a bit shocked and yet was quite amused and taken by it. She said, Professor Rice came in to the classroom and he didn't come in through the door, he came in through the window.

RICE: Oh yes, that's when Wilson had not been shot gun welded to Lamborn, coming from the campus from the West there's window sill at ground floor level, oh I climbed this long step down to the floor on a spring day, the windows open, the class is in there. Interestingly enough though that story has followed me with embellishments right up to Wilson 219 and how I got in the second story window of the building has no windows, remains to be seen.

OSBORNE: Well that's how the myths and legends grow on that.

RICE: Oh yeah.

OSBORNE: Yes. But I remember this girl came up and that afternoon when it had happened. What about some of the students, were there foreign students here that particularly struck you or just regular native Buckeye students. Or do you find them

homogeneous and occasionally a free thinker.

RICE: Well yes, Shippy Sharpneck was a senior when I came.

OSBORNE: That's right.

RICE: She'd been promised Geology the next year ever since her freshman year. And then in that same class there was Pre-Ministerial student asked me after our first lab, a little walk around on the campus, was there any scientific evidence what-so-ever in favor of the so-called theory of evolution. And I decided that I'd better come in swinging and I said yeah there's so much evidence that people who know anything about it, take it not as a theory but as a law. And I thought oh my gosh if there is a thousand more like him it will be interesting. But Andy Broscoe was there and though he majored in Physics and went on in Geology, Shippy was there, she was present wherever there was a Philisophical argument, and a kid by the name of Reynolds was there, and they lit into him; so he sat all five of us on the grass and all he did was moderate for two hours. Till finally he said I can tell you one thing. I said sure go ahead. He said, "you know how many ribs a man has?" I said, "no, do you?" Well he didn't know either. He said, "well I don't know but I know he has one less than a woman." And I looked at him and I said, "you better walk over to that building and go up and consult the skelton. You have said something that all of the people that have performed autposies, dissections and skeletal mounts and so on have never discovered and I don't believe there is a word of truth in it. Well occasionally a person has one too many or one too few ribs. But yeah, there were arguments then, and arguments about religion on this campus. And then in my early years I met the

occasional person who was shocked by evolution. Just is my father had met then at Ohio Wesleyan and I think the clientele here when I came was Philosophically in terms amongst other things he requested an evolution, conservative to a level more like what I had known at Ohio Wesleyan before World War II. Or even before that. In other words we had more rural and more from the hills. And fewer city sophisticates on the campus in those years. So I had helped a couple of kids and I didn't make them believe in evolution; in fact I made a treaty with one named George. He went into the Ministry and he was very conservative. "You don't have to believe this but you might as well know that it is a widely undertained theory and you ought to be able to know what the devil's argument is so you can confront it." That was George Hamshire....

OSBORNE: Oh, George, yes.

RICE: And he was not scared of the professor or the devil and the kids would make a book about once a week on the arguments of his class. And I never knew who was going to win the argument, he was skillful: he pulled an A in the course.

The best semester we ever had in historical Geology because George sharpened the argument.

OSBORNE: Yes, it would.

RICE: And there were various reprehensible characters that I thoroughly enjoyed. We'll leave some of them nameless. And some awful funny things happened on the college campus. And Yost we don't have a TV and we don't listen to the radio. Why should I pay money and spend time looking for funny things when I can walk across the campus. You just have to see funny

things. And when somebody points them out to you on a TV program and underlines them with grease paint and the yellow magic marker saying joke, laugh; it spoils all the fun of it.

OSBORNE: Well I, Dr. Headland who taught here for many years had a Philosophy of life that he was quite noted for. But one of the precepts that he had was that he would not pay money to go to the theater or motion picture because he could meet great ideas, the greatest minds in books, he could sit at home and do this why should he pay money to go down to some second or third rate operation. And he said you just save your money. This is what he admonished students.

RICE: Well this is interesting but sort of too bad to miss some of the great ideas that spill over in Shakespeare. Didn't he even make an exception there?

OSBORNE: No, no, he was a Methodist to a point that he said, "I never go to the theater, you know why?" Because there are painted women around the stage doors. And you are corrupted morally so you stay away from theaters." No, he was quite a Methodist Moralist at this point.

RICE: Yes, I can see back to that Yost. See, my Grandfather was a Minister and although he taught Geology and taught evolution rather early. I know something of the Methodist tradition. And I must say that some of it was hanging on this campus in those Pre-Ministerial students. The bright kids like Refus and Douglas and there was another one in that crowd, wanted to revive the Headland Club which was, it was no great credit to Headland at the time, that with the forward looking young Ministers; and I said how many of you are there? And

they said well there are about sixteen of us that can't stomach it. Well there were less than that many in the Headland Club. I said why don't you join them and out vote them. They tried it and they couldn't take it. And really I think there are places where the Methodist tradition here within my memory and perhaps even now, has gotten a little bit stuck in its rules. And the rules have become empty and perhaps it is not the rule that they want but something that might be considered by the old terms good taste, common sense, courtesy, good form, self respect, or respect for your fellow man. Which is where rules start out, and then they get petrified.

OSBORNE: Well, you should be on the campus now because there's a resurgence of what I suppose we'd call fundamentalism.

RICE: Yes, three of them were praying for me my last year on campus and I thanked them for it because I think they were doing it in courtsey and good faith.

OSBORNE: You should have been at the last faculty meeting because there was quite a discussion. Of course the last meeting of the year and everyone was, or I should say many were feeling very philosophical over some of the minor points that aren't too important. But there was a constitution up for discussion, consitution of the Little Flock. This is a religious group and they want to be approved. And there were some individuals that thought this had very sinister overtones. They were questioning. I didn't speak out, I felt like Mao Tse Tung said let one hundred flowers bloom. I think the more they have like that the better; it isn't going to hurt anything.

RICE: You know it's interesting I said to Brownie Ketcham my first year here when we were on, I guess we were on the Religions Life Committee. He was a student and I was a faculty member. I said, "Brownie, this is a secular campus." He said, "how right you are." There were a few people that I would call religious fossils. Absolute literal interpretation-ists like my friend who wanted to know if there was any evidence of evolution. Like the kids who prayed for Dick Scott: he heard about this evolution and historical Geology and he was Pre-Ministerial. And they tried to read him out of the Pre-Ministerial group and they were praying for him and I said, "Dick, they are not praying for you they are committing intellectual assault and battery on your psyche; forgive them if you care about the kids who were praying for me. They were not trying to force me. I didn't think that Kappa Phi would go on this campus. It's going great guns. I don't know I may have voted for a constitution for it, this or something like that. I think the splinter group is somewhat like the splinter groups that I've had some contact with, the counter culture or the communes, natural foods and so on is partly a revolt against an establishment which does creak in places, on campuses. God knows it creaks in the town and in the state and in the nation. It creaks unnecessarily but they want to go off and withdraw from the daily business of the communal society and I'm not sure but what eventually these little religious groups are sort of like small clubs of kids out in the shrubbery. Hiding from the grown ups and hiding from the big boys down the alley and not quite willing to live in the world and contaminate themselves by it. Lin Yutang has a footnote somewhere in the

Importance of Living, "A High Monk, a high Monk in China unlike the ordinary Monk of the Monastery goes back into the world. Eat dog meat, drink wine and talk with the prostitutes to constitute some other sinners - like Jesus." Well I think they would be better if they'd join some of the existing groups of which with all kinds of Protestants that we have there ought to be enough already without bringing in some new ones.

OSBORNE: Yes.

RICE: Join in some one of those and leave it, and if they found themselves contaminated by the world they can go take a bath.

OSBORNE: Well I suppose for many of them it's part of the growing up process they have to go through. And through this this is an experience for them.

RICE: I am very much amazed by this whole past four or five years, religion has been spreading on the college campuses. And it has been spreading nationally and I might say that both on the campus and in the nation some of it is healthy and some of it is in acute virulent forms.

OSBORNE: Well I suppose where there is a vacuum nature abhors that and it's an attempt on the part of many people to try to do something at this point with the problems that face them with the pressures that they have.

RICE: Some problems we just have to live with.

OSBORNE: I know. But these are pressures.

RICE: This is no solution, there is no pie in the sky and there's no use dreaming yourself up the idea that there is.

I think a lot of it is a outgrowth of a feeling of general insecurity. Good Lord, we're all insecure.

OSBORNE: That's right.

RICE: But I'm not going to sit on my fanny because I might be run over by a truck or shot by a person. I'm not going to die of boredom protecting myself from all of these things.

OSBORNE: Well there were some individuals who came on about the time that you did, Glenn Clark was one.

RICE: Yes, and I wish you'd gotten a history on him. Good man, Glenn and....

OSBORNE: That's right he's very much so. And very stabeliz-
ing influence on the faculty.

RICE: Very level headed. Very clear, although he and Paul Chapman Head of English entertained me one day. They were trying to re-word a sentence and they moved every word in it before they got to the right word. The clearest mathamatician, well spoken, literate, have been.... It was one of those problems where you just couldn't seem to get the right part out. Glenn was a pleasure and so was Stoney.

OSBORNE: Right. Now you're refering to Stoneseifer, just for the sake of the record.

RICE: He did his work to seriously and he killed himself by overworking. a good sense of humor overworked as much as anything.

OSBORNE: I was talking to Mr. Lamb the other day and he said you know someone was talking to me a while back and he refered to Stoney and he said I didn't know who they were talking

about.

RICE: Well any of the students in Stoney's days would recognize him as Stoneseifer.

OSBORNE: That's right.

RICE: They owed him a lot too.

OSBORNE: Right, right.

RICE: They better come back and endow the college with a building known as Stoneseifer.

OSBORNE: Right.

RICE: Okay name some others.

OSBORNE: Well, there is John Saffell.

RICE: I can't remember whether John came before I did.

OSBORNE: He did, I think just in the summer and you came in the fall or the next spring.

RICE: I thought it was the other way around.

OSBORNE: Maybe, maybe he came in the fall I'm not sure.

RICE: It seems I had priority over him when it came to the Procession.

OSBORNE: It could be, it could be.

RICE: Well that is a stimulated mind.

OSBORNE: And a good sense of humor.

RICE: And a very sharp sense of humor. John and Helen both. A pleasure.

OSBORNE: And of course since Mom and Pop Eckler we have no combination like that on the campus.

RICE: No, and I sort of took them as parental figures really. And I guess many of the students on campus did.

OSBORNE: And probably we won't have any combinations like that with administrative laws being what they are. You can't, and that is true not only here but in other institutions as well, so it's....

RICE: Yeah. Well I think that was a matter of temperament. That was a rare combination and one that was quite possible.

OSBORNE: Right.

RICE: Yeah, and I suppose I have seen, well in about five years I was about half way up the commencement procession which indicates the turnover. I've seen an awful lot of good faculty come through here and find themselves dead ended, underpaid or inappropriate to the place and sometimes they found it out and sometimes we found it out. Sometimes we made mistakes on it. But there, I've seen times here when we did not have what you want to have in a faculty. A relatively small proportion of older ones a large middle group and some youngsters coming in. And in other words we had a bunch of one and two and three years on the campus people and a classic crowd that we started out with in our discussion and darn little in between.

OSBORNE: Yes. This is true. Of course everything has been pretty much frozen now because of the economic situation.

RICE: Yes and I'm not sure that we have not been frozen because of excessive caution.

OSBORNE: This is true. But this is pretty much true on every campus.

RICE: I know it's true on every campus.

OSBORNE: I can't tell we're getting down to near the end do you have a parting word of wisdom or colorful recollection that you want to record for posterity.

RICE: All right, after many unprintable words of conversation, thinking of something, one thing that I have sensed here is missing. I grew up on the Ohio Wesleyan Campus, my father was pretty well along in years when I became aware of the campus. And I knew that that campus was essentially run by the faculty. That faculty had continuity through some rather sad administrative changes, and it still does in order to survive. Now I asked my father when did the faculty take over the leadership of Ohio Wesleyan. He said "they don't know, it was largely done when I came." I think that was in 1899. And I think that is something that Mount should consider. We have a terrific faculty here really. Better than we know. But it has been only under rare circumstances, part of the time under Christie, was a Golden Age, when the faculty had what I would consider to be not merely it's proper share but one of it's proper functions in determining the shape of the college and its policies. You see administrators can come and go and the whole college President can, leave but even in a bad year you don't change more than a third of the college faculty. So there is continuity and yet there is always new blood coming in. And they should be, I think, the body politic.

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