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ALLIANCE ROOM

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OSBORNE: This afternoon I am interviewing Mr. Robert E. Stauffer, who for many years was the Librarian of Mount Union College and also the professor of Greek Literature-- Language and Literature. REMINISCENCES the Joseph Lorain Shunk Chair of Greek Language OF Literature.

ROBERT E. STAUFFER

STAUFFER: Yes, that's

OSBORNE: I want to talk *Stauffer, Robert Elmer* impressions when he first came to Mount Union around the turn of the century and later when he rejoined the college as a librarian and a professor of Greek around 1920; and his impressions over the years, what he would like to say. Well, let's start off first with, how did the college strike you when you first came as a Freshman?

Interview by
N. Yost Osborne
December 11, 1973

STAUFFER: Well, I might say that my recollections of Mount Union go back more than half the history of the college. At least 72 years and possibly 73 or 74 years. I first learned about Mount Union through a high school teacher, Miss Stanbaugh, who later married Judge Slusser. She got me interested in Mount Union and it was convenient. I had an offer of a scholarship from Ohio Wesleyan but the fees at Ohio Wesleyan were higher than the scholarship. So although Mount Union had discontinued scholarships at the time that I enrolled, I decided it would be cheaper to go to Mount Union than it would be to go to Ohio Wesleyan.

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OSBORNE: Now, you were at Kent at this time, is that right?

STAUFFER: At Kent, yes, uh huh. Then I organized this club.

OSBORNE: Was there a Kent Normal at that time?

STAUFFER: No. Kent State or Kent Normal had not been founded yet. It was several years after I graduated before-- probably I would have gone there because that would have been much less expense.

OSBORNE: Now, you're talking about what year when you....

STAUFFER: I matriculated in 1902. And I knew about Mount Union about 1900. And I recall very vividly coming to Mount Union and going to Dr. Shunk. And he was the one who first got me a room. He took me down State Street and he stopped at several houses along the way where they took student roomers. And we passed several and no one wanted to take anybody. But finally we reached the Wickershams who lived in an old house next to the railroad and they took me in and I stayed there for a year and I did my own cooking. My father was a grocer and got groceries cheap, cheaper than I would have. But the next year I organized a boarding club, and that was the way I made my expenses through college.

OSBORNE: Now where did you have the boarding club?

STAUFFER: Well, there were several people--the first one . . . I waited on table at one that would be, well, Mrs. Korans, I think had that one.

OSBORNE: This is Professor Korans?

STAUFFER: Professor Korans, yes. And Mrs. Quick before that, I waited table at her place. Then I organized this club. My supporters were chiefly those from two fraternities because I had pledged to Sigma Nus and they seemed to be very chummy with the Alpha Z Deltas at that time. So that those two, the fraternity and sorority, supported me and were my boarders. Mrs. Chain was a very good one, I won't mention all of these while I had the club, but she was a very neat person and she was hospitable. And we had a very good club then, we had about thirty-four members.

OSBORNE: Now, you'd have breakfast, lunch and dinner, or what?

STAUFFER: Yeah, you usually had the heavier meal at noon.

OSBORNE: I see.

STAUFFER: We often had steak for breakfast. And she had some heart condition though and she finally had to give it up.

Then Dr. Riker induced Harry Myers and me (I had taken him in as my partner)--he induced us to go, to take charge of the dining room at Miller Hall. I advised against it because the number of boarders was not enough to make it remunerative.

And I felt that the overhead would swallow up any profits that we might make. It turned out to be that way. Two fraternities that had been boarding there absconded and wouldn't stay with us, but I was fortunate in having so many Alpha Z Deltas stand by me. Well, I won't go into the long detail about that but it was a great advantage to me to join a fra-

ternity. Because they were really very faithful to me. I don't, I wouldn't go into an evaluation of fraternities today relative to what they were like at that time. But to me at that time the fraternity was a big asset.

OSBORNE: Now where was the house, was it on the corner of Union and College?

STAUFFER: Yes, where the old brick, we called it.

OSBORNE: Yeah, we called it the "old red brick," that's where the chicken place is now. And just go back a minute when you were running the boarding club. What were your duties, what did you do to....

STAUFFER: Well I planned the meals. And I did all the buying. And I payed the women who took us into their home and did the cooking 50¢ a head, which isn't very much, but we only charged \$3.50 for a week for meals, for board. It's unbelievable.

OSBORNE: It is, that is.

STAUFFER: And we even gave them a refund if they went away for the weekend.

OSBORNE: Well, it's a wonder you made any money on that kind of a market.

STAUFFER: Well, I--tuition was only \$15 a term, so expenses were very low.

OSBORNE: Things were more relative then in terms of money.

STAUFFER: Oh yes, yes.

OSBORNE: Well then, did you stay at the fraternity house once you became a member?

STAUFFER: Yes, the second year, much to the disappointment and chagrin of the Wickershams where I lived. They thought I was making a big, big mistake when I joined the fraternity and went to live at the fraternity house. I enjoyed that very much, this fellowship. Then the last year, my senior year, the Wickershams asked me to come back and said they wouldn't charge me any board if I would only room there, if I would just come back and stay with them. And I did that. And got free rent.

OSBORNE: Now you said their house was next to the railroad track on State Street.

STAUFFER: Yes, that house was new. They built a house while I was a student and when I returned to live with them they were living in their new house. The old house was moved onto Hartshorn Street in the southwest corner. I think you know where it is. They used to call it the Nunnery.

OSBORNE: Oh yes, yes.

STAUFFER: I think it's still there.

OSBORNE: Yes, it's still there, yes. Well, how did you find your classes and your professors, as you started to say?

STAUFFER: Well, I have always felt that considering the size of the faculty that Mount Union has never had a stronger facul-

ty. Now I suppose it's impossible to make a very accurate evaluation but I think it would be pretty hard to find a faculty at a small college that had a higher percentage of high grade teachers than Mount Union had at that time. There was Shunk, who had a fine reputation; Professor Messick, who later went to Ohio Wesleyan.

OSBORNE: Now, Professor Messick was in Latin.

STAUFFER: Yes, in Latin; Shunk in Greek. And Professor Gibbs, he was there two years while I was a student. There was another person who was the head of the English Department part of the time. And Professor Webster.

OSBORNE: He was History?

STAUFFER: History. And Yanney in Mathematics--he went to Wooster, and Lee who taught chemistry and later went to Alleghany. They all went to schools which at that time had better resources than Mount Union did. And I found every one of them very profitable, very contributing, contributing a great deal to my education. I've often thought about recent times, students being very, very critical of their professors. I have a feeling that at least I was never quite so critical and I don't know that the student body as a whole was as critical of students then as they are today. I think they lampooned their physical eccentricities more and even that got into print sometimes and it wasn't very pleasant.

OSBORNE: I recall seeing something about Dr. Riker whom they

seemed to delight in doing that to.

STAUFFER: It got into the Unionian. And one year, the year before I enrolled in Mount Union, there was very serious trouble. One student who was a senior was deprived of his diploma. At least he never got it until several years later. They finally relented, I think, in the future.

OSBORNE: I remember Professor Yanney at one time told me about that incident, and according to him I think it was in commencement line or right at commencement time that he was pulled out of the He was that far along.

STAUFFER: Yes, the Wickershams told me a great deal about it. It involved the taking of the cow that belonged to the President up onto the second floor of the Miller Hall. And it was quite a case.

OSBORNE: Now all the old time--the founders, that is, Clark Music Hall now is. Where the old Conservatory used to be.

STAUFFER: That's right.

OSBORNE: And the other buildings on campus would be what, when you were a student?

STAUFFER: Well, there were really only--besides that, there were really only three buildings; the Morgan Gymnasium, of course. Chapman Hall was the first, Miller Hall and Morgan Gymnasium. And they were all in rather rundown condition.

OSBORNE: Do you recall the old seminary building that used to be at the corner of Hartshorn and Aultman there?

STAUFFER: No. as financial matters were concerned and so

OSBORNE: It was an old frame building. It was pretty delapidated and it was torn down, or moved, I guess.

STAUFFER: Oh, wasn't it on a spot where the garden....

OSBORNE: Yes, in that area there. Yes. And in building

STAUFFER: park is. he sure showed good judgment.

OSBORNE: Yes, the Founders Park. talked with Dr. Yanney, (this

STAUFFER: Founders Park, yes. I think they say that at certain times you can see--in dry weather, you can see the impressions....

OSBORNE: The foundation.

STAUFFER: of the foundation there. quite worldly-wise, sophis-

OSBORNE: Now all the old time--the founders, that is, Clark and the Hartshorns, they were gone by the time....

STAUFFER: The Hartshorns were gone. I remember Dr. Marsh. I have recollection of six of the seven Presidents of Mount Union. A very personal recollection of five, starting with Dr. Riker. Dr. Marsh was in a wheelchair when I went to Mount Union. He didn't get around. I remember he was going to church and he didn't go to the college too much that I remember. He was paralyzed and was confined to a wheelchair. But Dr. Riker was the President when I was a student. And I've always felt that he never got quite the credit he should have for building up a good faculty. Of course, Mount Union was in the

doldrums so far as financial matters were concerned and so far as the enrollment was concerned. And the Trustees got very impatient with it. They say he was just on the brink of getting the Carnegie Grant and of course, was released, his resignation was forced. But I appreciated him, he'd been a very good speaker, a rather able speaker. And in building up the faculty I think, he sure showed good judgment.

OSBORNE: I remember one time I talked with Dr. Yanney, (this is when he was retired and at Wooster, I went over to see him) and he said that when Dr. Riker came there was another man by the name of Frank Lockwood who came in English. He was only there a year. And he said the feeling of the faculty at that time was the role should have been reversed. He felt that Lockwood was urbane and gentlemanly, quite worldly-wise, sophisticated--that he should have been the President and Riker should have been a Professor of Religion or something. It should have been just reversed. But he said Lockwood, later I believe, went to the southwest. He wrote a number of books, became rather....

STAUFFER: He went to Alleghany first.

OSBORNE: Was it?

STAUFFER: Yes. He was quite liberal as I recall, in his religious outlook too. Maybe he would have been too liberal for Mount Union. it was kind of a blunder in a way.

OSBORNE: At that time, probably, yes.

STAUFFER: Yes, indeed. He wrote too, he was productive in that way.

OSBORNE: Yes. Well, now you came back. You left about 1906 when you graduated--about 15 years later, 1920 actually, wasn't it?

STAUFFER: Yes.

OSBORNE: You came back. What was your impression, was there a great change particularly?

STAUFFER: Well, in the physical aspects, there wasn't too much. Mount Union was on the rebound and, so far as enrollment was concerned, the seniors had sunk to a very low ebb. There was 17 in my graduating class and then about two or three years later, in the very first years of Dr. McMaster's presidency, I think the graduation, the number of graduates had sunk to seven or eight--maybe there might of been 11 but it was not more than a dozen, I know. And he was just beginning to regenerate more interest in the college and to get people to send their children; and beginning to get some financial help. He finally succeeded in getting the Carnegie grant of \$50,000. But so far as the physical plan is concerned, the only additions that had been made were Elliott Hall and Lamborn Hall, Lamborn Science Hall. And the first year that I was there, the Memorial Hall was in the process of being erected. I think even at that time, they felt it was kind of a blunder in a way.

OSBORNE: Yes.

STAUFFER: I remember particularly, Miss Stambaugh came back for commencement and commented about it. It didn't seem to have much architectural refinement.

OSBORNE: Well, it was a basketball court and this is what they.... library. I had kept in correspondence with Dr. Shunk.

STAUFFER: I don't think whether they realized then, the poor acoustics this had.

OSBORNE: Now I think this was the moving force--was to get a basketball court.

STAUFFER: There was some discontent too, among the townspeople. That it wasn't made more available. It was supposed to be a memorial for all the men who were engaged in the First World War. And I think their expectations were too high, the expectations of the citizens. The college just could not let it out you know, for use....

OSBORNE: Yes. had a chance to join the staff at the Huntington

STAUFFER: just any time. They had to reserve it for their own use.

OSBORNE: Well now, you came back under the--what, the pressure, the inducement, the attraction, was it Dr. Shunk, was it President McMaster? You had other opportunities and you were teaching at that time.

STAUFFER: Yes. Well, I was at the New York Public Library at the time. And Dr. Shunk was getting ready to retire, and he

asked, Dr. McMaster, whom he would like to have as his successor and Dr. Shunk mentioned me. And he (Dr. McMaster) said, well, where is he? It showed that I hadn't kept too close, in touch with the college. He said, well, he's out in New York Public Library. I had kept in correspondence with Dr. Shunk. So Dr. McMaster wrote to me, wanted to know if he and Mr. Dunn couldn't come out for an interview. And they came out and found me there at the Public Library. I was getting rather impatient with the situation in the New York system, and also we were not too happy living in New York. We wanted to get out to a place where we had more space for the boys to grow up. So, they induced me to come to Mount. Well, I got an offer with an increase in it as inducement. And I said no, it isn't a question of salary so much, although salaries were very low then. But we wanted to raise our boys in a somewhat better, freer, more roomy atmosphere than New York City. And I had a chance to join the staff at the Huntington Library just about that time too. Dr. Wyer, who was the head of the Library School and Director of the New York State Library, was rather disgusted with me that I wouldn't accept it. I told him that we had just returned from Oregon a couple of years ago in order that we might be a little nearer our parents. I didn't see why we should turn around and move back to Los Angeles or even that vicinity. Well, he said, I think they would pay your moving expenses if you would go. But it's hard to know whether you've made a mistake or not. I don't think so.

But he suddenly resigned in the middle of the year, or in the

OSBORNE: No, I--of course, I don't know all the factors involved, but it always seemed to me it was a good decision.

STAUFFER: Well, I have not appreciated quite so much association with big institutions. I think you lose something of the personal touch. Of course we had that at Mount Union. There is a lot of bureaucracy _____. It might not have been so bad in Huntington.

OSBORNE: At that time, yes.

STAUFFER: In the New York Public, well, there were six hundred employees in that one building. And the Director, he never came into contact directly with any of these employees. He had a go-between that he sent around. And salaries were very low for living in a big city. They increased me a couple of times. I could tell you more about that, but you don't need that for this interview.

OSBORNE: No, go on. That's right. Well, of course, you came back--you taught English the first year, I believe, didn't you?

STAUFFER: Yes.

OSBORNE: Until Dr. Shunk actually retired.

STAUFFER: I taught English at West Virginia Wesleyan and then I taught at Atlanta two years in English. And when I was invited to return to Mount Union, Dr. McMaster offered me the position of Associate Professor of English and Librarian.

Professor Martin was in charge of the English Department then.

But he suddenly resigned in the middle of the year, or in the

summer, and so Dr. McMaster then asked me to take over as head of the department. The understanding was as soon as Dr. Shunk resigned, I would transfer to Greek which would be a little easier because of more students in English. But I hadn't expected him to do it that next year. I mean, he was still vigorous enough to teach and I was a little astonished that he resigned. He said he'd taught for forty-four years and he was seventy-seven years old, so he decided to retire.

OSBORNE: Yes.
STAUFFER: This is not in connection with the college, but in some other historical research that I was doing, he was President, of course, of the First National Bank in Alliance for a number of years around the turn of the century, and in doing that history of the bank, he suddenly resigned. Oh, I don't know, 1904, '05, somewhere along there. And the minutes, of course, and the records, don't indicate--they just indicate the resignation. He just suddenly resigned and he had some stock, and I noticed it was sold and I wondered why, if he ever indicated why he suddenly gave up his connection with that.

STAUFFER: I never heard, I never knew. In fact, I never could quite understand why he was President. He was President of the bank then.

OSBORNE: Yes. He was President of the Board.

STAUFFER: Because he never was a moneymaker. He didn't leave much of an estate.

OSBORNE: Well, I think at that time, your resources at the

bank, of course, were.... was some faculty who talked about--

STAUFFER: Oh, smaller. saying they ought to have a faculty

OSBORNE: Much smaller, and it may be that this was distaste-
ful to him.

STAUFFER: He was a very shrewd person in a way. Although I
found he wasn't too shrewd in building that house, a very
large house.

OSBORNE: Yes.

STAUFFER: He evidently expected it to be the future residence
of the President of the college, and he was the only one to
live in it.

OSBORNE: Now, you're speaking about the house that used to be
at the corner of Shunk and State Street.

STAUFFER: Yes.

OSBORNE: Where the shopping, where that little shopping center
is. Well, he called that a certain name. Norita Place, wasn't
it?

STAUFFER: Yes.

OSBORNE: What was the significance?

STAUFFER: He named it after his wife.

OSBORNE: After his wife.

STAUFFER: Do you remember it?

OSBORNE: Oh yes, I remember that place, and I think when I

was a student here, there was some faculty who talked about-- I remember Eric Eckler saying they ought to have a faculty club, and that would be a good faculty club there. But there were not funds for it, of course.

STAUFFER: They had a cooperative, student, too.

OSBORNE: Yes, I think when Dr. Ketcham came, they used it for dormitory facilities then. Of course later, it was purchased and torn down.

STAUFFER: Well, it's one of those things. It's like the Shakespeare Garden. I always felt rather sad that that had to be abandoned because so many people put--particularly Mrs. Shimp, put so much effort into that. And the gardener.

OSBORNE: Mr. Howsell. He didn't offer enough money to get one. But

STAUFFER: Mr. Howsell, the Englishman.

OSBORNE: Yes. I used to recall as a student going over and asking what a certain shrub or little flower was, and he could quote the play and the act and the line, you know. It was always interesting to hear. He had a little twang with his little accent. Well, to get to the part that you are associated with, at least primarily, with the library. What was your reaction after coming from the New York Public Library and seeing the Mount Union College Library?

STAUFFER: Well it was--it's hard to express it. I was almost appalled at the task. Although the library was small, there

OSBORNE: Now, the library was--the reading room was on the

was a large collection of uncataloged books. And the state of the catalog itself was horrible. There were cards in the catalog for which there were no books on the shelves, and there were books on the shelves for which there were no cards in the catalog. The physical conditions were very deleterious. The dirt from the furnace in the basement was very bad and the place was overrun by vermin and rodents; and all of it seen together, and the fact that the books were shelved two rows deep . . . I, the first thing I did--well, it wasn't the first thing--the first thing I did was to get a decent catalog and to recatalog the whole collection and abandon things for which there were duplicates. I had to work almost single-handed that first year. Dr. McMaster promised me a trained assistant, but they didn't offer enough money to get one. But the second year I was able to get Miss Patterson to come from Cleveland Public Library, and she was an invaluable aid. And we proceeded rather rapidly then to recatalog the books and to discard all those that were without any great value. The weakest part of the library, I think, was the Reference collection. There was practically no reference collection, and no bibliographical tools to work with. And we got the Mount Union College Women's Club to contribute some money and with that, I was able to buy the United States Catalog and some other reference tools so that we began to have a basis for cataloging and for buying.

OSBORNE: Now, the library was--the reading room was on the too much because the college was running on a shoestring, I

west side of Chapman Hall. organized and finally, in 1930,

STAUFFER: It was, yes, it was on the west side.

OSBORNE: You used the stacks downstairs, the basement for stacks at that time to different colleges. And I didn't know

STAUFFER: The basement was given over largely to Government Documents and they were in a deplorable state. The backs of the unbound ones had been eaten off by the rats and mice.

And the serial collection was unlisted. I got some students to help me on them; they began to list those. As I said, there was a big stack of duplicates and uncataloged books down there, chiefly religious books given by ministers who had been former students of Mount Union. And we discarded a great many of those. I really looked like a miner every day when I went home. Then we made some progress and I talked to Mr. Carr about the appropriation of the college. The first year that I was at Mount Union, the appropriation for the library was \$1800.

OSBORNE: \$1800.

STAUFFER: That's all. For everything.

OSBORNE: For everything.

STAUFFER: And I said, you can't build up a library with anything like that. Well, he said, I think the Trustees will do better when you show them what is necessary. And I had good support from Dr. McMaster. And of course, I couldn't expect too much because the college was running on a shoestring, I

would say. But we did get organized and finally, in 1930, that was ten years after I went, we were examined by that Carnegie Committee. The Carnegie Foundation was giving out funds at that time to different colleges. And I didn't know whether we would be able to qualify or not--our physical condition was so bad. But they did commend us for the organization and we got \$10,000 at that time, which was quite a boost.

OSBORNE: That's right.

STAUFFER: It was to be spent over a period, I think, of three years. Well, then they were also offering money for the purchase of books and materials in the field of art and then in the field of music. Mrs. Peasly of, then of California, offered to pay half of the necessary fund, that was the requirement of the Carnegie Corporation.

OSBORNE: It had to be matching.

STAUFFER: \$2500, and they would give \$2500.

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STAUFFER: She gave an extra \$1000, we figured to have \$6000. So within a very short space of time we got \$6000 to \$8000 for books and then in addition to that, we got \$2500 more for music collections, for records and things. So it was very close to \$20,000. Then we began to get other gifts and some memorial gifts. But it doesn't correspond to what we've been getting.

OSBORNE: No.

STAUFFER: In recent years.

OSBORNE: That's true. Of course I feel that with--I've written several memos to the Dean and the President, the prices of books nowadays have just--the inflation and the budget....

STAUFFER: Yes.

OSBORNE: Oh yes, it's just tremendous. Many books are \$35 and \$40. Just a single book now.

STAUFFER: It really deters the single individual from buying books. Of course, if you buy paperbacks you can get them cheaper, but even they have gone up in price.

OSBORNE: That's true.

STAUFFER: They cost about as much as an ordinary book did before.

OSBORNE: Well, now you taught Greek Language and Literature when there was a demand for that. You also offered--you were interested in art. I know you offered Greek Art and just the regular appreciation of art.

STAUFFER: I offered Greek Art and Greek History and a course called Classical Heritage, which was a study of some of the works of Greek literature in translation. And in that course I tried to broaden it so as to relate it to modern literature. Many of the modern writers, and particularly among some of the modern French writers, they have gone back to the ancient

Greek for themes and inspiration and I thought it should be of interest to students in other departments. I've been sorry they don't carry that on--are they offering anything at all?

OSBORNE: Yes, they are. They have two courses they offer in the classics, the appreciation of the classics, now. They're trying to work with that.

STAUFFER: I took over the Latin too, after the last Latin man resigned. They felt the enrollment was small and I hated to see it completely omitted from the curriculum, so I said, well, I'll at least teach one course. I finally taught two.

OSBORNE: Oh yes. I think so, with the problems there are.

OSBORNE: Now this was at what time?

STAUFFER: Well, it was, of course, its advantages and disadvantages, but I'll tell you, sometimes it puts you on your

STAUFFER: Well, this was very near the end of my tenure.

OSBORNE: This was after Murphy and then the man who had been President of the college in the south, the Dr. Keen, was in a classic....

STAUFFER: And I, when I taught English, I never had had a course in Browning, but I got busy and I studied Browning and

STAUFFER: Yes, it was after he was there.

OSBORNE: It was after Dr. Biley was it?

STAUFFER: And then there was a man from, oh, I can't recall his name now. He went, as I understand it, to Puerto Rico.

OSBORNE: Oh yes, he was from the University of Michigan.

STAUFFER: What was his name, do you know?

OSBORNE: No, the name slips me at the moment.

STAUFFER: He only stayed about one year.

OSBORNE: Yes.

STAUFFER: So I took it over. I even taught a course in Current Affairs one year. I guess I dabbled in a good many things.

OSBORNE: Well, I think the way things are going now, I was talking with some of the younger faculty who very much feel they're specialists--indicating that in the early years and during the Depression, many of the faculty doubled in brass and we may be doing that again.

STAUFFER: Might be.

OSBORNE: Oh yes. I think so, with the problems there are.

STAUFFER: Well, it has, of course, its advantages and disadvantages; but I'll tell you, sometimes it puts you on your mettle.

OSBORNE: Yes.

STAUFFER: And I, when I taught English, I never had had a course in Browning, but I got busy and I studied Browning and I always felt that I knew Browning as well as I did almost any other English author. Although I had had special courses in Shakespeare and Chaucer at the University. And you can do an immense amount on your own if you really have the resolution to do it. There may be some fields where it's more difficult than others.

OSBORNE: Yes.

OSBORNE: Yes, this is true. Well, I know you were a great--warm admirer of the President McMaster and, of course, he had know in the course of that length of time, you may have a lot

the type of personality which really did appeal to so many.

STAUFFER: Well, I think--Dr. McMaster was President when I came and that would be one reason for my feeling a warm attachment to him.

OSBORNE: Yes.

STAUFFER: And he did always encourage me a great deal inward. He knew I was, I think, rather disappointed in some ways, and was waiting and waiting for a new library building.

OSBORNE: Yes.

STAUFFER: It was a great grief to him that he was not able to secure that. And I never shall forget the day that he offered his resignation. The faculty were called into session and it was the time of homecoming, and I had not been conscious of the fact that his resignation really had been forced. But he got up--they asked him to make a statement and he spoke about, that he had always told the Trustees that any time that they wanted his resignation, that it was in their hands. And after the meeting people began to talk about his being forced out and I said, what do you mean--he wasn't forced out. I was very innocent of it. And well, they said he was. And then I remembered, the truth began to dawn on me that his resignation had been asked by the Trustees.

OSBORNE: Yes.

STAUFFER: Of course, he'd been there thirty years and you know in the course of that length of time, you may have a lot

of friends but you may make some opponents and enemies.

OSBORNE: That's true.

STAUFFER: Probably his time was up.

OSBORNE: Now, I can recall the--as a student, the reference to Professor Stauffer was always one of great scholarly respect, and they always referred to you as Mr. Stauffer or Professor Stauffer. And it always seemed, you know, people would smile just a bit, because McMaster would get so exuberant and he would say, "Now, I'm going to see these gentlemen and I'm going to get that library for Bobby Stauffer." I know that always struck me, you would have to sort of smile, you know. They'd say, that's just McMaster getting carried away. But it was more, he knew you so familiarly and he referred to you as Bobby Stauffer.

STAUFFER: Yes.

OSBORNE: I know this is true, he mentioned this, that this is one of the things that he wanted to do.

STAUFFER: I used to be a little bit embarrassed at times because he gave me so much praise and did it publicly, and I would have felt a little easier if he hadn't done it so much. Because I think that there were so many people and, of course, he always gave Dr. Scott a great deal of praise, too.

OSBORNE: Yes. 's right. Now I suppose, to go back, you would

STAUFFER: And there were others who had contributed just as much. Of course, I don't know why he seemed to feel--he was

so interested in the library.

OSBORNE: Well, this is true. He liked books and he appreciated what you had done and what this meant.

STAUFFER: Well, I feel this, that each President has had a great deal to contribute.

OSBORNE: In his way.

STAUFFER: Dr. Ketcham came along, the financial situation was becoming rather serious, and under Dr. Ketcham began to get more funds, and re-established a good relationship with the conferences.

OSBORNE: Yes.

STAUFFER: Then they had Mr. Schultz as President of the Board and he put it on a sound financial basis. And then under Bracy, of course; George King, I think, perhaps more than almost any single individual, is responsible for the material.

OSBORNE: The recent.

STAUFFER: That's my own feeling. Now maybe others don't feel that way.

OSBORNE: No, I think this is true.

STAUFFER: Have to give credit to the Board of Trustees-- things began to move.

OSBORNE: That's right. Now I suppose, to go back, you would concur with a great many others that Dean Bowman was a man of sterling qualities, and integrity.

STAUFFER: Oh yes. And the longer you knew him, the more you appreciated him. I didn't appreciate him quite so much at first. I thought he was a little provincial, but he was some--a little conscious of that too. And I think he had some basic characteristics and qualities that were very much in need at the time. I learned to respect him very highly.

OSBORNE: Do you think of any others as you sort of flash back like that, that you would pick out?

STAUFFER: Well, I could speak of different ones and some that you wouldn't know. Professor Judd was a very delightful professor to me.

OSBORNE: Now you're talking about your student days now.

STAUFFER: Yes. My student days. He was a graduate, or he had studied at a German University and had a sound training in Psychology. He also taught religion. But he had a humorous side to him that I liked very much. I felt a sort of a freedom in his class that perhaps I didn't feel in every class. I don't know, Lee was rather stern and you couldn't fall asleep in his class, nor in Dr. Shunk's class, for that matter.

OSBORNE: Yes, I've heard that about Dr. Shunk. People trembled if they weren't prepared when they went to his class.

STAUFFER: Yes, yes. Messick I always felt was one of the most urbane and erudite type of professor that I had. It seems as though he could talk about calculus and things in mathematics and other fields besides Latin as if he was perfectly familiar

with those subjects. He gave me a feeling of a unity of knowledge that almost no other Professor ever gave me. Even some of my university professors. Although I got that feeling at the University, particularly in the inter-relationship in a certain discipline or field, not perhaps inter-disciplinary.

OSBORNE: Uh huh. Well, I had heard others speak of this, that he came through in this fashion.

STAUFFER: Yes. He could get very excited, there was a period there when there seemed to be some cheating going on. And he got very much upset about that. I remember one class, we were having an examination, and he made us sit two seats apart, everybody, he didn't let anybody sit next to somebody else.

OSBORNE: I recall years ago seeing an alumni questionnaire in which his wife, Mrs. Messick, indicated the most memorable thing that happened to you in college, she said, was the day of my graduation when I married my favorite professor. And that's when she became Mrs. Messick.

STAUFFER: I think some of the days were a little bit stormy, from what I have heard.

OSBORNE: Oh, is that right? I didn't know, I just remembered that. I remembered that quip.

STAUFFER: I think that Mount Union is, aside from one period where it was in the doldrums, has had a rather steady evolutionary development. It seems to me that one could say that.

In recent days they've had, of course, some serious problems as all colleges have, but I think Mount Union has weathered that about as well as any small college could be expected to do.

OSBORNE: As you look back, of course, you take a great deal of pride and satisfaction in the way the library has developed, and you say the way that the college has evolved. I suppose the only regret you have is the lack of emphasis on the classics today.

STAUFFER: That would be my chief regret, yes. And it's not peculiar to Mount Union alone....

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