Jan. 31st, 1994 I’m John Straw, Archivist for Student Life and Culture in the University Archives at the University of Illinois and I’m interviewing Don Hoebel who was with the Illini Publishing Company for many years. Mr. Hoebel I want you to just start and give us a brief biographical information about yourself.

DH: I entered the University of Illinois in September 1929 and I graduated in the class in 1933 with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism. I was employed from the day of graduation with was in June of 1933 until August 1949, except for military service by the Illini Publishing Company and I have been married twice. My first wife she graduated from the University of Illinois in the class fo 1935. Technically I’m not retired yet.

JS: Oh, okay. You left the University in what 1945 you say?

DH: I left the University in 1949.

JS: I guess from that period on, just a brief...

DH: Alright. I left the Illini Publishing Co. to accept a contract of employment by the Bureau of County Republican, Princeton, Illinois to be the general manager and publisher for that newspaper and printing company. In 1958 I formed my own company, Don Hoebel Advertising, which I handle on a annual retainer basis advertising public relation problems for a number of clients. Some at retail, some in manufacturing, some in agriculture. I have continued that on a full basis until 2 years ago and I still do some work for some of my old friends, it’s almost a personal matter, but I still have my offices and...

JS: So you’re not really retired even yet.

DH: I go to the office every day.

JS: I see, okay. I guess the first area I’d like you to talk about is your undergraduate days here at the University, 1929 -

DH: Until 1933. You asked about the degree. For the first part of it I don’t have a degree. After I returned from the service I did work in the graduate in marketing in what is called commerce. But back then in graduate days. I spent the first two years at the University in the College of Commerce. At the end of my sophomore year I entered, in those days, the School of Journalism. The requirements at the time were a B average and they limited the enrollment to 450 students. I attended a 60th graduation and they still have the same limitations of the number of undergraduates, 450 period. They now have 100 that just began to get graduate degrees.
They school of Journalism. started here in ‘26 and I’m in the class of ‘33 and the first dean in that college was a fellow named Lawrence Murphy. His successor was Frederick Seibert. Student life - I belonged to the Chi Psi fraternity. I was a member of Skull and Crescent and Sachem and Mawanda. Do you know what all those are?

JS: Yeah.

DH: In my class, a number of fellow students of mine, fellows who over the number of years I’ve seen, I come back to see, Rick Kerns? Do you know who Rick Kerns is?

JS: Rick Kerns. Uh-huh, yeah.

DH: He’s the editor of the Illio. He’s the chairman of the board there. He’s a real turner. I’ll talk off the record about Kerns. I’ll tell you an interesting that you might follow up. He’s from Rankin, Illinois.

JS: Sam Keys?

DH: Sam Keys, he’s deceased. I think Matt Adams is. I think they were the men, as students. Sam went to work in Springfield for I think Governor Horner. But he and Matt founded the Young Democrats. My roommate in college started the Young Republicans. He was thought Henry Horner the Governor was bushwhacked, but that’s another story. Oh there were all kind of them. I don’t know if you ever heard of the name Gil Berry, he was a great football star. He works for CBS, he was in the movies. Probably the handsomest guy in school.

JS: These were all of the class of ‘33?

DH: Oh yeah. You should have known them, Ronald was a history guy here. He was adopted by the people along the Brooklyn Dodgers. He had a doctor’s degree. He left here to become chief historian of the National Parks Service. In the courses I had you were required to take something so I decided to take history in European History. And Fran, funny guy, we always wanted him to chaperon the fraternity dances here, he and his wife and had a beautiful daughter. Fran would wax into french where he got carried away. I’ll always remember the first day of class. He said this is a history class, but don’t be concerned about dates. If you get it in the right century it’s probably right. I’m going to teach you European History and we’re going to discuss on the basis who was drinking what and who was sleeping with whom.

JS: Modern Journalism.

DH: And you should have heard him! And he’d get up and drown on about some of the French kings and he wasn’t conscience that he went from English to French and half the class seemed to didn’t know what the hell he was talking about. He tried to get a certain touch in there.
JS: What were the size of classes in those days?

DH: Those classes would vary. Usually around 30 in undergrad but in the Journ school it would go around that. In a lab class there were probably 16 and in a lecture there might be 50 at the most. There’s a lot of lab work in the Journ school, an awful lot, it’s almost hands-on. You might be interested that you’re talking to a person who believes in old time journalism. As a matter of fact when I was here on my 60th we had a meeting of the Journalism graduates from all classes from over 25 years. And we’re sitting around talking with this new Dean. And to me the word “Investigative Reporter” is a joke. The word reporter means investigator. But then, I think, what Sapron said to quote about Journalism today, and I can say this because I have a daughter with a masters in this and she writes and is the director of a library, a research library in California. There are two, and a news story to me, should have no adjectives, period. An adjective expresses an opinion. And I can tell you a true story. The first day in a reporter class Clark Carter was the Professor. Clark had been the editor of the Oracle and then became ill and was ill for a couple of years and he decided, and he thought he decided but he better he didn’t, he was a Pulitzer Prize winner. He roomed in college with Herbert Huber, standard. Boy was he a tough son-of-a-gun, but you loved him. I’ll never forget this, it was the very first day of Reporting 101, you’re all Juniors, you’ve been there a couple of years, and as I recalled you had to have a B average, Liberal Arts, Commerce, or Engineering, but you had to be at that B level or they wouldn’t accept up - it’s kind of like getting into law school. And I’ll never forget this, this is absolute true story, I can’t remember every word. The first thing he said, there were 3 or 4 girls, I know that Professor Wolf’s daughter who wrote this particular story that I’m going to refer to. He was head of geology. It was over there in the corner of a beautiful Georgian home on Pennsylvania. He said that there are no test books in this course. Now he said we’re going to meet Monday, Wednesday’s, and Friday at 8 o’clock. As a matter of fact, starting today they’re going to be selecting a jury trial in the Urbana courthouse, same Urbana courthouse over in Urbana, Judge Bongert Lennard’s court. Some time before now and Friday, you don’t have to come on Wednesday, I’ll give you this time. I don’t care where you go. But sometime while that trial is going on, and it was a murder trial so they knew it was going to be over in a couple of days. Some time before Friday you go over there, spend 15 minutes in that courtroom, and write a story and bring it to class on Friday and we’ll critique it. And he meant it. Everybody had a story they were working on. Do anything you want, study, do anything you want to do. He took those papers and a blue pencil and went right through them.

JS: In class?

DH: Right on the steps, and then he just through them on the table. And the first one he picked up, I’ll never forget it, it happened to be Day LaRossa’s. I think she was his last on in the stack as he was going in. He just threw them back. He wasn’t picking anything up, he was just picking one up. He had it all marked. And he read the story and he said “I’ll read you’re story and I want you to listen very carefully and I want you to tell me what you think of this story.” And I recall the story, I can give you first, in the old days you had who, what, when, where, and how in the first paragraph anything else came after the first paragraph and was just explaining the who, when, where and what. And in his words, what ever this woman’s name was, “36, good
( ), dressed in blacks with gold earring, testified that:” and she was 10 feet from the person who shot this other woman, “that on that night she shot him.” Words to that effect. And he read the rest of the story and it was beautifully put together. She quoted the witness verbatim, and I mean verbatim, no paraphrasing. And all of us thought it was a pretty good story. And he said, “Anybody see anything wrong with this story?” Well he said “I’ll tell you that it’s unacceptable. There is one word in that story that ruins it.” He said, “You see this 5th word here in this circle in blue, that says beautiful.” Now he never identified the girl, he just said “in opinion of the writer, this is a beautiful person, but the person sitting next to this person might as well said the ugliest person, that is a matter of opinion and should never be used in a news story. Never use it. And never get so enthusiastic about an adverb.” But he said, “I know this seems nitpicky, but this isn’t nitpicking because if you put the word beautiful, or handsome, or ugly - now if there is a scar on her face now that’s a matter of fact, but it’s an opinion whether ugly or beautiful.” And that’s simply saying is that’s the background. We reminisced. And one woman spoke up and she said “I didn’t know anyone remembered had ever remembered Clark’s writer and what a tough it was to be him.” And boy he’d just slash him! And he’d throw the story right in the waste basket. And that’s what wrong with Journalism now. These are performers... 99% of them. I’ll tell you this, the super one is Rush Limbaugh, I want to throw up when I hear him. I try not to hear him, but I was listening to perfect evening news report and he rushes in with some statement and I turned the TV off. And then I turned the tv off. But anyway that’s another thing... Where were we?

JS: We were talking about students and your undergraduate days.

DH: Well lets see, some of the students. Basically I worked on the Daily Illini the whole time. I happened to be in the president of a fraternity and I was the member of the Pan-Hellenic Council, but that doesn’t mean a thing. I lived in a fraternity, at that time, to me this is a very interesting thing, and I don’t know if you know this or not, but in those days there was no housing for me, University housing at all. The first time I know University housing was at the war, after the war. They brought in barrick and so on and then went to residence halls. And very interestingly, at the time I came to school, I think 10,000 students, graduate and undergraduate, all put together, there wasn’t too big of a graduate presence. And of the, I think the student body at the time, undergraduate, roughly was about 7,000, and I think there were 1,800 women, my figures aren’t exact. Anyway there was woman’s housing. Over here on Florida there are 2 dorms that are still there. We call them dorms now, but residence halls. Busey and I forgot. I think they had rooms for 300 girls. And that was the only woman’s housing. And there were sororities. And at that time there were 110 college fraternities and 3,500 out of the student body lived in fraternities. And the fraternities, a man, I think he is on your list, Fred Turner, one of my close friends, was the dean and he was the vice-president of the fraternity and president of the international inter-fraternity conference. And he made the fraternities responsible for it’s members. And since I was president of a fraternity we had a boy that we couldn’t handle. We came down on him, I’m telling you we did everything, he was incorrigible. But we were responsible for his actions. I was president when we had they had the last cap burning on this campus and a riot started out and I mean a riot. Have you ever seen a riot? They broke all the windows and all the lights on Green Street they smashed the windows,
it was a riot. Fortunately there were some pictures taken and a lot of people who were not in fraternities were involved. I was studying in the library, I needed money and I had 3 jobs to get my education, and one of the fellows came over and sat down with me and he said “we’ve got a riot started.” We used to burn our caps in May. And I’m over studying for a final.

JS: These were the freshman, the freshman cap?

DH: The freshmen used to burn these caps in a bon-fire. Well some of them got in there, and they were turning cars over down on 1st street. Fortunately, someone got in there with a camera. Some of them were not even members. Some of them came in there to start a free-for-all. Nobody knew what the fight was. And of course this disturbed me. One of our guys, I left with him, and we went to our house and got to talking about lets find them. We were downstairs, and I said “What are you all excited about they’re all upstairs studying, they’re already back!” Thank God. About 30 minutes later a guy named George Starigu who was later president of a huge packing company in Indianapolis but she started out as a guy on a killer floor in Chicago. And he was president of a fraternity down the street. And he called me and he said “Don, we’ve got a big problem. We going to get blamed for these damages. Let’s get some money.” So went around that night to every fraternity on this campus and got $50, $100, $200 - whatever they had to give us. And we walked into Fred Turners office and handed him $3,500 and lets start paying for the damages. We took the responsibility even though a lot of people in the pictures showed they were not our fraternity people.

JS: Ok, you were in Chi Phi?

DH: Chi Psi.

JS: Chi Psi. Now where was your house?

DH: Still is, 912 S. Sixth.

JS: Same house.

DH: Okay now was are we going to next - professors and academics?

JS: Yeah. We talked a little bit about your one Journalism class.

DH: I would like to tell you a couple things. First of all I had a commerce professor named Fred Russell, who had a successful career as the vice-president of Batton, Barton, Durnstein, and Osmond, who run a weekly out on Kansas. His son was one of the... Fred Russell
taught advertising. They taught it later out of the Advertising school. Tremendous teacher, tremendous teacher. He taught undergraduates like they were doing a graduate degree. They did a thesis in his class, on any subject you want. They took oral exams just like a graduate degree. But now the teachers in the journalism school. Lawrence Murphy taught the history of Journalism. He was awful. He was a dean, but that was the academic thing. In the top ten there was a fellow named Barlow, better than St. Joe. He taught recording. Burrus Dickinson, who I later taught some advertising with over in here. But he taught then and he also taught financial writing, probably the smartest man with his money. Just died a little about a year and a half ago. His father and his uncle had a candy-house that they sold out but his grandpa, they’re all Christian ministers, and his great-grandfather is the one who put the money in and started Eureka College. And Burrus’s a millionaire and a cripple. And he’d come over to our house every Sunday night with his unmarried friends and mind and we’d have spaghetti. When he taught financial writing the man who probably, and I’m prejudice and I’ll tell you in my opinion, the closest friend I’ve ever had, there’s 3 of them there but a very close guy, Schooley, Seibert, and Turner.

**JS: You want to stop in a minute?**

DH: Yeah. But I want to tell you something about this man. He, let’s see, Fred was the son of a iron miner on the Wasaba iron range, and his father was killed. This is the whole story. And the accident happened when we has a year and a half. Never remembered his father. They had two-room cabinet and his mother and a couple of his sisters raised him. He said “I’ve been baptized in every church in America.” But Seibert, saved some money, and they came down to Madison Wisconsin, and he went to the University of Wisconsin, and he too $300 and worked for the rest of it. He got a bachelors degree in 3 semesters. He got a law degree from the University of Illinois in 1 semester. A doctorate of law. He’s the legal counsel to the Illinois Press Association. He wrote all the brief for the Supreme Court in the Esquire Case and also in the one the American newspaper publishers fought against Huey Long, and they put Huey Long out of business. Seibert, spoke so many languages. And people in my fraternity thought he was a linguist - he was a Phi Beta, Phi ...freeking, I’m a dumbkopf. But Seibert one time, now he taught news in the science and arts, contemporary life, things that happened everyday. The first semester was arts and the next sciences. I’ll never forget the first lecture was “three theories on Einstein’s theory of comparative relativity.” The finals were fantastic. And Seibert himself, he said “where did you learn to speak? What did you take in school?” He said, “No, I took French, they required that at Wisconsin.” Even my daughter who goes there years later they have all these writings about this man, this Seibert, and his text and how the press is still the center of every damn law office in the country and any newspaper. And it’s got every jurisdiction and for every state in the nation. Right of privacy, liable, and case history. But if he tells me something other than that, he’s right, he wrote the last 3 chapters and those are the tough ones. He was in high school with me, a year ahead of me. But that’s another story, I’m raving too much about Seibert. He was a young teacher, an assistant professor. He had worked before he came her, as a reporter on the Duluth paper. He went to Bradley University to help them on a drive. He came here to teach law of the press in this famous deal if you could get into his law class his senior year, this legend of a course, 2 semesters. I’ll tell you how good it was, 10 years after a bunch of
graduates from every class were at a press meeting in Chicago, we’re all in the press associate, the guys had all come here, 10 or 12 years, and the school had sent out a questionnaire: what about your curricula over your experience in the field. And at one table, there were 8 guys and 6 of us went to Illinois and the guy says, “you’ve got that question there” and I says, “yeah.” “What did you tell them?” And every one of us said that same thing, every damn one of us replied to “what are your suggestions for us? A must that everyone take Seibert’s course or they don’t get a degree.” They did it in mechanical engineering, I don’t know if you know Leweather, you had to pass his course. The only B he every gave to his own son who got straight A’s. He was the first Chief Illiniwik and he just retired as the Chief of the Bored. But that’s another story. But Seibert was amazing. He left here before he came back as a dean, he’s an assistant professor and he buys a school in Winnetka and he’s hired into the graduate school at the school of Journalism as a full professor - he tripled his salary. Well they got him back here and made him a dean when Murphy retired. Well then they had a man was killed in an accident in August, another man became extremely ill. He goes to a person at the university and tells that they you can find deans at a dime a dozen, why don’t you get a new dean. What he said was true. The best teacher I ever had. I know how to teach and I don’t really care about that dean. He never took role. One student dozes off he said “I’m not saying anything interesting, isn’t that right?” But you ought to see his final. Is this thing on? Oh my. [Laughter} Seibert’s final was contemporary science and the arts. I’ll never forget this one semester - there was no textbook - he discussed everything from companion marriage, which is common now but it wasn’t then, to...everything. Everything in the sciences, and news, and the same thing in the arts. You ought to see the final - the arts one. We didn’t know that he had written this as a 100 questions that a modern 20th century lady or gentleman should be able to answer. And Harpers Bazaar the fall after we had it for the final in June. Such a question was: what are the three major parts of the Kellogg Peace Pact? Who was Peggy Hopkins-Joyce and name her 7 husbands? A question about the premiere of France. He just covered everything. Oh and then, who was the new start of the Metropolitan Opera in 1932. He just covered everything.

JS: Were you expecting this?

DH: No. You could have not more prepared for this final than you could fly. But he challenged you. We just sit around and reminisce about Seibert. Seibert had some tragedy, his first son they found he had cancer of the pancreas when he was 14 months. He lived to 14 years old. Fred was not an athlete or anything, I like to play ball, when John couldn’t play anymore he’d sit and listen to the Bears every Sunday afternoon. He has another son Lector, this shouldn’t be on this, but you can edit it out. No one would cut Fred Seibert’s class, if you were sick you’d get out of bed because you’d be afraid you’d miss something in his class. He was amazing. Nobody every signed an exam paper. You’d do a number and you’d put the number on the exam paper and he never, never knew anyone’s handwriting because nothing was accepted except handwritten stuff in the stories. And the exams were longhand, and he didn’t know anyone’s handwriting and to be fair nobody every signed a name to an paper that Seibert every graded. Unbelievable.

JS: How many did courses did he teach?
DH: He taught law of the press, and then he taught these other two courses besides being a dean. Talk to anybody in the newspaper business. I’ll tell you this story. Fred Seibert had written this definitive work on law of the press and he knew the whole story on the First Amendment. Seibert was very much of a liberal, under today’s standards, extreme liberal. And Robert R. McCormick, the editor of the Chicago Tribune, a lot of people said he was eccentric but he believed in what he believed in. One of the things he believed in was the writing of any newspaper published. He had read some stuff of Seibert’s and he called him. He said “Seibert”, they were far apart, but they respected each other, he said, “Seibert, I want you to go to England. I want you to go to see some of the stuff the British have now released that go back 400-500 years, practically to the time of the Magna Carta. I want you to study and I would like a report of it. You can take your wife with you and I’ll pay for it all for a year.” That’s about as fine a tribute you can get. I don’t know McCormick, but I know a man who works for him. I know some stories on him that are true. One man told me, “he was a great liberal, all he every asked me, he never asked me my politics, all he wanted of me did I a professional job, objective.”

There a fabulous story on him that a man he disagreed with wrote an editorial about him and a man from a labor newspaper in Minnesota was killed and the Ramsey County sheriffs Department and police didn’t have much in leads, he was assassinated as he and his wife got out of their car after a Saturday afternoon of shopping. These two men stepped up and shot him to death for something he had written in a paper. McCormick spent a lot of his own money, allegedly $100,000 to for a private detective. Even though he had editorialized him he didn’t like someone trying to shut him up. Well, let’s see, we were talking about professors.

JS: Yes. We were still on your undergraduate days.

DH: I told you about professors, student life, some of the fellow students. Well, I tell you, probably an event that now seems kind of funny. The University of Illinois in 1929 played Army for the first time. The University of Illinois had won the National Championship and they had a rigid backfield, Walker, Ted Tim. Army comes out and in those days all the Army players were college graduates, they had already graduated from another college. Tim had been a great back at LSU, Chris Cagel, they had 3 All-Americans in their starting line up from other college. I’ll never forget that event. First of all to get tickets. We used to have a book, you paid $10 and we’d go to 80 - 90 events, including football, basketball, wrestling. Student or Faculty paid $10 for the coupon book. If your folks wanted to come, or somebody, and we had freshmen, and I was one of them, they had a University policy that they went on sale for free from a Monday thru Thursday, they had cops out there. You were allowed to buy 2 tickets, for your parents or someone, and it was a sell out game. And Illinois upset Army, like I’ll never forget. They had a guy name Al Powalic after his freshmen year he dropped out. You had to wait out 3 years in those days to play pro’s and he became the center of the Bears. I can still see him picking up Cagel on the 3 yard line and run down to the 30 yard line and through him down. It was a highlight. Can you believe some of these were freshmen coming in?

JS: Did you have pep-rallies before the games?

DH: The pep-rallies before the games in those days, they used to have a deal on the
auditorium steps on Friday nights. They’d use the steps kind of like a stage and the team would be standing up there and the people would be out front on the quad, and things like that.

**JS:** Before you move out of you undergraduate days I’d like to hear more about fraternity life because that is one of the big areas of our collecting.

DH: Well fraternity life in 1929 and ‘33 when I left here was still the same. The housing, as I believe, percentage wise was probably between 30 and 40% of all the men lived in a fraternity. A lot of the members of the fraternities were town boys back then. And basically the social life, each fraternity would try and put on a dance each semester and would have dates, and hire a band and some chaperone and have a fraternity dance. The fraternity council, let’s see, I think they met every other week, one of the principle jobs was to try and see that their own members were formed on a fair standard and I think my senior year, it’s a little hazy now, but I think that was the beginning that, I have forgotten the name of the sorority, they did something downtown for some kids downtown. It was the beginning of what’s deemed now, socially conscience. Now fraternities in those days were actually, they tried to encourage people to participate in activities. Take a freshman class, they’d say well, if you’re interested in publications go for this and this. Here they would recognize: publications, dramatics, sports, and politics. They’d have professional politicians in the fraternities. And I could tell you a little aside on Red Grange, and this was a classic. He was there with me, but I remember him, he use to come back and do broadcasts for Shellwoolen, and I also went to the things with Red’s spring homecoming here when the did it for the Pan-Hellenic. And no one had ever heard of a guy, and I had already heard this story, no one would have ever remembered Grange if Jimmy Smith had stayed in school. The freshmen team here had 5 All-Americans. One went to Northwestern, Baker, one went to Michigan, and Jimmy Smith dropped out. He said there are players in high school, college and pro’s, but I have never seen anybody touch Jim Smith as far as a player. I see you have a SAE, that’s the deal with Turner. You’ll find a great deal about Fred Turner on that. Also a couple of SAE wrote the Illini Lorelei, Shawn, I think one of them was a judge named Green.

**JS:** What was rushing?

DH: What?

**JS:** Rushing.

DH: Rushing was a rather formalized deal. What you do is you would sign up for rush week and you would say I’ll go to this house and this house and this house and you’d go at certain times specifically they might have a dinner to invite you to, they might have a luncheon, and it was kind of serious. Rush week in those days was kind of like courting of peacocks. Very formal. It was centralized at the end, you reported to a central office at the end what your choices were if they bid. The sororities were very similar, the same thing. The girls would have tea in the afternoon and then they’d vote who would invite. It was very tough on a high school girl who would get 4 or 5 invitations, they wouldn’t know what to do, you know. As a matter of
fact, I pledged Sig Chi Psi fraternity on the porch of the Alpha Delt house, and the man who was first monkese who lives down the floor, the big time lawyer, he and I was washing pans together. Simis Swain who Florida lawyer and the chairman of the Board of Trustees here at present, used to kid each other how I’m stagless Swain and Hershback won the... It wasn’t a party at all, if you consider a dinner a rented. You’d go in, in those days, in very frankly, at all meals the fraternities all sang songs. It was part of the meal. And they would sing all kind of songs, not only fraternity songs, I think I used to sing them backwards, 10 Chimes of the Big Hand.

JS: What was the relationship between the fraternities and sororities like? Was there a lot of dating a social advance?

DH: I understand. There was dating but not exclusive in anyway. Many fraternity men had relationships with people who weren’t here. The girl I was going with came down from Chicago. Then we broke up and I had too damn many jobs to be serious about dating, I’ll tell you that. I took a girl out when I was in graduate school and I’d get off and I go pick her up and go dancing. I’d take her up to the Fair House and we’d go dancing. Take her back at midnight and he’d be there to kiss her goodnight and I’d walking home down the street?

JS: This is when they had dance cards at dances? They’d make you fill out cards?

DH: Yes, yes. That’s right. That’s almost an end of an era at that time but they were still giving dance cards. They’d have them printed up for your...

JS: Today we hear about hazing and stuff, was that...:

DH: Well in the fraternity that I belonged to, nationally, with two exceptions was the oldest Greek organization in the United States. I’m not talking about...I’m talking about social. The oldest Greek organization is Phi Beta Kappa. It’s the same meter that the international type of refereeing started in this country. Did you know that? Never forget it, it will get you luck in contracts with them. Anyway, some fraternities hazed, everybody had paddles and all that. But as a national, and for all time, the fraternity that I belonged to did not believe in hazing. Period. Period. Although sometimes I would have liked to have knocked a couple of smart asses on their head. Is that on?

JS: We’ll edit that.

DH: We had a boy who’s father was, and that fraternity has a national policy that you have to accept any son or grandson of a member.

JS: Legacy?

DH: You had to accept them, you had no choice. These legacies caused us a great deal of problems, a great deal of problems. And the only thing was that this wasn’t official hazing.
JS: Okay, you were talking about legacies...

DH: They were very difficult and, in fact, he was just incorrigible, he had been given everything and he’s from a broken home. Finally I just called him home. But honestly, I said, “Mr. Johnson, you better come and get your boy before some of us kill him.” He said, “What did you say?” I said, “He’s in very serious trouble. I’m having problems controlling 40 men who think he isn’t worth having. You’re a brother.” Boy did he come. This kid was a football player, big guy, but he roomed with a guy, an intellectual, when the best of this crew couldn’t. John said, “I’ll break your arm, sit down.” Well that’s another story.

JS: Well if you have anything else to tell us about your undergraduate days that’s fine. If you want to move on...

DH: No, no, no. Well I would like to say this. I have forgotten the figures, not that I’m an authority on them but when I was in school a very rare event happened to everyone that was here. I started school in 1929, I had money to go for 4 years and to live high off the hog. The University State Bank which was down here on the corner, across from Folletts, it was later Smith’s Drug Store. That bank failed. I got $0.01 on my dollar, I think 17 years later or something, but that was too late to help me. But at the same times things were going along fine, everything was in a fine position everything hadn’t then changed, the crash when hundreds of banks failed, not just this one. Then came the Great Depression. Instead of having everything I had nothing. One of the things that, for example, in the house that I lived, we had 42 men living there, over a period of 2 years there were 2 of us that worked for everything that we had and there were many of us who had meal jobs. I was fortunate that I was paid $30 a month case, that was big stuff, to take care of a set of books, when I was a junior I got $22 a month as a junior manager and I got, $22 a month as a senior, but I also got my meals and we had a great cook and I gained a lot of weight. She insisted to every guy, “I can’t give you much but I’ll give you that pork chop.” She just put pork chops and a piece of mashed potatoes and she’s say “Eat it, or you can’t work till you do.” You know, just...But I believe the figures show, you’d have to go to the Universities records for this, but I believe the number of students working from when I started school, most students didn’t have to work, some worked. But I believe that by the end of 1933 I believe that 40% of men at this University had jobs and maybe 60. I know the number of women enrolled increased and they were working, although fewer then. Most women who came here had some money behind them. Used to do some funny things. I washed dishes, and the fraternities served 20 meals a week but they didn’t serve Sunday night. Fortunately I had a friend who I had gone to high school with, in fact I was engaged to her sister, her cousin a swimmer in the Olympics, and she called me and say “Don, we’ve got chicken today.” I’d go to the back door at night and she’d have whole chicken dinner out of the Theta house. No kidding. She wasn’t the only one doing it, these gals then thought well we can out without the food, we’ll just take it on our own and the guys that are, don’t have anything, there are a lot of nice things. Anyway, Jane Forms, what gal, what a gal. Olympic gold metal winner. Tremendous independent and probably one of the greatest athletes I ever saw, I saw her when she won, the only time up until that time, the only women diver had ever gotten 5 10’s, you know how they judge around the pool. In the diving club pool, 1 ½ with a full twist and she went in that water
without a ripple. Just like a seal. And those 5-10's went up just like that, I mean they didn’t even have to think about it and the crowd just burst into applause. They had seen a man or two a few years before score 5-10's, but they never seen a woman. Then she’d go at the world’s fair and make some money, I thought...And she dove into Canvass pool and she broke her back, and she got right back up on the high meter dive and did that same dive and she passed right out and they pulled her out and took her to the hospital. I said to her, “Jane, why the hell would you do that.” George Meyer who’s going with her said, “Jane, for Christ-sake, what do you think you’re doing?” She says, “I wanted to dive in again because if you don’t get back up and do it again you’ll never go back off that board again.” What a woman. Well now, where are we now? Are we past...

JS: Well, if you want to go on and move on to your days with Illini Publishing.

DH: Well, it seems like I told you about that. But the major one is the banks closing during the Depression and a lot of students, I think more than 60% of the students in the whole student body were working.

JS: What were you paying for education in those days?

DH: A meal. I kept a set of books for the fraternity, and they paid for years a $1 a day to keep all our books, to pay all our bills and collect all the money. And when people talked to me about cash I got amused, corse we’re competing for jobs or freshman and sohpmore. I worked, and I actually worked. We went to work 40 hours a week and 22 hours for the Daily Illini. That’s less than $0.03 an hour and when I hear all that stuff now I don’t have much sympathy.

JS: So you were working 40 hours a week and 22 hours?

DH: Oh yeah. Do you know when I used to study? I studied midnight until 2 or 3 in the morning. My night to sleep was Saturday night. Soon as dinner was over I’d go to sleep. I got 12 hours sleep then. Because that was the only way you’d keep going. We did another thing at that time, we had very severe prescriptions on automobiles. They used to issue student permits but you had to have a justifications, and since I had so many jobs so I got to have a car. Well the funniest things is that I saved $50 and I bought a car with 135,000 miles an Opal, 1931 Ford touring car and I could go from one job to the other and the routine was interesting. We went to work at 5:30 in the morning at the kitchen and you had to be there, in order to eat first and wash the dishes for the guys who ate at 7, then make an 8 o’clock. An you had the same kind of thing in the noon hour, so you’d go back. And when I say work, it isn’t just working during the daytime, if you know anything about advertising you got to write some copy at night, you got to do some things. But I wasn’t alone. There were all kinds of guys, and it was a great learning experience, believe me. And the biggest learning experience was that I had a job down there in the summer and they were paying $10 a week, and the bank closed and I hadn’t got paid and I had like $0.03 so I went down to Bill Bardley’s bakery and I got some stale rolls coming in with one of the drivers but this other guy and I ate them up right away the first day and we lived on water for a week. That’s more education than I ever had and that’s a great teachers. Because
you find out, in my day I had some personal experience with 3 men, merchants in this town who found out about some of us, and I walked into a store downtown and I had been a salesman on his account and I had everything, south of Church Street, in downtown Champaign was my territory. I had Robeson’s Coffee, in those days HB Gates & Co., Lewis, HB Lewis & Co., Gates was the advertising practice. I was in the store and he had a manager, Mr. McGraw, he was the owner. He come to me and he said, “I hear you have a couple of exams. I know anytime you want a suit come and pick one out. Take one for winter and when you get out of school, sometime you may need it. Don’t worry about it, I’m not holding anything.” You know Robeson’s down here? You ought to see the old man, he flew in World War I and Wold War II both, a legend. One free thinker. Farmer’s head, all you could do was be able to train a horse or a hunting dog, he didn’t have a hoot what the craps were. But he’s a funny sentimental guy. And he found out something. My mother died, this was all when I was in school. I’m down there he’s got 103 employees, he said “Mr. Conner, I’m going up to see Mr. Kumrod about his advertising.” Frank called me over and he said, “Don, I want to talk to you. I understand that you’ve had a little tough luck. Here’s a $100 bill. Take it.” Okay, now. Illini Publishing?

JS: Yeah, your days with the Illini Publishing Company?

DH: Or do you want to know the history of the company?

JS: Yeah, you’re involvement in it.

DH: All I know about it that before I came here that the Illini Publishing Co. was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 1911, or 1912. The original Dean of Men, incidental the Dean of Mens office started at this university and the guy who created it was Thomas Arkle Clark. He was the Dean of Men when I entered school here and David Kinley was the President, the Scot from Edinburgh, a professor in economics. Great guy. His home was about 2 blocks from where I lived, they didn’t have all this fancy stuff. Big scandal on that, I can tell you a story about how they built that house. The newspapers had a riot out here. As I understand it, they formed this deal so it would be independent, purposely formed to publish a newspaper. They wanted the newspaper so it wouldn’t be subject to harassment by faculty or student, to be an independent. Then around the same time Victor Krannert, not Victor Herman, graduated in electrical engineering here and the story on the Krannerts, and this is all going to come together, and you think it’s not, but I’m putting this together in my own mind that Herman was here about the same time they started with that company, and had nothing to do with that company. But his brother, Victor, is a man with no legs, graduated in 1917, in accounting, a brilliant guy. His legs, he was selling paper, their home, do you know anything about the Chicago area?

JS: A little bit.

DH: Kreen High School, their folks had a grocery school. And as I understand it, my recollection of it was that the family lived over the store and young Victor’s younger brother, when he was a little boy, was out selling papers and it was snowy and he ran in front of a streetcar and he severed his legs and his body was taken to Cook County Morgue and they tried
to find identification and he doesn’t carry pocketbooks and they did finally identified him and he moved in the basket, the body moved and the attendant called and they got a doctor and they saved his life. He had artificial legs and I had heard the offers, he was fabulous about..., but he was here just to, what he traveled for. I recall friends that from about 1920 until about ’35 that never knew he had artificial, they knew had walked funny, but they didn’t know that he had these straps. There’s the real legend. At that time Victor Krannert became the manager of the company, and I don’t know exactly his offering, but he took over the responsibilities of publishing the yearbook, the “Techno-graph” for the engineering, they had a lot of agriculture, the Siren was a humor magazine. Over the period of time there were different publications that were started and went under, for example that there was, even when I was here, there was poetry magazine and then we, in my day, not only published but printed, it was published by the Alumni Association, but we printed it down there in the basement in a newspaper form, a tabloid form. Basically our job was to take care of, to print the “Agriculturist” and the “Technograph” which is a tremendous money maker. The Daily Illini, the Illio, and this humor magazine and we sublet the Illio because we didn’t have the equipment to do find color printing, we could do it on a small scale, but it takes 10 presses 36x50 sheets, and in those days, this is before the days of offset, at tremendous cost for engraving, the budget, even in my day, believe me, you’re talking $50 - 60,000 to put this yearbook out and we’d sell it the first week for $3 and after that for $7. Just the binding contract, then it takes a full cartload of paper. We said, no. That was the only thing that wasn’t printed right down there in the basement. You know where the old union building is the publishing company rented that...the basement and a few rooms upstairs for the offices of the yearbook and these other publications. They had very modest offices and when the war started we printed the Weekly newspaper for them. See this company could print commercial, there were no restrictions. The only restriction was under the non-profit law was that no individual can be paid any profit, it had to go back to the purpose which was for educational purposes, but it is not part of the University. We used to pay property taxes here in Champaign county.

**JS: So you generated your own income.**

DH: Everything, there were no fees collected by the University, everything had to stand on it’s own two feet. We had to sell subscriptions and advertising to support the cost of publishing. It’s probably as good a printing ground as you’ll ever get. When I managed I figured up one time what the average was in the whole department, and normally it was between 400 - 450, on average, I think I figured out, it was about 436/437 over a 10 or 15 year figure with a number of students engaged in all the different publications. And this may be in the Tribune, you know Jack Maybaly, he was another legend, you should have been here when we had the big scandal, when we had Time Magazine in here, Chamber of Commerce threatening me. Oh that was beautiful.

**JS: When was this?**

DH: Oh, it broke on Mother’s Day. The whore houses.
JS: Oh yeah, the vice, the vice. I had a note to ask you about that.

DH: Well Jack Maybaly was the editor and Mike Tenly was the news-editor. He died recently, and was under a variety. And there’s some side lights under that, but anyway. As Maybe said one time, we were down with a whole bunch at some Alumni game different groups, and it wasn’t just Journalism school, one of them said to Maybaly, “What about this Illini deal?” He said, “It was the best education I every had.” He’s the one who’s a retired publishes, he’s got a $120,000 north shore out at Arlington Heights now. Interesting guy. But oh, you should have been here the day that broke.

JS: I wanted you to talk about that, that’s one of the things.

DH: The Illini Publishing Company?

JS: Well yeah, the vice.

DH: Well then let me go back to the history. The organization when I came here was still in the basement and I showed you that and we have 5 lineup types, 3 kicker presses, we had flat bed color press we also had, in printing equipment, what they call a duplex, it’s a newspaper continuous rolls but it’s printed with plates laid on a bed and it prints 8 pages at a time. It was equipment, we had 4 press men and we had, lets see, 3, 4, 7, and we had 14 topographers. Day and night operators and line types and floor men. And in total, we had one black employee, Rick Jamens, what a wonderful man, and Neves Stamford, married to a line cap operator, they’re all dead now. She was the only woman employee. I’ll tell you a story on that company, well I’m jumping around, but that’s where our facilities were. But remind me when we get to the year 19--, well I’ll tell you in a little but, just put Social Security down and I’ll tell you a story on social security of that company.

JS: Okay

DH: The structures location I told you the board the Illini all the governing body of the Illini Publishing Company is a Board of Directors composed of 4 students, and 4 faculty. The faculty are appointed by the President of the University of Illinois, or at that time the students were elected for 2 year overlapping terms on a general election of the student body. And they all had the same vote on the board. I told you the Technograph and the Siren and the involvement of the publishing company. I graduated in ‘33 and I went to work for the publishing company after I graduated. And, there was fellow named, Stollen and he left. And I did a little bit of everything, but it was basically a common sense sales. And Mr. Krannert had an assistant named Kenneth Duval and Mr. Krannert left the company to go with Emmen Container Corporation, his brother’s company. Now people don’t realize this but Mr. Krannert’s brother was 10 years calling everybody to get him to come work with him. And a lot of people but Mr. Krannert, Victor Krannert, had some of the parts of the dividend and ----and Victor just as smart as his brother. And celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Krannert Center. But, general policy was set by the and I must say they’re very independent, in my day they were extremely independent
of this University. Well some of the men were on the board at different times were Lukewater, Mechanical Engineer, ---- head of Electrical Engineer, Red Seibert, forgotten all of them, but and I knew a lot of the students, but they were very independent and they elected the editor and the managers that the senior managers they actually elected the senior management of all publications. And they I don’t know if you was an example of the independence of this board a member of the Disciplinary Committee of the University called the Chairman of the Board and suggested that it would not be in the best interest of the University if this student was considered for the job of a senior manager of the Illio, the Student yearbook. The Chairman of the Board, advised the President of the University that the qualifications of this man would be considered unmerited and not for extracurricular activity and that this end of the board we will be considering and the footnote of this little story is the man was elected to manager of the Illio.

**JS:** Now it was Seibert that took this forward right?

**DH:** That’s right. Now the, after Mr. Duval became the skippy, I was working there and Mr. Duval was the manager after Mr. Searfert. And at that time there were a man named – who had worked the company as a machinist a guy named Logan and I were trying to raise some money we found a benefactor and an uncle of Logan, Charles Logan, not Paul, Charles Logan. And we were going to buy the Bement Register, you know recharge the newspaper world. And, while we were negotiating and receding 3 things happened. And one that effected Mr. Logan was offered a job at CPS, Mr. Brestlehand inherited a million dollars. And, Mr. Duval resigned. And I decided I try to proceed with the Bement Register by myself. And just leave me in the office and when after about 5:30 and HT Scold, the College of Commerce who was Chairman of the Board at that time, came in and wanted to talk to me before I left and I had not applied for the position and said that they had been searching for a couple of days about applicants for the position of manager and that the suggestion of Mr. Victor Krannert the former manager that they had called at Indianapolis that they should look in the company itself and recommend that they accept me and Mr. Skol said that if you would like it they make you’ll ask the manager for one year and if he takes it you’ve got the job on a permanent basis. That’s the best thing that ever happened to me, and I accepted. And my salary went for $80 a month to $125 a month $175 and I thought that seemed enough to get married and I got married.

**JS:** What were your responsibilities?

**DH:** Of this. . .

**JS:** Can you describe?

**DH:** Well the responsibilities of the Illini Publishing Company basically . . .

**JS:** of the manager job?

**DH:** Of the manager job position. First of all we managed the economics of the company which is the production of all the still and negotiate the labor contracts, meet the pay roll. And
insofar as acting as the manager or any publisher would, I and Honsenbender would never tell him anything, the best thing was to try and train them, you’re not a teacher, but you say think this over, back them in their decision. No matter what it is. And insofar as the business part, we balanced the books everyday for every publication, and it was up to the student manager to be sure there is cash coming in there daily at the daily paper there’s a cash register. The Illio had the same deal, they had the responsibility for their, they had different bank accounts for each publication. And different banks, and we had a bank account for the corporation, separate from anything to do with any publication, each, the finances for each publication were handled separately like it was a separate company. And the theory of that was that we could do some, training, business training on how to run a business by having the students handle their own finances and account for every penny they took in. And in the case of the newspaper, it was a daily counting, the daily newspaper is published 6 days a week, Monday was accepted as a member of the Associated Press, they appropriated us press fees, and the cash had to be balanced every night. And the breakdown is how much from paper sales, how much from payments of advertising, how much payment —, how were payments were classified ads, and the student manager had to do that nightly. Or the associate, student manager, but not manager of the company.

JS: I see.

DH: And there we found right to the letters they got a genuine try to work it out and find out where the mistake was made. There had been some great student managers of that paper and I’m going to tell you something it’s not just editors that you read about. Al Cory was an amazing one. He started but then he had 120 at Michigan, and he had a some kids and Al Cory was not the most brilliant student in the engineering school, but he had the business experience, he was a offered and he became the head of Packard Electric, that’s General Motors, eight years after he graduated. And he was one of 12 kids from Herra, Bob had a grocery store. And there were a lot of fellas, that actually used that in a business way. And the sales, the students were required to set up a sales program. All the territories as far as the Daily Illini are concerned which is a local, the advertising were sort of so locally, there was a national advertising representatives in New York and other cities. But the Daily Illini, the local sales were at that were comprised about 85% of the total revenue were sold to Champaign - Urbana merchants. The city was divided into districts within the city of Urbana and Champaign and then there was the campus business district as there were 6 in Urbana, 3 in Champaign, and two on the campus, and that gave us 7 student managers with districts. And they were the juniors and others would be sophomores and freshman and they had to sign different accounts. And our goal was to see that every prospect in the city of Champaign - Urbana and on campus was contacted at least once a week. And I didn’t say, “What did the man say and why did he say no? And what can we do now?” And that was basically what the students did and management as far as the news part everybody was on their own, they were responsible for what they say. That doesn’t mean that there weren’t situations where you had to back them up or it’s just that they were wrong but it had nothing to do with censorship and supposed we could possibly there was one time there was a liable statement about to be printed and the press suspicious kind of funny called me and I said, “Put that to the student!” And he said, “Well, censorship,” I said, “Let me explain something to
you, you’re not the ones that’s going to be sued,” and I’ll tell you that’s a logic statement, what he said is the truth. I said, “Let me explain something to you. You say it’s the truth, but I don’t think that you can document that statement.” The truth is the only has to do with what you can prove that it is the truth and this company cannot take that risk. And besides you, we’d all look like fools. He took an issue and thought he was wrong. On the other hand, when this situation came with a famous expose by Jack Mabley and his staff, we had money sent to us and all kinds of it. Keep up the good work!

**JS:** Now why don’t you talk about that now, the *Daily Illini* and the . . .

**DH:** Jack Mabley decided that it was organized prostitution in Chicago and his town.

**JS:** This was in what the mid - 30s?

**DH:** I think it was class of 39.

**JS:** 39.

**DH:** I think. . . maybe it was older than that. Maybe 37, 8, 39, I think it’s 39, somewhere in there. But anyway, he and the news Editor was Mike Conley, and a fellow named Jim Dix. D - I - X. And he’s the *Quincy Herra Wigs* and editorial writer. Was, and he was his father’s, he lived in Door County. He was from Buda, Illinois. Mike Conley, when he died, was editor of *Variety*, and Jack Mabley was the columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*. He wrote what is now Ricost Column. And they decided that this campaign they would do something about it. And they actually secured some information that the local Western Union Office was wiring so many hundred dollars a night to a Chicagoan and they took off on a campaign to dry up prostitution, out. And the initial deal was that Mike Conley went to a house of prostitution and checked who was there and wrote a very famous column. I didn’t see it until it came out but it was, he wrote a story, that some of the patrons were members of the Champaign Police Department, and at that time all the members of the Champaign Police Department were married men. So it caused quite a stir. Anyway, there had been a rape over here on the 4th Street. Now, a week or so before, no one was doing anything about it, I mean, could find much about it. So Conley and Mabley and Dix left the Illini Publishing Company and left the papers out at 3 am in the morning the press run starts and they’re done, and the carriers come in at 5:30, 6 and the circulation manager sent them out on their rounds. They were walking down the street and Champaign police squad car pulls up and they take Conley and put him under arrest and take him with them, and Mabley and Dix went to the Champaign Police station and wanted to know what the charges were. And they said suspicion of this rape, which was in the Urbana side, which it was interesting. But anyway, that’s my comment, that’s an opinion, but anyway, they were there and they wanted to know what the bond was. And they had a Mr. James, who was JP, that was the day of Jps. Justice of the Peace. And the Illinois System, and they waited whether to call me they told me in the morning. They said that I were warned they didn’t think that I would have appreciated it, but I didn’t bother. But anyway, they went back to the campus and one of the friends of their’s they raised some money. And they walked back downtown to the Police station and counted out the
bond and said, “Here it is!” And I think his name is Captain Davis, but I may be wrong on the name, I don’t want to shoot my errors, said, “Where did you get the money?” And Dix said, Jack Mabley told me, he says, Dix is the real quiet, reserved, dignified guy, He said we shot cracks at blues right across the street and they denied passers, that’s where we got the money. The blues were in a gambling hall here. I could tell you a story about the blue and the community Chess chair and how much he put in. A friend of mine said, “You makin’ the money, put the money in, you just met the First National Bank, 10 grand Illinois and — putting in an anonymous contribution.” But that’s another story. But anyway, they were going to have a deal and it was going to be JT, that’s when Mr. Briton at that time, was a law professor chairman of the board. And at that time school had been in charge to accept lawyers for still around and the whole damn law school came down there and we hired an attorney. And he was present with the audience and were there for the sole purpose of demanding a jury trial to go to circuit court on the charges of there end up being a JP — dancer. And the mayor of this town explains, “I need to check your family by closing his father was married, I never would have said shit. You better get your Dad’s ass out here.” I said, “I’ll tell you something. You’re a city attorney, if Al goes on this, we’re not playing games.” I said, “I just felt sorry for all Jim Flint, and Jim Flint who didn’t know he was just a little merchant guy, who got.” But the interesting is that Issac Kuhn, who an amazing man, AMAZING man, Issac Kuhn. Closest Kuhn, he was close to 85 , 90 when I first knew him, he owned LAS store where lots of us were staying, very, very liberal. He called me. And he said, “I tell you what kind of man he was,” well that’s another kind of story that I should tell you. Late one night, when I was a student, he did a great thing to me, he taught me a wonderful lesson. Issac Kuhn called me, and he said, “This is Issac Kuhn. Who is going to represent Mr. Conley in these charges?” And I said, “We. . . .,” let’s see, how did he say it? He says, “I want to be sure he has a good lawyer and mine is available at my expense.” He says, “What do you know about Mr. Conely?” I says, “Well, he’s a secretary of Father John O’Brien and we’re bribing to let him go to lecture Larry Father of Theology and he ran Newman Foundation. And Conely was supplement and he was in and his brother had no money. His editor, he didn’t make anything near 20. But he’s getting a sorry, he’s taking care of Newman Foundation, and he’s got his room and board at Newman.” I said, “He’s a secretary of the Catholic priest,” this is the most prominent Jewish gentlemen in town. He says, “Now I want to be sure that he’s got my lawyer.” Well, we thank him and we had a pretty fancy lawyer ourselves, he was just sitting there, and until he starts to cry a little all of a sudden we’re there to have a motion on his behalf, demand that JP wouldn’t know what to do with that. But the city would turn it into peer. And said, “We’ve waited an hour here for charges to be brought. Where’s the city attorney? Mr. Justice, I think you ought to dismiss the case, but if you don’t wish to, I would like to enter a motion this trial to be scheduled for circuit court, criminal court.” That’s the end of the story. No more.

JS: That’s weird.

DH: That was the end of it. But when this was going on, there was an attorney, I forgot his name and he came down to see me. He’s the President of the Chamber of Commerce. And he says, “You fellows can’t do this.” I said, “I’m not doing, the student editors are doing this.” Well, he said, “This, you know who owns this copy, Red Rollinson, if they knew you were being
used for houses of prostitution, they’re in bad, bad trouble.” True, and I’m going to tell you one of the men I met, owned one of the pieces of property. Now I don’t think they had any ideas what they were going on, they were owned property. It’s even embarrassing to say you rent this property, you know what it were used for. They were all very prominent citizens, and this is what, I’m not even sure what he was trying to do or say, and then Time magazine got the story. The “student newspaper takes on the city”. It was king of interesting. And the thing that really broke was Mother’s Day. Sunday morning, Mother’s Day. Here was a pictures of a prostitute on North Market Street beckoning at costumer and that got the attention of those people.

**JS: Was that in the *Daily Illini*?**

DH: Yeah, in the *Daily Illini* page 1. That’s when it was a standard sized newspaper, and did that get attention. Lots of Mothers were interested, too. And then they had that. Turn that off and I’ll tell you.

**JS: Okay**

DH: I had Collins and staff. I had very few callers that would accept all the printers that and the pressmen. I had an assistant, Paul McMicheal. And he was Hartford was his office, the secretary, and that’s it.

**JS: Okay, you mainly worked with students, did you? Did you work with law students?**

DH: No, no, no, well all the students, I actually was the publisher of all the publications, you see, the publication company is the publisher, Per Se in the corporation. But there has to be, as a general manager I have perform the functions of a publisher. And the functions of a publisher, as you know, are both are both sides of the street, both editorial and then the side, come, he’s responsible the overall operation. To that extent, I had contact with all the students, as well as the, all the contracts for, I would work the specs, and then we would let the board would direct the low bidders on Illio, the rest of the stuff, should have let them suspend this money and I’d say, “let’s see if we’ve go the budget. Or whatever, we’ve got to raise the money.” We didn’t have any subsidy, and as you can tell perhaps from that, I like independence.

**JS: Did you want to refer to that memo at all?**

DH: No, no, but I know that that was brought up there’s an item in there about summer. But, brought it up, actually what I was perhaps answering was the suggestion by a new man who came here with a President as a PR or, or I think he was, well I think there was kind of an effort to say, “Well, it shouldn’t be under the University,” and I didn’t really agree with that.

**JS: Oh I see.**
DH: I don’t think it was a major thing, but I put it in writing, for safe keeping. He knew before I wrote it what I’d say. In general.

**JS: Would you talk about the relationship with the School of Journalism?**

DH: The School of Journalism and the Illini Publishing Company had no formal relationship whatever, any more than the College of Engineering, or the English Department or the College of Commerce or the Law. There was no official connection the Illini Publishing Company and the School of Journalism, period. And the theory is all in that story I told you that the University and the newspaper, particularly, separate from anything with the University so that nobody, can hear the public the reader. There are a lot of readers of the Illini that are students of the faculty. People may not realize it, but when that famous trial was going on here with the Stevicks and the reposition of their paper, my friend, we would print more copies then they were. There’s plenty of students, I mean, people who read it. And our feeling was, that if, my feeling, and I think I know that board was this, we, if the students are going to be learning anything, are going to be responsible they’re going to have to understand their form of liable laws, but the University is also saying it’s a two way street. The University doesn’t have to take responsibility for expression of the students, on the other hand, the University does not run student opinion. In other words independence from both sides is better for everybody because, I believe, a reader, and that includes many faculty and students as well as non-faculty and students who wants to feel that what he reads isn’t slanted one side or the other, hopefully, the reading public is that demanding. That what I’m, in this example that I told you of tops and this particular case, is a perfect example how I’m glad they’re not together. That’s enough of an argument right there. If it happens once again, who wants to prevent a University administration from issuing a press release and handing it and saying, “Print that as it is!” Maybe I feel that way, but I’ve had a personal experience later that after the query was over and I was hanging with that lady I went up to Japan and they had a lot, they came here with a newspaper and it was a murder deal at 3 in the morning and I came in and here’s the deal, that the hero the thing had a query to him. A senior officer had written a news story and was right across the top print I looked at it, charge of murder at 2:30 this morning was printed at arrested at 4:32. That’s all that appeared. He comes storming in and says, “Who’s the editor?” I said, “I am.” “Sir,” he said, “That’s a direct order, we’ll have a court marshal.” Stormed out of there, I, there’s a birch tree over there. Marines for 20 years, it’s very famous, he didn’t know anything about a paper, and he came, I’d never heard it that time, he says, “You’re name, what was it? You’ve got to experience the ---- What do you need to send me to do?” “Well, do you mind climbing up the -- -- You’ve probably get home earlier. Because we’ve got shipping out of there. We don’t have it here.” And, then I didn’t know, and I had a friend of the Master Sargent teaching up the Canadian general first star, very famous guy. And this colonel got in and he said, “Told him!” Colonel pulled his gun and got him to him, “Get that MP captain in here.” We just didn’t agree to cycle the second lieutenant just fined me $1500 and asked me why we think the hell they think we’re fighting this war for, freedom of speech. But, I’ve only seen this, this started, I believe in freedom of speech, and I think particularly, what do you think a University thinks in this? I mean this doesn’t take one position, and say, “This is the only,” I mean if there’s a justification, for a great University, a University period it is that they examine facts, but they don’t take a
political, a religious, or a cultural position, that they are still into new idea tomorrow one that they never thought existed on earth. And I think the same strength lies with the free press and I think the free press has to be responsible, but I don’t want somebody who has any sort of a chance to insolence, but that a paper publishes has anything to do with that. If there is an ore, he’s responsible. And it shows opinion, but to have a huge institution like this, with so many ramifications I just don’t think it’s good business, or if you’re trying to teach students how to be impartial or poors, you don’t want them to have them all go, their great white fathers standing over their shoulders say, “This is what is good for you!”

JS: Were most of the students that worked, were they in the School of Journalism or not, would you say?

DH: No, no, no. NO! Absolutely not! As a matter of fact, all kinds of them, Engineering, Liberal Arts, Commerce, all the publications of this school, this is not a lab school for the School for Journalism, and that’s just the difference. If they want to have a lab paper, then let them put it on in the school of Journalism. That’s fine, but to use the facilities here, here’s another. I object to it on another reason, but this is not the time. The primary reason I don’t want any affairs of what the student want to do. On the other thing, if they, if this is to be a lab school, then let the school of Journalism pay for the cost of operation of that company, instead of having these kids huddle in front of the library trying to sell subscriptions during registration the Illio kids on the other side trying to sell yearbooks, and down on the Engineering campus, the Engineers trying to sell subscriptions to publications to pay the cost of printing. In other words, if it’s gonna be free, it’s gonna be free all the way.

JS: Yeah. What was the relationship with the other newspapers in town?

DH: Very friendly. We had a situation here that I, is kind of interesting. They used to, originally, the labor contracts were negotiated, the committee would call on each paper and you understand that the newspapers were commercial shops here. The Illini PUBLISHING Company was the only company here that was both a newspaper and a commercial printing shop. The News Gazette is strictly a newspaper the Courier is a paper, and the rest of them Harrisons, Twin City Printing, there were 12 of them, and they used to for year they would go and negotiate a contract and negotiate a contract with one newspaper and after they got that they’d go to another one and they’s say, “well, he accepted this so you have to accept that same price.” There’s a man in my class who became the President, his father owned the company, of Twin City Printing Company here, I don’t even know if they’re in business anymore. But they were the largest commercial printers in Champaign county, and then there was Charlie Pearson’s, second largest. We were in the situation and we had a peculiar situation, in that first of all we were the smallest of the newspapers in terms of union employees. The Courier wasn’t much larger in those days, it’s only after Lindsey got in, and when they got in that’s when we made the change. The Gazette had the majority of topographers in the newspaper group. We had the unique position in that we had both a newspaper and commercial printing, plus that we published a morning paper. In terms of labor contracts there is a wage differential between morning and daytime work. We were already paying a premium on wages, a minimum on 10% differential,
what they paid 40 hours for, we paid 10% over 37 ½ hours. It was 10% plus 2 ½ less hours work for the same base. Well, it seemed to me that if a committee could go around and they could just take each deal and yet they were united in this jurisdiction. I thought why not have a committee represent the job shops and the newspapers; not two separate, one committee. We’d meet with the committee and work it out and it would bind us all. And I went to White, who had just come here to be manager of the Courier, and McDermot was working for Mary Jean Stevic, and I talked to Bob Gerardia, he was in my class, and thought it was a wonderful idea because, see the street newspaper operators usually got more money in the job shops in those days, a little more, on basic responsibilities. Anyway, we just told the union the first time on the first contract that came up, we want your committee to meet with our committee. Where you’d normally negotiate for weeks with one guy, then when you got done they’d come over and tell us what he’d accepted. But he didn’t run our business we each have our own kind of field. And that’s when we started negotiating as a committee. And it led to some kind of difficult things because there were certain personal animosities, not between our committee, but there was a man, a topographer for Mr. Gerard, at Twin City, and Mr. Person who owned Person’s. They didn’t like each other personally and they were not on the committee, either one of them, but they’d come to these meetings and sit in the back and then they’d get into a shouting match. And finally I said to them, one of the members on our committee was a manager for Mr. Person, the owner, and I used to play poker with Charlie Person, and when it came to this he was just unreasonable. And finally I said to him, “tell your boss to shut his god-damn mouth or we’ll never get a contract with him popping off,” you know. But we went to that and we negotiated and we had good relationships with the unions, very good as a matter of fact. One of the most touching things that ever happened to me in my life was when I left here, that the unions with the conveyance with Ted Turner and his wife, through a surprise dinner for me and my wife at the Urbana Lincoln Hotel, now Jumer’s Lodge. Supposedly we went to dinner there on Monday night with Turners and we were told we had to go downstairs to the Garden Room. We opened the doors and there were the union boys, all of them. The only thing I remember, I was stunned, it was such a surprise, Schmitt who was president of the pressmen’s union got up and said, “You fought us for 16 years, but you fought fair, good luck.” I got along fine with them. I knew all their wives and their kinds, you know. You know about the vice, but I guess we covered that. Anything else?

JS: Well I had mentioned a Campus Scout on here.

DH: The first Campus Scout editor, his name is on the list right here. Know who it is? Carl Stevens. I think he began that column in 1912. The last Campus Scout, I believe, when I was here, is on NBC, his name is Gene Shallott - the critic. In between times we had all kinds of people writing the Scout. A lot of them said it was kind of like the why to good news, because Carl used to have some, I read some of his old stuff, some poems. Did you ever know Carl Stevens?

JS: No.

DH: Slightly crippled man, he was first editor of the Alumni News. I don’t know what, but the committee decided the Illini, that’s something that I think...
JS: That seemed to happen in the mid-40's so I...

DH: I think that’s the time when Wilbur Shram and George Dennis who were starters came here from the University of Iowa. I think they thought it should be tied up in journalism and that, and I didn’t believe that. Be he was kind of funny. Shram was good friend of mine, but I just disagreed. He was an interesting man. As a child he’d been a studderer, and he went to Iowa and they straightened him out and he had a doctor’s degree and he was a wonderful magazine writer. But he said to me one time, “George was the president, believes all this nice stuff I write about him.” Now, is that enough on the committee?

JS: I believe so. Do you have anything else to say about the Illini PUBLISHING Company? Or we can move on to people.

DH: To me it is a great organization. I think the integrity...I think it ought to be kept separate. One of the greatest things, and I’m sorry to see it, and they brought it on I’m sure by not sticking to what they do. For the University of Illinois to run Athletic Association, to me, is a tragedy. You see, I go back, people forget that that stadium is build by student Illini money. There is not a dime of state money in that stadium. You have to put out a product and you get a deal. All the stuff, putting the supervision of the athletic department, I don’t think they get independence. I think it puts the academics here at risk. I don’t think they’re competent to run the athletic department. Nothing against them, but I don’t think their responsibility should be wasted on an athletic program, anymore than they should try and negotiate contracts for the student newspaper. I think it would be better for them to be independent.

JS: Ok. Let’s talk about some of the people. Any of these people on the list or any other’s you’d like to talk about.

DH: Okay, I’ll start out with Thomas Arkle Clark was the Dean of Students when I entered school here in 1929. He was the first Dean of Students anywhere in the United States...Dean of Men, I mean Dean of Men. He handled, practically a czar of student discipline, as far as male students. At that time he had 3 assistants. Dwight Braken, Fred Turner, and a fellow I think his name was James Smith. I maybe wrong on his first name. But Dwight Braken went to New York City as a Dean, and I think Mr. Smith went to DePaul, and Fred Turner succeeded Thomas Arkle Clark as Dean of Men. He changed the concept of that office to be more of an attorney of the defense rather than a disciplinarian. That office is charged with not only with men in general but they were also responsible for supervision on fraternity contacts and organizations and to some extent student activities. Fred Turner, to me, is probably, as far as the general student body, is known, by my generation, I’ll say anything between...Fred Turner is the class of ‘22 in the student body training corp for World War II. And when he came to school from Tuscola, his father was from Hume, Illinois, but later his father was the editor of the Tuscola paper. His brother is a New York architect, as I said he came as a 17, 18 year old boy and he started out he was going to be a doctor. Then the money ran out and he got to work in the deans office, and he had a degree in education, and then we wrote a doctor’s degree in the History of the State of Illinois. He was a remarkable man and he had a memory...I got to know
Fred really well because I had been vacations for 5 years, our wives and his wife to me is an amazing story by itself. He was very strong on fraternities, but he was the last person you think belonged to a fraternity. He’s by far, in those days amazing, I heard a speech by a trustee recently, or a statesman rather, that some years ago that they didn’t think that they should call this hall down here Fred Turner Hall because he wasn’t sympathetic to minorities. I disagreed to this statement because I had first hand experience. There was man who came up from Louisiana here to study. He was married and he was a school teacher and he wanted to get into administration. He was a black man. He was trying to go to school and he came from a very poor area and he didn’t have unlimited funds, to Stew Daniels, to Paul Beam, I don’t know how many people who had yards, and said, “You guys mowed your own lawns this time, I don’t want you to mow it.” And when that women made that statement, and she wasn’t the only one. Turner talked to Flip Andrews, a great end in football here, you’ll find out that Fred Turner didn’t have a prejudice in his body about Blacks. It pained me, I did everything I could but she’s still on the damn board. I’m talking, wether or not I did it, it was a good skill. Maria Leonard. A spinster lady who was a Dean of Students...A Dean of Women. There’s a very famous story here on campus about her lectures on morality to the girls, don’t sit on a boy’s lap - period. That’s about all I know about her.

JS: Well, okay.

DH: Miriam Sheldon was her successor, Miriam Sheldon was an officer in the waves and a very, very well thought of person. But a little different approach to the students, I didn’t know her well but I knew of her. And the next was a ever at Stanford, a legend. He was manager of the old union. He was our landlord. And a wonderful little man. He was always laughing. He just laughed continually. He said, “for everything write,” and he worked his head, and he was into every community project you can think of. He’s one of those good guys. The next one was Stewart Howe. Stewart Howe had a business here called Howe Publishing. He established a printing process, he published and printed, little, this size, 4 pages, for each fraternity that they could sell. And coincidentally, with that, it’s not on your list, there was another family and I don’t know if they’re still around. The Preezee. They had a similar kind of process for students. They audited fraternity finances. They had all kinds of them. And Paul Preezee and Tiz Preezee...

JS: How do you spell that?

DH: Preezee. They had a beautiful home out on Clark St. Tiz married probably the prettiest girl on this campus, and he was older. And Paul left here to become a National Secretary for Phi Delta, the golden...But he was one of the CPA’s. And what they did, they didn’t keep the books, they just audited the local treasure so that the Alumni would know that things were in order. But it was a summer service to the fraternities and sororities that Howe offered.

JS: Howe is the reason for all this by the way. All of this is his collection.
DH: Stew Howe. He made a living off of the fraternity system. You know Charles Flynn?

JS: No I don’t.

DH: He lives here in town you know. He succeeded a man, Mike Tobin. Mike was an old newspaper man, and his wife Margaret Tobin was the head of the family welfare society here. Mike Tobin was a press agent for the Athletic Association. And guess who their son is. There was a little boy running here, when I was here, I used to have lunch with Mike and Vic Krannert and Fred Turner and we’d have lunch at the ( ). You know where the McDonald’s is now? There was a tea room, and we’d go down there for lunch everyday. This little kid would be around, the father was a lot older than the mother, and that man today is an economist at Harvard, he’s a Nobel Prize Winner. Tobin, that’s the son of my friend Mike Tobin. And Chuck Flynn from up in DuQuoin, Illinois, was his successor as the press agent for the...And then Chuck did some teaching in the Journalism school and then he won the state....I can tell you a story, he’s actually...but anyway. He later became the Mary Gene Stevick guy here, she owns the paper, I can remember Gean David, her father. Her first husband was Buddy Rodgers brother. A home out in the country, Mary Jean’s quite a...she married this comic from somewhere. How that paper got started, that’s another story. The next one was Lawrence Murphy, and Lawrence was the Dean of the School of Journalism, when the Journalism school was old University Hall before the ceilings fell down the night that nobody was in the building, or they would have been killed. That’s when the condemned it. Manning Seal, a legendary Manning. Manning Seal ended up his career, he was teaching here and then he ended up at Florida, Florida State. He’s from Greenville, Illinois.

JS: Close to my home.

DH: He is married had no children. He was an Air Force officer. He lived right near me and Turner lived 4 doors away. He went in the Air Force at Kelley Field. He has some great story. One of the best one was where they found the mechanics. They went to Cleveland, Chicago, Buffalo, wherever. Then they hit Milwaukee, and they hi 90% of their contingent. There were more skilled machinists there. Kelly Field. But Manning, great. What about Willard and ...

JS: Well, any of the Presidents that you knew or...

DH: Well the first President that I knew was David Kinley. Then there was Arthur Cuts Willard. Dr. Willard I remember at the time he became President I would here talk around among faculty, I had a wonderful thing, I was a hybrid. I went to the ( ) Club, the Champaign Rotary Club. I’m a hybrid, they think I’m faculty, and I’m not faculty, and I have a lot of faculty friends, and I had a lot of other friends. There had never been anyone here, there had never been an engineer as President before. My doctor here’s father was President, Dr. Draper. He, himself, was an Olympic gymnast. And I think his father was President in ‘79 or ‘89 or something. But
Dr. Willard he been an extremely successful engineer before he every went to University work. He was the designer of a Holland Tunnel in New York. Then they had a temporary, a man here for a short time, he was a controller of the University named Lloyd Morey. He probably knew as much about municipal financing as anybody. Very religious man, not only a great organists, but he knew about the construction of the organ. Then there’s George Dinsmore Strag, professor of psychology. I have a cousin at the University now that got her doctorate under George Dinsmore. He was very interesting, I think he was the person who got into a fight with Andrew Ivy, the medical directory, Dean of the College of Medicine. Very interesting, because at the time, because he was at Princeton after that, and there was another doctor in the city named Nelson, his son’s my doctor and he himself was a doctor. He roomed with Ivy at the University of Chicago. He said that guy’s Andrew Ivy is no quack, he’s a real doctor. This had to do with $10,000 request for braizerres for monkeys, I think it was, for his study of breast cancer. I think that’s what it was. 

And then there was Floyd Morey, and Stoddard, and Harry Woodburn Chase was in there, and that was something. I think he went to New York State University. This fellow later became senator Carolina. He had a couple of kinds, very handsome, very beautiful, and very dramatic. They were in all the drama things. I don’t know too much about the rest of them now, then we come to one of the great guys, Anthony John Ginada., Tony Ginada. I knew him in Vic Krannert, and Skooley and Tony Ginada and another fellow named Boomer Johnson. We used to flip for coffee every morning. Tony Ginada was the executive to Boomer and the 5 Presidents. As they say, Tony ran the President’s office, no matter who was there in title, he was the guy. Very quiet and gentile man. He married a beautiful women she had been a English major. And I’ll never forget there was a boy here going to college from Jamaica and they entertained a great deal. I had been to their dinner parties, I had the apartment right below theirs. As Margaret said she was always afraid to speak in front of this man because he spoke better English and she was an English major. You know that beautiful British accent. But Tony Ginada he was a very quiet man but shrewd. He had great power behind the decisions of the Board of Trustees. He could sell things and he wasn’t about, his nickname, I must tell you, was a funny one. He had a scar here and he was a bohemian, but he had the complexion of an Italian and a ball head like Al Capone. I went to school with Gizzy twins in Chicago, and Jake was the member of the syndicate, the Jewish family, with a CPA from Columbia, and all the kids said he was a furniture importer and he lived about 2 blocks from where we did. He had an office called “Jay Brown Paint Us Dennis Down South.” But Tony Ginada had this scare, we’d never call him and when we did we’d say “Hey Al, we’re going for coffee.”

JS: Al Capone.

DH: But I’ll tell you they used to, Tony was something, a great golfer. He’d be mixed up by the Board of Trustees and man he’d be so mad when he came out he’s shoot a 55 and then he’d shoot a 32 on you. You know what I mean, right like that. But probably, he was probably one of the lobbyist this school ever had. He could go over to Springfield and I think the boys in Chicago understood him. But I’ll tell you a classic we had a, when Henry Horn was governor, Mr. Willard, was some controversy about the University budget, Mr. Willard made some remark about the political system or the governor. Well, anybody knew Henry Horn was a Democrat and my friend started the Young Republicans, and he said he’s the best judge I every appeared
before and I’m a Countertree boy. He said, the newspaper guys used to swear by him, they’d say this is the kind of man who ought to be in office. But he came down on the budget publicly like you’ve never heard and then he called Dean Rush and he said, “Don’t worry Walter, you’re going to get your money.” Carl Stevens as I said his office was just above mine, had a bay window in that building. He, they published a rather dignified, a rather small publication. Carl was a nice fellow, I didn’t know him too well, he was a little older. And now we’re getting to the tough ones. Frank Schooley. Frank Schooley has three bothers and a sister, his sister is an Army nurse. She had been a nurse for years and she’d join the Army nurses corp if they’d send her oversees within 30 days, otherwise she’s say, “I want to enlist, captain.” He has one brother Gene who had sent some newspapers, but basically an artist. And one brother was the editor of the Mexican Missouri Ledger and when the war came he left there and went into the Navy, he ended up a vice-admiral, in charge of PR for the navy. The other, Clark, was a columnist for the Springfield Journal, and Frank was Josef F. T, remember that - you’ve got his name here. Josef T. Wright. Josef Wright was the first director of WILL. It was build in ‘26, I think the Sulivans gave some money. Frank was teaching sports writing in the School of Journalism, and he was the assistant director of WILL. Frank graduated in the class of 1929. He was great friend of Krannerts and Seibert’s, and why they ever accepted, I’m younger than them, but we all at that time came together. Frank, I don’t believe he had ever taken a girl out. There was a fellow here named David Leraby, who Fred Turner had brought here as his assistant, and he left here, he was from Dartmouth, and he was working here in geology, and in the war time he was an undercover guy for the US government and his wife didn’t know what he was for 2 years. Kleraby and Schooley had an apartment in the Old Union building. The apartment was one room with a shower and 3 cots. Leraby had broken up with a beautiful gal from the east and he met Kate Putnam. Kate was a super talented nurse out at University Hospital out here. He used to have, it was amazing, she to cook and had fellows and girls, and she liked me. Spaghetti. He fell in love. She was a lot of work. His father’s a federal judge, he’s an honor man at Dartmouth, a little bit of a guy, bald headed, toughest little judge I ever saw. He had won everything, canoe racing. He’d take his skis out and I’d be running fast and he’d swing right out there in the parade ground. But Schooley and I we were all together. Then I go married. Oh before that we had lived, Schooley and Seibert, and we stayed with Krannert after his mother died and he had artificial legs and he wanted somebody in the house with him because he couldn’t swing into his legs out of bed, for a short period of time. But Schooley, Krannert and Schooley, and I were downtown at the Green Gate One, and Krannert didn’t give a hoot. We always got passes at the newspaper for new movies and there was a newspaper with all the movies, and for some reason Krannert, I never heard that he ever went to a movie. And we’re sitting there and we’d ordered lunch, and he said to the three of us, “Let’s go see that movie tonight over at the Raddler across the street.” Dave and I said, “fine.” Schooley said, “I can’t go.” He was just kidding him, and I had no idea he ever dated, and I said, “I bet it’s that pretty Irish waitress we’ve got,” and it was! But this end of this story is something. Now I’m going to say some things, and you may have to edit this out, I don’t know. But I’m going to tell you something. Illinois, Brown, I was from Penfield, Illinois. You know where that is up there? That’s an all Irish-Catholic community. Great school, grave field, beautiful church. I mean like Platville, just north of old German, the Mennonites. And Eleanor has one brother, a priest. In fact I remember one summer when he was working on his doctorate degree and we were living in the same fraternity I lived in and we
had 8 priests so they could mow the lawn and they got a place to sleep, I was president of the house so I got a place to sleep, too. But her sister is named to someone named Brian McGrath, two of them were at that time coaches in the Chicago school system, football. Big farm family. I had a cousin from Princeton, I never knew her. But I had no idea that they were related. But anyway, the reason I’m saying this is that one of her sons is the coach at Champaign High School. So when you talk about Schooley, I don’t know about this recording, but I’ll just have to trust you to edit this. Eleanore’s mother objected to Frank because he was a Protestant, and his father a rural mail-carrier and a part time Baptist minister. No daughter of hers was going to marry out of the faith. She had a father, I don’t know how high he was, he was a political boss of the Democratic party of Champaign County. H.A. Green, the big time lawyer, was a Republican, and they were great friends and they decided they’d run from Congress. As long as he had hookers on the farmers that’s fine. That’s how they got Bill Weez as a Congress man, he’d never run for dog-catcher, anything. He retired from the bank and he knew all the farmers in the county and they said that’s the guy that’s going to be our guy, go. Anyway, I was married, I lived on Nevada, we had an apartment over on Nevada, and if Frank and Eleanore went out and got a cup of coffee somewhere they’d be right back and she’d call and say, “what are you seeing that...” So they’d come over to our house. My wife and I would go out for a walk and I’d say, “Spend a little time together guy.” Well anyway, this is going on to a very tough thing. This girl was in my wife’s class, she had to make excuses to come to Champaign to see this guy because she couldn’t go near him at all. Finally they decided they’re going to get married. She wanted to be married in Catholic church. She called a priest named Kelley in Peoria who had been one of the assistant priests. When you’ve got a whole town they have more than one priest, you know what I mean. And she called this Father Kelley who had gone to the Cathedral in Peoria, the diocese, he was one of the assistant pastors. And when she was down there to school to visit, she called him and said, “Would you marry me if I married him?”

JS: Okay.

DH: So in 1936 Frank and Eleanore and my wife Marg who’s a Delta Gamma from here in the same class, we drove to Peoria and they were married in a rectory where neither family had anybody there, and I took them to the Sugar Bowl or something for breakfast, I’ll never forget. And we started out on a vacation, and it’s so funny because they went right up the highway and there’s a Y there, I went on towards Princeton, I was going to Rochelle ‘cause I wanted to take a stop there on a contract, they were going up to the lake. They turned and went right up to Chicago, right were I live now. And she became pregnant and they had a baby. The boy’s name was Frank Schooley, the guy that tipped you off.

JS: Yeah.

DH: And as soon as her mother found out that she had that baby she called her and saw them, and said could she come down and see the baby. And Eleanore said, “you’ve certainly given me a bad time, Mom, but come on down.” She came down. Frank, the husband, her favorite son-in-law over night. Then they had another boy who coaches here and they had 3 daughters, one who lives in Fairbanks Alaska. Eleanore taught at Holy Cross, I don’t know, for
25-30 years, and Frank is here, at WILL. And then he died when he was 80. And Eleanore was elected to the Champaign City Council, the first women member, she was awarded, 5, 4 or 5 terms. And her husband’s a Republican, she’s a Democrat. He’s a member with the Public Broadcasting Corporation with Rockefeller, at a time with 7 members. I came down here when she died last summer. She was over at Fred’s house, they were married then, she had a key to the house and she thought she’d tidy up and she fell. And she got a head injury, and that affected her forgetfulness, and finally she had to have care out here and she was out here in the Nursing home. I used to drive down there every 3 or 4 weeks. Fred said, “I don’t know if she’ll remember you or not.” I walked in out there, it’s 300 patients, it’s huge, and she’s got a little nurse, and she was sitting there, still a beautiful woman, snow white hair, she had that Irish look, deep blue eyes, black hair, and they never had to wear makeup, they look like they’ve just been scrubbed and come out of the shower, you know. And at her age, stunning, absolutely stunning looking woman. And I thought, oh God, she probably doesn’t know me, which is alright, you know. You drive 260 miles. I stood in the doorway because I was waiting for the nurse to leave and she turned and look at the door and she said, “Hey Don, where the hell have you been?” And then, the funeral, geez. You should have seen that one. Well, have I told you about Seibert?

**JS:** Yeah, you told me quite a bit about him.

**DH:** Alright.

**JS:** If you want to say some more that’s fine.

**DH:** No, no, no. I happened to be the god-father to his daughter. Yeah, their marriage was something, they’re both so damn brilliant. They couldn’t go on a trip, they’re both working here in the States, so at Christmas they took a, they got married in August, they took a honeymoon, and they went to New York, and they appeared in one of these game shows and they won $35,000 in one afternoon. They didn’t what to do so they got on the phone and they called their fathers, “What do I do now dad?” They won a boat and a house, or something, a whole $35,000, I said they called the wrong guy. Jim Calvin is from Hillsburgh Illinois, and he became the editor of the Alumni News. And Jim had been in the weekly newspaper for many many years. He came back here and married a lady here, I think he had been divorces, I’m not sure if he was a widower or if he’d been divorced. And Calvin, southern Illinois’ best story teller.

**JS:** Ok.

**DH:** D.W. Stevic I only met once, I knew Mary Gene, his daughter. And D.W. Stevic, I was told this, this is basically from Krannert and Schooley and those guys from here, he got control of the Champaign Gazette and I think the News belonged to this other family Merge. But anyway, this was back in Prohibition, and he went on a campaign against liquor. He’d drink all night in a speakeasy and then turn a story in the morning. That’s what I was told, I don’t know if that’s true of not. The people who ran. There was an interesting law case when I was here.
What was this lady’s name? There was a man, who was a business-manager, Elmer Blow. There was a lady, just slipped off my tongue, she was his secretary and I think she had power of attorney, I know she had power of attorney. David was out on the west coast in California all the time, in fact Mary Gene’s first husband was Buddy Rodger’s partner. She had a Rolls Royce and all this, and her name was Persike, I’ve forgotten how they spell that. Anyway he comes back to Champaign and finds out that his paper has been sold out from under neither him. There was a very famous lawsuit. H.I. Greene, probably the best know lawyer, never went to law school in this county. I know of 3 retainers he had for $100 K a piece. One of them was my sister’s father-in-law; 3 for $100,000 retainers, the Illinois Central, Illinois Power, and dad. He read law in a lawyer’s office over in Indiana. H.I. Greene, oh was he, about 7 feet tall, you ought to see him in the courtroom.

JS: Presence.

DH: And then a man who was Dodens, you know the Dodens?

JS: No.

DH: Well they’re a very powerful family, he was a Senator, I don’t know if he was a U.S. Senator, but there was a political deal. But he was quite a trial lawyer and they went at each other’s throats and Greene got Stevic’s paper back. Everyone in town, and the Gazette wasn’t carrying the story and the Courier went to bed in the afternoon. We went in the morning and we went play by play and boy our circulation tripled overnight. That’s about all I know about Stevic. There was an editor at the time named Eddy Chapin, sports editor, he later became quite a writer. He left here. Victor Krannert, there is...this is the guy, as I told you had no legs, mind like a steal trap. A man who, you get me going, used to make me, he knew just how to handle me. He’s look at and he’d say, “I’ll bet you the best god-damn dinner in town that you can’t sell that.” Down here in the summer, he said, “I’ll buy you dinner every night for a month.” I come back and I had 2 whole pages done and I said, “you owe me for 2 months now.” And I became good friends, after he left here, it was so interesting, he left here and then he got married, he married a lady from France. I know he had a girl friend, I met her when she came down from Chicago, and she did so many nice things for him. He used to have to buy commercial coverings for his legs, she would knit these socks for these stubbs of his. And she’s a peasant girl from France, well her folks are, but she lived in Paris. What a woman. So they got married and he won a move from here to Indianapolis, and he accepted it, so Frank Schooley and I packed their car and we went out to (    ) on the way out that night and then we went over to see them, they had this beautiful apartment. And one day she come out and said, “I don’t want to live in the city, I want to live on a farm.” Well this is a pretty good a season, she says, “I don’t care Victor, I just bought a 16 acres.” It’s up in St. Augustine, just north of Indianapolis, it has a swimming pool and it has beautiful geese, just like the French. And Victor Krannert is, there’s stories on him, when he had the income taxes due he’d go to Chicago for a couple of days and he’s go to the track and think he’d win enough money to pay for it. But then, and he was very sensitive about his legs. He’d never go in, of anybody I’d seen Mark go down to Pete’s Café one time and there was a crowd and a train was stopped and he said, “get out and go up there and find out
what they sold,” a colored boy run by and said, “Joe got hit by the train.” He said, “Don get out and go up there and find that kid.” Well I got up there and he was so shaken up he just went all to pieces. Victor was... She’d write me in French, I couldn’t read a..., my first-wife was a French major she’d read it, the only think I could read was “Don Cherie,” I know that, “Don Dear,” but I didn’t know a word after that. But she came back with Dr. Genetetta and Frank Schooley out of Schooley’s and we got her to comeback here and I got there, and I drove down from Princeton, and the doctor said to me, “Now we stuck Alex, but be careful you don’t walk up to closely, see that animal sitting besides her? She breeds doberman,” and she had a big doberman as her bodyguard. And she “Alex,” and she yells and screams at me and the dog at the same time. Chuck Fredrick, Chuck Fredrick was an assistant in the office, he was from southern Illinois, he, I think his classes were the same classes as...the guy from here with Dean Milk...Lenny Sherman the Board of Trustees in the same class of ’31, Chuck Frederic was an assistant dean here, a red headed fellow. I didn’t know him too well, he wasn’t here too long. You want to know about Coach Zuppke. Well, my association with Robert C. Zuppke starts when I became a member of the Champaign Rotary Club and Robert Zuppke was a member. But when they started to meet, they’d meet in the winter at the Edmond Hotel, and then they’d go in the summer at the country club until the Leman hotel, the man who had that in Mattoon, he died and left the hotel to him employees and they wanted to serve pork-chops and stuff at noon and the guys in Rotary wanted just soup and a sandwich, they didn’t want to eat that. They said go else where, and we did. But at the Country Club, usually we’re on the campus, Zuppke’s on the campus, I’m on the campus, and Turner belong to Champaign, rather than Urbana. Most of the Urbana Club was our University professors. They have a rule in Champaign that only 10% can be teachers, can be professors. So we’d come in usually for the last table, we’d get there just as they were about setting down. So frequently I’d sit at the same table for eight. Two memories of Zuppke, both of which happened at different meetings. One was when Bert Heard was president. Bert Heard ran a brokerage house down on the Robeson block, very sophisticated trader, probably the best golfer in Champaign county. Very good looking, handsome. He was older but he looked like he was about 30, you know. He was telling him what a quarterback should have done on Saturday. He didn’t seize up. And there are two places open and we’re walking across the ballroom floor and the tables at the end by the kitchen. And Zup heard him. And we sat down, and Zup talked with an accent, that German accent, he turned to him and he said to Bert, “Let you play quarterback Saturday Bert, you seem to know no more than a 19 year old kid.” Boy did that table get quiet. Then I’ll tell you another story, that was not at Rotary. A lot his players, he was known never to call a player by his name when he played for him, he always had a nickname or a number. One of the fellows that played for him in ’29, ’27, ’28, or ’29, was named Fritz Humberg. Now he had a rigid backfield, the whole backfield didn’t range, and he won 2 national championships, but Zuppke told everyone that they’d never win a third one, they were old men now that they’re seniors they think they know it all and they’ll get beat, and they lost one game. But Fritz was in the office and he was going to have dinner with Turner, and Schooley and me. We knew him, you know, he ran back and forth with Peters, the great drop kicker, oh, he’s something, oh he’s wonderful. So this was right after Zup’s wife had died and so we’re, well, well want to go out and see him, and you know. So he goes out to the apartment there across from the park, and he had never been called by his name and he had played for him 3 years varsity ball, and he rang the bell, and he said, “come up,” and
he was at the door and he called him by his first name and he said, “How are things going at Illinois Glass?” that’s where he was working at. He had followed his whole career, this is 10 years, 15 after he left. Swed Lundbury is a friend of mine from up at Lockport. Same thing. He always called him “the bear” and he had a short haircut, could play... They used to quick kick on the run. Zuppke gave them footballs, but... The last one, the incident, you might understand what the whole athletic program is about. George Huff, or G. Huff, whatever they called him, and A. Stag from University of Chicago, and Fielding Yellows, from the University of Michigan are the three men who started the western conference for the Big Ten. I used to double date in high school with Stag’s son. And I knew Mr. Huff and his only child, a daughter, was married to Frank Murphy, and Murphy and Vinere down here, we used to buy all of our insurance from them. Frank was the Olympic pole vaulter in 1912, he made 12 feet and got a gold medal at Stockholm. Mr. Huff had one eye. Huff sent over 400 players to the major leagues. Huff coached everything, then things got bigger and Robert Zuppke was coaching Oak Park, River Forest High School, fine record. And they had something, way back in those days, he went to Brooklyn New York and played some Brooklyn team for the National High School Championship and won. Zuppke was making, I think, I heard this, he told it at the time, the reason I know this is that the day that G. Huff died, I know I should give you a little background. We all sit down at the table and George Huff was in Burnham Hospital and Mrs. Shelf, who ran the club, came in and came over and whispered, at the time, these men were talking about we’ve heard that the Quarterback had been elected president of the club and he was sitting up at the head table. And she came in and she whispered in his ears and it was just as they were going to introduce the speaker. And Bert said, “Gentleman, I think we’ll just cancel our program, I have just receive word that G. Huff died. So I’d like to ask Bob Zuppke to say at few words about G. Huff.” It just happened, there was no script. And I’ve seen him knock players down, and I’ll tell you that he’s a little bit of a guy. I had a friend like him, I was supposed to tag him and he’d get shin splits and the crowds would strip him and they wouldn’t angle at a station and these clubs would beat him. Zuppke was a big guy and would yell at them in German. And he was fine when he started, he said “Well, I’ll tell you why I came to Illinois.” He said, “I was at Oak Park High school,” and he said, “I was invited to please come down to Purdue University, we have an offer. And I went down to Purdue and I was making $1,800 and Purdue University and they offered me $4,000 to coach their football team. I thought what an offer. But I had also promised that I’d talk to Mr. Huff so I came from West Lafayette Indiana over to Champaign to see Mr. Huff and he told me what he had in time. He told me what he had in mind and he said, ‘We don’t have much money Robert,’ we’ve got $3,000, and I didn’t even call my wife and I said I’ll be here.” Then he started to cry. He’s a character, oh boy. Very famous deal on him, I was present, but a friend of mine was present, there was a dance out here at the Champaign Country Club when Zuppke’s wife was still alive and Eddie Duchen, a famous pianist, and his great orchestra was there, and he and Zuppke got into an argument about creativity. I don’t know if you knew him, did you know what Zuppke did for recreation? Did you ever heard Camel Back Inn in Arizona? Camel Back was the first big resort in Arizona, it’s now owned by Marriott, but it was the first of the big resorts, it was the first of the great resorts, it’s in Scottsdale. Bob Zuppke and his wife were the first guests in there. The end of football season and everything, in winter he would go to Arizona and they were the first guests that ever registered at the Camel Back Inn. Today, I’ve been in there many years, and my wife and I used to go down every year,
there is a Zuppke room on the first floor and it is decorated with his oil paintings. Did you know his stuff? Bob Zuppke painted landscapes for relaxation, that’s how he unwound from the football deal. You ought to see some, you ought to see “Desert Scenes” you ought to see some of the stuff, his stuff is good. He’s not an amateur. Zuppke, I’ll tell you, he’s one of a kind. Just like Krannert, the man with no legs, there’s a big fellow here, an All-American, which he used to coach up at LP’s, he’s a coal miner boy from Pana, about 240. He come in and start kidding Krannert, the man with no legs, he said, “Sit down Butch, you think you’re tough, I’ll arm wrestle you Butch.”

JS: Well thank you very much. Do you have any other...

DH: No, no, I’ve talked so much.

JS: Okay, well thanks a lot.