

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH STEVAN H. CREW

CONDUCTED BY THOMAS A. SCOTT

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for the

KSU ORAL HISTORY SERIES, NO. 91

WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

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KSU Oral History Series, No. 91  
Interview with Stevan H. Crew  
Conducted by Thomas A. Scott  
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Wednesday, 16 September 2009  
Location: KSU Alumni House

TS: Stevan, why don't we begin with your background, growing up in Paulding County. Just talk about friends you had there and schools you attended and so on before you got to college.

SC: Well, thank you for the privilege of the interview. I'm overwhelmed. I was born in Atlanta and have lived in Paulding County all my life with the exception of three and a half years in high school. I'm a lifelong resident. My family has lived there almost two hundred years, so we've got roots in Paulding County. My mother is from Lumpkin County. I went to all of the schools in Paulding County. I was in the Dallas Elementary School and then the Dallas Junior High School and then finished there. Probably the most important thing I did, I was on the first little league football team in Paulding County. It was called the Dallas Midgets. Quite a few of those folks that have gone on and done well in Paulding were on that. We had two judges, one district attorney, and one secret service agent just to name a few that came out of that group. Then before the ninth grade we moved to LaGrange, and I attended LaGrange High School for two years, which was endowed by the Callaway Foundation. It was kind of like what McEachern [High School] would be here. They endowed the teachers' salaries and all these kind of things. That was a wonderful experience to prepare for college. Then we moved to Gainesville, and I went to Gainesville High School, which was also a college prep school, for a year and a half, and then I went back to Dallas and actually graduated from Dallas. I had enough credits when I finished Gainesville mid-year to get through Dallas, so it was just kind of a breeze when I went back. I went back and graduated from Dallas High School with people I had gone to school with all my life.

TS: Was your father's job moving you around?

SC: Yes. He was a manager in the insurance business of twenty five to thirty life insurance agents. He was what you call a builder, so they sent him to LaGrange to build up the agency. He did that for two years, and then they sent him to Gainesville, and then he had enough of it and resigned and went back to Dallas and started his own insurance agency.

TS: We ought to put, for purposes of the tape, the names of your parents.

SC: Yes. My father was William Howard Crew; he went by Billy Crew. My mother was Margaret Smith Crew. She was a Smith, maiden name, from Lumpkin County. While in LaGrange and Gainesville it was a marvelous opportunity because the school system was far beyond Paulding County at the time, in LaGrange in particular. They prided themselves in sending twelve to fourteen students a year to Ivy League schools from that

high school. They prided themselves in having the same schools for both sides of the railroad tracks, if you will, for the people that managed Callaway and the people that worked at Callaway.

TS: They went to the same school?

SC: They went to the same school and had the same opportunities, and so it was a very unique opportunity to grow up with all those endowed programs there.

TS: Was it Dallas High School? What was the name of the school?

SC: That was LaGrange High School.

TS: No, I mean, when you got back for your senior year.

SC: Oh yes, it was Dallas High School.

TS: So you're saying that it really didn't have the advantages that the LaGrange school or the Gainesville school did?

SC: That is correct. I'll give you an analogy that the first part of the first year we had an English Lit course. I had the same English Lit course in Gainesville as a junior, and I had the same English Lit course at Dallas my last few days as a senior, so that'll tell you how far advanced they were. But it helped me when I got to college.

TS: You got plenty of English Lit.

SC: That's right.

TS: Well, you were talking about friends that became judges and so on, and I think I probably know who some of them were from people that you've brought to different things on campus. You might talk about them a little bit.

SC: Well, one is Bill Foster. His father [Judge William A. (Bud) Foster, Jr.] was the first Foundation trustee from Paulding County for KSU when it first started. He was one of them, and then we had Freddie Lawrence who guarded President Carter as a secret service agent, and we had several other people that owned the newspapers and pretty much a lot of the "pillars" of our community out there. In Paulding County we had three schools. We had Dallas High School, we had Hiram High School, and then we had Matthews School, which was still a black school at the time. One year after I graduated or maybe two years, they combined the three schools into Paulding County High School, and now in our county we have five high schools. That was kind of neat.

TS: So it was '66 when you graduated?

- SC: In '65. It's interesting, my first grade was adjacent to the building that was the Dallas Junior High, and then Dallas Junior High became Dallas High School when I finally went back there, and that was originally the football field that we played on as the Dallas Midgets, and then they moved to a new football field, and it's now called Herschel Jones Middle School.
- TS: What position did you play for the Midgets?
- SC: The one that was worthwhile was center. You took a lot of abuse at center, but it was a fun position.
- TS: So you graduated in '65 from high school. Then what did you do?
- SC: Went to West Georgia College for a year, and then I transferred to Kennesaw Junior College. West Georgia was a division of the University System, and Kennesaw was a unit of the University System, and they didn't transfer very well even though I had transferable credits. So I was one of those people that got burned, if you will, on transfer credits. I lost almost a whole quarter, and I actually took core courses; they were not electives. So when I arrived at Kennesaw I explained the dilemma to the registrar who was Tom [Thomas H.] Rogers. Tom was from Paulding County, and so he graciously listened to my complaints, and he said they changed some things after that so people wouldn't lose credit as I experienced.
- TS: Well, you jarred my memory, but when I got here in '68 I think we were just getting the Core Curriculum in place where the General Education courses would transfer anywhere inside the system. I guess I didn't know the background that it was such a problem transferring from West Georgia to Kennesaw. You wouldn't think that that would be a problem.
- SC: You would think that that would be just seamless, but it wasn't. I wanted to major in insurance and risk management and finance and they didn't have any of that at West Georgia. Of course, Kennesaw, I would have stayed here, but I really wanted to go to University of Georgia. So I received a degree from Kennesaw and then transferred to Georgia. I actually finished the fall quarter of '67, but they didn't award a degree; we had to come back on campus the spring of '68; and if I remember correctly only about twelve of us showed up for the graduation ceremony.
- TS: We only had one ceremony a year at that time.
- SC: I think so. There were many others who had graduated, but they were, like myself, at other schools already. I went ahead and graduated on time from the University of Georgia in the summer of '69. Probably one of the greatest things going on at that time was the Vietnam War. All of my friends were going to Vietnam that didn't go to school. They didn't get deferments. Some of us that, I hope, have grown up to be good citizens and felt that it was our duty to serve, really had a guilt trip about our friends going—and some died—and most of them coming back in a situation mentally that took quite awhile

to adjust, so we felt a duty to go. I was one of the few that actually volunteered as soon as I graduated from Georgia because I wanted to serve and went in in the enlisted ranks purposefully to serve in the infantry.

TS: You didn't think about going through ROTC?

SC: No, I didn't want to; it would have taken another year of my life to go through OCS; and I had other plans.

TS: Right. Let me see if I've got my chronology straight. In the fall of '65 you started at West Georgia. You spent a year there. Then in the winter of '67 you started at Kennesaw when classes were still being held at Southern Poly [Polytechnic] while some of the original buildings were under construction?

SC: Yes.

TS: So you went that quarter at Southern Tech?

SC: That's right, part of the quarter—a few weeks until the buildings opened.

TS: And then graduated one year later although you should have graduated earlier but graduated officially one year later.

SC: Yes. The ceremony was in the spring of '68. Actually those two summers I attended an insurance management trainee program in Birmingham, Alabama, with an insurance company. My father had hooked me up in it, and those were marvelous opportunities to work in the summers, and we worked full time.

TS: Are you talking about the summers after a year at West Georgia and after a year at Kennesaw?

SC: Yes.

TS: Good. So you were making progress towards your career goal.

SC: Yes, I was busy.

TS: So you were in the very first classes on the new campus. You couldn't have gone here much earlier because that fall of '66 was when we began at Southern Tech before the new campus was ready. From Dallas it's a fair distance to Kennesaw; why did you decide to come here for those General Education courses instead of West Georgia?

SC: Well, West Georgia, we had a bad experience there. We had a registrar over there that never sent our information in to the draft board, so we got drafted every quarter, so there was a mass exodus from there. Some people got frustrated and went ahead and joined the army, and others transferred as soon as they could, generally at the end of the first year.

- TS: And at that time if you were in college you got an almost automatic deferment.
- SC: You did as long as you kept the grades and were a full time student. In addition to us trying to make a personal decision if we would serve our country or dodge the draft—which a lot of people were doing—there was a lot of mental harassment in addition. It was very frustrating to a young person trying to find himself. I felt like most of my friends and I had it together. We knew what we wanted to do, but back then, as you know, drugs were rampant. There was a big movement to be anti-everything. My friends and I did not fall into that group. I certainly never participated in any drugs, and so it was just quite an interesting time to grow up.
- TS: Yes. So you had problems with West Georgia and you decided, I'll give Kennesaw a try, new school.
- SC: Yes. It was also understood that if you graduated from here, you would get accepted at the University of Georgia without any hassle. So, that's basically why I went ahead and stayed here. I could have transferred, but I decided since my Daddy never had the opportunity to go to college, and he was brilliant, and he had a great aptitude for success, so I was trying to do something to honor my parents. My mother actually graduated from North Georgia College.
- TS: I was going to ask you about her too. You took her to one of our aviation public programs.
- SC: I did.
- TS: Didn't she have a Bell Aircraft connection?
- SC: She did. Back then North Georgia College was a two-year school, and they would actually turn out lieutenants. This was in World War II, and most of the people there were in the ROTC, and they got commissioned and went directly into the army during World War II. She was on the tennis team up there, and she and several of her sisters graduated from there. Most of her sisters went ahead and went to Georgia and became teachers, but she didn't. She left, and she wanted out of the mountains if you will and wanted to come to Atlanta. So she got a job with Southern Bell, I think, at the time, but they weren't paying anything even though they promised them everything. After six months they didn't do anything, so she found Bell Aircraft in Marietta, and so that's where she went to work. She told me—we couldn't imagine this, especially my children when we did an interview on her one time—she was in the intelligence part there that kept up with the security of the employees. She was in the photography department, and they kept immaculate records on people there, you know obviously World War II and then military contracts. We never dreamed that she did such.
- TS: She was a spy!

SC: Not really! She met my father, and they got married, and then I was the first born of two children. I was born in 1947, so I guess I'm the classic baby boomer. There are some in '46 that consider themselves, but I think it was the prime year in '47.

TS: The official number is from January 1<sup>st</sup> of '46.

SC: Oh is it?

TS: They count the baby boomers. I was born in '43, and we always thought we were baby boomers because the population was growing like mad, but that's not official anymore. So I'm a pre-baby boomer, which is probably a good thing. At any rate, talk about what Kennesaw was like, the students, the faculty and what it was like to go to class. I haven't interviewed any students who were there at Southern Tech for that quarter.

SC: Well, basically, you just had to get used to going to classes. It was a little disorganized over there, but when we moved over here it was like you parted the heavens, you came to a new campus here.

TS: Starting in January.

SC: Yes. And one of the things that I was impressed with—I never had the privilege to be in your class, but it seemed like there was a movement of Georgia State professors who were leaving downtown to come out here for a better quality of life from the standpoint that they lived in the suburbs. They didn't want to have to drive—you know, this was like being at home out here. It was a beautiful campus, it was small, and I met a lot of people. Most of the students were from Cobb County. I remember several from the Cartersville area. Just some great people. As far as I know most of them kept on attending school. I was around two different groups: the group like myself that were what you'd call college students that were here to enjoy life, and then you had a large number of people that were going back to school that were already married and mature and had children, had a job, a career. We were so blessed to be around those folks because they helped us mature rather than hanging out with a bunch of people that were here just to party. We were hanging out with people that we could learn something from and they told us, "You guys are so blessed, you need to take advantage of every opportunity because we didn't have the privilege to take advantage of those opportunities, and it's much harder for us to go back to school than you guys that are living in a protected environment that can go and enjoy all the aspects of social and academic life without the pressure." Although most of us were working. I was working, doing some work with some insurance companies while here, one-quarter full time.

But this was a beautiful campus, and it was like having gone to those sophisticated high schools that I mentioned in LaGrange and Gainesville. It was like a little larger high school here. Of course, even though those two schools were difficult academically, this was a real college, it was no plaything; you had to work. In fact, I found the professors here more difficult than at West Georgia and in many cases more difficult than the University of Georgia.

TS: Difficult in terms of the standards that they required?

SC: The standards, yes. They were trying to establish a reputation. At least the ones that I had. I had an English Lit teacher that I think was the head of the department here.

TS: John Greider?

SC: It was.

TS: He was the chair of the Humanities Division at that time.

SC: He was probably my favorite professor here.

TS: Really?

SC: Yes. I mean, he brought it alive. As I've told you I've had quite a background in those high schools moving around. One of the things that I didn't have a difficulty with and a lot of other people probably did is I had moved around so much during high school it was not a big deal to go to a new area. It actually paid dividends for me when I got to the University of Georgia because when I got over there I ran into people from three high schools and two other colleges that all had transferred over there. So it was difficult to go to class because you were always visiting with people.

TS: A party school!

SC: But this was a marvelous experience here. Like any school at the time, I think Vietnam was the premier thing on everybody's mind because you had to make a decision if you were going to serve or not. You would do things to prevent yourself from being drafted or whatever. My father told me that he could make a phone call, and he knew a U.S. Senator that would actually help get you out of service. I refused to let him do that. I felt it was my duty. Again, I had so many friends that went in the army and I tried every way to go to Vietnam after graduation.

TS: I haven't seen John Greider in a year or two, but I think he's still going strong.

SC: Is he around here?

TS: Well, he's long retired, but he'll show up for things every now and then.

SC: He was a marvelous teacher. It was a great environment in there. I had others that were wonderful too. Of course, I had some that weren't so good, but that's true of any school. You have some classes that you feel that you didn't really learn that much, but most of them certainly were good. But it was definitely a higher standard here than at West Georgia. And it was a higher standard [than that of the University of Georgia] I would say with the exception of my major courses at Georgia where I majored in insurance and

risk management. I took every course they had over there—all my electives—and [the professors] were young, and now they have quite a reputation for that degree over there. My father wanted me to go to Georgia State because he knew Kenneth Black who headed up the business school down there and the insurance department and all. It had a pristine reputation at the time, but I decided that [I wanted the full college] experience at the University of Georgia. If you want to play college too along with getting the degree on time, that was a big thing. We had incentive to be on time back then. I was talking to Dr. [Daniel S.] Papp about this the other day. He said, “The average student now takes six years or more to get through.” It was, Vietnam. You got with the program or you didn’t stay, so we took a full load all the time, and there wasn’t any goofing around. I worked on weekends when I was at University of Georgia, but I didn’t work during the week. I actually worked full time here [at Kennesaw Junior College] one quarter and then those two summers I mentioned.

TS: It was a long drive from Dallas back then, wasn’t it?

SC: Yes, it was. One of my friends, David Cooper, who was from Dallas had transferred from North Georgia College after a year. He and I rode together over here, and he went on to West Georgia and graduated. I tried to talk him out of that, but he did, and he became a state patrolman. He went in law enforcement for twenty years. He and I and another friend had made a pact that we were all going to volunteer for the draft, which we all did right after we graduated. We all graduated on time in ’69, and we went in. Then we were all going to get together, if we lived through Vietnam, to come back and backpack through Europe. I’m actually the only one that did that. He had the training from North Georgia. He was here a year with me, and he and I were in that same graduation class. We met a lot of students here, especially girls that went ahead to the University of Georgia, so we had a lot of friends when we got over there from Kennesaw. One of my first roommates was a guy named Murray Hornsby. He was here from Cobb County, Marietta High School, and we roomed together the first quarter over there off campus. When you transfer as a junior you don’t have to stay in the dorms. So I had a lot of Kennesaw connections, but Vietnam was the big thing. It was on everybody’s mind, and you had to choose which side you were on. We think we made the right choice, and very frankly I think it helped us to be better citizens in the long run and to do appropriate things. David actually went to Vietnam and became an airborne medic, so almost every day he was jumping off the helicopters and saving lives. He is a real American hero. He lives in Dallas today, and all these other folks still live around. One of the young ladies that was here [Stella Merritt]—the U.S. Army had a publication that they sent all over the world, and she was one of our friends. She was a very attractive young lady, and she was very popular on campus, and one day somebody made a picture on the campus, and I don’t know what the occasion was at the time.

TS: It was the KJC day.

SC: Whatever it was, yes, and we were all just sitting around on the lawn out there.

TS: So you’re in that picture?

- SC: No, I'm not in the picture, but she was in the picture, and she was just a pretty girl. Somehow the Armed Forces got a hold of it, and it became the picture that they projected all over the world to the military of college life, and her picture was on there. She went ahead and went to Georgia and graduated, so I knew her. I later learned that the military publication was called the "Stars and Stripes."
- TS: Yes, she's been back on campus since then.
- SC: So that was kind of neat.
- TS: So she was one of your friends?
- SC: She was world famous!
- TS: I was going to ask you how you would compare Kennesaw students to University of Georgia students—for instance, regarding the two sides [of the cultural divide] that students were on.
- SC: Much more mature. The students here were more focused even though they knew they were going on to another school after here because this was the junior college. But everyone was focused here. Again, it was a time where you were finding yourself; you were finding who you are and who you wanted to become and what you wanted to become, which is very important in life. The friendships here were incredible, but this was a much more mature group. When I went to the University of Georgia, of course, it's like all major universities with football season and so forth. I experienced a couple of those. It's much more social oriented with fraternities and sororities. I was a social affiliate with the ATO [Alpha Tau Omega]. I did not go through rush or anything because I was too old, but I was with that group.
- TS: Too old? You were all of twenty?
- SC: Well, yes, but normally as a freshman you go through rush with the fraternities. I had several friends that were in that fraternity. I was what was called a social affiliate. I paid a little dues, but you didn't go through all the rah-rah as a freshman.
- TS: Right, you didn't live in the frat house and all that.
- SC: And, very frankly, we were far beyond all that. By the time you had experienced the Kennesaw experience, you'd grown up a lot.
- TS: It's interesting, but I guess at UGA they are traditional aged students and Kennesaw are older students. So, it would make sense that they would be more mature at the junior college.

SC: They were. [There were those] like us that were going on to what I call “play college” at a university, and then the other side, the mature, married, hard-working people that were still supporting their family and going back to school for a degree. You didn’t have many of those at Georgia. You had more of the group that was there for the social experience. But the motivating factor of all of it was Vietnam. The draft was going, and it kept people in school. It kept them focused more. Students today are much more brilliant. Their aptitudes are higher, SAT scores are far beyond what they were in our day, but I think we were more focused. We had to deal with reality. The world was what it was; we were at war; contrary to what a lot of people called it, it was a war. I think that it was the defining moment for my generation how people think today politically. I think the other side is in control of politics today in Washington.

TS: The other side being those that were anti-war?

SC: Yes, I think they own the newspapers today; they own the media; and they’re rewriting history.

TS: They’re the history professors?

SC: No, not the history professors; they’re the people that control the media and the political realm. I consider myself a conservative. My family were very religious, and we grew up basically in the South, the Bible Belt, and you learn values and hopefully you mature to those values and I hope have carried that over.

TS: Which church did you all go to?

SC: We were in the First Baptist Church in Dallas.

TS: With the Fosters again.

SC: With them and others. My family had been—the males can be deacons; that’s the highest opportunity to serve. Then my mother was the primary president, so she was in charge of the little kids for twenty-two years. She decorated the parsonage, and she was giving do-better talks to the deacons to live a higher life if you will, and was pretty strong. So when they wrote the history of that church both of them were heavily involved. I actually converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—

TS: There weren’t any of those [in Paulding County] back then were there?

SC: No there weren’t—in 1981.

TS: In ’81 you did?

SC: Yes. And I have been an active member ever since. I met my first two members in the army actually.

TS: Really?

SC: That's another experience in the army.

TS: Where were you stationed in the army?

SC: I was at Ft. Knox. I did basic training at Ft. Knox in the winter and almost everybody got pneumonia. I actually graduated number one in my class over there. I was more mature because I'd graduated from college. Most of our platoon—I would say probably thirty out of the forty-some-odd guys—were college graduates. In some of the other platoons nobody went to college; it was a different group. Our platoon won the best platoon, and I won the outstanding trainee. Then I won the soldier of the quarter and all this kind of stuff there. But I was there as a permanent party. I volunteered for Vietnam three times, and they refused to let me go. I was so gung-ho in basic that they wanted me to be a drill sergeant. For whatever reason, I didn't get to go to Vietnam. I was there for a year. Then I finally got orders through some friends in personnel. They finally helped me with ten months left in the army to go to Germany. While at Ft. Knox I actually—this is kind of interesting—defended one of my friends who was accused of burning down a supply room, which he didn't do. He didn't trust the Judge Advocate Court, so he got me to defend him. What we did, we put some attorneys on detail there for about a week that were in the National Guard in basic training. We were at a basic training unit as a permanent party. I quizzed them, and then I'd go into the courtroom scene, and I won the case for him. I got him off, so that was an interesting experience.

I was soldier of the quarter there, and then I went to Germany and was attached to a supply group and won the soldier of the month there too. But the interesting thing in Germany was that we had the race riots, we had drug problems—massive drug problems—and again I was the most educated enlisted person in our battalion. We had about 250 to 260 guys there, and the first sergeant told me that myself and two Mormon boys were the only three that he knew that weren't on drugs. It was that bad. So I became the race relations counselor and the drug relations counselor. On Monday morning every week I taught a one hour class, mandatory for all the folks to go to who weren't on duty that day, on race relations and drug relations. That was an interesting thing. When I finished my army tour then I received a European discharge. I was still frustrated that I hadn't served in Vietnam because for four years I'd made the decision to go.

TS: It's kind of nuts that they sent those that didn't want to go and kept back the ones that did want to go.

SC: Well, it was crazy. I never did understand that, but in any event I think God was looking after me, no question about it. In any event I received a European discharge, and for the purpose to stay over there I corresponded with my other friends who were out of the army. They actually went in a month before I did for whatever reason, and they were home. They said they were going to stay home and weren't coming over to go with me on this trek, so I traveled by myself for three months in Italy and Greece. I had a

personal study of history and religions backwards in society. I went to Italy first, the Roman civilization, then went to Greece for a total of three months and spent a total of \$366 during the entire trek.

TS: You were a big spender.

SC: Well, I was, but my point was I think I was the only guy over there, Dr. Scott, that wasn't on drugs, which was unusual back then. There were a lot of people over there back then wandering around by themselves that were running away from home, rich kids from the northeast, and a lot of them were dodging the draft in Europe. So it was a pretty sorry lot. So what I did is to hang around with people from other countries and traveled with them. I traveled with a guy from Iran. We talked extensively about the Islamic faith. I tried to convert him to Christianity. I was a good Baptist at the time. He explained to me some things. He was going to be a medical doctor. He was studying in Paris, and he told me he was going back to Iran. The Shah was still in charge at the time, and he said they had a caste system, and he would actually bring his family up if he went back there. With Ayatollah Khomeini and all those guys, I don't know whatever happened to him, if he lived through it or not. Good guy, but I traveled with some guys from India and Japan. It was kind of like a racial profile of the guy with me from Japan. We were on a bus one day. I would have somebody different I'd travel with every week, somebody you'd meet or run into somewhere.

TS: You were just getting an education over there.

SC: Absolutely, and it was just the thing to do. It was a good way to deprogram yourself from the military experience. But, anyway, I was on a bus with a guy from Japan. He said everybody in Japan sometime in their college career take a little money and see the world. He was about half way through his "college career" in Japan, and he said I was the only one that he had ever met from the United States that was doing the same thing. But there was a little kind of profiling against him because they stopped the bus one day and physically two policemen came on the bus—we were just on a normal tourist bus going out to the Peloponnese there in Greece to visit Corinth and Olympia—and they jerked him off the bus and started beating up on him outside the bus. So I went out to try to protect him because he seemed like a nice guy and they were falsely accusing him. They said that they all looked alike, all these Japanese. Obviously, they got the wrong guy, but they almost put me in jail because I was physically restraining one of the policemen, and you don't do that in Europe.

TS: Or anywhere probably.

SC: Well, that was an interesting experience. You get profiled in whatever you are, [including the] military. One time they didn't let me in Yugoslavia. I had a passport, and I heard the guy say that I'm the CIA. They wouldn't let me in because I had a military passport that I had received when I got in Germany. I mean, people judge you by what they see.

TS: That was a good lesson to learn.

SC: It was. My mother had gone through interior design school at Georgia Tech, not in the university but at the university. Then she had audited another year. She's quite the character to get education. She's always been a homemaker. She never used that [education] to make money, but she set me up an actual layout of every museum of Italy and Greece. She mailed this to me before I left Germany, and I knew everything to do. That's back before the days when you had travel guides. Now they do, but I knew exactly where to go, what to do. I saw it all and mostly by myself. One experience I would like to tell—I went in the Sistine Chapel, and there were a bunch of Japanese tourists there that day. It kept hurting my neck to look up, so I got on a bench. I put the bench out in the middle. Nobody seemed to care, and I laid down. This Mother Superior came over and looked at me and had her hands clasped and said, "Can I help you, my son?" I said, "Well, I'm just trying . . .", you know, I told her my story that I was trying to tour and learn as much as I could. This was my one opportunity. I think once she found out that I was not somebody . . .

TS: Not on drugs.

SC: Not on drugs or anything. She says, "Bless you, my son, and go ahead." I stayed out there another half hour looking up, so that was an interesting experience. But I met a lot of neat people from other countries, and it was quite the experience. My wife and I since have gone back to Europe many times. We've traveled the same roads. Of course, when I was stationed in Germany almost every weekend I traveled. I had a passport. We had like a seven to five job mostly every day. We weren't in combat or anything over there. But I was the only one of the three including my friend from Kennesaw that actually made the tour. I had to go by myself to do it, but you're never really by yourself over there. Now I wouldn't let my kids do that today, but back then I think it was much more protected than it is today. Today there's much more terrorism and the unknown.

TS: You were saying it was much more protected back then?

SC: There were people in the airports and around with submachine guns, and they didn't put up with anything back then. When I got off the train in Rome, Italy, I had come down from Florence. I had spent about a week in Florence, and I got off the train. I think it was called Independence Square, and they were having a Communist Party rally there. I remember I looked pretty gruff. That's the only time in my life I grew a beard, and living on \$366 for three months, you didn't eat—I had actually taken two cases of C-Rations from the army with me to eat on. I was hanging out there watching and amazed that these people were playing World War II music like from Mussolini days to get everybody fired up. You could see all the older people which you would think were World War II guys. They were really getting into this music. The Communist Party was big, and this was certainly foreign to me as a U.S. soldier. But I remember a guy checked me out, and he figured out real quick I didn't belong there. There must have been 10,000 people in the square, and he was with the State Department, the United States. He came over to

talk to me and wanted to know what I was doing. I told him, and so he was impressed with what I was trying to do.

But I had a marvelous time learning the history first hand. I had had so much opportunity academically through high school and colleges to learn, but this was real. I was there and I had plenty of time. What I did was I would go and hang out with tour groups that spoke English and stay on the outskirts and listen to the lectures, and then I would visit on my own. I ran my own personal survey. The two top states that had tourists in Europe were North Carolina first and Massachusetts second. I remember I ran into some elderly ladies from North Carolina and took care of them. They were trying to get trains in Florence, and I was helping them get over to the Leaning Tower of Pisa. One of them decided that I needed to go home and marry her niece. She almost adopted me. They had me helping them that day and all this kind of thing, and they found it quite remarkable that somebody was doing this on their own.

I had a great time and met a lot of wonderful people. I only spoke English, and it was really not a problem. I mean, the tour guides would many times help me because they were used to students who didn't have a whole lot of money or teachers who had come over from the United States who didn't have a whole lot of money. Because they knew I was genuine, they would put me on the bus and make me part of the tour sometimes. I wasn't getting in anybody's way, but one time I remember I was walking out in the Peloponnese going from one historical site to another. It was about eight miles I think, and there wasn't any transportation. I didn't have the money to do it. So this tour guide that I had seen at a couple of other places the last couple of days saw me. She stopped the bus and got me on there and she said, "It's okay; you're here for the right reasons." Obviously she had had a bad experience with some of the tour people from America, and she wanted a refreshing view or something. It was interesting and I was very appreciative.

TS: Right. So you do that and this is like about 1971, I guess.

SC: In '72.

TS: So you get back to Dallas after that. Did you start your own company right away?

SC: Actually later that year I did. I worked with my father for about six months with him, and then I went out on my own after that, and we really never were together after that. I would help him on estate planning courses. I went to work for an outfit called Home Life of New York, and they were the premier life insurance agency that taught estate planning with no fees. This was the forerunner of fee based financial planning. We had accountants and CPA's on staff in the firm, and we would do planning. You learned from the other, older guys who would spend three hours with you every Friday and teach you by experience with their cases and yours—this was all confidential—but we were learning.

TS: Were you your own agency that was affiliated with Home Life; is that the way it worked?

- SC: Yes, I was an agent with them for ten years, but I had my own agency that I brokered with other insurance companies. I went in the group business selling group insurance that they didn't do and so forth. I stayed with them ten years until the pension vested; and, very frankly, I was doing plenty of business with them to qualify. But they got a new president who didn't want us to do business outside of the company, so I left because I had more income outside of the company than I did in, and I was still doing real well with them. They were a very highly academically trained group of professionals. They had more professional designations and million dollar round table members than any other company in America on a per capita basis, [although] they were a smaller company. But anyway, they were just like banks. They merged into other companies now and did away with their field force.
- TS: I guess really what I'm trying to figure out: this sounds so unusual that somebody in his twenties would start his own company and be self-supporting.
- SC: Well, I got a salary from Home Life. It was \$700 a month, and basically it was a W-2 income. Then I had 1099 income on my other business. I brokered, and then in the early 1980s I just went completely independent and have specialized in employee benefits—communications for companies to communicate their benefits. That's what I've been doing and have been blessed and been very successful. Over the years I've been independent, doing business with about forty different insurance companies. I had the securities license for about twenty-five years, and then I gave that up two years ago at a good time before the market crashed! But anyway, it's given me the opportunity to give back to the community. I had an opportunity and seriously considered it after two years early on to become a group representative for a couple of insurance companies. Had I been successful with that I would have traveled America, but they said, "What you will ultimately do is go back to the home offices." All of them back then were up in the northeast and in New York City, and I had no ambition for that plus I wanted to be involved in the community in Paulding County, Cobb County, and Atlanta to give back because that's what my father and mother taught me to do. This business has afforded me that freedom to do that. I have always tried to pray about what I would do and whatever project needed me that I could make a difference in. Our church, we have no paid ministry, no debt, and here it's the same. I try to find things that you don't get paid to do. The only bad experience was being on a bank board for a while, and you did get paid, but that was a pretty bad experience back in the early 1990s. But the rest of these things that I've done are mostly education-oriented as you see.
- TS: Well, it's really an impressive list of things that you've done. Why don't we talk about some of these: just your chairmanships and your presidencies. I guess you joined the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce right away, but by the 1980s when you would have been in your thirties you became (I guess in 1987 you would have turned forty) you served as chairman of the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce? Any accomplishments that you can recall as president?

SC: Yes, one of the main things that we did is we formed a committee. At the time our schools were not accredited out there, and this is before I was appointed to the Paulding County School Board. You may remember the Governor's Education Review Commission. It was under Joe Frank Harris, I think. We were ahead of them and formed a committee of about twenty people that were what you would call movers and shakers in Paulding County. Two or three of us did all the work, I think, and I went all over the state interviewing people. I went to Georgia State and interviewed the dean of the school and went to the State Department of Education, and we were trying to figure out how business could help public education. We delivered a report a month before the governor delivered his report, and we used the *Nation at Risk* that had been written by some people out in California talking about what you need to do to straighten out public education. We learned a lot of things. I was interviewed by the paper, and we wrote articles in the paper. We had a report and in over about ten weeks we delivered it to the newspaper. We put part of it in, and then people would ask me questions and all that, so that was a big thing. We helped the schools. We created a committee to sell school bonds from the community, and I was the chairman of that. That was the first school bond we ever passed for the schools.

TS: Did I hear you correctly that you were appointed to the school board?

SC: Yes, I was appointed right after this. Again, I'm not into elected positions. My wife never would support me to be in politics; maybe that's the reason. She and I have been married thirty-five years, and we had an agreement that we wouldn't do that, but as you see I've tried to get involved in a lot of things to make a difference anyway and work with politicians. In any event, that was the first stab at trying to improve the quality of life. I had three goals personally, and we carried those out in our group. One was to get the schools accredited; one was to get an appointed school superintendent; and the other was go to the middle school concept. All that came about. When I went on the school board it was not appointed, and it was a mess because you had a group elected, and they said, "Well, we're here to represent the people." And then the school superintendent says, "Well, hey, I'm elected by the people, so I can dictate what we want to do." Then we had to do what the school superintendent recommended. We couldn't vote unless he recommended it—vote for or against it. We found that to be totally against representing the people. I was of the opinion, and all of us were eventually—I had to sell the rest of them on it—that we should be accountable, and the school superintendent should be a professional hired to do what we set the policies for. The governor and others felt the same way and made it mandatory later through legislation.

TS: I guess what I don't understand is if the school board was elected, how did you get appointed? Did somebody resign?

SC: Yes, the chairman of the board resigned and recommended me to be appointed.

TS: To fill the position.

SC: But they were worried about me coming in and taking over because I'd done so much in the Chamber. Some of them weren't so sure they wanted to move that fast, and so it took them three months to figure out—we had competition of people that wanted to be appointed. Anyway, finally they appointed me, and I went on and spent a great deal of time making peace on the board to let them know that I wasn't there to change things, yet we did change things.

TS: It sounds like it.

SC: For the good. I served for about three years on the school board, and then rotated off. I'll tell you this, most of my family have been teachers, I had a meeting with all the women in our family, and one was my wife who was a caseworker with DFACS.

TS: We need to put her name in here.

SC: Her name is Linda, and she worked thirty-four years with the Department of Family and Children's Services. Her specialty was she was the person to be in charge of foster parents and adoptions in Paulding County. She did marvelous work there. It was really like being a calling more than anything because they are compensated about 60 percent of what teachers are paid, which is crazy. She has a degree from West Georgia in psychology and sociology. Anyway, she did a marvelous job there.

TS: But you consulted with Linda and with the other women in your family.

SC: Yes, we had a meeting, kind of at a table like this. We had my mother, my aunt who was a teacher, and my two great-aunts who were teachers. One of them they had named a school after out in Paulding County and all of them were retired.

TS: Who is that?

SC: Maybelle McGarity. She was my great-aunt. She was the first woman in Paulding County to vote and started the women's club, the DAR and UDC, and all these things. She was Georgia Mother of the Year, by the way. But they named a school [Maybelle McGarity Elementary School in Hiram, Georgia] after her. While I was on the school board I was able to be at the dedication and make a speech.

TS: So you got the whole family together; what did they tell you?

SC: They told me to get off the school board. They said, "You're killing yourself. You're going to have a heart attack like your daddy did." He died at fifty-four with a heart attack. They said, "We're not going to put up with this. You put everything into what you're trying to do." It was almost like I was forced to not run. I was getting ready to run for election, but I had no family support, so I had to get off. I prayed about it, and I knew that was the right thing to do. But right after that I was blessed. Kennesaw called and wanted me to be on the Foundation. Then Chattahoochee [Technical College] called

and wanted me to be on their board. So I've been involved with both of those institutions for the last twenty years, one way or the other.

TS: I want to talk about those, but I might just mention this incredible list: You were president of the Rotary Club in Paulding County; you were president of Paulding Enterprises that was working with the physically and mentally handicapped.

SC: That was my first organization to get involved in, and I'm real proud of that. We got it started to develop group homes for the physically and mentally disabled, and it's a wonderful group of people that contract with the state to take care of those folks in Paulding. We had some situations where people didn't want group homes, and I had to stand up and took a lot of grief in the community to help people understand that these people need the blessings we have.

TS: Neighborhoods were trying to prevent it?

SC: Oh, they were up in arms. See, I was uniquely qualified to do some changes in Paulding County behind the scenes because I'm kin to everybody, so they couldn't run me off. I thought like an outsider, if you will, but yet they couldn't shoot me because I was from there.

TS: So you're basically telling them to do the right thing.

SC: I was trying. I was in the Rotary for seventeen years, and I headed up their scholarship program the whole time from initiation on.

TS: So still education.

SC: Yes.

TS: And then you were Chairman of the Library Board in Paulding County.

SC: Chairman of the Regional Library Board too for several years. There were several years I was chairman, whatever the bylaws allowed.

TS: Then you were active with Boy Scouts of America.

SC: Still am. I've been a Boy Scout leader for twenty-seven years.

TS: Were you a Boy Scout yourself?

SC: For about six months! I was a Boy Scout for six months in Dallas before we moved. I didn't get to play football at LaGrange or Gainesville for two reasons. Number one, we always moved late, in August, so it was too late to play; and number two, I wouldn't have been good enough to play in those areas. We never got involved in scouting again, but I knew a lot of people that were Eagle Scouts that I was impressed with. So when I had the

opportunity in the early 1980s, I got involved as a leader in the district in Cobb County at first. We didn't have much in Paulding County back then. We had to go to Cobb County to get whatever we did. Then I've been chairman of the district.

TS: Was your son Jonathan involved in Boy Scouts?

SC: He was involved in scouts. I camped with him for seven years once a month and all the other kids. I don't do the camping any more, but I help them administratively.

TS: We should say that Jonathan has graduated from Kennesaw and was in the Public History program.

SC: He was. Amazingly, he's working with me now in the insurance business doing very well, I might add.

TS: How many children do you have?

SC: We have two; we have Joanna and Jonathan. Joanna is in her final semester at West Georgia; she's getting a degree in criminology and psychology.

TS: You couldn't persuade her to come to Kennesaw?

SC: No, she wanted to go over there. That was her mother's alma mater. Jonathan's bought a home. He bought an old house, eighty-eight years old, and he's fixed it up. He's working on it and staying out of debt, by the way; that's good—he does a little bit at a time.

TS: That's great. Well, 1989 you get on the two educational foundations. Let's talk first about the KSU Foundation. When you came on in 1989—that's twenty years ago now—what the Foundation was doing was a lot, but it's a lot less than what it's doing today. Could you talk about what the Foundation was like? There were a lot of old Mariettans, weren't there in '89?

SC: Oh, absolutely. I was the only person I think from Paulding County. As I mentioned, Judge Foster was originally on the trustees. As you know, you helped him write a book about the history of Paulding County. He didn't like to come over too much, so I think eventually he got off. Anyway, I went on after that and was invited by Dr. [Betty L.] Siegel. I met with her. She was new on the scene and just a dynamo, and Jim [James A.] Fleming was the head of the Foundation. You couldn't have two finer people to work with. Unlike most of the other trustees, I never was involved in giving much money, but I promoted the university out in our school system and around, and I hope I never embarrassed them. I think that helped too. I didn't do anything to make them look bad. I loved the school and tried to help. I've seen a lot of changes, of course, going from the junior college to the college and then to the university.

TS: Did you ever know Dr. [Horace W.] Sturgis?

SC: Yes. I knew him when I was a student.

TS: Did you ever get a chance to talk to him?

SC: Just a little bit. I talked to him after I had graduated and went on. He was at a meeting, and he was very elderly, and I told him that I had been a student here. He was very kind, but I didn't really get to have a one on one with him other than at a social even just to say hello and wished him well and appreciated all he did. He was quite the innovator. Like Dr. Siegel always said, he was the one that did great things here to get it started. He worked with all the community. We had some real fine people—and by the way a lot of those were Rotarians in Marietta. I don't know if you're aware of that, but the Rotary Club in Marietta started our Rotary Club in Paulding. My father was a charter member of that Rotary Club, and then I joined later.

TS: Let's see, Jim Fleming was in the Rotary Club in Marietta. I guess he still is.

SC: He was, yes, but the Rotary Club in Marietta was pretty much a who's who in Cobb County and some wonderful people. A lot of those same people started this Foundation. Dr. Siegel especially knew who to get on there, and I never really felt like I belonged. I was from Paulding County and the only person there, but certainly not in the circles of those people that did so much for the university.

TS: I don't know about that. How many people from Paulding County have been on the Foundation?

SC: I think I'm the only one other than Judge Foster.

TS: Is that right?

SC: Yes.

TS: So there's nobody today on the active Foundation?

SC: Nobody today. I asked to resign about a year ago because, again, my wife and I have discussions from time to time, and she demands that I get off some of these boards after I've been on there awhile. I knew I was going back on Chattahoochee Tech's new board—I call it a super board—when they just merged three colleges in the last year. So I had to get off some. As emeriti on the Foundation board you're still actively engaged, you just don't go to monthly meetings and this kind of thing.

TS: Were you involved in any of those big changes of the last ten years like building the parking decks?

SC: The Foundation obviously made the decision. The Foundation is the reason Kennesaw is what it is because as you know the state has cut funding massively to the universities in Georgia, and the Foundation has made the real difference here probably in the last four to

ten years. They've incurred a large debt themselves to do this and serviced that debt and have expanded with employees and so forth. We've been involved in the capital campaign the last two years. Of course, Jim Fleming retired, and Wes [Wesley K.] Wicker now heads up the Foundation. He does a marvelous job, he and his staff. Parking was always the problem. It was a problem when I was here. Even though you had a lot of parking, there's never enough parking at a college. Here, you were land locked, and the [Foundation bought] the KSU Center, all these homes [on Campus Loop Road] that are now used as the Alumni House and [for other purposes].

TS: Look where we are today [in the Alumni House].

SC: Yes. All these things, the Foundation was involved in and provided the leadership and the funding and everything to do it. Without the Foundation Kennesaw would certainly not be where it is.

TS: Who do you give the credit for coming up with these plans to build residence halls and parking decks and so on?

SC: Well, obviously Dr. Siegel, and then all of the guys that were on the executive committee of the Foundation. They've done the enormous work. Then, of course, Jim Fleming and Wes Wicker have provided the leadership. There's so many in the Foundation that have done so much, I wouldn't really want to say one is more than the other, but the Foundation has made the difference here at Kennesaw.

TS: I think you're right. How often did you all meet?

SC: There were times I was on committees, and we would meet monthly years ago, but normally you'd have quarterly meetings. Then the annual meeting is when you would vote on the budget every year, and that's normally in the fall. This year it'll be in October, and, of course, I'll attend that. This year they're celebrating forty years of the Foundation. I remember it wasn't that long ago that we celebrated thirty years, and Dr. Siegel was doing a big deal. Now, of course, we have Dr. Papp, who has been a great blessing too. He has built on all of the things that Dr. Siegel did. I thought it was remarkable that she was here for twenty-five years, and I worked with Dr. Harlon [D.] Crimm who headed up Chattahoochee Tech, and he was there twenty-five years too. There seems to be something in this twenty-five year business to be president.

TS: Which is an incredibly long term.

SC: It really is as far as universities and colleges are concerned. I think that's helped Kennesaw, having Dr. Siegel and Dr. Sturgis originally. Of course, if I remember right, he was quite elderly when he came here.

TS: Well, he was in his fifties when he came.

SC: Was he? Well, back then he was elderly to us. Today fifty is not so elderly!

TS: I'd have to do my math. He was born in 1912 and became president in 1965. So, according to my math, that's fifty-two or fifty-three when he started here. He was about 68 when he retired. Like you say, when you're twenty, that's elderly.

SC: Well, it was, but I think having presidents that stay awhile has given great clarity. With the KSU Foundation trustees, you don't really have a managing board here like you do at a Chattahoochee Tech. The Foundation trustees are the people that promote economically and help make decisions and give feedback from the community of what we can get the community involved in. Obviously, here, as you know, many of the Foundation trustees have become governors and U.S. Senators. Dr. Siegel put together quite a who's who here, and, again, I feel very honored to be a small part of it.

TS: Have you been involved at all in the creation of the new institution or whatever we call it in Dallas now in the Bagby courthouse building?

SC: Oh yes. I asked Dr. Siegel earlier to try to work with Chattahoochee Tech when their second building was completed in Paulding County. I hoped she could come over and visit and use that facility, from a taxpayer's standpoint, to bring instructors to teach in Paulding County.

TS: Kennesaw courses in the Chattahoochee's Dallas campus?

SC: That's right. So finally it came to fruition. With Dr. Papp, the first time I met him I strongly encouraged him with this idea. I said, "Look, the first thing we need to do in Dallas is get Kennesaw in Paulding County. It's time. We've been talking about this twenty years, and it's time to do it." The problem has always been the differences between the Board of Regents and the Technical College State Board. In Georgia we are, in my opinion, very behind many other states that have a community and technical college system where students can attend. This refers back to me having the problems transferring. I don't think in Georgia we've progressed in forty years because of the leadership of the Board of Regents. They dominate, and we should have a healthy community college system where a student can choose between the university prep or the technical, either way, without losing so much.

Chattahoochee Tech has always had a reciprocal agreement with Kennesaw, where courses transferred, but we need to have a truly seamless education, and that needs to happen. But, with that said, Dr. Papp worked through the Board of Regents to get Kennesaw to be the chosen university to go to Paulding County. West Georgia was in hot pursuit and others. Highlands, which used to be Floyd Junior College, was under the Board of Regents. He chose to work with them. Personally I feel it's a duplication of service of what Chattahoochee Tech does. Chattahoochee Technical College has a campus with two large buildings, on nineteen acres in Dallas. Many were involved in putting that together. What happened was that our previous commission chairman and his group did not allow the people to vote on changes. They built a new courthouse, a new administration office, moved everybody out of downtown Dallas from the

courthouse, the two courthouse annexes, but this has afforded the opportunity for Kennesaw to come to town without using Chattahoochee Tech's existing two buildings. I believe that this is a duplication of services and a waste of tax payer money not to use Chattahoochee Tech's two buildings for first year students. I had hoped the downtown Dallas Courthouse Annex could be used exclusively for KSU.

Yes, I was in the initial walk with our previous commission chairman and Dr. Papp and Lynn [Lendley C.] Black. We walked there and now have a campus in Paulding County, which I think will be enhanced. My recommendation to Dr. Papp and others was that since we have 4,000 employees in our school system; at least half of them are teachers; you could fill up the classes with just teachers working on their fifth and sixth year degrees there. It's there, the opportunity to do that. I think they're using Highlands to teach the first two-year courses and Kennesaw is actually physically going to arrive January of 2010 with some classes. So, yes, that's been a dream of mine with Dr. Siegel all along, and the problem was the Board of Regents and the Technical College State Board were two different boards. Getting them to talk would have been beneficial for the taxpayers.

TS: It's interesting that Georgia has done it that way. When we were a junior college I thought it was a good idea because we were part of the same system with the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech and so on. But California has a separate community college board that is both technical and transfer courses in the same institutions. Of course, Chattahoochee Tech gives associate degrees nowadays.

SC: That's right. I had the opportunity in 1991 to take one of our legislators with us to Greenville, South Carolina, to visit Greenville Technical College that had 15,000 students on campus, a large technical college. But their deal was that they have Clemson, the University of South Carolina, and three other universities that come to Greenville on their campus to teach classes, either through distance learning or in person, so you never have to leave Greenville but maybe two weeks in the summer, and you get your four year degree. That's serving the taxpayers, that's serving the students, and to me the state of Georgia is light years behind South Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi where these kind of things go on, which I think is a disgrace because we've got so much duplication of services, and we've got so much waste of taxpayers' dollars. Obviously my heart is in education, but I think we've done it wrong. A strong governor could straighten this out if he would just see the light with the legislature, so we wouldn't have duplication of services.

TS: And a governor who understood what you're talking about, somebody with a background like a Zell Miller who certainly understood college education when he came in.

SC: Yes. The timing is right to develop a community college system, so that's what I'd like to see. I'm a victim of the transfer problem, and one can learn from his mistakes or experiences. I have great passion to talk to our legislators about our colleges. But the real world is that you operate at Kennesaw under the Board of Regents, and you have to

do what they determine is best. I feel like the Board of Regents leadership has been more protective than great.

TS: If I understood you correctly earlier on, you've been chairman of the Chattahoochee Technical College Board of Trustees, and you were saying the Board of Trustees actually has controlling power over the . . .

SC: It's a functioning board. They actually do not do anything with . . .

TS: That sets policy?

SC: Yes. Unlike a public school board, they do not handle any salary and personnel matters. They actually set the policies of what you're teaching there with guidance from DTAE.

TS: Curriculum?

SC: Yes. It's a fully functioning board unlike the Foundation. Now I was also the charter Foundation chairman of Chattahoochee Tech when they started their Foundation.

TS: Oh is '89 when they started their Foundation?

SC: No, they started their Foundation a little later, but it was dormant for a few years. I was on that Board, and I resigned from it last year to go on the new Chattahoochee Tech regular board, what I call the new superboard where you combine the three colleges, North Metro, Appalachian Tech, and Chattahoochee Tech. I had to resign from the Foundation. I could still be on Kennesaw's Foundation, but I requested to change to Emeritus status. I have a strong influence in my family with the women there, you know, and they tell me when it's time to get a little bit more balanced.

TS: Right. Well, you've got family responsibilities too.

SC: That's right.

TS: Okay, so let me see if I have all this straight. The Chattahoochee Technical College Board of Trustees before the merger of the three schools had policy making powers and was also a fundraising board, right?

SC: No, they didn't fundraise.

TS: Okay, so there's a separate Foundation, I got you.

SC: The Foundation was separate, and I was on both boards there, yes. And when I was chairman of Chattahoochee Tech for three years that was when we secured nineteen acres from our building authority in Paulding County to build our campus over there. It was the first satellite in the state thanks to Tom Murphy who was the Speaker of the House who got that for us.

TS: So which one did you go on in '89? Was it the Foundation?

SC: No, the Chattahoochee Technical College.

TS: Okay, the Board of Trustees.

SC: I was on there eleven years. It was supposed to be nine by the dictates of the state, but somehow I served eleven. I'm not sure how that happened.

TS: Okay, so you went on there in '89 and served to 2000 on the Board of Trustees. And then the Foundation comes later.

SC: The Foundation started in '91 if I remember right.

TS: Okay.

SC: And I served on it until 2008 when I resigned.

TS: Okay, I understand now. Now the super board . . .

SC: The new board I was put on in December of 2008.

TS: And that's a board of trustees?

SC: Yes. They retained the name Chattahoochee Technical College.

TS: Did you play a role in the merger of the three?

SC: Well, kind of after the fact. This merger idea was something we encouraged when I was president of the Technical Institute Board Association of Georgia back in the 1990s . . .

TS: The State Board of Technical and Adult Education?

SC: No, the Technical Institute Board Association has a similar function as the Georgia School Boards Association. Our goal was to be called colleges rather than institutes. Gov. Barnes initiated the changes during his tenure. When that happened, a lot of colleges became universities in the state. I know West Georgia and North Georgia College became universities, and everybody knew them as North Georgia College. But that was the way the Regents and the state legislature set it up. But it did help the technical institutes who were over thirty at the time. Our two goals were to merge the schools and get them to be named colleges, so we're now moving in that right direction. Chattahoochee is the first one in the state to merge, and we retained our name Chattahoochee which we felt was important. Originally it was Cobb and Paulding County, and I was one of the Paulding County representatives. Now they cover six

counties and eight campuses. We were one of the first schools in the state to have multiple campuses. Chattahoochee had four campuses before the merger.

TS: There must be at least 15,000 students at Chattahoochee.

SC: There are approximately 12,000.

TS: Twelve thousand for the whole system.

SC: I think so. They're approaching that this year.

TS: Which is pretty significant.

SC: It's the largest two-year school in the state and the eighth largest college or university in the state. But again, I felt like I was needed there more with my experience there and being president of the state association. It looks like I'll have the opportunity to be involved with the state association again to try to make a difference.

TS: Right. If I can switch back to Kennesaw a little bit, let me just ask you as a long time alum of Kennesaw what your impression is of the Kennesaw State University Alumni Association.

SC: I'm very impressed with what they've done. It's so important to gather, if you will, all of the students that had an experience here, not just the graduates, but anyone that attended because it was something that changed their lives, and it's so important for them to give back now. So many times people experience life changing events both academically and socially in the college experience, and they don't think about giving back at the time.

TS: What do you get from the Alumni Association?

SC: I get correspondence by e-mail constantly. Unfortunately I don't have an opportunity to attend a lot of their events. I've attended a few. I try to concentrate more on the Foundation involvement. They're both working in unison to promote the university in a positive way and to raise funds and so forth, but mostly to enjoy the camaraderie and the fellowship of Kennesaw people. I consider not only the professionals who work here, but the people who've attended and graduated as Kennesaw people. I believe in giving back to the community. It's part of the American way of life and the freedoms that we have to do so. I've been real blessed to create a vocation that has afforded me to the opportunity to give back to the community, which is what I wanted to do. This is why we never left Paulding County to live in Cobb County or Marietta or Atlanta, which I probably should have done for business reasons, but it's worked out. I've been amply blessed and our family has, and I think we've been a big fish in a little pond, whereas if you're at these other places you're a little fish in a big pond. So it's worked out, and hopefully I've made a difference with my family in several areas.

- TS: Well, you've seen Paulding County grow incredibly large in recent years too compared to what it was, even when I was going over there to help Judge Foster write his book. It's grown tremendously. I guess there was only one McDonalds in Dallas at that time.
- SC: That's right. I remember when we had one red light in Paulding County that was in downtown Dallas right by the courthouse. We used to joke when they first built 278 from the airport, you could get to the airport in thirty-five minutes. We could get there faster than you could here. Now, at the last count there were forty-three red lights between Dallas and the airport, so needless to say it takes a lot longer to get there. If red lights are a gauge, Paulding County has come a long way.
- TS: Well, you've been a friend of our history department, and you've been on my board for the Center for Regional History and Culture since the beginning, and you've been involved with the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era since it started up, and you've also chaired the Paulding County Courthouse Preservation Committee.
- SC: Yes, I'm doing that right now.
- TS: Obviously you have an interest in history that you expressed so eloquently when you were talking about your tour of Europe a little bit earlier. Would you like to say a little bit about that in terms of being a Foundation member where you started putting your money into these centers?
- SC: Yes, I felt like most everybody was earmarking their money for scholarships or whatever, especially the guys that give a lot of money in order to have a building named after their family or their wife or whoever. I've certainly not been in that caliber, but what I've tried to do is invest my time and passion toward the history department. As you can tell, even though I went to school to learn a vocation to make a living, my passion is history, and certainly that Europe experience [contributed to it], but I've tried to help what I could and be a person from the Foundation that was involved. A lot of our Foundation members give money. They give a little time, but I try to give a lot more time and whatever money that I could help raise. As you know, we got the Foster family to help. Thanks to your involvement Dr. Scott, with Judge Foster, his sons were willing to donate what collection was left [of his Civil War collection] to Kennesaw. They had originally given part of their collection to the University of Georgia because Judge Foster and his two sons went to school there, but we have that Civil War collection here now which was the first collection I think in the Civil War group. Of course, I've had the opportunity to be involved with you with your regional history, and that's been a marvelous lesson.
- TS: You've supported our programs for both centers. Whenever we've had a symposium you've been here for it.
- SC: I think the first Civil War symposium I funded, and then I got the Foster family and others to help after that. I've tried to be consistently there for you on your regional history too. You've done a marvelous job I think, in essence, really having the brainchild for both of these centers. I don't know that you get the credit, but I certainly appreciate

that. I think it's obvious that you have a passion for this university having been here so long. When you give your heart and time to an organization it pays dividends for everybody. I think it's good for you, but I think it's wonderful for the institution that you serve, and you are a legacy yourself here, and it's just real important. I plan to continue to be involved in the two centers if I'm allowed to be and certainly try to fire up some of the trustees and others throughout the community in the Atlanta area to be involved because the Civil War is so important to us. In Paulding County we had three major battles, as you know. The South actually won all of those and drove Sherman out; that's unusual in Civil War history. But this is the hotbed for the South right in this area, so that's great, and certainly the regional history encompasses so much in the Atlanta area. Kennesaw is at the forefront and hopefully will continue to have great leadership, and it is a privilege to be associated here.

TS: Let's end with some of the special awards you've received.

SC: Okay.

TS: One is the Arch Award from the University of Georgia Extension Service.

SC: For the alumni community.

TS: For the UGA alumni community. A Citizen of the Year in Paulding County by the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce and then the Silver Beaver Award from the Atlanta Area Council of Boy Scouts of America.

SC: That's the highest award they give to a volunteer in the Atlanta area council in thirteen counties.

TS: So you obviously have continued to do a lot of work there.

SC: Yes. And I'll be a Boy Scout leader not necessarily going in the woods as much, but certainly helping them on a higher-level, get involved in nominating committees and district committees, and that kind of thing. I'm still a merit badge counselor. I teach those.

TS: I have a sister-in-law and brother-in-law who were very actively involved in Boy Scouts in Florida. In fact she was up working at Sidney Dew Camp [in northwest Georgia] this summer.

SC: One other thing I'd like to mention is the church. We have lay clergy, and no one gets paid for any kind of callings. I had the opportunity to serve as the director of public affairs for the church in Atlanta. Several projects that we got involved in—one that has to do with history is we promoted black family history in Atlanta with symposiums. We had one at the Atlanta History Center, a couple at the Atlanta central library, one at the State archives, and a couple more in Atlanta. For five years I was involved on those committees, and I spent quite a bit of time on that. It really serves the history of the black

community. Of course, our church developed the Freedman's Bank records availability on CD that is free to the public.

TS: Well, nobody's done more for genealogy than the Mormons.

SC: Yes, so it's a privilege to be a part of that too, but, again, it's consistent with everything I've tried to do not to get paid for these boards. There's a gratuitous amount on some of them, but I just try to invest my time somewhere worthwhile to make a difference.

TS: Do you have a congregation in Dallas now?

SC: We actually have four congregations in Dallas. I served as the first branch president. We started with forty members, and my job was to get it up to I think 250—we actually got up to 500 members—and then to build a building and have it paid for. So that was my job. Then we went to two units, and so now we're up to four. I was branch president for seven years during a busy time. I put in about forty hours a week I guess as lay service there from '91 to '98.

TS: What year were you Citizen of the Year in Paulding County?

SC: I can't remember, sometime in the late 1980s. It was a few years after I was chairman of the Chamber.

TS: Well, you've had a remarkable career of service.

SC: And amazingly my wife has put up with me all this time. We're preparing to celebrate thirty-five years of marriage. Her mother lived with us—she had Alzheimer's—for about ten years, so we've experienced all of this. She's been the person behind the scenes to help me, to help me get off boards when I needed to, and . . .

TS: And tolerate you getting on boards when you needed to.

SC: Absolutely, it's a great deal of toleration and patience, and I certainly could not have done it without her support and encouragement from my other family members. My mother, who is still living and in good health, is an even bigger history buff than I am.

TS: That's great. Well thank you very much.

SC: Thank you.

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