

**The David and Barbara Pryor Center
for
Arkansas Oral and Visual History**

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Arkansas Memories Project

Daniel E. Ferritor
Interviewed by Scott Lunsford
August 22, 2008
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Objective

Oral history is a collection of an individual's memories and opinions. As such, it is subject to the innate fallibility of memory and is susceptible to inaccuracy. All researchers using these interviews should be aware of this reality and are encouraged to seek corroborating documentation when using any oral history interview.

The Pryor Center's objective is to collect audio and video recordings of interviews along with scanned images of family photographs and documents. These donated materials are carefully preserved, catalogued, and deposited in the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville. The transcripts, audio files, video highlight clips, and photographs are made available on the Pryor Center Web site at <http://pryorcenter.uark.edu>. The Pryor Center recommends that researchers utilize the audio recordings and highlight clips, in addition to the transcripts, to enhance their connection with the interviewee.

Transcript Methodology

The Pryor Center recognizes that we cannot reproduce the spoken word in a written document; however, we strive to produce a transcript that represents the characteristics and unique qualities of the interviewee's speech pattern, style of speech, regional dialect, and personality. For the first twenty minutes of the interview, we attempt to transcribe verbatim all words and utterances that are spoken, such as uhs and ahs, false starts, and repetitions. Some of these elements are omitted after the first twenty minutes to improve readability.

The Pryor Center transcripts are prepared utilizing the *University of Arkansas Style Manual* for proper names, titles, and terms specific to the university. For all other style elements, we refer to the *Pryor Center Style Manual*, which is based primarily on *The Chicago Manual of Style 16th Edition*. We employ the following guidelines for consistency and readability:

- Em dashes separate repeated/false starts and incomplete/redirected sentences.
- Ellipses indicate the interruption of one speaker by another.
- Double underscores indicate two people talking at the same time.
- Italics identify foreign words or terms and words emphasized by the speaker.
- Question marks enclose proper nouns for which we cannot verify the spelling and words that we cannot understand with certainty.

- Brackets enclose
 - italicized annotations of nonverbal sounds, such as laughter, and audible sounds, such as a doorbell ringing;
 - annotations for clarification and identification; and
 - standard English spelling of informal words.
- Commas are used in a conventional manner where possible to aid in readability.
- All geographic locations mentioned in the transcript are in the state of Arkansas unless otherwise indicated.

Citation Information

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**Scott Lunsford interviewed Daniel E. Ferritor on August 22,
2008 in Fayetteville, Arkansas.**

[00:00:00]

Scott Lunsford: First thing we have [to] do, Dan, is I have to—
there's a little business we do at the front of this.

Daniel Ferritor: Okay.

SL: Um—I have to say that we're—uh—you and I are here at your
house—the Ferritor residence in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The date
is August the twenty-second. The year is two thousand and
eight [2008]. And your name is Dan Ferritor. Mine is Scott
Lunsford. Uh—we're doing this—um—through the—uh—David
and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History.
And this interview will be archived in the Special Collections
Department in Mullins Library at the University of Arkansas,
Fayetteville. And Dan, I have to ask you if it's okay with you
that we're doing this videotaped interview.

DF: Right. And if anybody ever checks it out and gets this far in the
interview—calls me—I'll write them a check for two hundred and
fifty dollars.

SL: [*Laughs*] Okay. We—we'll be posting this on the Web, so
[*laughs*] . . .

DF: I understand. Uh—let's make that five hundred.

SL: [*Laughs*] Okay.

DF: I still have the check for five hundred in my dissertation at Washington University [St. Louis, Missouri]. Nobody has ever claimed—uh—the reward.

SL: Really?

DF: Mh-hmm.

SL: I'm gonna [going to] look that up. [*DF laughs*] I need that. That's good.

Trey Marley: Wanna [want to] hear that story.

SL: Um—well, so, Dan, I guess—uh—first of all, what does the *E* stand for in Daniel E. Ferritor?

DF: Daniel E. Ferritor is Edward, and one grandfather's name was Daniel—Daniel McGrath—and the other fa—grandfather's name was—uh—Edward Ferritor. So I was named after my grandfather. Now people are named after God knows what . . .

SL: I understand.

DF: . . . mostly Britney. [*SL laughs*] If I were born today, they'd call me Britney and spell it in a funny way.

[00:01:44] SL: [*Laughs*] Well, where were you born? Where and when were you born?

DF: I was born—it all started on a cold November morning [said dramatically].

SL: [*Laughs*] I'm su . . .

DF: Kansas City, Missouri—St. Joseph's Hospital. Uh—[long pause] difficult birth. Uh—family stories were that I was the second child ever delivered the way I was delivered that lived in that hospital, so they were all very surprised that—uh—it was a breech birth with a cord around the neck. And in those days, GPs did the—did deliveries, so I'm guessin' [guessing] the doc wasn't—his name was Anderson. I'm guessin' Dr. Anderson wasn't particularly good, so—uh—I—I think—uh—it was a lucky day for me. I'm not sure about the rest of the world, but—uh . . .

[00:02:37] SL: And what was that date?

DF: November the eighth, 1939. And surprisingly enough, every year on that date—uh—I celebrate it. I—could be another day because, you know, I mean, what is good about November the eighth? [*SL laughs*] But I decided, "What the heck? I'll choose that because it's easy to remember."

[00:02:59] SL: That's right. That's good. Um—well, let's talk a little bit about your mom and dad. Did they—um—first of all, what were their names? What . . .

DF: Uh—my mother's name was Annabelle, and—Catherine Annabelle. But she went by either Ann, or—I guess when my

father would get mad at her, he'd call her Annabelle—uh—but mostly went by Ann. My father [John Donald Ferritor]—uh—went by the name Don, which was his middle name. And—uh—he was always concerned that you should never call a child by their middle name because when people look you up in the phone book, they can't find you. Even though there are only two hundred Ferritors in the United States. Uh—you could look at all of 'em, and Kansas City only had one. He was still mightily concerned that—that I be called Dan, not Edward. Uh—so—uh—that's one of the legacies that I got from—from my father. Both of 'em born in—in very small towns at the beginning of the century—my father in 1905 and my mother in 1909. Uh—born in small towns—both of 'em a hundred miles—one north and one south of Kansas City. Uh—and as happened in those days, y—the big city that you went to was Kansas City. So—uh—I was born in—in Kansas City—uh—second, I have a sister [Sharen Dee Kraper, deceased] who was born in 1936, so the Ferritor family had—uh—two, which was a small number for Irish Catholics—uh . . .

[00:04:32] SL: Um—how did your mom and dad meet? Do you know?

DF: You know, I'm not sure that—that I know. That was a—that was

a hazy part of my youth in that—uh—my mother had been married before, and her first husband died. Uh—and I think that—uh—she was in the hospital for some reason, and my father and a friend of his were going out, and the friend of his happened to be a cousin of my mother's, so they stopped by the hospital. And I think they met in a—in a hospital room.

SL: Hmm.

DF: But, you know, they didn't talk much—uh—a—about that.

[00:05:14] SL: Wh—what was her maiden name?

DF: Her maiden name was McGrath.

SL: McGrath.

DF: McGrath.

SL: And did she live . . .

DF: Now everybody will be able to—to steal my identity because the questions, "What was your mother's [*laughs*]*—*what was your mother's maiden name?"

SL: The password . . .

DF: It really wasn't McGrath. I lied—I lied! It was Smith—Smith!

[*SL laughs*] So—but it was McGrath, yes.

[00:05:36] SL: Well, did you—um—uh—did they—how much schooling did they have?

DF: Both of 'em high school. Both of 'em high school in a—in a

small—in a small community. Uh—that I remember, there was only one in any of the previous generations who had any college at all, and my father's brother maybe had one year. Uh—they . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

DF: . . . weren't college—I think I was the first in the family with a college degree, then the first with a master's degree, and then first with a doctoral degree.

[00:06:12] SL: What was it that your—your father did for a living?

DF: My father sold shoes. Uh—he was kind of—there was a big shoe chain in Kansas City—Robinson's Shoes, and he was—I don't—it was in the [19]40s—I don't know what he did. He ran their advertising and—and—but he had worked in shoes all his life. [Clears throat] Uh—in the late [19]40s, he took a job with—uh—a shoe company, traveling, and traveled in the South, and we ended up moving from Kansas City to Dallas, Texas, in 1948, because of—because of his job. Uh—but he spent the rest of his life working as a sales representative for fairly large shoe companies—Brown Shoe Company in—in Kansas City. He used to always say that the—the penny loafer that all of the girls wore—uh—in those days—that that paid my way through college, because it was his biggest-selling shoe, and he said that

we made a living selling penny loafers from a—some company up in Bangor, Maine, for heaven sakes. I mean . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

DF: Weird. But he was a—he was a shoe salesman and my mother was a . . .

SL: Homemaker.

DF: . . . homemaker.

[00:07:34] SL: Um—so you moved out of Kansas City when you were about nine. That puts you in elementary school during that move.

DF: Yeah, I think—I think actually I was eight. I was in the fourth grade—however—however old I was, we moved in—in November, I remember, and got to Dallas right before Harry Truman won the . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

DF: . . . fantastic [presidential] election in—in 1948. And as Irish Catholics, and from Kansas City, Harry Truman was—was our kind of guy—and, in fact, the—the whole kind of [Thomas] Pendergast machine that ran Kansas City in those days that Truman was—was—was part of. In fact, Truman was county judge in the—the county that Kansas City is—Jackson—Jackson County. And probably most of my relatives got patronage jobs

through the—through the Irish connections that—that they had.

[00:08:38] SL: Let's talk a little bit about Kansas City when you were growing up. Were you in downtown Kansas City?

Where . . .

DF: No. Actually, we seemed to live on the city limits, and you'd have to know Kansas City to—to—to put—make any sense out of this. But I think when I was born my folks lived on Twenty-Ninth Street, which was about as far out as Kansas City went. And then they moved out to Fifty-Eighth, and when the city limits moved out, then they moved out to Seventy-Fifth and then out to a hundred and first [101st]. So we just kinda, you know, followed the—the city limits. We were always right on the—on—on the inside of the city limits. Very modest, middle class—middle class all the way.

SL: Mh-hmm.

DF: Catholic education all the way. Parochial education through grade school. I think after eight grades of grade school, I only had one non-nun [teacher].

SL: Mh-hmm.

DF: And then I went to a Jesuit high school and college. So I had sixteen years of indoctrination. I can still recite the—uh—the *Baltimore Catechism*—the answer to the question "Where is

God?" is "Everywhere."

[00:09:57] SL: *[Laughs]* Well, did you have a favorite teacher—a favorite nun or . . .

DF: You know, I don't remember having a favorite—a favorite nun. I think I said I had one non-nun [teacher], and I think she might've been my favorite, because she spent twenty minutes a day reading a Nancy Drew mystery to us. And I don't remember much else, but I don't remember her name, but I do remember the Nancy Drew, which I thought was a relief from the—the tedium of—of school.

SL: Mh-hmm.

DF: I was not a—I was not a great—great student. I was—in preparation for this, I pulled out and looked at some of my old report cards. And apparently I had very sloppy handwriting, which I still do. My deportment was miserable. I didn't use my time very well, and *[telephone rings]* I was a bother to everybody else. *[SL laughs]*

Joy Endicott: Is that a phone?

SL: Yeah, let's get th—let's grab the phone.

[Tape stopped]

[00:11:01] DF: You ever notice that you never get—on busy signals you never get a wrong number? *[Laughter]* It's one of life's

mysteries. [*SL laughs*] I like mysteries of life.

TM: Yeah.

SL: Okay, we're back. So not a great student.

DF: Roll 'em again.

TM: Rolling.

SL: Not a great student, so I guess we should scan all those report cards while we're here.

DF: I was probably an okay student, but I—I—I don't think I was what you called studious. I—I did fair—you know, I got through everything.

[00:11:30] SL: Was there anything that you liked about school?

DF: Not particularly. I—I—I enjoyed going to school. I don't think there was anything that was particularly challenging or anything that—that I—that I got excited about. Maybe geography and history . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

DF: . . . when we got into those—those kinds of things. Uh—but—but nothing particularly excited me.

SL: Was there any athletic development?

DF: I was small but slow. [*SL laughs*] And so I was able to—I played all the sports that you're supposed to play, and you won't be surprised that I was right fielder in baseball. [*SL laughs*]

And played football, but I really wasn't very big. Basketball—again—basketball was probab—always been my favorite sport, but I wasn't—wasn't very good at that. Later on in life, I got to be a fair handball player, and, maybe even a little better than fair racquetball player, because those are sports that don't take a lot of strength, but take a lot of—of quick—quick movement . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

DF: . . . which I had. And—and you can't go longer than three steps before you run into a wall. In all likelihood, the thing I was best at athletically is Ping-Pong. I was an extraordinary Ping-Pong player. I could—I beat 'em all.

SL: [*Laughs*] Hmm.

[00:13:08] DF: Had—had I've been alive [DF Edit: younger] when [US President Richard M.] Nixon went over to China [April 1971], he would've probably taken me for his part of Ping-Pong Diplomacy [said with humor].

SL: So do you have a table now?

DF: No, I don't play anymore. I—I quit playing. But—but I am serious. I probably was as good at Ping-Pong as anything that—that I ever did. But it was all quick—quick stuff. It didn't—just luck. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah.

DF: A fair tennis player. Kind of—the kind of tennis player that in city tournaments—I could get into the—to the—usually the round of eight if I—if I was . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

DF: . . . playing well and had an okay draw. And then I would get beat love and love because that's where the good athletes ended up.

SL: Mh-hmm.

[00:13:57] DF: And I was a good club player, but once somebody was good—that they—they passed me by.

SL: It was over.

DF: It was over. So athletics wasn't—I—I gave up my—my desire to be an NFL [National Football League] player in the fifth grade and decided then that I would really [*laughs*—decided then that I would write jokes for [comedian and actor] Milton Berle. [*SL laughs*] That was—that was my—that was my career ambition other than my entire life I've—I had planned to be, wanted to be, and I was gonna be a lawyer. I was gonna go to law school. I—I probably only had two—two aspirations at all in life. As a very young child, I wanted to be an elevator operator because they—in those days they had people on the elevator, [*pretends*

to move lever] and they had these things, and boy, I thought, "God, [*laughs*] can you believe how much fun that would be?" And at about age four I thought—and I'm not gonna say that it has its ups and downs, but [*SL laughs*] that's wo—way too old. But at some point I—I became a lawyer. And you had asked me earlier about my—my parents' education, and neither—neither of my parents went past high school. And as far as I know, they—they weren't particularly stellar students. They—you know, they—they got through. They got through okay. But we were upwardly mobile Irish Catholics at a time—my parents were raised at a time when it wasn't particularly great to either be Irish or Catholic, and the confluence of those two things was—th—th—it's still—some parts of—of—of—th—the world there were some discrimination patterns that existed. So the—the—the great hope for the family was me. Not my sister, she was a girl. I mean, what are you gonna do with a girl? Get her married.

SL: Mh-hmm.

[00:16:03] DF: But I was gonna go to school. I was gonna go to college. There was never a question that I was gonna go to college. And I was either going to be a priest, which would've been good; a doctor, which would've been great; a dentist, which would've been not quite as great, but pretty good, since

my sister had braces and they put a lot of money into her mouth. But when I said at age four or five I wanted to be a lawyer, there was some amount of "[*vocalized noise*] Is that good enough?"

SL: Mh-hmm.

DF: But, yeah, it was. It was a profession, so—but it—the—the—the issue was "my son, the doctor," and that I was going to be—I was gonna be the hope.

SL: So . . .

DF: Again, not my sister.

SL: Right.

DF: And she realized that.

SL: Huh.

DF: I didn't.

[00:16:54] SL: Yeah. That's interesting—the discrimination that you—is there a personal time that you had when you experienced that?

DF: I never experienced it. Never experienced it in my life. They talked about it. But, see, being—you know, by the time I was aware of anything—would've been—gosh—my early—I—I keep thinking that I remember Pearl Harbor [December 7, 1941]. I couldn't, because that—I would've been two years old.

SL: Mh-hmm.

DF: Two years and a month old, so I can't remember Pearl Harbor.
So I just must remember people talking—talking about it.

SL: Mh-hmm.

DF: I have very vivid memories of being in the family car on a Sunday afternoon and hearing it on the radio. And every time I said that, my mother said, "We didn't have a radio in our car."
[Laughs] So I'm sure I made that up. I do remember [President Franklin Delano] Roosevelt dying, and that's honestly one of my—one of my early memories. So that would've been in—in 1945 when that happened. So the—by that time there—there weren't patterns of discrimination. Certainly, the nuns always told us that we had to defend our faith and that the whole world hated Catholics. And they—they never told us who we had to defend our faith against and . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

[00:18:16] DF: . . . you know, I always hoped that I could be a martyr. [Laughs] I'd have been the only lawyer who was a martyr, but that's—[slaps arms of chair]. [Laughter] I shouldn't tell that. I'm not gonna tell any lawyer jokes. But, no, I wanted to be a martyr, and—and I was gonna—I was gonna die for my faith, but I never knew who was gonna kill me. [Laughter] It

was a fairly amorphous thing out there, but yes, [*laughs*] I—I will die for my faith. And—but that's—that's how I was—that's how I was raised. Religion was a very important part of my life because of the—of the schooling. I never got the sense that my parents were that—that religious. In fact, my father didn't go to confession very often and one t—he always went at Christmas and Easter—two or three times a year. And one time he came out and—he came out laughing from confession. My mother said, "What's the matter?" He said, "The priest says, 'You know, you'd make a hell of a Protestant.'" [*Laughter*] And so—but in school—I mean, religion was an important part. We had nuns. We had the priest that came in once a week to talk to us. We went to Mass all the time. From probably fifth grade on I was an altar boy, and I served six o'clock Mass every morning, to my mother's consternation. She would get up and drive me to six o'clock Mass, and I was volunteering for that. I might not have been good in school, but—but I—I think I probably even at that age was hoping they'd share the wine with me, but—[*laughter*] —but they didn't. They didn't.

[00:19:49] SL: Well, so let's get ba—in the house, y'all—the family would go to Sunday Mass or would they . . .

DF: Oh, yeah, always Sunday Mass—Sunday Mass. And we used to

pray the family rosary, but it seems to me that we would do that at—there must've been a special month or maybe it was on first Fridays or—or there was some—it wasn't every single night. But the family would—would pray the rosary. Always an opportunity for my sister and I to get in trouble because we would start laughing in the—in the middle of it, and one of the two of us would get hit, so—so we kind of dreaded the rosary for all kinds of—for all kinds of reasons. But—but that—that was the—again, yeah, we were—that was part of—that was part of the—my upbringing. It was an important part.

[End of verbatim transcription]

[00:20:40] SL: So corporal punishment? You were . . .

DF: Not much.

SL: . . . spanked or . . .

DF: Yeah, I think we would've been spanked—not much, and not hard, and not often, but on occasion. I think like everybody else, corporal punishment doesn't have anything to do with what you do, it has to do with how your parents feel when you do it. And that—when they're at a tipping point, you are liable to get hit when you—when they don't wanna hit you, which is part of the problem with corporal punishment is it's not done systematically. I'm becoming a behaviorist, which I was. It's

not done systematically. It's not—the timing isn't right, and—
and people are usually mad when they do it. Those are all the
wrong ways to punish. So—but a small amount. I wouldn't—
certainly wasn't abused.

[00:21:38] SL: So radio was the main entertainment in . . .

DF: Radio was the main entertainment. We talked a lot at dinner.

Family dinners were a—were an absolute must. We talked a lot
at dinner. There was always some kind of word games going
on—puns and attempts at humor and sarcasm and a very verbal
family. And we played a lot of Scrabble. Again, words were—
were a part of growing up. Some amount of cards, but I don't
think my father liked cards very well. But we did a lot of—we
did a lot of family things. We were an early family to get
television. We probably got television in, I'm gonna say, [19]49
or [19]50.

SL: Oh, that is early.

DF: We were the third or fourth person that I knew to have
television. And so then we probably watched television as a
family. But we still had the dinners, and Sunday dinner was a
bane of my life. I hated it, as it was at two o'clock on Sunday.
Absolutely ruined the day, because you couldn't do anything
before it 'cause [because] you had to be home at two. There

wasn't anything after it 'cause every baseball game's—the sandlot games had already been played. So there I was at Sunday dinner, and my mother would say, "You're going to enjoy this if it kills you!" [*Laughs*] And I'd say, "It will! It will!" [*Laughter*] "Gimme—pass some more of that chicken!" Chicken every Sunday. We had fried chicken.

[00:23:29] SL: Was it—did you do the dishes?

DF: Yes, and that was a—kind of a [pause] constant fight between my sister and I—who washed and who dried. I always had to dry and she got to wash, and for some reason I didn't like that. That just shows that I wasn't horribly bright. [*Laughter*] So my hands are still beautiful after all these years.

[00:23:53] SL: [*Laughs*] What about laundry and . . .

DF: Didn't have to do . . .

SL: . . . other housework [household] ch—chores?

DF: . . . didn't have to do the [pause] I had to scrub the kitchen floor, but I wouldn't have done laundry. That was women's work. We had a very sex-segregated household. I mean, you gotta [got to] go back to the [19]40s. You know, everybody talks like the patterns of sexual role typing and role-playing was something that males said had to happen. It wasn't. It was my mother. That was the way things were

supposed to be. "This is something that your sister does. You don't do that." But she [DF Edit: my sister] would never touch a leaf of grass. "That's something that you do." And she—I mean, she [DF Edit: my sister] would've died before she took out the trash because "that's not something that you do. That's something that boys do." So we grew up very much understanding what the various roles were. My sister never questioned the fact that she wouldn't go to—she got one year of college. She never questioned that, and when she went, she took typing and all of that so that she could go out and get herself a good job as a secretary. But she was gonna be married by the time she was twenty. That's what you did. And she got married when she was twenty. It worked.

[00:25:18] SL: What about extended family in Kansas City? Did you know your grandparents at all?

DF: I knew both grandparents on my father's side—his mother and—his mother and father. They lived in Maryville, Missouri, a little town north of—a hundred miles north of Kansas City. And we used to go up to Maryville periodically. It was—seemed to me to be a big trip at the time. They seemed to me to be older than dirt. They were—my grandmother died at about age [*vocalized noise*]*—well, she died in [19]46 or [19]47, so I didn't—don't*

remember her very well. My grandfather ended up dying a couple of years later, and he was old at thirty. I mean, he was—he worked for the railroad. Everybody on both sides—and—both sides of—my mother's side and my father's side—all railroad—all Irish—all worked for the railroad. But he retired and spent the rest of his life sitting on the front porch in Maryville, Missouri, in a rocking chair, smoking a pipe. And nodding at people that walked by. And I just saw him as the oldest man in the world. So, wasn't a good relationship. [00:26:44] On my mother's side, her father had died in the 1918 influenza . . .

SL: Influenza.

DF: . . . epidemic, and so he had died, and they moved from Nevada, Missouri, to Kansas City. And my grandmother remarried, and remarried into a [long pause]—this German family—the Schleichers that had twelve kids, I think—twelve brothers and sisters. And they became my extended family. My grandmother married one of the brothers, and so they became the extended family. My father's brother still lived in m—we just didn't have much to do with them. But my mother's stepfamily—became—we became very close to them. And then my [maternal] grandmother died in—on her side—she died in [19]48 or [19]49—something like that. She died of cancer. I think a

youngish woman, maybe in her fifties when when she died. So— but we continued to be close to the stepfamily for many years. And probably—my parents didn't have a lot of what I call friends. Whatever they did, they usually did with this—with the stepfamily. And—mostly what they did was sit around and drank. High rate of alcohol consumption. Very high rate of alcohol consumption. I'm sure—there's no doubt my father was an alcoholic. He was a functioning alcoholic, though, because it—he never lost a day's work. But—as a—the job he had traveling, he—when he was travelin', he was workin' hard. When he wasn't travelin', he didn't have much to do—sit around and drank. [00:28:48] And then they'd go down to the Schleichers and, I mean, they drank. They didn't fool around. That was—I mean, the drink was whiskey—was a boilermaker— whiskey chased with beer. And they would go through several fifths of whiskey in a night—get absolutely roarin' drunk and decide to—and my mother was a teetotaler. [SL laughs] And she'd just sit there like this [wrings hands and rolls head from side to side] and, "Oh, my God. What are they doing?" Well, y'know what they're doing. There was a lake on the outskirts of Kansas City, and if they'd get drunk enough they'd all go out to the lake to continue drinking. Good deal for me because they

were all too drunk to drive. I was—I learned to drive when I was nine years old and . . .

SL: You were the designated driver.

[00:29:32] DF: I was the designated driver. Not only that, but when we were out there I got the car. So there I am—twelve, thirteen, fourteen years old—tooling around on the highways [*laughs*] of Missouri. So, I didn't mind—I, you know, grew up thinking that's what you did. You drank.

SL: Yeah.

DF: And they did. I don't think that was odd. This—you know, these were [Great] Depression-era people and both come from a tradition. You know, I don't think my kids know what an ethnic tradition is because that wasn't part of the life that they lived. They'd have to remember that they were Irish. But that—my parents' generation didn't have to remember it. They knew it. And the stepfamily—they were German and had pretty much the same—pretty much the same tradition minus the supposed discrimination. But, you know, that supposed discrimination led to a—when—when John F. Kennedy ran for president, you know, I just thought the world was gonna become the best place in the world. And as luck would have it, election day 1960 was November the eighth, and that day I turned twenty-one. And I

cast my first vote . . .

SL: Vote.

DF: . . . on my birthday. They let you register if you were gonna be twenty-one by election day, and I was. So—and I saw him two or three times, and I just thought that I'd died and gone to heaven. Whatever Kennedy did, I did.

SL: Well, there were a lot of us that felt that . . .

DF: Fortunately, we didn't know about his—all the stuff that he did, so [laughs and snaps fingers]. . .

SL: No.

DF: Could've been a—he could've been a better role model [laughs]. . .

SL: Yeah, yeah, could have been. Yeah.

DF: . . . if the press would've been just a little more open and [laughs] . . .

SL: Yeah.

DF: But—so I forget how we got to—how we got to all of that. Oh, my grandparents. I don't think I knew them, and they certainly weren't fun by any means. They were old people, and I think we're a little more fun today. But the world's changed, you know . . .

SL: Right.

DF: . . . a lot since then.

[00:31:52] SL: Well, I was hoping maybe you'd had a—at least a good conversation with a granddad or grandmother that you could—well, it sounds like you . . .

DF: I had a gran—had . . .

SL: . . . your mo—mother's . . .

DF: . . . had a gra—had a interesting—I remember my [DF Edit: maternal] grandmother. She was dying, and [pause] she was—they had her bed down in the bottom part of her house. And they had a—she was down there, and I was sitting there with her, and we were ta—oh, I don't know what we were doing, but we were talking. And they had a boarder—a woman who lived—rented a room up on the second floor, maybe third floor, as I remember. And she came in to talk to my grandmother, and they just had the nicest conversation about how great everything was, and, "Gosh, it's nice to"—my grandmother's name was Daisy—"It's nice to see you, Daisy." And my grandmother said, "We just don't spend enough time together, Margaret," and all of this. And I'm sitting there, and Margaret walks out of the room, and my grandmother went, "You bitch!" And I thought—I learned life is not how it seems always. And it turns out that after she died, the boarder married her [DF's

grandmother's] husband, so—took me a while to piece that whole part of the thing together, but it is what I remember most about my grandmother. And it was a—I don't know—I'm not sure that's the best thing to remember about your grandmother. But I don't remember anything about the other grandmother, so at least there's something.

SL: Yeah. Well, I mean, that is a big light that came on for you.

DF: "You bitch!" [*Laughs*] Oh! Life is not how it seems.

SL: Yeah.

DF: But no in-depth conversations. Both of—all of the grandparents died probably before I was ten years old.

[00:33:48] SL: Did your mom and dad ever talk about the great-grandparents at all or do you know . . .

DF: Not much, if they did, and I never could keep 'em—I never could keep 'em straight. There were—up in the area where my dad was raised in Maryville, there were some relatives up there that I think were his mother's relatives. And I kind of knew them, but not very much. We didn't go up that much, and I don't have a lot of early memories.

SL: Yeah.

DF: And what few skills I've had in my life, probably memory is one of the most—is one of the strongest skills I've had. I'm—either

have an extraordinary memory or the ability to remember in excruciating detail things that never happened. [*Laughter*] I maybe should've . . .

SL: That's the writer.

DF: . . . I maybe should've been a writer.

SL: That's the writer in you.

DF: I know, I know, but I don't think I ever wrote a creative piece in my life. I spent my life writing, but nothing—the—I think when you're a creative writer and you write that kind of stuff, it's called fiction. When I did it, it was called lies, so . . .

[00:35:05] SL: [*Laughs*] Well, your cousins—were there any cousins that you were particularly close to that you remember?

DF: No, not close to at all—that—I didn't like 'em. Had a cousin that was fairly close to my age, and I ju—I never thought very highly of her. And she ended up—screwed-up life. And then I had a—another cousin who was younger than me, but ended up being bipolar, having some horrible, horrible episodes—episodes, and killing his mother. [*SL gasps*] Was an architect, and killed his mother—essentially pleaded insanity. I'm—imagine it's a—there's a better legal term. But it was—he—so he never got sent to jail. He ended up in a mental institution, and [*pause*] got out after five or six years, I think, and was an architect in Jefferson

City, Missouri. [*Laughs*] And not long ago somebody said, "Check this Web site out for me," and I did. And I looked at all the Web site and there was a search down there, and she said, "Check the search." And so I put in Ferritor and hit search [*snaps fingers*], and the first thing that came up was this guy's obituary. "Kevin Ferritor died—loved by all." [*Laughter*] And I read the obituary and I thought, "Gosh, they forgot to mention that he cut up his mother with an X-Acto knife." [*Laughs*]

SL: Oh. [*Word unclear*]

[00:36:46] DF: So I—he and I weren't close. And interesting—golly—[pause]—might be—[former student] Laura Kellams said, "I met a relative of yours. I was at a wedding or something, and the guy was introduced to me as Ferritor." And she said, "Well, I know a Dan Ferritor in Fayetteville." And she said, "He said, 'He won't wanna know about me.'" But, you know, like when he was takin' his medicine . . .

SL: He was okay.

DF: . . . fine.

SL: Yeah.

DF: A little dull. That's why he didn't like to take his medicine.

SL: Yeah.

DF: It puts you on the gray side.

SL: Yeah.

DF: And he'd gotten [to] some real heights, apparently. But those were my two cousins, and so I didn't . . .

[00:37:32] SL: Well, you mentioned that you don't remember—recall your mom and dad really having any real friends that . . .

DF: Hm-mm.

SL: It was the—your mother's-side relatives that y'all kind of . . .

DF: Mh-hmm.

[00:37:43] SL: . . . hung out with it. But did—what about you? Did you develop any friendships when you were a kid growing up in Kansas City? Was there someone that you kind of latched onto at school . . .

DF: Oh, yeah, I had . . .

SL: . . . or out in baseball? You've mentioned the sandlot.

DF: Oh, yeah, I had three really, really good friends growin' up in Kansas City. Remember, we left Kansas City when I was in fourth grade. I then returned to Kansas City when—five years later and essentially picked up the friendships. But, no, I had lots of friends growing up in grade school. And then when we moved to Dallas, good friends in Dallas—lots of 'em. Haven't maintained many of those friendships, however. I—actually I haven't maintained—had lots of close friends in high school and

college—and haven't maintained any of those friendships either. I went a different direction than most of the people I knew. Most of the people I knew are lawyers now. Very popular thing to do for Catholic boys—to go into law. The—most of the Catholic schools didn't have good science programs either in high school or grade school, and so you didn't tend to become an engineer or a doctor. The—you moved into the other kinds of fields, law being an obvious one. But I haven't maintained many of those old relationships at all. But the—one of my very close friends growin' up essentially introduced me to my wife when we were thirteen years old. My first date was a Sadie Hawkins Day dance . . .

[00:39:41] SL: In Dallas.

DF: In—no, in Kansas City.

SL: Oh.

DF: I'd just moved back.

SL: Okay.

DF: I had just moved back. I was thirteen [*slaps arms of chair*] years old. And he said, "I've got a friend who—there's this dance, and they want us to go." And I said, "Okay, fine." We went, and that was 1953, and I met Patsy that night, and decided I'd marry her. [*SL laughs*] And . . .

SL: At thirteen.

DF: . . . and did ten years later. Yeah. So, you know, we've been married forty-six years, and before that we were either dating or friends for another ten years, so I've been—I don't want to say fooling around—I've—our lives have been entwined for quite a while.

SL: Well [*unclear words*] . . .

DF: But he introduced us, and I think the record needs to show that she invited me. [*Laughter*] Sadie Hawkins.

SL: That's right.

DF: November 1953.

[00:40:43] SL: What was she thinking?

DF: She didn't know me. [*Laughter*] That's what she was thinking. And four of us kind of just went together, so . . .

SL: Yeah.

DF: . . . it really wasn't a date with her, but that was it. That's—that was my first date.

[00:40:59] SL: So you were only in Dallas for three . . .

DF: Five years.

SL: . . . five years?

DF: I think five years, yeah.

SL: Do . . .

DF: Good place to be. Great place in those days.

SL: Well, let's talk a little bit about Dallas before we get back to you and Patsy. But . . .

DF: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . so, you were in elementary school when you went to Dallas.

DF: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm.

SL: And you stuck through . . .

[00:41:18] DF: Through eighth grade. Finished eighth grade. So I got there in fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. So we were there five years. And it was . . .

SL: And you were still in a Catholic school there.

DF: Oh, yeah, still—in a Ca—St. Thomas Aquinas [Catholic School]. My life is intertwined around [St.] Thomas Aquinas. The Jesuits love him. Thomas Aquinas was the church that we went to here [in Fayetteville]—the Newman Center [St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish and Roman Catholic Newman Center]. I mean, so I've—Tom and I are [SL laughs] are tight. But, yeah, I went to a Catholic school. We lived out in—gosh, I think it was north Dallas. Now it's [vocalized noise] inside, but we were right at the city limits. Dallas was a good place for a kid to be in those days. The bus came very close to our house, and I used to take—'cause—take the—I still remember, it was nine cents.

Movies were nine cents. We'd take the bus and go downtown as a nine-year-old. My parents let me do it. We'd go downtown. I'd ride bikes all over. There were woods that we went in. It was a—almost a Tom Sawyer kind of life. It's hard to imagine when you—it's hard for me to imagine when I go to Dallas today . . .

SL: Right.

[00:42:39] DF: . . . because Dallas is not one of my favorite cities.

It's a big city that I'm not comfortable in, and I like big cities. I love New York City [New York]. I mean, I love London [England], Rome [Italy] , and Paris [France]. I like big cities. Big cities offer a kind of thrill and excitement that you don't get in a place like this [DF Edit: Fayetteville]. You get something else in a place like this. But Dallas was a very comfortable [*slaps arms of chair*] place to grow up. And somehow—and nobody ever believes this—but Dallas is a—ve—hell, I mean, Dallas is Baptist. I—my entire life, until I went in the military, I knew two non-Catholics. One of 'em lived next door to me in Dallas, and one of 'em was a non-Catholic that I went to school with at the Catholic school here in Kansas City. Now how can you live in a place like Dallas, Texas—I can understand Kansas City—but how can you live in a place like Dallas, Texas, and still

be in that cocoon? Well, I was. I like to say that my life was parochial in every way. I was very much put into a cocoon. It was a middle-class cocoon. It was a white cocoon. It was a male-dominant cocoon. It was kind of upwardly mobile. Those were the kinds of friends that we had, and it was overwhelmingly Catholic. And I still look back [*slaps arms of chair*] and I keep thinking, "Ferritor, you must've known some and you just can't remember 'em." That might be the case, and I might be exaggerating, which I am wont to do. [00:44:33] Don Pederson [University of Arkansas vice chancellor for the division of academic affairs] used to talk about Ferritor numbers. [*SL laughs*] He'd go, "God, it's Ferritor numbers again." And I always told Don—I said, "Don"—when I was chancellor [University of Arkansas] I said, "Don, I round up." [*Laughter*] "I always round up." So hyperbole is not something that I am—I'm unawa—un—unfamiliar with. But I think it's instructive that my memory is really of a very positive, warm [pause]—not a lot of questions that were left unanswered that were asked—kind of cocoon. It was middle class. It was white. It was you vote Democratic. It was you go to church once a week and confession once a week. You marry a Catholic girl. You live a Catholic life. You have to be a professional, because that's what

success means. And it—you talk about it and it sounds like it's indoctrination, but it's not. It's—it was just a kind of enveloped world that we lived in. I—tha—that sounds critical when I listen to myself talk, and I don't find it critical. It was—that was just [*claps hands*] what I experienced. And I think it's the era.

[00:46:03] As a sociologist, I think cohort effects are awfully important. And you know, I used to tell my students if the genie ever comes out of the bottle and gives you three wishes, the wish that you ought to have is number one, to be born in 1939; number two, to be born male; and number three, to be born white, because the whole world will open up for you. [*SL laughs*] And you will have opportunities that no other set of circumstances can give you. And I still believe that. I still believe that. I had opportunities that my children never would have, and that's good that they don't have the opportunities. My kids compete against everybody. There isn't anybody—male, female, black, white, brown, yellow—they compete against 'em all. I didn't.

SL: Yeah.

[00:46:52] DF: I had a very, very . . .

SL: Small sampling.

DF: . . . very small sampling of people that—so there were all these

talented people that I didn't have to compete with. And being born in 1939, there were so few people born between 1930 and 1939. That's when the baby boom really started was in [19]39, not [19]45. But th—there were so few people in there that as I moved through my life, there weren't many people ahead of me. And so when jobs would open up, I always had a good opportunity to fill the job because I not only wasn't competing with a—th—all the talented people, there really weren't a lot of people ahead of me. And so it was just a kind of s—magic kind of thing. I hope nobody else goes through it [*SL laughs*] because it's unfair to the [*laughs*] other ninety percent of the people.

SL: Yeah.

DF: But that's [*claps hands*]*—you play the hand that you're dealt.*

[00:47:49] SL: What about music when you were growing up?

DF: Ah, ah, ah, ah, [*screeches and clears throat*]. I just gave you the first note of [*SL laughs*] Beethoven's Fifth [Editor's Note: Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony no. 5 in C Minor*, op. 67, composed during the years 1804–1808]. The nuns always said, "Move your lips. Don't sing." Music was not much of a part of my family. The only music that I remember much was church music. I was always in the choir. God, we were always in

church. And I sang in the choir, although they always asked me not to sing. I was not any good. My sister wasn't any good. My mother wasn't any good. And my father wasn't any good. It was not a musical household. There was not music on, and I went through the vast majority of my life without any music at all. The last thing I remember is Elvis [Presley], and then I went to graduate school. I missed the Beatles. I missed all of that. I listened to no music. I got out in 1997 of the chancellor's job and we moved to Ireland, and the place we rented had these things. And I said, "Patsy, this Mozart—this is pretty good stuff." [Laughter] So music wasn't part of my life.

SL: That's interesting. Gosh, it was such a—especially—well, really, even before Elvis it was a phenomenon. I mean, it was a . . .

[00:49:20] DF: I went through the Elvis craze and the early rock and roll—the—Elvis made "Heartbreak Hotel" [1956] probably in—when I was a sophomore in high school. And I remember the early black rock and roll when I was in Dallas. That was kind of "Should we let our kids listen to this because, it—you know, this is gonna lead 'em down the path to perdition." But e—e—I don't think I was even as—I liked the music, but it—I just turned it off when I went to graduate school and focused.

[00:50:06] SL: When you were in Dallas did the traditional weekend

gathering of Catholic Irish folks get together with the heavy drinking and . . .

DF: No. Huh-uh. And, in fact, I can't remember my parents having many friends at all in Dallas, and what friends they would've had would've come from church. And Dallas wasn't the Irish place that Kansas City was. I mean, my memory of growing up is there's two kinds of Catholics—good Catholics and bad Catholics. The good Catholics are the Irish Catholics and the bad Catholics are the Italians. And they were mostly Italians, and [*laughter*] my friends were named Ross Pete Interante, Donald Gaborino. [*Laughs*] They were—it was a very Italian, Dallas. But, you know, I don't remember my parents having many friends at all in Dallas.

SL: And . . .

DF: Which has always led me to believe that my parents just weren't very social.

[00:51:09] SL: Yeah. What prompted the move back to Kansas City?

DF: My dad got another job—better job. Probably my mother wanted to go back. I don't remember.

SL: Yeah.

DF: But certainly, he got another job and we moved back to Kansas

City. And I had just finished eighth grade and was gonna start the Jesuit high school. In fact, it's called Jesuit High School in Dallas [Editor's Note: Renamed Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas in 1969]. And instead I—we moved back to Kansas City and I went to the Jesuit high school [Rockhurst High School] in Kansas City.

[00:51:41] SL: Did that provide any trauma for you? I mean . . .

DF: No. You know, the biggest . . .

SL: . . . you were talking how you liked Dallas.

DF: . . . the biggest trauma that I had was that in those days Catholic education in Kansas City was only seven grades, and in Dallas it was eight grades. And so when I moved back to Kansas City, all my friends were sophomores when I was a freshman. And so I found myself among the hundred and three people I didn't know.

SL: Yeah.

DF: And no matter what age you are, you don't like to be around people you don't know. And so I was kind of torn between "Do I develop friendships with the ones that I do know or do I—," and I'm not sure I ever dealt with that very well. I'm like—my high school years weren't very satisfying to me—at least the first couple of those years weren't. Must've been more traumatic for

my sister, but I never heard her say much about it, because she was going into her senior year in Dallas, and so she—when we moved, she starts off at a new school with—not knowing anybody, and she's a senior. That had to be fairly tough, but . . .

SL: Yeah.

DF: . . . you know, I don't remind—I don't—I don't remember her—[pause]—she walked in a room [pause] and, before long everybody in the room knew her. She was a—I was a much more shy and retiring—it took me a lot longer. I would never call myself a wallflower, but every time I talk about myself as shy, everybody, you know, looks at me funny because you don't think shy people would be college professors and teach classes of five hundred students and do some of the jobs that I've done. But I have always assessed myself as being shy, and I'd much rather in a crowded room be over in a corner watching everybody else as being out in the middle. But, you know, sometimes you're required to be in the middle.

[00:53:55] SL: But your sister obviously had developed some social skills.

DF: Oh, strong social skills. Strong social skills.

SL: I wonder where she—she probably just self-generated that out

of necessity or . . .

DF: I don't know. She was always in trouble as a youngster—you know, not horrible trouble. In our day and age, you didn't get in much trouble. But she was always in trouble, and once again, I was always the fair-haired boy. [*SL laughs*] And she always broke the ice. And she'd get in trouble for something, and—staying out too late or whatever, and time would come for me, and the waters would part. [*SL laughs*] And, "Oh, yeah, Dan, you can do that. That's great." But I was a boy.

SL: Yeah.

[00:54:44] DF: And she'd already broken down my parents' resistance. She was about three and a half years older than me. She was always being grounded. I—don't—can't remember if I was ever grounded. She'd get grounded for six months—crawl out the window—go out on her own. I remember one time we got taken down to her high school. My mother—I said, "What'd she do now?" I don't know—she was a junior in high school. "What'd she do now?" She said, "Well, she left school. Unauthorized leaving school." And I said, "Oh." She said, "Yeah, she went to lunch." [*SL laughs*] So I was sitting in the car and my mother came out and says, "Yeah, she went to lunch in a bar." [*Laughter*] So that was the kind of thing she did.

SL: Yeah.

DF: So I got to go to bars real early.

[00:55:29] SL: [*Laughs*] Yeah. Well, maybe—it could be that your parents were just better at parenting by the—in that three-and-a-half-year gap. They kind of—she kind of put 'em through their paces.

DF: She did. She a—she actually did. They were much stricter on her than they were on me, and I just literally stepped into whatever the boundaries were for her. At the time, they ended up being that for me.

SL: Yeah.

DF: So I didn't have to ever—I didn't have to do any trail breaking.

SL: Right.

DF: She broke all the trails for me. And as I said, she was constantly in some little minimal trouble. [*Laughs*] I don't know what it was, but she was always in some kind of trouble.

SL: So, let's see, where were we? We were . . .

DF: Started on a cold November morning. [*TM laughs*]

SL: Well, we started there.

DF: Oh, we don't have to go all the way back over that?

SL: We—no, we don't have to start over.

DF: I always started each class with a review, but [*laughter in*

background] that's—it's up to you. You do what you want.

SL: No, no, we can do that. I guess we were—was there anything about Dallas? I mean, I found it interesting that all the Catholics or most all the Catholics were Italian in Dallas . . .

DF: That I knew.

SL: . . . and your group in Kansas City were Irish. Was there anything else that was . . .

DF: Oh, no, no, no. My high school class had a hundred and three in it. Fifty-one of 'em were Irish Catholics and fifty-two of 'em were Italian Catholics.

SL: Really?

DF: Yeah.

SL: So . . .

DF: Oh, yeah, yeah. Can't get away from the Italians.

[00:57:08] SL: But in Dallas there were virtually no Irish?

DF: I didn't—I don't remember any Irish at all. I do remember—lot of Lebanese in Dallas who turned—who were Catholic. Had a lot of Italians. But my memory of things Irish is much more Kansas City. And it's kind of neat, too—the first time I went to Ireland, my eyes just got big every time we'd pass by a grocery store or a filling station or something, I'd go, "I went to school with a guy named that. I went to school with a guy named that."

[*Laughter*] So it—Kansas City had more of that. But I just remember Dallas being a good place for a kid to grow up. Lots of—was a safe town. We just did everything. We were on bikes riding all over town—things that we'd never let our kids ever do. Going downtown by myself when I was ten years old—going to the movies.

[00:58:09] SL: What movies did you see?

DF: You know, I can't remember. Most of 'em were—were some kind of Saturday afternoon matinees, and there'd be three adventure movies, and I loved Robin Hood and the Scarlet Pimpernel and—I mean, if there was any swashbuckling going on, I did—and obviously the Westerns. The cowboys and Indians that—[actor] Roy Rogers and that—people of those ilk—that they were still making those movies in the late [19]40s and early [19]50s. But it was just kinda kid stuff.

SL: Mh-hmm. Nine cents.

DF: Nine cents.

[00:58:51] SL: Now, you also mentioned something about you were kind of in north of Dallas a little bit, and were there woods out there and . . .

DF: Lots of woods. Right now—I mean, it's—as I said, it's in the center of Dallas. But from our house, had I've had a little better

arm, I could've thrown a baseball into the woods on the other side of Mockingbird Lane, which is now in the central part of Dallas. But that was the city limits. And on out was Richardson [Texas]. Richardson was the next community out from where we were. Didn't seem to me to be very far. [*Claps hands*] Kids from Richardson went to school at St. Thomas [*claps hands*], where I went.

[00:59:34] SL: You know, in Kansas City—you were talking about always living on the [unclear word]—inside of the city limits . . .

DF: Pretty close to it. Just inside the city limits.

SL: And so was that rural as well? I mean, was there woods and . . .

DF: Not as much. Kansas City—I don't ever remember the kinds of woods that I remember in Dallas. And, actually, in Dallas we lived very near White Rock Lake, which had lots of very nice homes. We were, like, three blocks from there, but it was a eternity in terms of socio-economic status. We c—I could get to—to H. L. [Haroldson Lafayette] Hunt's house in no time at all, and used to go trick or treating there, always hoping that [*laughs*] this guy was gonna give us a bunch of money, but he didn't. [*SL laughs*] But we lived in a new neighborhood. Again, nice house. But we were just, you know, kind of pathologically middle class.

[01:00:36] SL: [Laughs] Well, what I'm trying to roll around to—did you have any river experiences or—I mean, water—was water ever a part of your growing up? Did you . . .

DF: No. We were . . .

SL: Skinny-dipping? Swimming?

DF: No. Well, we went swimming, but that would've always been in a . . .

SL: Pool.

[01:00:55] DF: . . . pool. A couple of lake experiences. My parents didn't go in for that kind of thing. They were not out—I never—I just can't imagine my mother being outdoors. She would get bit by mosquitoes or something. That—it just wouldn't happen. No, it was a—it was an urban experience. And if we went swimming it was in a swimming pool. And you gotta remember—during these—this was—our time in Dallas was during the polio epidemics. And, in fact, I got polio, they think. I had a mild case of polio. Spent one summer, I think, in bed. It seemed like I was in summer—in bed the whole summer. But aga . . .

SL: In Dallas?

DF: . . . again—yeah, again, I exaggerate. [Laughs] Might've been two days, but I—actually, I think I was in bed quite a bit. The doctor thought it was polio and they were very pleased because

it was a very mild case of polio. Had all the symptoms but no paralysis at all, but I had some of the other symptoms. It might've just been a flu. I don't know. But at the time the doctor thought that was a really good deal because then I would've had an immunity, and back in [19]51, [19]52, there wasn't any vaccine and . . .

SL: Right.

[01:02:17] DF: . . . polio was the—was a great killer. And so, you know, we didn't even go to the—I don't—we didn't go to the swimming pool that much. But we went to parks and—a very segregated community. Buses were segregated. The blacks were in the back of the bus, and whites were in the front of the bus, and segregated communities in Dallas. You know, I don't remember many Latinos at all in those days in Dallas, although there must've been. But Dallas was a very segregated community. I can remember when we first moved there. I hate this story, but it—it's just so vivid in my memory. We had just moved there, and my father's brother was coming down to visit us, and so we had to go to the train station. I don't think we'd been there two weeks. I don't know why he came to visit us. But anyway—went over to Fort Worth to the train station, and my eyes just lit up because I saw there were two [*slaps arms of*



chair] drinking fountains, and one of 'em was [labeled] "White" and one of 'em was [labeled] "Colored." And I went over and started drinking out of the Colored one, and my dad came running over and grabbed me and he said, "You can't do that!" And I said, "Well, it doesn't work anyway—it's not colored water!" So I thought that the water was colored. I very quickly learned what segregation was and that those signs—the Colored and White—what those signs meant. But that wasn't part—would—would've never seen anything like that in Kansas City. Might've seen a sign "Irish need not apply," but that was probably even a little late for those kinds of signs in Kansas City. But, certainly, in Kansas City there would've been "Gentiles Only" signs that I remember seeing.

SL: Really?

DF: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[01:04:13] SL: What about when you were in the theaters? Were the blacks and whites separated in the theaters or were blacks even allowed in the theaters?

DF: I don't think blacks were allowed in the theaters.

SL: Really?

DF: No, they—there were black theaters. Down on Eighteenth Street in Kansas City.

SL: I know here it was segregated. Whites were downstairs. Blacks were in the balcony.

DF: You know, my memory—in the balcony was where you went to smoke. My memory is that the movie houses I went to didn't have blacks in 'em. And I certainly remember the black movie houses in Kansas City very much. Very much.

[01:04:55] SL: Wow. That whole Gentile thing is kinda news to me. I don't—I—I'm not—I was never really aware that that was going on at that time.



DF: Oh, yeah. When I—[*laughs*—I had a little exercise I'd do in class. I won't go into it. But I'd developed it, and it was a good exercise in terms of talking about stereotypes. And I used it when I taught in St. Louis, and it was very effective. And I came down here and the first class I did, it was—the stereotype was billed the Jewish stereotype. [Pause] They didn't know. [Pause] They couldn't tell me what the Jewish stereotype was. Talk about a teaching [*laughs*—suppose you try to teach something and nobody learns. Well, I quickly learned that the category of Jews was not a category in Arkansas. That you either didn't know any Jews or didn't see them as being different. But Kansas City and St. Louis—there were—clear categories of Jews. In fact, I went to Washington University and

lived in "U City" [University City, Missouri]. And "U City" was called "Jew City" when we lived there. It quickly transitioned. It was a transition neighborhood. We rented a house in University City, and when we moved on the block there were three Gentiles—families, and the rest were Jewish. And I think three years later when we moved off the block, there were three white families, and the rest were black. The—but the Jewish population had focused in the area around the synagogues, because you walked to *shul* [Yiddish for Jewish house of prayer] on Saturday. And so, I mean, on Saturday morning the—just a stream of people walking by the apartment that we lived in. But in Arkansas, didn't—had to change the—had to change it.

[01:06:58] SL: Well, did you ever experience any animosity in Kansas City . . .

DF: No.

SL: . . . during that . . .

DF: I didn't.

SL: Yeah.

DF: No, I didn't. Certainly, I—we were always told there was, and there used to be and all of this. But I didn't. No.

SL: Okay, so . . .

DF: And we knew who to dislike. There was—there were the

Italians. [*Laughter*] They were easy. Their names always ended in *a* or *o*, so [*laughter*] it was easy to know who to hate.

[01:07:27] SL: Well, but did—you didn't—did you . . .

DF: You can't hate people without knowing who they are, for heaven sakes.

SL: Yeah, yeah, but you didn't really experience any hate, did you, or . . .

DF: I didn't. No, not a bit. Not a bit.

SL: I mean, did you see any of that around?

DF: Closest I ever came—no. Closest I ever came to that was during the 1960 election. Some of the stuff that was published on—that Kennedy was gonna have a tunnel to the . . .

SL: Vatican. Yeah.

DF: . . . Vatican and all of this stuff. I can remember reading it, thinking, "How could anybody believe? I mean, this is not only wrong, it's stupid." But by then I think I was in college and I wasn't a sociology major, but I'd taken enough sociology that I was sensitive to patterns of prejudice and what that brought about. But, you know, until—I seem to remember that as a Catholic, I felt cut free after Kennedy was elected. And then when I thought about it very carefully, I thought, "You know, I never was bound. So, free from what? Free from the stories my

parents used to tell? Free from knowing that there were tough times in Boston [Massachusetts] in 1890?" I mean, come on. I just didn't experience it. Never have experienced any patterns of discrimination whatsoever. Not in my life.

[01:09:01] SL: Do you remember any of the stories your parents used to tell?

DF: No, they just—it was just tough times. The Depression time was a tough time, and there were stories about how hard people had it and the lack of jobs and what happened. Apparently, my mother had had some money—I don't know where she ever got it—but had had some money and lost it all in the stock market crash in 1929. I think she and my father were married in [19]32. My sister was born in [19]36. I was born in [19]39. So my parents had been married nine years before I was born. Not a typical pattern for Catholics. I mean, I—people I went to school with were families of twelve, thirteen, fourteen kids.

SL: Right.

DF: And I was from a family of two, which was very small for everybody that I knew. But, no, I don't ever remember any—I don't remember very much of the stories. They were—I later thought they were mostly apocryphal. You remember—it's almost a kind of perverse pleasure that you have in

remembering the tough times and the old "I used to have to walk seven miles to school" . . .

SL: Right, right, right.

DF: . . . "uphill both ways." I mean, the—those kinds of things.

And, you know—always used to be amazed at students in class would—that they delighted in the fact that this professor grades on the curve and all that. Well, they didn't. [*Laughter*] But we take a perverse pleasure in those kinds of things.

SL: [*Laughs*] That's terrible.

DF: There were people who experienced it. I just didn't.

SL: Yeah.

DF: Remember the three wishes?

[01:10:57] SL: Yes, yes. Well, okay. So we get you back to Kansas City. You're thirteen years old.

DF: Moved back to Kansas City. Started high school. Thirteen years old. Went to a Jesuit high school. Didn't know anybody. Shy, shy young man. Went out for the football team 'cause I'd played football in grade school. Small—we probably only had eleven [*laughs*] people at school, so everybody got to play. Found out very quickly that that wasn't—that I wasn't very good at football. Picked up Ping-Pong at that time and got increasingly better at that. I never really had a distinguished high school career at all.

I didn't particularly like high school. The more I think about it, the more there must've been some kind of underlying type—I'm not an underlying person, [*SL laughs*] but some kind of underlying trauma from me being—getting pulled out of a very comfortable existence in Dallas, where I knew everybody and everybody knew me. And I was always in the school plays—would get the lead in the school plays. And the teachers kind of liked me and my mother was in the Altar Society. And, so, you know, we were kind of ensconced in that—in that community.

[01:12:22] And then I moved here, and life's a little—life was a little different. So, there could've been some of that with regard to high school. But I took on the role more of the class clown. Always in a little bit of trouble. We had this demerit system where you carried this little card, and I don't even know what you did wrong, but the Jesuits would grab it and give you a demerit. And then after five demerits you had to go to JUG. I don't even know what JUG stands for. JUG [Editor's Note: Judgment Under God]. [*SL laughs*] And JUG ended up being—you went after school and you took your English book in, and the principal would say, "Open your book to tra—page twenty-two and memorize that poem." And so you'd memorize the poem, write it, and soon as you got that you got to leave. And, I spent

a lot of time in JUG—in fact, held the school record. [Laughter]
And in fact, I—one semester, he just said, "You just come every night." And I got to where I could memorize thirty lines of poetry [snaps fingers] just like that. And I mean, I'd be in and out in [slaps arms of chair] ten minutes. [Laughs] And so I didn't take on the academic leadership role, but I did take on a little bit—the Peck's Bad Boy. Never anything bad, but just kind of mischievous.

SL: A little irritating.

DF: Yeah, yeah, and a—just a smart-ass.

SL: Yeah.

[01:14:03] DF: That's probably the best term for it. And then I think something—big mistake my parents made. I probably made it, too. Well, of course I made it. I had a friend who had a paper route. And in Kansas City they threw papers off the back of a truck. And they threw papers—you had a morning and an afternoon. *Kansas City Times* in the morning—[*Kansas City Star*] in the afternoon. And you got up at three-thirty and you threw papers for an hour and a half, and then at three-thirty in the afternoon you threw papers. So my sophomore year in high school I got a job on a paper truck. And so I was every morning up from three-thirty to five-thirty, and I just didn't do very well

in school. I didn't do very well at all in school, and just kind of dug myself into a—into a role in high school that was—I was always towards the bottom of the distribution. Never interested. Didn't work very hard at it. Didn't feel like I had any friends that were of my age. They—my friends were always a year older than I was. And that didn't change till I was about a junior—almost a senior in high school, when I started taking a greater interest in school. Developed some really good friends who were ranked one, two, and three in the class, so now all of a sudden the—it's better to study than to be a smart-ass. [01:15:39] So I did that and started dating girls and got much more comfortable, I think, with my cohort in school and developed some really good friendships that, unfortunately, didn't last. I ranked real near—I graduated from high school. There was never any question. And it was a tough high school. I mean, everybody studied Latin and Greek and, I mean, it was a classical Jesuit education. Sciences—you had to—I mean, it wasn't easy. But I was always kind of towards the bottom of the distribution. That improved my junior and senior year. In fact, I can still remember in one study hall, I went up to the guy who was proctoring it, who turned out to be my English teacher, and I asked him some question about a poem that apparently was a

good question because he says, "Ferritor, if you don't watch it," he says, "you're gonna learn something and that's gonna ruin your self-image." [*Laughter*] And I—took me probably a couple years to figure out what he was talking about. But I generally graduated okay—near the bottom of the class. And as I'd said earlier, from the time I was three or four on I wanted to be a lawyer. So I was going to law school. And back in those days, I was—I graduated from high school in [19]57, and so in those days when you got out of college you got drafted. Unless you were married and had a child, you got drafted. So I, planning ahead, thought, "Well, that's not gonna happen to me," so during my senior year I went down and signed up for the six-month reserves.

SL: Okay.

[01:17:42] DF: And it was—I was supposed to go into that right after I graduated from high school, spend six months in the [United States] Air Force, come back, and then I had a reserve obligation—weekend-warrior kind of thing. I'd start college a semester late, and then I'd figured out that I could do summer school and make up that semester over the time. And then I'd graduate, and I didn't have to worry—I could just go into law school. Didn't have to worry about being drafted. I had no

intention of getting married—certainly no intention of children. So I signed up. Everything was cool. Got in the program I wanted, and then when I got out of high school, turned out that they'd shut down that program, and so my going in got put off till November or October, I guess. Got put off till October, and so I missed a whole year of college. And so I go down to Lackland Air Force Base [Texas], and it—very quickly—I had spent my life—I think I called it a cocoon before, but it was certainly a middle- and upper-class cocoon. [01:18:55] The school—the high school that I went to was an all-boys' school—Jesuit school—a prep school. Out of a hundred and three graduates, a hundred and two of 'em went to college. One of 'em went in the air force. So, I mean, that's the—and I got down there at Lackland, and all of a sudden I started looking around, and I thought, "Wow, there's another kind of life out here." And I was seventeen when I got there. And it became really clear—I just thought one day, "What do you want to do? Do you want to be like that?" Or one of the other guys in there had just finished law school, so I thought he was the neatest guy in the world—from San Angelo, Texas—"Or do you want to be like that?" So I glommed onto this guy and [*laughs*] he was my role model. He studied; I studied. And that time in the air force

absolutely turned my life around. I came back and graduated near the top of my college class. And I can remember once—I guess I was a junior, and in those days there was no FERPA [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act]. And so there wasn't any public information. You—they posted everybody's grades on boards and put people in stocks who didn't have good grades and everything. And I remember the high school principal—the guy who used to deal with me in JUG . . .

SL: Yeah.

[01:20:19] DF: He was over there looking, and there in the junior class—my name was at the top. And he looked at it, and he looked at me, and he looked at that, and he said, "Is that a mistake?" I said, "I don't know." [*Laughter*] Walked away. I think he's still going—I'd expect he's dead now—and he's still going, "Do you think it was a mistake?" Very different high school and college experience. And again—once again, I got in college—I had the same damn thing happen to me. Everybody that I'd gone to high school with—they were now sophomores.

SL: Yeah.

[01:20:50] DF: And so I kept thinking that I'd lost two years of my life. Oh, poor me. I'd lost two years of my life. So I studied hard, I worked hard, and [*laughs*] something neat happened. I

got in a fraternity, and the only—I think the only reason that I got in—two reasons I got in the fraternity—one of 'em—it was a Catholic fraternity, of course. Alpha Delta . . .

SL: Of course.

[01:21:13] DF: . . . Alpha Delta Gamma [ADG] *Ad Deum Gloria*—all for the greater honor and glory of God. Yes, that's—that was my fraternity. I later on became president of ADG. But I never wrote a paper in high school or college that I didn't write AMDG BVMH on it—all for the greater honor and glory of God. And BVMH means something about the Blessed Virgin Mary. I don't know what. [Editor's Note: AMDG is the abbreviation for the Latin phrase *Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam*, which means "to the greater glory of God"; BVMH is the abbreviation for the Latin phrase *Beatae Virginis Mariae Honorem*, which means "to the honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary."] [SL laughs] But, I mean, that's—we prayed before every class—had Masses we went to. So, you know, the—that tradition I was part of stayed the same. [Laughs] I remember we had—used to have these retreats—religious retreats. And I went in and talked to the priest who was giving the thing, and he said, "What do you want to talk about?" And I said, "I've been thinking about becoming a priest." And he burst out in laughter. That was in high school.

"You gotta be kidding." [*Laughter*] "You gotta be kidding." So I—he said, "I don't think that's for you." But when I got in the fraternity, partly I got in because I had some friends who had been in the year before and partly my grades were pretty good.

SL: Yeah.

DF: And nobody else's grades were very good in the fraternity. So I—running—usually running anywhere from three-six [3.6 grade point average] to three-nine [3.9].

SL: Yeah.

[01:22:27] DF: And so they'd say, "You bring up the average."

[*Laughter*] "You bring up the average." So I got in the fraternity and everybody in those days—it's hard for young people to realize it now—but the draft—and this was pre-Vietnam—but the draft was on everybody's mind.

SL: Sure.

DF: Because you were gonna get drafted, and it was gonna interrupt your life. And so I started looking. I thought, "Well, I can't be drafted." And I thought [*SL sneezes*], "I am gonna have the world's best senior year in college." So I started taking eighteen hours a semester, and if I could take a class in the summertime I did, and I got good grades. The closest I ever had to a four point [4.0]—I never had a four point—was the semester I had

twenty-one hours.

SL: Wow.

DF: I had twenty-one hours, and the last thing I signed up for just to get two more hours was art appreciation. I didn't need it, and I hated it. Didn't even go to class. [*SL laughs*] Well, I got a damn B in art appreciation, and the only reason I got a B in art appreciation was because he said at the end—he says, "Write down how many times you've cut class." So I thought, "Well, hey, I never went." I thought, "If I put down none, he's gonna see it. He's gonna realize that I'm lying." So I put down three or four or something like that. Well, he went and everybody that had cut one or two classes got an A. Everybody who'd cut three or four got a B. I lied. I probably should've gotten an F.

SL: Right.

[01:23:54] DF: But that was—that kept me from having [*laughs*] my four-point.

SL: Four-point. Twenty-one hours.

DF: But, to get back, I was gonna have the world's nicest senior year. I was gonna not have any problem at all. I was—I couldn't get drafted. And so I had all but, I think, twelve hours of college at the end of my junior year and finished most of my major. Actually, I had—[*phone rings*—I had a major in English

and a minor in philosophy and sociology and political science.

Didn't have many hours for a major, so I would have all of these different hours.

TM: Hold on. There's something going on.

DF: Is that my wife's phone?

SL: Probably.

JE: Somebody's phone somewhere. Yeah.

TM: Okay.

DF: Can't be 'cause she's got her phone. [*SL coughs*] That's not her phone.

SL: Maybe it's Meredith's [*Hawkins*].

DF: Might be.

TM: Interesting.

JE: Okay, it's done.

[01:24:49] DF: But anyway, there—I've got this—the primo senior year planned out.

SL: Yeah.

DF: And comes the Berlin [*Germany*] crisis, and Kennedy calls back [*SL laughs*] a hundred thousand reservists to active duty [1961], and you got it. I spent eighteen months—I think it was eighteen months—on active duty [DF Edit: at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base outside Kansas City]. Didn't have a senior year in high

school—or didn't have a senior year in college and ended up—was able to take a couple of night classes. Graduated three months behind my group. So the best-laid plans often do go astray. But it ended up helping me. But while I was in the air force, I thought, "Gosh, I really don't want to be a lawyer." I had really had a mentor in college—I was an English major—Father [Robert R.] Lakas [Rockhurst College, Kansas City, Missouri], and Father Lakas was—he was the piper—not just for me, but for everybody. And I was very close to him, and he was my advisor. And so I thought, "I'll go to graduate school in English, and I'll be just like Father Lakas, and I'll teach college." And so I went in to talk to him and [*laughs*] he said—this happened to me two times in my life. Maybe I'll remember to come back to the second time. But I went to Father Lakas, and I said, "I want to go to graduate school." He says, "Good," he said, "I think you should." And I said, "I think I want to go in English." He went, "What?" He said, "Why English?" And I said, "Well, it's my major." And I said, "And you're in English, and I think I'd like it." And he said, "You have real talent." He said, "Your ability to think analytically is as good as anybody I've ever seen." And he said, "From that point of view, in English," he said, "you really could do some good criticism." I said, "Okay."



That sounds good to me. I'll go in and do criticism." He said, "There's just a problem." He said, "You can't write very good." [Laughter] I said, "What?" He said, "Well, you don't really write very well." And I said, "I don't write very well?" And he said, "No." He says, "You don't write well enough to get a Ph.D. in English." He said, "What else do you like?" [Laughs] And I said, "Well," I said, "I like philosophy." He said, "You don't want philosophy." [SL laughs] And I said, "Sociology—I've always done well in sociology." He says, "Yeah." He says, "That's not a field that requires much writing." He said, "Most of them can't write." He said, "Why don't you go into sociology?"

SL: That's pretty good.

[01:27:36] DF: The rest is history. I decided that what I wanted to do—the career change that I wanted was I wanted to teach in college. And the particular road that I was gonna take didn't seem to me to matter. I could've done it in history. I could've done it in philosophy. I could've done it in English had I been able to sign my name. [SL laughs] But—so I ended up in sociology and went over into the place where the sociology guy's office was and looked on the bulletin board, and it said, "Washington University has these kinds of fellowships available." Wrote an application and got one. I didn't know *siccum* about

Washington University, and it turned out—later on I found out that I'd been accepted at what the sociology people rated as the fifth-best program in the United States. But people always think that lives are well planned out. [*SL laughs*] My idea of long-term planning was around ten, I thought, "I think I really will have a tomato for lunch." [*SL laughs*] That's my idea of long-term planning. And so I, you know, in some sense ended up in the field I ended up in, which I love, because I can't write. I . . .

[01:29:06] SL: I was gonna—a couple things came up while . . .

DF: While I was rambling.

SL: . . . while you were rambling, but it was a great ramble. But when you were coming back from Dallas and back to Kansas City and the—and kind—a little trauma of being ensconced in Dallas and having friends—you mentioned something about always having a leading role in the plays or . . .

DF: In Dallas.

SL: In Dallas. And so . . .

DF: I was big man on campus in Dallas. And several times in my life I've gone from "Who's Who?" to "Who's he?"

SL: Yeah.

DF: And that was one of the times. I went from being somebody who was pretty well thought of in Dallas to somebody who was

not known in Kansas City.

SL: Kansas City. Now, and when you say plays, were you being literal? I mean, are we talking theatrical productions and . . .

DF: Oh, yeah, I was—well, Christ in the Passion play. Mr. Interlocutor in the—[*SL laughs*]*—*Mr. Interlocutor in the minstrel show. We're not supposed to talk about that these days, but yes I was. I was Tom Sawyer in the Tom Sawyer play.

[01:30:26] SL: See, that kind of—that says . . .

DF: I said all—I went to—remember I said I went to—did the six o'clock Masses every morning and . . .

SL: Yes, yes.

DF: . . . my mother did the . . .

SL: Yes.

DF: . . . did the Altar Society and there's politics in them there hills, I think.

[01:30:40] SL: Well, but they kind of—even though you're not quite the wallflower in social gatherings, you were able to muster this ability to be on stage and to perform.

DF: In a role.

SL: In a role.

DF: In a role.

SL: And then the—so that was interesting to me that you were able

to do theatrical things and still be kind of a shy person. And then once you got back to Kansas City, I was—and you were headed toward college, I kept wondering how your high school curriculum—how well that may have prepared you, even though you didn't know that it was preparing you.



[01:31:24] DF: Absolutely critical. [Long pause] I had a classic education that taught me how to think. And I had no choices in my education. I didn't have any choices in college either. I mean, Jesuits were still very tough. Everybody that went to college in a Jesuit college had two semesters of economics. Why? I don't have any idea. But I had a minor in philosophy. Everybody did. You know, it wasn't that I was choosing all these tough things. I had Latin. I had math. I had Spanish. I had courses that taught you how to think and that gave you a discipline of the mind and, hopefully, a discipline that—to be able to sit down and work through something, although I didn't do very well at that in high school. I don't think I would've been called ADHD[D] [attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder] or whatever those letters are that now everybody that has a twitch gets called. But I don't think I had the kind of focus that I think I've been able to develop later on in my life. But the classic Jesuit education is something that I owe one hundred percent of,

I think, whatever success I've had academically, it's in that basic kind of educational experience that I had. And I can remember when I went to Washington University, and generally it was the first time I'd ever sat in a desk next to a woman. It was also the first public desk I'd ever—well, it was a private desk, but it was the first non-Catholic desk I'd ever sat. And I found that my peers—my colleagues from around the country knew a lot more philosophy than I did, and I thought, "Well, how—what is this? That's—I was a philosophy minor. Why, I've never even heard of some of these people they were talking about." They had never heard of Thomas Aquinas either, but, by God [*laughs*], I knew all of the proofs of the existence of God, and I could do syllogisms in my head. I was trained, I think, to think. And I think the comment that Father Lakas made to me later on that I had good analytical abilities probably was a result of that educational—of the basic educational training that I've got. And I don't know whether the Jesuits have been able to maintain that or whether they've gone the way of modern—of a modern curriculum. But I clearly give credit to my high school, and what I particularly give credit to is their ability to not say, "Forget that little smart-ass," but to try to take me down the next step, even though I was not a very willing learner. But I think it helped,

and I think it helped me.

[01:34:39] SL: They just didn't teach you to write.

DF: Huh?

SL: They just didn't teach you to write.

DF: Well, that was—yeah, they didn't teach me to write. That's kind of funny. [*Laughter*] When I did my dissertation, the normal way you do is you write a chapter, and then you give it to your adviser, and he or she goes through and says what's right and wrong and does some editing to help you and everything. Well, [*laughs*] my—after about the third one, my dissertation adviser says—he says, "You just really write terribly." He says, "Do you know anybody in the English department?" [*SL laughs*] And I said, "Yeah, my next door neighbor's a Ph.D. student." He said, "Give it to him." He says, "Pay him to edit it." So I gave him my dissertation, and he said—one day [*laughs*] he called me and said, "Come over here." I went over there, and I—he said, "Look at that." He says, "You have nine prepositional phrases in a row." [*Laughter*] And I later went on—I don't write as badly now as I did then. I—later, when I started doing research and I needed to publish it, and you gotta be able to write, I took somebody whose writing I admired—a psychologist named Montrose Wolf, and I got about four of his articles—copied 'em

off. And every time I would write something if—I'd look and see how did he construct a sentence, and then I would construct a sentence that way. And I think today to the extent that I can write, I write like Montrose Wolf. Good psychologist, by the way.

SL: Yeah, I've heard that name.

[01:36:12] DF: Yeah, good psychologist. But the "you can't write, so you can't become a English Ph.D." repeated itself much later on in a—in another way when I was trying to think about whether I wanted to be chancellor or not. I tell it now because it fits with that other one. I had—people always ask me, "How'd you become chancellor?" And my flip remark is that everybody around me died [*SL laughs*], and I was the last one standing. It's not such a flip remark. If you look back at the early [19]80s, we had—I called it the revolving door. We had five chancellors in three years. And Willard Gatewood [chancellor from 1984 to 1985] had hired me as the vice chancellor for academic affairs, which was a job I kind of wanted, but I didn't ever want to be chancellor. Well, then two months later, Willard takes a flying leap, too, and says, "This job's not for me." And there I—well, I'm just—I literally was the last one there. Ray Thornton [University of Arkansas System president, 1984–1990] said, "Will you be provost?" Kind of an interim chancellor, and I

said, "Yeah." And after about three weeks, he said, "You're doing a good job." He said, "Would you consider being chancellor?" And I said, "No." A month later, he said, "Would you consider being chancellor?" And I said, "No." I said, "It's not something I wanna do." And, about every two weeks then, he said, "Would you be chancellor?" Then he decided to sic Jim Blair on me, who was a member of the [University of Arkansas] Board of Trustees, and Jim and I were friends—played tennis together and have been friends. And so he—Jim started saying, "Need you to be chancellor," and I kept saying, "No." And, finally one night—it was a Thursday night, and it was in November, and Jim calls me at home, and he says, "Dan, you don't have a choice. You've got to be chancellor." [*SL laughs*] I said, "Jim, I have told you before and I'm gonna tell you again—I am not good enough to be chancellor." And Jim said, "I know you aren't, but we can't find anybody who is. [*SL laughs*] So why don't you take it for three years and then we'll go out and get a good one." [*SL laughs*] And I said, "With that kind of an invitation, how can I turn it down?" And that was the night that I said, "Yes." And all I could think about was Father Lakas saying, "You can't write. [*SL laughs*] Go someplace else." [*Laughter*] So anyhow, that's a [long pause]—I have—the line—

I think the best line is "He is very humble, and he has much to be humble about." [*Laughter*]

[01:39:10] SL: Well, what Jesuit college did you go to?

DF: I went to Rockhurst College [Editor's Note: Name changed to Rockhurst University in 1999], and so it was really was a continuation of high school. I was going to Georgetown [University Law Center, Washington, DC] or Harvard Law [School, Boston, Massachusetts]. I had high aspirations. [*Laughs*] I was not the shrinking violet when it came to where I wanted to go to law school. I knew where the two best law schools was—Georgetown, because of the Jesuits, and Harvard, because it's Harvard. So I went to a Jesuit college—still is in Kansas City. It's a good school. Maybe—it was a small liberal arts college, and as I said, I majored in everything and essentially had a pre-law major, which is what—if you put together—when somebody says, "You got eighteen hours of English. You got eighteen hours of philosophy. You got eighteen hours of history and political science. You got eighteen hours of sociology. What can you do?" Well, I can either sell papers on the street or I can go be a lawyer.

SL: Yeah.

[01:40:10] DF: And so that's what I was gonna do. It was a good

school, and it continued that basic educational discipline that the Jesuits had. And I had religion every semester, as I remember. I had philosophy every semester. Every—I had very few choices of what to take and ended up just kind of puttin' together a degree. And then the senior year being in the military as my freshman year was . . .

SL: Freshman year was.

DF: . . . so I had freshman and a senior year in the military. But it worked out well. I owe a tremendous amount to my education. In a—when we take another break, I'll get something that I wrote out once and read it to you and you'll get a sense of what I was—how bad I can really write. I just had my fiftieth class reunion that I wasn't able to go back to, but they asked somebody to—they ask everybody to write a little something about their memories of their high school days, so I did, and essentially said that I thought it sent me down a road that directed me the rest of my life, so can't say much better than that.

[01:41:41] SL: So it was about six and a half years from the time you left high school to the time you graduated . . .

TM: Excuse me for sec . . .

[Tape stopped]

[01:41:49] SL: One thing that we haven't really talked about—we started to talk about how you and Patsy met, but when did girls enter the picture for you?

DF: Well, probably about the same age everybody—it did for everybody else. But the first date I ever had was with Patsy or in a foursome with her in November of 1953. I'm sure in grade school we would've had a dance or something like that, and I probably had my share of "Who likes who?" in grade school. But to be real honest, I can't remember the names of any of 'em, so I gotta assume that since the first name I remember of a girl is Patsy, that that must've been relatively near the start of my deep and long and abiding interest in women. *[SL laughs]* I found women to be really nice. I like women. Most of the really good people I've worked with turn out to be women. So—but Patsy was probably the first date—certainly, the first date that I had in—when we moved back to Kansas City. And I think I fell at the time—sometimes I thought madly in love, other times I thought it was hopefully in love. I think it was generally not reciprocated. I saw the—her—the wonders in her, and it took her a lot longer *[SL laughs]* to be able to see through the callous exterior to the wonderfully warm person that I was.

SL: Your love notes had too many prepositional phrases or . . .

[01:43:47] DF: [Laughter] Yeah. Actually, she went off to camp the first summer that—where I—I mean, our relationship was between—what? I mean, what? Do you have a relationship at age thirteen? I'd go down to her house and we'd fool around with other people in the neighborhood. She went off to summer camp, I think, when she was in fourteen, and I did write her a love letter, which was meant to be a joke. I'm not sure she ever knew it was a joke or thought it was very funny. But then again, she's had a lifetime of wondering whether I was very funny or not [laughs]—although she is my best audience, no matter how bad it is. I mean, it—some—you just can't believe how bad I get. She'll just laugh [laughs] like it's really something funny, you know? [Unclear words] [Laughter] But we probably had more of a friend relationship, on and off. I would go down to her house . . .

SL: So this was just down the street?

DF: It was a ways away in Kansas City. In fact, I used to either take the bus or hitchhike over to her house. And we'd go up to the drugstore and we'd do—just things—I don't know what teenagers do. But . . .

SL: Now, back then drugstores had the soda fountains and . . .

[01:45:11] DF: Yeah, yeah. It wasn't deep kind of relationship kind

of stuff—not at all deep kind of relationship stuff. And she usually had another boyfriend, and I oftentimes had other girls that I was dating. And all through high school we kind of—you know, I'd more or less check in on her. I taught her to drive a car. She had a boyfriend then, and he hated me, and [*SL laughs*] I hated him 'cause, of course, he was an Italian Catholic. [*SL laughs*] And I had girlfriends that she didn't know about. I went to an all-male school, and she went to Catholic schools, too, but she went to a coeducational school. But I taught her to drive and just maintained contact with her over a period of ten or eleven years. And when—gosh, I don't know, I was probably a junior in college, and [DF Edit: one Sunday night] stopped in a filling station and called Patsy—said, "What are you doing tonight?" And she said, "My, I haven't heard from you in a couple a years." I said, "Well, I just wondered what you were doing." And I went over to her house. She said, "Come on by," and that was it. The next thing I knew, we were going steady and then pinned and then engaged and then married, and on September 1, it'll be forty-six years, so it all started with a [long pause] filling station that had a phone. Today, I'd just flip open . . .

SL: In Lawrence, Kansas?

[01:46:53] DF: . . . flip open my—yeah. Today I'd just flip open my cell phone and do it. It was a little harder in those days. But we had maintained a nice, good friend relationship over that whole period of time when she was dating—usually the same guy that—the—this horrible Italian guy. And it—that finally worked out because when we decided to buy a Prius, he's got the largest Toyota dealership. She'd have been rich if she'd have married him. I mean, he—this guy just is rolling in the money. He's got Toyota car dealerships—all this stuff. [*Laughs*] And so my daughter had somehow struck up a relationship with him, and we had her call him and say, "Can you get us a Prius real quick?" That was when the waiting lists were long for Prius. And so within three weeks we had the nicest Prius you've ever seen. I'm sure he overcharged us because, of course, I was an Irish Catholic, [*laughter*] and he was part of the hated Italian group. But we [DF Edit: Patsy and I] stayed friends over a long period of time, and I guess if I'd have to sum up our relationship over—the one thing that's been most important over—1953—what is that—fifty-five years?

SL: Yeah.

[01:48:21] DF: Nineteen fifty-three to two thousand and eight.

Fifty-five years. My heavens. The thing that's probably been

most important over that time is we've stayed friends. And we have—we've learned to compromise. We disagree and we talk about it and do what she wants and [*SL laughs*] that's called compromise in the Ferritor household. And she always thinks of me as seldom right but never in doubt and—[*SL laughs*—and so, you know, that's what friends do. They see into the—just like [US President] George [Walker] Bush. He looked at [Russian President] Vladimir Putin and saw into his soul.

SL: In his soul. Oh my gosh. [*Laughs*]

DF: My Lord! And none of—nobody stood up and said, "You idiot!" That shouldn't be put in an oral history.

SL: I know. We can't get started on that.

DF: But we've—we really have stayed friends, lo these many years. And, you know, that's a—she and I are within two months of age of one another, and we didn't really grow up sharing friends. Not till probably I was a junior in college and we started dating fairly seriously, did we have any friends in common at all. She kind of had her friends, and I had mine. And I remember she was homecoming queen at the school that she was at, and I called her and wished her congratulations, and that would've been my contact with her that year, you know. I said things like, "How's that nasty Italian guy?" [*Laughter*] And all of that.

But we stayed friends over a long period of time, and eventually I think I wore her down.

[01:50:07] SL: *[Laughs]* Well, was she in college, too?

DF: She didn't go to college. She didn't go to college then. Like many girls her age, the program of instruction she took in high school—she did her shorthand, she did her typing. The last math course she had was geometry in 1954. She got out, got a job as a secretary, worked as a secretary. There wasn't a sense of going to college. She had two sisters and a brother. Neither of her sisters went to college. Her brother ended up going to college. And Patsy worked. And when we got married, she worked. And when—after our first child, she worked, and after the second child, she didn't. But in—when our youngest was in junior high, I guess—might've been high school—junior high, I guess—she went out and got another job and worked until I became chancellor, and then quit and went back to school. And she started back to school. She went to college. She started college [University of Arkansas] in 1988, and her first class was remedial algebra. And she hadn't had a class since nine—she'd had geometry in 1954, and she did an absolutely incredible job in college. She went to college while I was chancellor. She went under her maiden name. And so unless somebody knew us,

they didn't know that that Pat Hoey . . .

SL: Pat Hoey.

[01:51:49] DF: . . . was the chancellor's daughter—chancellor's wife, excuse me. Although one time [DF Edit: friend and colleague] Ann Henry did say to me—she said, "You devil." She said, "You'd have done anything to sleep with a sophomore, and now you're finally getting to do it." [*Laughter*] So there were a few that knew. I remember when she was inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma [national academic honor society for business students]—the honors—she got in the honors fraternity in the business college [Sam M. Walton College of Business]. I went over there and walked in with her, and John Norwood, who was the—I think he was maybe their adviser—he went over to somebody and he said, "What's the chancellor doing with that student?" [*Laughter*] He'd had her in class.

SL: He never knew.

DF: And he didn't know it. In fact, John—Tom Graff [associate professor] in geography—crazy Tom Graff in geography—one time I went to a Christmas party, and I said, "Congratulations. I heard your class was absolutely wonderful." He said, "Who told you that?" I said, "My wife." He said, "Your wife didn't have my class." I said, "Yeah, she just finished. You gave her an A."

And he said, "My—your wife wasn't in my class." I said, "She was." And he said, "Did you get remarried?" And I said, "No." And he said, "Well, then she'd have to be"—however old I was then. I said, "Yeah, that's how old she is." He says, "She couldn't be. The only one in that age was Pat Hoey." He said, "She sat right in the front. She did get an A." I said, "That's my wife." [*SL laughs*] So she got through college with probably half the people not knowing who she was. But she graduated in four years, graduated with honors and has a degree in marketing. So she did go to college, and all of our kids—all three of our kids went to the University [of Arkansas]. Three of 'em got their bachelors' and one of 'em got a master's. And my [DF Edit: other] daughter was all but a thesis away from her master's and then decided to go in a different direction.

So we've had a—we've had a good life and—but, you know, fifty-five years we've been . . .

SL: That's . . .

DF: . . . more or less talking to one another.

[01:53:55] SL: These days that's not normal.

DF: Not normal at all. Not normal at all. And, in fact, it's kind of interesting. Our close friends here in Fayetteville—all of 'em exhibit the same pattern. And not all of 'em go back to first

date, but they're all now in their forties and some of 'em pushing fifty years. So we were an odd group, and again, that's a cohort effect. People who are married ten, fifteen years after us—they didn't have those same experiences.

SL: Right.

DF: But it's been a good trip and . . .

[01:54:37] SL: Well, okay, so you get back with Patsy your junior year in college, but then you're a senior in college—you're in Germany?

DF: No, no, no, they—oh, Lord, no, I hesitate to say, you know, "Daddy, what did you do during the war?" Remember the only thing I was ever good at in my life? Do you remember? This is a test.

SL: No. [*Laughs*]

DF: You don't remember . . .

SL: I'm thinking. [*Laughs*]

DF: You don't remember my best sport?

SL: Oh, Ping-Pong.

DF: I taught Ping-Pong in [Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base]—that's how I made the world safe for democracy. And for a good portion of the eighteen months that I was there, I taught it not too far from Kansas City, and lived at home and drove out and

did my little soldier duty and taught Ping-Pong. And they let me do that, I have to say, because I had a chance to take the last twelve hours in college, and the Ping-Pong teaching was done in the evening, so I'd go to [DF Edit: Rockhurst] College in the morning and then teach my Ping-Pong in the afternoon. I really did. I put on parties at the service club. Yep.

[01:55:49] SL: That's great. [*Laughs*] Well, so . . .

DF: Don't want the kids—I don't think the kids know that.

SL: Well, they do now.

DF: Yeah, I guess they do. I guess they do. [*SL laughs*] But it was a—another, I mean—and I had those kind of years out at—you know, in some sense what I think were good times—it—it's—once again, I got lucky. The time between a very mediocre high school career and the need to get with the program in college, I had to look around and see what the options were for college. And I went back to college with a very strong sense that, "Hey, I gotta quit this screwing around. The world doesn't need another class smart aleck and I need to get on with it." And then I had the year off between college and going to graduate school. And in that time was able to figure out that probably law school wasn't for me—that what I really needed—wanted to do was—was teach in college. And it's nice. I had a—recently this dentist

said to me something really, really interesting. I said something about, "God, how—how'd you spend your whole life with your hands inside somebody's dirty mouth?" And he said, "You know how that happened, don't you?" And I said, "No." And he said, "A drunk eighteen-year-old made the decision that I was gonna go to dental school." And it took me just a minute to figure out who he was talking about. But he decided he was gonna go to dental school when he was eighteen and, by heavens, he went straight through. [01:57:32] And I had an opportunity to rethink my eighteen-year-old or my four-year-old decision about law school that year when I was in the military. And I've always believed that that was—that those years were important to me and I wanted my kids to take some time off between high school and college. None of 'em did it. But I wanted my son to go in the military. Of course, he didn't do that. But I think it's good to be able to have some time where you have very different responsibilities, and the military—in both the cases for me it was military. I had enough money that—you know, I had beer money, and I guess that's all I cared about. And I got a chance to see other people, and I got out of the cocoon that I had been put in. And while cocoons are warm and nurturing, and while parochial is good, it is very limiting. And so I had at two times

in my life an opportunity to break outside of the wonderful little world that had been created for me and to see some options. And I think—you know, [Robert] Frost talks about the "The Road Not Taken," [1920] and that made all the difference. And I think those two [*vocalized noise*] moratoriums in my life—hiatuses—whatever word you want to use to describe 'em—I think those two things set an im—very important courses for me. That—once again, I got lucky. I—you know—I didn't do anything on either of 'em. Remember, long-term is knowin' what you're gonna have for lunch. So—and I started off going to graduate school because I wanted to teach and quickly found out that I enjoyed doing research. And so for the—you know—for the first probably ten years of my professional career I did contract research for the government and wrote research reports, even though I wasn't able to write [*laughs*], and was—co-authored two books and had that and then come—came to the University of Arkansas. I actually came back 'cause I had taught at the University of Arkansas while I was writing my dissertation and just stayed here for nine months and then went back to . . .

[02:00:02] SL: How'd that come about?

DF: Well—talk a little bit about graduate school. You know, I told you that I don't know how I got into sociology. Yes, I

do—because I can't write and the guy said that—my mentor said, "Yeah, sociologist—real easy. They don't need to write. So you [*SL laughs*] go do that." And I went and looked on the board and there it was, Washington University. I thought, "Well, hell, that's close. St. Louis. That's not bad. That's fairly close to home." And so I applied and got in and got a modest scholarship, and Patsy started working, and we got . . .

[02:00:39] SL: So were you married by then?

DF: We were married and had a baby.

SL: Already.

DF: Kind of—yeah, we went to graduate school—picked up, left Kansas City. Actually, after I got out of college, because of that year in the air force—the eighteen months, actually, in the air force, I really didn't get my act together to start right into graduate school. So I taught eighth grade for two years at a Catholic grade school in [DF Edit: Raytown, Missouri, a suburb of] Kansas City. Our Lady of Lourdes [Catholic School]. I had the most whirlwind four or five days I've ever seen in my life—anybody's ever seen. I got out of the military on Thursday, which would've been August the thirtieth. I graduated from college on August 31. My class had graduated back in May. But in—on August 31—I got married on September 1. September 2

was first day of dove season, and so, of course, I went—instead of going on a honeymoon I went dove hunting and started teaching on the third—the day after Labor Day. So, you know, it was a fairly fast operation. So I taught grade school for couple of years, and we got married on September 1, and Patsy got pregnant probably sometime in April. Our daughter was born the next January, so whatever nine months back from that was. And so I taught for those two years and we went off to graduate school with a seven-month-old baby. We got a babysitter there, and I went to class and Patsy had—rode a bus downtown—got a job, once again, as a secretary downtown, and I was a full-time graduate student. And then she went and got pregnant again in October. I didn't have anything to do with it. [*SL laughs*] I don't even know how that thing happened.

SL: Immaculate. [*Laughs*]

DF: I have no idea how it happened. There was a star that we saw and . . .

SL: Yeah, uh-huh.

[02:02:45] DF: But, I mean, that's—so next—so she can't—we have two kids now, and so, you know, I got up—we struggled through graduate school on my assistantships and little odd jobs and she became a stay-at-home mom. And after three years in graduate

school—I was working on my dissertation—I needed some money. And a teaching job opened up at the University of Arkansas, so picked up the family and moved 'em down to Arkansas, and we got here in 1967. I taught for nine months and was not doing—loved it. Great place to be. Wonderful. Took up fishing. I did everything but work on my dissertation. [SL laughs] I had exactly the same number of bad words written when I got here as when I left. So after nine months I said to Patsy—I said, "We gotta go back to St. Louis." Washington University—they'd offered me a job, and I said, "I'm not gonna finish my dissertation. I'm gonna end up forever 'All But Dissertation.'" And I said, "I just can't do that. I need to get back." So we moved back to St. Louis. I started working on a research project and just got in a fairly nice routine of research. Did a little bit of teaching at night. Again, co-authored two books, wrote lots of research articles, got lots of funded grants. It was during the Great Society days and I was a—evaluation research was my specialty and I focused mainly on programs for families with children who had problems of one kind or another. My dissertation was on families with autistic children. Back when they weren't—nobody knew what an autistic . . .

SL: Right.

[02:04:41] DF: . . . child was. But that's what I—I did my dissertation on some families with autistic children. Got involved in daycare and infant daycare in the early days. You know, there was at one point when I probably knew every infant daycare operator in the United States, and that wasn't because I knew a lot of 'em—there weren't many of 'em. Today that's—you have a baby, and you take it to daycare. But then there was all kinds of questions about whether daycare was gonna hurt children. Were we ruining these generations of children and all of that? So that was the kind of research that I did. And after having done that for about six years, I just thought—I really started off wanting to teach, and I ended up—somebody from Arkansas called me that I had known when I was down here, and he said, "Do you know anybody? We're looking for an assistant professor in sociology to teach X, Y and Z." And he said, "Do you know anybody?" And I said, "Add a couple of thousand, make it an associate professor, and I'm down there." And we had just bought a house in St. Louis and—just bought a house in St. Louis. And we had spent seven months—it was an old house—beautiful area of University City—gorgeous old home. It needed a lot of work and, I mean, we just worked our tails off

on it and just had it damn near perfect. And he said, "You're hired."

SL: Oh, gosh! [*Laughs*]

DF: So I went home . . .

[02:06:18] SL: Do you remember who that was?

DF: Kent Rice [professor of sociology].

SL: Okay.

DF: I went home. I said, "Patsy, I just accepted a job." She said, "What?" And I said, "I just accepted a job." I had done that one other time. We'd just gotten married and it was a fraternity party, and a friend of mine and I had to take the keg back, and we took the keg back and he was turning the keg in to this place to get our deposit back, and right next door was this Triumph car dealership. And I thought, "Oh, boy, that's a neat-looking little car." I went in there, and before he had [*laughs*] gotten his deposit back, I'd bought a Triumph. Called Patsy on the phone at work. She was at work, and I said, "Do you like red?" She said, "Yeah, red's good." I said, "Oh, good, 'cause I just bought a red car." [*Laughs*] So we—she had some surprises in life. I don't think the surprise of leaving that house in—that we had—we had a really nice house there. But it was time to—for me to get on with what I wanted to do, which was teaching. That's—

remember, I'd . . .

SL: Yeah.

[02:07:34] DF: . . . gone from lawyer to "I wanna teach" to "going to grade school" and all of this, and I'm thinkin', "My God, you're thirty years old. Don't you somehow have to start your career?" So we moved down here in 1973, and it's been a great, great move. By then we'd had our three children—two girls and a boy. Kimberly, born in 1964. And I told you I was a basketball fan. The day Patsy—it was a Saturday—the day Patsy went into labor, the labor went on for a long time before it was very serious and then it got fairly serious, and unfortunately it got serious in the middle of a basketball game that my college—Rockhurst College was—looked like they were gonna be the NAIA [National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics] champion that year. They ended being it. So anyway, we got in the car and turned on the radio and it was a close game. And we got to the hospital and she's having these pains, and we're sitting there in the car—January twenty—it was the twenty-fifth. The baby [Kim] was born on the twenty-sixth, and it was just freezing cold outside, and I'm going, "Can she just wait a couple of minutes? The game's almost over. This is the national championship here." [SL laughs] Odd thing was she went along with all that

crap. So anyway, we go in, and she had—the first baby was born in [19]74—[19]64, second baby [Kristen] was born in [19]65, and I'm thinking, "Boy, we're starting to behave like my Catholic friends behave." And then our son [Sean] was born in 1968. So we had . . .

SL: [*Unclear words*].

DF: . . . we had three kids and people would always say, "Are they girls or boys?" And I'd say, "They're all boys but two." [*SL laughs*] But they're great kids that we had. But so we moved back to Arkansas with three kids and sociology, and I've been here virtually ever since.

[02:09:40] SL: What about your parents? When—did they get to see your children or . . .

DF: They saw both of the—both my parents saw the—both our oldest and our second—our middle child. And then my father died when—right after—well, my middle daughter was born in August and my father died very young—I consider very young. He'd just turned sixty, and I think he died the day after his birthday or some such thing in late October of 1965. So they got to see two of the kids. My mother lived until 1995, and the kids knew her very well. She'd come down here and stay with them. She lived in Kansas City for quite a while and then in the

mid-[19]80s moved to Washington, DC, where my sister lived. And they were fairly close. They liked to fight with each other, so [*laughs*] you can't do that from a distance, so my mother moved there so they could fight face to face. [*Laughs*]

SL: Good.

DF: And . . .

SL: [*Laughs*] I like that.

[02:10:56] DF: Yeah, they'd—my sister would take her to the store and would do all of these things for her, and my mother would get snippy and all of this stuff. My sister would go clean her house and do all this stuff and then my mother would call and say, "Dan called. He talked to me." [*Laughter*] My sister's going [*makes a face and clinches fists*]. Ah, so even then I was . . .

SL: You were still . . .

DF: Uh-huh.

SL: Could do no wrong.

DF: Nineteen thirty-nine male.

SL: Yeah.

[02:11:24] DF: It was a little [*laughs*] easier for me than it was for my sister. But the—my parents got to see the kids and got to enjoy 'em—not nearly as much as I think we see and enjoy our

grandkids, and I—they might've seen 'em as much, but I don't think they enjoyed 'em because they don't like to do things that kids like to do. And I'm probably a little closer to my parents than Patsy is. Patsy is the world's best grandmother. She's just an absolutely incredible grandmother, and the grandkids love her, and she loves them. They're an incredibly important part of her life. Two of 'em live in Washington, DC, so it's a little hard to get to see 'em. But the Kansas City grandson we see quite a bit. We go up there or they come down three or four times a year. And then my other—I've got two grandkids that live in Springdale. I have a daughter who teaches French at Springdale High—excuse me—Har-Ber High [School] now. But she's been there for fifteen years probably. So the kids—they didn't have many cousins, and we were always away—from the kids' point of view, we were always away from relatives, where the center of relatives would've probably been Kansas City or Washington, DC. And Patsy's sisters all had kids. So they had cousins but didn't get to know their cousins. And in fact, our friends—the friendship group that we had here all had—and I'm sure that's what generated that—had kids about the same age. And so our kids' cousins were the psychology department's—guy in psychology department, a history faculty member, a local

physician, another psychologist. So that was—our extended family has probably been—has been Fayetteville. Fayetteville, as the baseball player says, has been very, very good to us. And while two of our kids have left, this is still considered home. But the graduate school years were good years. I'm sure we were poor. I mean, Lord, I made twenty-four hundred dollars a year.

SL: Yeah.

[02:13:59] DF: I—you can't be rich on twenty-four hundred dollars a year. We lived in graduate-school ghetto. Washington University has a world class—probably the fourth- or fifth-best medical school in the United States—the Barnes Hospital [Editor's Note: Renamed Barnes-Jewish Hospital in 1996] down there. And with this area we lived in were very modest apartments, but everybody around us was either in med school, dental school, or graduate school. And so it was—everybody was poor. We had babysitting pools where that somebody had this—the great book in the sky, and you'd babysit for seven hours, and so you were pus—plus seven, and so we went out. We did things. We had a good life. And, you know, I guess I've spent most of my life spending all the money I make anyway. I've always thought that anybody that had money at the end of

the month just can't handle money. [*Laughter*] You're checkbook's supposed to be empty. That's . . .

SL: I'm gonna tell that to my wife.

[02:14:58] DF: I always thought balancing was getting the zero out of the thing. And we were able to do that for many years, but we figured out fairly early in graduate school that we were never gonna have enough money to travel very much, and so that night we went out [to] Sears [Roebuck and Co.] and bought a tent—started camping and did a lot of canoeing and camping and taking the kids out and doing those kinds of things. And we traveled all over the country and pitch our tent, and there were the Ferritors. We'd cook out. Patsy'd make beef stroganoff and we'd have [*laughs*]*—it was a great life. And I enjoyed the work and then when we got here I enjoyed teaching. We moved here in 1973, and after being here a year I became department chairman, and I didn't like that. I didn't enjoy—I still wanted to do some teaching and research, and so after three years I said, "No, I'm not gonna do that again." And a great opportunity came for us to move the family to Washington, DC. And they were—Jimmy Carter had become president and, as I said, I was—my area was evaluation and programs for young people. And Head Start—they were just about ready to evaluate—do a*

major evaluation of Head Start. It had been around for about ten years at that time, and they felt that they really needed to do an evaluation. So they needed—I don't know whether they needed or what, but they decided to bring in somebody from the outside to design the evaluation, and I was selected. And I think what they were thinking is, "If it turns out well, we'll take credit for it, and if it doesn't, it's that hick from Arkansas" . . .

SL: Arkansas.

[02:16:58] DF: . . . "screwed it up." So anyway they moved our whole family up there. I kept working—at least—the university kept me on, and they paid me, and I worked in Washington and designed, and it was one of the neatest things in the world. I got to design an evaluation of Project Head Start, and I did everything I'd always wanted to do that you couldn't do because it would cost too much money. Well, that was the federal government. They had all the money in the world, and they let me do it. And the evaluation got started and went on for a couple of years, and then [Ronald] Reagan became president. Well, he didn't want something that Carter had [*laughs*] started, so it ended up kind of dying a nice death. But that was a fun part of my life.

SL: Two years.

DF: And—yeah. We were only in—we were in Washington a year, and then we went and spent some time in Durham, North Carolina—again, working on the project, and it—I had moved my family around a little bit more than I wanted to at that time. So we got back here and pretty well settled in in 1980. And again, they wanted me to be departmental chair. And I guess at that point I decided that I was not gonna write the great American novel.

SL: Yeah.

[02:18:19] DF: And that the research that I had done—it was okay, but that maybe that wasn't the contribution that I had to make to whatever it was [*laughs*] that I was gonna participate in. So I decided that I'd probably do some higher education administration and became departmental chair and then got involved in campus politics and was chairman of the campus faculty. And so I kind of took on a little more of a public role there and pretty well left my research behind—continued to teach—enjoyed teaching. You know, was—you know, I was felt to be a okay teacher. And had big classes in those days. I taught a general sociology class in what I called the "big bedroom"—the SE [Science and Engineering building] auditorium.

SL: You bet.

[02:19:20] DF: And it was an eight o'clock class, and it was the big bedroom because the students would come in, put their books down, and go to sleep all at once. And I learned very quickly, "Let 'em sleep. Let 'em sleep." But they did—strict rules about snoring. There was no snoring [*SL laughs*] because you bothered your person [DF Edit: the person next to you].

[*Laughter*] I've—I learned a lesson very early. One time I'd just started teaching the big class, and there's this guy right in front of me. I said to the—pointed to the girl next to him, and I said, "Would you please wake him up?" And she said, "You wake him up. You put him to sleep." So after that [*laughs*] you just, "You want to sleep in my class, you get to sleep. You want to read a paper? You get to read a paper. You can't hold it up like that [pretends to hold newspaper in front of his face] because I call that an insult. But you want to sneak and read a paper? Do it." So anyway, I had a class of four hundred and seventy-five students—four seventy-six is what that room held. I still remember counting out the tests. I enjoyed—had a good life.

SL: Man, that's funny

DF: Able to do the kinds of things that I want, and that went on through the early [19]80s. And then, ultimately, I ended up

going to work for Willard, and then my life as we know changed—it changed, and so that was . . .

[02:20:43] SL: Let's talk a little bit about Willard Gatewood.

DF: Oh, lot to talk about.

SL: How—so how did he pull you in? I mean, what was the—how'd that happen?

DF: Well, you know, I don't know that—I'm not sure exactly how that happened. I don't know that I even know the story. I was very happy with my life, and Willard had become chancellor through a series of accidents. Actually, Willard and I had been on a search committee for the chancellor, and it didn't—we didn't do very well. We didn't—not that we didn't do very well. There weren't a lot of really good candidates, and I—and right toward the end of that search, I used to do a lot of running—three to five miles a day. I'd put in somewhere between twenty-five and thirty-five miles a week—not fast, but I was a good runner, and I was much thinner in those days than I am now, and I smoked. And one day I was out running and all of a sudden I got this very strange feeling in—it was in my throat—a real strange feeling that cleared, and then all of a sudden I got a pain that started running down my left arm. And I was over on Maple [Street] and Mission [Boulevard], and I thought, "I'll be damned! I'm

having a heart attack, and I have to call Patsy to come get me."

[02:22:22] Well, it turned out it went away, and I went off, and within the next three weeks I had gone to Tulsa [Oklahoma] and had bypass surgery. And so there I am, forty—it was in nineteen—I was forty-three years old—forty-three years old, had bypass surgery, and I kept telling the doctor, "Gotta—it's gotta be a mistake. I can't—how can I—how can I have a bad heart?" Well, I went over, and they fixed it, and once again, it kind of was a time when I had some time off, although I had to play the macho game. I had the surgery, I think on August 1, and I was teaching my four hundred and seventy-six students on August 17—really stupid. I mean, I had [been] split open, and my legs were all cut up, but by God I was gonna show 'em that I was the toughest guy in the world and that I could do this and that I was gonna start training for a marathon and—oh, oh! The ways we delude ourselves are just amazing. But I'm real good at self-delusion. But again, I kept thinking, "What do I want to do with my life?" I had—you know, the—when I had it, I said to the doctor—I said, "You know, what does this mean?" And he said, "Well," he said, "We got you fixed." And I said, "Well, what kind of future have I got?" And he said, "Well, you got a lot better future than you would've had without this." He said, "Without

this you're gonna be in a rocking chair." And he says, "Now you're gonna lead a normal life." And I said, "How long a normal life am I gonna lead?" And he said, "Well," he says, "it's—the average is about seven years." So, "Okay, so I got seven years. Make the best out of the seven years that I got." And so—you know, I got heavily involved in campus politics and even actually in some [University of Arkansas] System politics, and Willard became chancellor and just did an incredibly great job, I thought. Everything Willard did was right. Willard looked like a chancellor, and he spoke like a chancellor. And the quotes just came out of his mouth, and his values were just—I mean, I—you pinch Willard and his reaction is gonna be a good, ethical reaction. And so he had to look for a vice chancellor. And I thought, "God, wouldn't it be fun to work with Willard?" And an English [department] faculty member came up and said, "You're not gonna like this, but," Leo Van Scyoc [professor emeritus of English]. You probably know Leo.

SL: Mh-hmm.

[02:25:05] DF: Leo Van Scyoc came, s—, "You probably aren't gonna like this, but I just nominated you for vice chancellor." I said, "Leo, you gotta be crazy." I said, "I'm not a vice chancellor." And he said, "Well, I nominated you." So I thought

and thought and thought. And I thought, "Be a good chance to work with Willard, and wouldn't that be a fun way to contribute and," anyway, I did it, and I applied. And the next thing you know, I'm working for Willard, and I'm vice chancellor and started in June, and I thought we had just great working relationship, and Willard was unhappy. It was very clear that Willard was unhappy. And he was having this problem where whenever he would get up to speak—public speaking—he had an anxiety attack. That—those are my words and my med school degree's . . .

SL: Right.

[02:26:08] DF: . . . hasn't been given yet, so you have to take that with a grain of salt. But, I mean, he really had some problems with speaking, and there were some issues that I don't wanna go into that—I don't think Willard liked the political way that these issues were working themselves out. And I can remember one day he said, "Would you go introduce [US Senator] Dale Bumpers for me?" He said, "It's the fiftieth anniversary of Social Security," or something like that. "Would you do it for me?" I said, "Sure, I'll go do it." And I went and did it, and I thought, "Okay. Once again, Willard doesn't want to—didn't like the public speaking." And I got back, and Willard said, "Let me see

you for a minute." And he said, "I just quit." And he said, "Ray Thornton wants to talk to you." Ray Thornton was the president of the system in those days. I said, "What's he want to talk to me about?" He said, "Well, he wants you to kinda take over and be provost on an interim basis." And so he said, "Can you go down and talk to him right now? He's waiting." And I said, "Can I talk to my wife or something?" And so anyway, I walked down there, and he said, "Would you do this?" And I said, "Yeah, as long as we both understand that it's completely temporary." I said, "When I was interviewed for the vice chancellor's job," I said, "one of the questions that was asked of me is 'Do you really want this job or is that a stepping stone so you can be a college president?'" And Murray Smart [professor of architecture at University of Arkansas] asked me the question. I still remember what it was. And I said—I told them, "There isn't any way that I would ever do that." I said, "If you think Willard doesn't like public speaking, you need to see me." I said, "I still throw up before I go into class." I just—and first days of class I don't think I have ever had a first day of class that I didn't come clo—either throw up or come close to it. As I've gotten a little older, all I do is just get scared to death. But—and I said, "So"—I said, "I don't know a legislator. I don't know alumni." I said,

"I know faculty and students. It's what I do." I said, "So I'll do it, but," I said, "you gotta know that I really don't want to do it." And he said, "Okay." And so I ended up from that moment on—I mean, Willard walked out the door, and he went back and started teaching. He taught history that semester. He quit in time for history class. [*Laughs*] I mean, it's the bell ringing, and the firehouse horse rearin' up. Came time for that semester to start and Willard was out of there. [02:29:00] And so I became essentially acting chancellor from—it seems to me it was August 22—from August 22 on. That was the day that Willard actually walked out the door. And, you know, I had already told you how the search wasn't going very well, and part of the problem was that [University of Arkansas] Fayetteville was in a mess. We'd had the revolving door of chancellors, and we had the first chancellor, B. A. [Bill Allen] Nugent, who didn't get along with Jim [James E.] Martin, who was the [University of Arkansas] System president. And it's hard to work out those relationships—hard to be the first at anybody—at anything. But Nugent didn't work out very well, and then he left, and then we had an interim come in, and we had Jim Halligan, who I thought the world of, and he was an interim chancellor, and he didn't work. And then we had some guy named [Jim] Perdue, for God

sakes, who came in, and he was chancellor for a—we had a chancellor for a day—actually, a chancellor for an hour. His name was Jim Carrier, and he was [*laughs*—after Nugent left, I was co-chairman of the search committee. And anyway, we hired him. I thought he was good. And we hired him away from James Madison [University, Harrisonburg, Virginia], and we had three good candidates—Jim Halligan, who was a dean [college of engineering] here, and Carl Whillock [president and chief operating officer of Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp.], that everybody knew, and a man—this guy from Madison, Jim Carrier. Anyway, he just—he took the campus by storm, and they hired him, and everything was great. He comes for his first day and gonna meet with his cabinet. Since I was chairman of the campus faculty, I'm in the cabinet. Meeting starts at eight. About a quarter of eight, excuse me, about a quarter of nine, somebody comes in and says, "Dr. Carrier, you need to—you're wanted on the phone." So he walked out. We're all sittin' there and [*SL laughs*] sittin' there. Twenty-five minutes later, somebody came and says, "Dr. Carrier just quit. He left." And Jim Martin [*laughs*] had called him and said, "I've just taken the presidency of Auburn [University, Auburn, Alabama]," and Carrier said, "I signed on to

be—work with you, not with somebody else. I quit." And he left. So that was our—we had a chancellor for an hour.

[02:31:25] So the—all of this is to say there were—it was uneasy, and we were losing enrollment at about five hundred students a year that I didn't understand. We had fifteen thousand students in 1980, and by 1985 we were down to about twelve-five. We—things were not going very well at all, and they really didn't think they could get anybody who was any good. I mean, the world kind of hears about these kinds of things. So I really—I mean, my joke about everybody around me died—oh, it wasn't a joke. And then Jim Blair saying to me, "I know you're not any good, but we can't find anybody who is."

[*SL laughs*] "Take the job for three years, and then we'll get somebody good." And so I did, with every intention that I was gonna do it—I was gonna do the job for three years. And [*laughs*], in fact, it was kind of a—I can remember I'd been in the job for about three months, and I took this little piece of paper out and cut it and wrote a little three on it and pinned it on my shirt where everybody was wearing lapel pins. And people would look at that and say, "What's that?" And I'd say, "It's my three-month pin. I was able to stay for three months."

SL: Months. [*Laughter*]

[02:32:44] DF: "I beat all the other guys. [*Laughs*] I'm stable. You got stability, baby." So I think that's—that—and I say this without any modesty whatsoever, 'cause I've already said I have much to be modest about—humble about—that what I brought to the campus was a sense of relief, and he—you know, the old line, "He might be a son of a gun, but he's our son of a gun." Well, he might not be very good, but he's our not very good, and he knows the campus. And I probably knew every single—not probably—I knew every single faculty member on campus by first name in those days. I had—my work on the campus faculty had given me some amount of credibility, and they at least knew that I was gonna kind of be around. I think there was this "Willard factor" out there. "Are you gonna run off and quit, too?" And I didn't. And, in fact, what I found out very quickly is that being a chancellor was so much better than being a—the academic vice chancellor, [DF Edit: which is the] hardest damn job on a college campus. You had no constituency whatsoever. You've got all the deans that are fighting each other and fighting you. They all—their job is to—is to support their college, and they don't want to support the university. Your job is to bring them together, and it's not like herding cats. That's easy. [*SL laughs*] 'Cause cats will at least pay attention to you. It's a

very, very tough job, and I guess I'd been in the vice chancellor's job for about maybe a month, and I was out running one day. It was in front of Root [Elementary] School. Hotter than Hades out in June or July. I was a year—almost a year out of my bypass surgery, and I was thinking, "God, I made a mistake getting in this job. This is the worst job I've ever had in my life," and I literally thought [that] I wished I could have a heart attack, and then I could quit and nobody would say, "You're a quitter." And so going from that to the chancellor's job was easy. Everybody wanted you to succeed. Other than the public speaking, the rest of it—I didn't like the public speaking 'cause I'm, you know, a—the wallflower—shy, retiring person, but—in fact, I even went to Joe Hall [medical doctor, Fayetteville, Arkansas], and Joe Hall gave me some—he called it "stage-fright medicine." They were beta blockers is what they were. And he said, "If you take these," he said, "it'll just kinda—just kind of lower you down just a little bit." And I said, "Lower me down?" [*Laughter*] I said, "I don't know. Do you think?" He said, "Well, just take 'em." And I'm not sure that they're still there, but I got 'em in 1985, and I've probably still—I've never taken one, but [*laughs*] I've come close. So I ended up in the job for—minus twenty-two days—I think twelve years from the

day I walked in that office till the day I walked out, and I probably only stayed two years too long.

[02:36:11] SL: Well, it seems to me that your community—your faculty community certainly must've made it more comfortable for you to start off with—I mean, I can't remember—I can't think of another chancellor that ever knew every . . .

DF: Willard probably did.

SL: Well, Willard. But . . .

DF: Willard probably did. And Willard was clearly more respected than I was. I'm not saying that I wasn't respected.

SL: Yeah.

DF: But no, that—there was a degree of comfort. And, you know, I was teaching—some semesters—six or seven hundred students, and I was teaching in a year maybe fourteen hundred students. And, you know, and you walk across campus, and they look at you and go like that [quickly turns head away to avoid eye contact]. You always knew that was a former student. They didn't want to have to look you in the eye. I'm convinced that I broke more necks [*SL laughs*] in my life. But probably thirty-five percent of the students I'd had in class at the time, so there's a degree of comfort in that, and they had just been through the legislative session, so I didn't quite have to deal

with the legislature [Arkansas General Assembly], and so I had to start doing some things with alumni. But alumni are just great, great people. And the alumni that—that's—that come to things and stick with the university—they believe the university changed their life—I do, too—and that almost everything about it was good, and they like to come back, and they like to kind of bask in the good ol' days, and "How's ol' professor [Al] Witte [School of Law, 1957–1994]" and all of those kinds of things. And so that was a—that was fairly easy for me because you're around people that love the university more than you do. And so I think I had it relatively easy . . .

SL: Initially.

[02:38:19] DF: . . . initially. There were some tough, tough budget times. During the first two years I was chancellor, I think we had seven budget cuts. But we were able to work through those. And I didn't know any better. I mean, I—that I just got up and went to work and did what I could do. And, you know,  when Ray Thornton made me [*laughs*] chancellor he said, "There's only two things I really want you to do." He said, "You gotta keep things in order and you gotta increase students. You're losing students at five hundred a year." He said, "And you can't keep doing that." And he said, "But there's two

projects that you need to finish up real quickly," and I said, "What's that?" And he said, "Well, we need to restore Old Main." It had been fenced up for probably at that time six or seven years. And he said, "And we need that arts center." The Waltons [family of Sam Walton, founder of Walmart] had given the university a gift in 1977, I think [Editors Note: 1981], of five million dollars for an arts center, and the university was supposed to have ri—raised an additional five million dollars for the arts center, and we were gonna—it was gonna be a nice thing. And he said, "We haven't done anything on it, and it's getting embarrassing." So those were the two tasks that I had—I didn't know any better. I—how do you raise—"So, let me see now. I gotta raise about twelve million dollars for Old Main and five million dollars for Walton Arts Center." We didn't call it that. We called it the "arts center" in those days, and I—but I'd never raised a penny in my life. [02:40:04] So now I gotta go out and these nice alumni people—I gotta go out and ask 'em for money. So I thought, "This is—this isn't gonna be quite as easy as I thought it was." I thought the easy thing was gonna be the—Old Main, and it was a lot tougher than I thought it was gonna be. But essentially what we did on the Walton Arts Center was the City of Fayetteville at the same time was gonna put up a

performing arts center, and we were gonna put one up, and they had five million dollars and we had five million dollars, and if I could get them to give us the five million dollars, then we got ourselves the ten million dollars. We've matched the Waltons' money, and the city doesn't need two arts centers, and so I went and started meeting with a group [Fayetteville community leaders] in the city on that. And . . .

[02:41:01] SL: Who was . . .

DF: Frank Sharp.

SL: Frank Sharp.

DF: Frank Sharp, Mary [Margaret] Durst, Sarah Burnside, Billie Jo Starr—they didn't want to partner with the university. And eventually I think they got pressured by the [Fayetteville] Chamber of Commerce. I'm not sure of all that happened. But we ended up coming together, and the only remaining issue was where we were gonna put it. And the Waltons wanted us to put it right over where poultry [the John W. Tyson Poultry Science Building] is now. And the city wanted to put their—wanted theirs to be down—essentially where [Fayetteville] Town Center is now. And so I got to thinking that Dickson Street is right between there, and Dickson Street was just horrible in those days. It was just horrible. And I thought, "This will be a magnet

that will bring in boutiques and restaurants and all of that." And after a lot of problems, we essentially ended up getting it down there. And it was a good—I thought a good compromise.

[02:42:15] And it really did do what I had hoped it would do, and it's revitalized that area in a way that I think is marvelous.

Old Main was harder, though, in—because we didn't have a very strong fund-raising program at the university.

[Tape stopped]

[02:42:36] SL: We're talking about the Walton Arts Center.

DF: Yeah.

SL: And the negotiations that . . .

DF: Yeah.

SL: . . . were happening in . . .

DF: Yeah.

SL: . . . 1985.

DF: [19]85, yeah.

SL: [19]85, yeah.

DF: [19]80s.

SL: And basically the city didn't want to partner with the university, and they really didn't want to—no one wanted to put it on Dickson Street.

DF: No one wanted—probably including the Waltons.

SL: Yeah.

[02:42:55] DF: I mean, ever—everybody knew where it wanted to be, and the thing was a series of compromises. But part of the problem I had on putting it on campus was in looking at the kinds of needs that the campus had, and if we had a large arts center, we were gonna have to program for that arts center. You can't have an empty building, and you certainly can't have an empty building when the donors of that building live twenty miles away and are such good people that you want to be able to do for them—you want to be able to make their gift really work. And so I thought, "What would I have to do in terms of increasing the drama, the music, the—all of the kind of performing arts programming so that we could keep this thing up and running and full and full of students and full of performances and all of that." And I thought, "That's gonna be pretty tough." And I looked around and thought, "Gosh, we have enormous needs in biological sciences and in physics," and in those days—and I don't know *siccum* about biological sciences, but I knew in those days that molecular biology was what was happening, and we didn't have any. I think we had one on campus, including agriculture. I'm probably exaggerating that. So, you know, Don Pederson and I thought that if we were

gonna build something, that maybe it needed to be that biological sciences because it was part of our land-grant mission, and we could get some growth in poultry, which we needed because of obvious reasons. We could get some growth and that it would be molecular biologists—that we could get some growth in plant pathology—again, molecular biologists. We could get some in biological sciences, and that we could essentially change that part of our science curriculum.

[02:45:03] SL: That meant more students, too.

DF: And it probably meant more students, but it also meant more research. And more research funds, and it meant attracting students who were gonna go to med school, and it had all kinds of things. So when I looked at that, you get budget cuts, you got a reduced number of students, you've got to build this arts center, and the city really—Fayetteville in those days didn't need two. Wouldn't this be just a marvelous kind of symbiosis that we could bring together—the city and the—and the city community agreed. The Chamber of Commerce was behind it. The—it was the people that had been working on the arts center—they had a real vested interest in their plan, and I understand. It would've been a good one. I mean, they knew where the azaleas were gonna be planted on the walkway down

to that building and "Who the hell is Ferritor?" And "The university is flexing its muscles once again, and if you partner with the university, they're gonna take over." I mean, the story gets told over and over again. So it—that one was a little bit tough. But when you get great people like Frank Sharp and Billie Jo and Sarah Burnside, God bless her—she was a wonderful part of this community. [02:46:29] We came together, and we put together that program, and put together a—an arts council that ran it that had I'm gonna guess four or maybe five representatives from the city and five from the university. And then we put together a foundation that would take that other three million dollars and that would invest that money and they would pay. It was a wonderful set—setting. That all changed later on as the center got bigger and bigger and as it became an arts center not for Fayetteville, but for northwest Arkansas. And so it ended up just being better than I ever envisioned the—that it would be. I think the performing arts faculty at the university were not very happy with me. They were too nice to say it, but they weren't very happy with me because it went from being our performing arts center that they managed to being somebody else's that they rented space from. And, in fact, we set it up where we rented the space. I put an endowment in so that

there was enough money that came each year for them to rent it. But, still, they were outsiders in some sense in their own space. But—so that's how we handled the arts center and that took place over a—you know, five- or six-year period. But the key to it was that partnership. [02:48:06] The Old Main—it turned out that while Old Main was very deep in the hearts of everybody, it wasn't that deep in their pocketbooks. And it was very, very hard to raise money. And we didn't have a strong development program. We had a good development leader whose name is now familiar—the head of development was a young man named Dave Gearhart. But he left the day that I became vice chancellor, and he went up to Penn [Pennsylvania] State [University]. And we hired somebody else in who probably didn't have the strengths that we needed. So the fund-raising for Old Main was tough, and so we set upon the way we were gonna do the fund-raising for Old Main was that we would sell rooms and that everybody would have a room [named after them] in Old Main and that we'd sell the [naming rights to the] rooms for twenty-five thousand dollars apiece. And the way I kind of marketed it was that the—there wasn't altogether consensus that we ought to put money into Old Main. The thing that you read in the papers that they—there was gonna tear it

down—it was never gonna be torn down. Somebody said you were gonna make a parking garage out of it. Fred Vorsanger [facilities coordinator of the Bud Walton Arena] once said in jest, "Maybe we could turn it into a parking garage." It was always gonna be fixed. It was just how it was gonna be fixed that was up in the air, and when. [02:49:42] And so we decided we'd sell rooms and hired in a crazy guy as a consultant to us, and he helped me a lot. But we had three volunteers—the only thing you can say—that literally took me into the inner sanctums of people with money in Arkansas. And they would take me in, they would get the appointment for me with their friends, and they would take me in and sit down and say, "Dan Ferritor's—new chancellor's got some things he wants to talk to you about." And I had a little pitch about the three—the university was always a place for three *R*'s, and this was now an important three *R*'s—Old Main room, romance, and revitalization, and that it would give us a hundred thousand square feet of much-needed room, that it was the romance in everybody's heart. They met their wives in Old Main, and it was revitalization. And the university had gone through some tough times, and this was a symbol of what the future could be. We can move forward. And then I'd ask them for their twenty-five thousand dollars. And, I

mean, we—God knows how many of those meetings that I went to. We sold every ro—well, we sold closets. But those three people—you'll recognize their names, famous and infamous. Curtis Shipley [former vice president of Shipley Baking Company] here in Fayetteville. Frank Broyles [former football coach and athletic director for the University of Arkansas]. Frank Broyles took me everywhere, and the meetings would always start off with Frank reminiscing about some football game that that person wanted. And Frank would reminisce for about three minutes, and he'd say, "But we're here to talk about something important." And [Webster] "Web" Hubbell.

SL: Web Hubbell, yeah.

[02:51:43] DF: Web Hubbell, who "came a cropper" a few years later [Arkansas lawyer and politician, convicted of federal mail fraud and tax evasion in 1994]. But those three people helped us raise about—I think we raised about four and a half million dollars. We bonded another four million dollars. And then Governor [Bill] Clinton gave us—allocated three million dollars from some account that he had, and that was—that let us go forward with Old Main. And it did all of the things that I thought it would. It did provide the space—mostly [J. William Fulbright College of] Arts and Science kinds of space, but it did signal a



rejuvenation of the university, and people began to, I think, feel better about the university and look at it as something other than an athletic team. [02:52:44] And I never—although I've been a lifelong academic, and I'm, as I think, self-described as small but slow—not an athlete myself if you discount Ping-Pong—I really understand the importance of athletics. It becomes the way that people can maintain their ties to their university. And that's what you want. That's what you want. You want people to think about the university, and maybe you'd rather have 'em think about the philosophy department, but I got to where I didn't care if what they said is, "How's my university doing today?" I thought, "Okay, that's what I'm supposed to be doing." And that's what I want them to do. And if I need 'em for the philosophy department—maybe I can get 'em. I don't know. But if I don't have 'em at all, I'm not gonna be able to get 'em. And you look at international education, and one of the problems international education's having now is they can't do any fund-raising. They don't have alumni in the same sense that we do. And I think in part it's because there's no way for their people to keep in contact. So I'm—I've never been a—I've never been anti-athletics, although I had a steep learning curve on dealing with athletics. And there were times during the

time I was chancellor where it took way more of my time than I wanted, and the issues were always tough. And in some sense, I thought the issues were trivial in that why can't we be dealing with something important? But what's on people's mind is important, and you don't get to trivialize. But I went to my first football game since I graduated from high school. That was the last football game I ever went to, and then I went to a football game when I became chancellor. And the last football game I went to was the last day I was chancellor. [Laughter] I'm not a football fan. I'm a basketball fan. [02:54:49] But the Old Main thing, I think, were important times, and the three years kind of melded into other years. Patsy starts college. My kids have graduated. We really worked on a couple of things—building the student enrollment and a scholarship program. We started the chancellor's scholarship—four-year scholarship programs. And I hired in an extraordinarily good fund-raiser, [A. H.] "Bud" Edwards [vice chancellor for university advancement], and he brought in a fully professional staff. And the University of Arkansas had raised two million dollars a year no matter what it did. I had people tell me that they had to knock on several doors to give us a check, that we really weren't as good in terms of fund-raising. And when we worked hard, we raised two

million, and when we didn't work hard, we raised two million. And I used to—we had this annual fund—it was a great event—annual fund brunch that everybody who gave fifty dollars or something would—we had this lunch, and the band came in before a football game. And oh, God, it was fun. You've probably been to some of those.

SL: Yeah.

[02:56:08] DF: It was just a fun event, and I used to joke that in the old days we barely raised enough money to pay for that event. And I was probably not that far off. But Bud Edwards came in and was really able to develop a great fund-raising program, and we moved from raising ten thousand—ten mil—two million dollars a year to we were up toward the end at thirty, forty million, and then Dave [Gearhart] comes in [as vice chancellor for university advancement, 1998–2008] and he and [Chancellor] John [White, 1997–2008] take it to the next level, and they're raising a hundred million a year. And it's a better university for all kinds of reasons. But I ended up staying a little bit longer than the three years that I had signed on for.

SL: Now, why—yeah—you said earlier you thought you stayed two years too long. Why do you think that?



[02:57:02] DF: I'm not sure I did anything bad in the last two years.

I don't think I did anything particularly good in the last two years. I think I got—there are two or three things. One, the longer you're in a job like that, the more enemies you make. You have to make enemies because the decisions you make are tough decisions. And in organizations, decision-making—they're kind of a—imagine a funnel—an upside-down funnel. And most of the decisions are made at a fairly low level because they can be made at a low level. And then they get moved up to the next level. And those that can get made there get made there, and then they get moved up and moved up and moved up. And all of a sudden you get to the top, and those are the really tough decisions. They—you make those decisions not because you're good, it's because nobody else could make 'em. And why can't they make 'em? There's not a good answer. If there was a good answer somebody else would've done it. So you put together the best kind of strategy that you can, and you make the decision. And you irritate people.

[02:58:13] SL: Well, the decision . . .

DF: You just do.

SL: . . . at the top is still affecting where the—yeah—yeah.

DF: I understand, but by the time you've made that decision there are people that think you are wrong. They honestly think—they

don't think you're a horrible person, but they think you're wrong. And you understand why they think you're wrong. I mean, some of these things I think, "God, I can just flip a coin on that." And what happens is you start off with this great big pile of friends, and with each of these decisions you move one or two people from the big pile to the little pile of enemies. And over time that little pile of enemies becomes a big pile. And they never go back. They—it's a one-way street going down that way. So you kind of use up your—what the politicians call political credit. You don't know everybody by name, and you don't know their kids' names anymore. And you haven't taught as much anymore. I tried to keep some contact with the students. And you keep getting the same problems presented to you time and time again, and what happens—and maybe it's just me, but what happens is when somebody starts talkin' about an issue, they're all excited about it. And I'm thinking, "I've been there before. I've heard this a hundred times. It's not gonna work the way you think it is. And I'm starting not to think about it. Not to treat you as seriously as I need to treat you." And, you know, almost symbolically saying, "Here's a quarter. Go call somebody who cares." And once you find yourself in that kind of position, you are no longer effective. And you need to let somebody else

who's got the fire in the belly, who's excited, who's not worked on that problem for ten years to do it. [03:00:07] And I think once you get into a position where you don't listen as carefully as you ought to listen, that's when it's time to go. And I got a sense that I wasn't listening as much as I needed to listen the last couple of years. "Here's what you ought to do to the legislature. I've done that a hundred times. Don't tell me that." You can't—you cannot represent those people, and that's what you're doing. You're representing eight hundred and fifty faculty and fifteen thousand students and all these alumni, and you've got to take that seriously. And there just comes a time when maybe somebody else ought to do it—could do it a little bit better. And that's what I mean when I said I probably overstayed my welcome. I think somewhere between eight and ten years is about the period of time when you either need to take a year off or you need to do something to freshen your perspective. And what a lot of people do in senior administration like that is they go to a new university and they become president at someplace else. And all of a sudden it's a new pile of friends [*laughs*], new problems, new kinds of things. But I didn't want the damn job in the first place.

SL: [*Laughs*] Right.

[03:01:34] DF: So I sure as hell wasn't gonna go—[*laughs*—wasn't gonna go someplace else. I—you know, fool me once—shame on you. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah, right.

DF: So I—and it—it's a—it's not a nine-to-five job. It's a tough job. A lot of it is—in—within an hour you can decide somebody's fate—truly decide their fate; you can cut a ribbon on an irrelevant thing; you can go get your picture taken holding a United Way thing; and your day is just this topsy-turvy day. But for me, I got in the office at five-thirty in the morning and usually left there around six at night, and we had an event most evenings. And I can remember once we had twenty-one nights in a row of events. April—I always used to kid that April is the cruelest month. But April—everything's going on, and everybody wants you there, and they just want a warm body. I mean, it's the—they don't want your soul. They just want to know that you care about them, and you need to go there and you need to say things. And I didn't like public speaking ever, and so, you know, those—it just wears on you. And I can remember toward the end I was invited to—I even remember what it was, but I won't say—I was invited to a student event, and I lied and said I was doing something. And I thought, "You can't do that. You gotta

go. And you can't lie, for God sakes." And why didn't I say, "No, I'm tired. I don't think I want to do that tonight"? But I didn't. "I'll be out of town," or some such nonsense as that. So anyway, those—that—it was—it gets tougher over time.

[03:03:43] I've never talked to—to John about how he felt towards the end—John White. I did say to him the day he told me he was resigning. I said, "John, it's probably two years too late." I don't think he thought that was—that I was right. But, you know, I quickly said, "I think we all stay two years too long." He stayed eleven. I stayed twelve. And so I don't know if he had those same experience—I don't know if anybody did. But, see, I didn't go into this thing as a career person that wanted the job. I was a little bit odd, naive, and I really thought that I was gonna stay for three years and then go off. And next thing I knew, it was ten and . . .

[03:04:36] SL: A couple of—there's two or three things that came to mind. It seems like to me that the grounds—the very ground that the university's built on—seems like it got some needed attention in your tenure that kind of paralleled with saving Old Main. All of a sudden the grounds upkeep kind of got better—made it more desirable to walk around campus, and also, I have to say that my personal experience with your speeches are that

they were always good.

DF: Hmm.

SL: I always looked forward to hearing you speak in public, and [DF *laughs*] I always thought you were great.

DF: You have a sad life. [*Laughs*]

SL: Well, I—maybe I do have a sad life.

DF: [*Laughs*] That's a—that's more of a comment on you than it is on me.

SL: Well, maybe so. Maybe so. But no, you were always good. You always—you were able to get people to laugh, and that's a big part of public speaking is to . . .

DF: Well, I . . .

SL: . . . put people at ease.

DF: Yeah.

SL: And you were able to do that. You were still able to take care of business, so I think you were a little bit . . .

DF: Yeah, I've worked hard . . .

[03:05:44] SL: I mean, you may—it may—you may not have enjoyed it and it may have been hard on you to get ready to do it . . .

DF: I worked hard at it. And I was very nervous about it, and I was always surprised because in my teaching, I—after the first

couple of classes I was able to settle in. The public speaking—I think the real problem that I had with public speaking was that I wasn't Dan Ferritor. I was the chancellor. I was representing the University of Arkansas. I was representing something that they loved. I was representing a hundred and twenty years of tradition. I was there talking, trying to get some money on behalf of eight hundred and fifty worthy faculty, and I—you know—I kind of thought, "That's a tough burden," and I think that's what bothered me. And I never talked to Willard about it. But Willard went back from being anxious about talking to teaching a class. And I don't think he was anxious about doing that.

SL: No.

[03:06:59] DF: So I think there's something different. And I might or might not have done a good job. It was a part of the job that I didn't particularly like. And I did work—I did—I have to say I worked hard at it, and I did try to use humor, and that humor is a real double-edged sword. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. And, you know, a—I made people laugh and pissed people off. And what makes humor humor is it's on the edge of something. And when you're on the edge of something, you're always close to stepping on somebody's feelings, and you don't

wanna do that.

SL: Right.

[03:07:43] DF: But I finally decided—you know, there must be a Frank Sinatra song, "I Gotta Be Me" or something—but I originally thought that I have always used humor. It's part of me. I like dumb puns. I play words. I do all of those kinds of—I grew up—my household was one word game after another. Words are what we do, and so I thought, "I—I'm not gonna do that." But, you know, one of the things that I always found interesting was people telling me what an incredible—this sounds less than humble—but what an incredible extemporaneous speaker I was. I'd never did an extam—extemporaneous speech in my life. I worked my ass off on that and practiced it enough so that it looked like I made it up on the spot. *[Laughter]* "It wasn't extemporaneous. You should've seen me last night at midnight going over that thing." So—but I think more than the public speaking, if I put my finger on what it was—more than public speaking, it was the representing something that was very important to me, and I knew it was important to other people, and I didn't want to screw it up. And somehow I never—when I stood up and talked about sociology, I never thought that I was representing two hundred and fifty years of tradition, you know?

I thought I was . . .

SL: Right.

DF: . . . I thought I was talking to some students. And—but, you know, I got used to fund-raising—didn't mind that. Liked the legislature. Nice people, by and large. While I didn't agree with 'em, most of 'em really were trying to do the right thing. A lot of times I didn't agree with what they thought was the right thing. But, you know, I didn't think most of them were there with their hands out—hands in the taxpayer pockets and all of the kinds of things I think I went in there thinking. But the—it was a good experience.

SL: So what about . . .

DF: If I had left at ten years, by the way, and we were doing this interview, I'd have said I left two years too late.

[03:10:05] SL: [*Laughs*] What about coming in under Ray Thornton and now—and then [B.] Alan Sugg [University of Arkansas System president]? How was that transition? Or can you even talk about that?



DF: I—yeah. Ray Thornton was—changed my life, and for the better or worse, doesn't matter, Ray Thornton changed my life. Ray Thornton had a confidence in me that I certainly didn't have in myself. Ray was a consummate politician, and during the time

that I worked f—with Ray Thornton, I was eager to go, and if nothing had a hair-trigger decision-making—"Let's get it done. Let's get going. Let's go. Let's jump. Let's do this." If reporters would call to interview me, I'd just—I was the—I think the most accessible chancellor there's ever been. [03:11:15] I hope Gearhart beats me, but—and I'd spin—that was my job. But I always talked and I always—I never lied. There were things I didn't say, but Ray was such a politician that everything he did had to be consistent with everything he had said before and that he thought he was gonna say in the future. And so it almost was a Hamlet kind of inactivity. To behave or not behave. And so Ray was slower than I wanted at that time. And Ray really—I guess I only worked with Ray for about two years, and it was clear that Ray wanted to run for Congress again. And so he wanted to run for Congress, and so, you know, we didn't have that much to do. And he and I disagreed pretty—it was an honest disagreement—but disagreed about what the role of the [University of Arkansas] System was. I've never thought the system was good for the Fayetteville campus. I understand why the system exists. I think that the system is good for higher education in Arkansas. I think that Alan Sugg, who in full disclosure requires me to say that he's my boss now—but Alan

Sugg is the best system president in the United States in many ways, and I enjoyed every second of working with him. But Alan had a different view of what a system was than Ray Thornton did, too. But I—the system is good for some campuses, but I didn't think it was good for Fayetteville. They'd have been much better on their own. But that horse left the barn in 1968, so there isn't any reason to talk about it now. [03:13:29] So Ray—part of the time, Ray was trying to build a strong system—that the system was the university, and I just didn't agree. I thought that the campus ought to manage itself. And then part of the time he was running for—gonna run for Congress. And we particularly disagreed on fund-raising because he thought the fund-raising ought to be done in a coordinated way. And I kept saying, "Ray, nobody gives money to a system. They're gonna give money to Old Main. They're gonna give money to Al Witte. They're gonna give money to Leo Van Scyoc. They're gonna give money to Vol Walker Hall. They're gonna give money to agriculture. They're not gonna give money to the system. It doesn't exist." And that's like saying, "You don't exist." And it was a tough conversation to have. And so Ray was terribly important in my life, and I still see him. And I think he's been awfully good for Arkansas. But he and I disagreed on the role of

some ways and how higher education ought to be organized. When Alan Sugg came in it was just the opposite. Alan Sugg said, "You're the chancellor, and you run the campus, and when you screw it up I'm gonna fire you." [Laughter] "And what I'm gonna do is represent higher education. I'm gonna work with the [University of Arkansas] Board [of Trustees]. You call me day or night, and I will give you advice. I'll do anything you want. You want me in New York City at Monday morning, I'll be there Monday morning. Your job is to run the campus, though, and that's not my job. My job is to coordinate the system." And, I mean, we're simpatico. That's what I thought ought to be done. I don't think he altogether agreed with me that Fayetteville ought to leave the system, but [laughter] that could be because he's got two degrees from Fayetteville, and [laughs] he's the alum that I talk about. But he was a—he was and is a good person work with. [03:15:52] I guess the thing that we really haven't talked about in those—in the years as chancellor, and the spotlight gets on the chancellor, but the work is done by people like Don Pederson and Richard Hudson [vice chancellor for government and community relations] and Dave Gearhart, or for me it was Bud Edwards, and the Nancy Talburts [vice provost for academic affairs] and the Kathy Van Landingshams [vice

provost for planning] and the people who do the work at the university. The chancellor gets the credit—most of it not due—and also, I was—I ended up taking it because I also got a lot of blame I didn't deserve, too. But the spotlight is so focused on the one single person as the representative of the university, that I think that kind of weighs a little bit heavily. It's unfair. It's—I mean, Don Pederson has for twenty-two years been—had—for the twelve years with me he was vice president for academic—vice chancellor for academic affairs. That's the job I [had when I] wanted the heart attack. I'm not kidding about wanting the heart attack. I really thought, "If I could have a heart attack I could get out of this job and nobody would think I was a quitter." I mean, that's—there's no hyperbole in that. There's no exaggeration, and I was right in front of Root School when I did it. And it was a hot June or July day. "Maybe if I speed it up I'll have a heart attack." [03:17:32] Don Pederson did that job for twelve or thirteen years, and then finance and administration. Most people don't know his name. But it's people like him that make a great university great. It's people like Dan Ferritor and John White that either get the credit or blame for things. And I don't—I don't think there's any way around that. I've never seen any way that I could figure out

around it. You made me think of it when you said things improved on campus after I got here. Well, things improved on campus because we hired [Physical Plant Director] Leo Yanda. And Leo Yanda, like all of us, has a lot of good things and bad things. But Leo Yanda came in and said—came from Oklahoma, which is in Norman, flat and ugly, and said, "My God, this is beautiful. Why aren't we taking care of it?" And so things changed under Leo Yanda. But—and again, I probably got some credit for that, and I certainly was supportive of Physical Plant in terms of how we allocated some of the funds. But whatever happens, usually a whole bunch of very talented people made it happen, and one person ends up getting credit for it.

[03:19:00] I mean, I—imagine Patsy. I mean, first off, she gets this little red sports car [*SL laughs*] that she didn't know about, and then the next thing you know, we're off to graduate school. And the next thing you know, we're moving—we're leaving this house that we bought, and, I mean, everybody that came into that house to look at it, she just cried. Patsy just cried. It was such a wonderful house. So—but, I mean, she's used to hearing decisions after they were made. But here she is—got a life of her own—incredibly talented person—and I'm draggin' her to all these evening things and that she's the first

lady of the university, and it took away her life, once again. And she became something else. And she did an incredibly good job of it, but generally I would get the credit. There she would be. Well, I mean, when we had events at the house, which we had a lot of times—I'd get here at six and they'd be ready and everybody'd leave and I'd go to bed at nine because I had to be back up at five to get in the office at five-thirty. And, you know, I—one day as a faculty member I was—every morning when I'd go in my eight o'clock class, I'd think, "Damn, this SE auditorium looks nice. I was in it last night and it looked like hell. Looks nice. Look, the board's clean. Wonder how that happens?" Well, there's about thirty people that came in and cleaned that thing, while I waltz in, write on the board, [*claps hands*] get the applause—unfortunately, I never got the applause [*SL laughs*] but—and then waltzed out. And I guess over time you begin to see that there are lots of people that make something happen and make it work. And then when you get to a time in your career when you're not taking things as seriously as you should, that's, again, the time to quit. I don't know why I keep going back to that. But I—it was—I had a good time. It was a good run.

[03:21:27] SL: You had good folks.



DF: I had damn good folks, and some of 'em are still around. Well, most of 'em are still around. But they worked hard, they worked smart, and they spent an enormous amount of time trying to make me look good. The—if I could criticize 'em, I—and I think the criticism that you can make of staff—I think they were not always honest. I can remember—I guess I'd been chancellor about a—not quite a year, and I came home. Patsy said, "How are things going?" I said, "You know, this is—they're surprisingly good." I said, "I"—she knew I didn't think I could do the job. And I said, "I didn't think I could do it at all, but," I said, "you know, we're in meetings and we have ideas." I said, "My ideas are usually the ones that people like." And I said, "I didn't know much about the job. When I say something, people are listening." [SL laughs] And I said, "I haven't made any enormous mistakes." And then I stopped and I said, "What are the odds that all of my ideas are really very good [laughter] and that I haven't made any mistakes?" And she said, "Not very good. I know you." And I said, "They're not telling me, are they? I'm in a cocoon again." I went in the next day and called Bill Schwab, and—he was chairman of [the] sociology [department] in those days—I said, "Schedule me for a class. I haven't seen a student in—other than the president of the

student body, I haven't seen a student in months." I said, "Schedule me for a seven-thirty class and give"—then it was Gordon Morgan [professor of sociology]—I said, "Give Gordon some time off." And I went in and said to the secretary, Joyce Veasey—I said, "Get a list of every faculty member and randomly draw out fifteen names, and every two weeks schedule a breakfast at seven-thirty in the morning, and I'll meet with them. I don't want to know—until I get in the room I don't want to know who they are, but I want to make sure it's random and that you got somebody from each college." And I said, "Now people will say that's a dumb idea." And so I tried to protect myself in that way. But you still can't—nobody tells the king they don't have any clothes on. They just don't. That's why the—that's why that fable's out there. But you still—I enjoyed working with the people that I did, and I used to have a thing—I'd say, "Now, when I go on too long," which I tend to do, I said, "just go like that" [tugs on earlobe]. And nobody ever did that. [SL laughs] Nobody ever told me to shut up. [SL laughs]

So . . .

[03:24:35] SL: Well, I want to talk a little bit about what you're doing now. What is it that you're doing now?

DF: [Laughs] Yeah, that's a good question. Let me go back a little

bit. When I left the chancellor's office, I had a wonderful opportunity that Alan Sugg provided for me, and I had a year's sabbatical. And I guess I'd been at the university for a long time and never had a sabbatical, but I got a year's sabbatical, and Patsy and I spent the first six months of it in Europe. We did a lot of traveling around Europe. We'd never traveled very much, and we did a lot of traveling around Europe. And then I—I'd worked out a deal at University College Galway in Ireland [Editor's Note: The name changed to National University of Ireland, Galway in 2006.] They gave me an office in the sociology department. So I went in, and so I was in the sociology department for the fall semester. Didn't do much, but studied—tried to become a sociologist again. And then I came back and had another semester off. But I went back and taught at the university, but during my time as chancellor I had developed a lot of—one of the things I did in the time as chancellor, and I think it was particularly because of that period of revolving doors the five years before I became chancellor—the university had lost contact with the community. [03:26:06] And so I got on the [Fayetteville] Chamber of Commerce [DF Edit: as chancellor]. I got on the United Way. I got on virtually every board—community, volunteer, action, American Heart

Association—you name it, I did it. If there was a volunteer opportunity and I could squeeze in a time, I did it. And I always went out, and it was always clear I was there representing the university. So I developed a lot of contact with the university over the—with the community over the time that I was chancellor and—had developed a good relationship with places like the Jones Center [for Families in Springdale] and those. And so essentially when I left the chancellor's job, I got on two or three different boards and had some fairly heavy community involvement. [03:26:53] One of the most interesting things I did was being one of the three trustees for the Jones Center—Mrs. Bernice Jones [northwest Arkansas philanthropist] and then Dr. Joel Carver, the cardiologist, and then me. And Mrs. Jones has since died, so Joel and I are the remaining trustees. But it's been fun, interesting, and rewarding working with the Jones Center. I've worked with the United Way. I taught at the University of Arkansas and generally taught lower-division students. Did a lot of teaching of introductory sociology, which was always my favorite class. Taught some statistics classes. Taught some graduate research and methods classes—I team-taught. And kind of enjoyed that time, and it was really time to retire. I turned sixty-five, and the department—they needed

young blood. I mean, students needed somebody who when you said, "Hey, dude," they knew what you were talking about. And that wasn't me. [*SL laughs*] And I had just—in some sense, I'd lost touch with today's students. I've seen 'em all, from the—my cohort of the quiet [19]50s, through the revolution, the hippies, the "me" generation. I've tracked 'em all and been able to keep up with 'em. The—they're kind of—this group I call the entitled generation, and they're a little tough for me. They're—they—I just—I didn't—I'd never synched with them, and I—that's not—I never blamed them. That's me. And I thought—it's—you know, that last two years again—I thought, "When you're not willing to do what the job requires and when you can't take the people you're working with seriously, you need to not do that anymore." So I decided to quit teaching. And so I retired in May of two thousand and five—May of—three years ago I retired. And I was fully retired for five weeks. [*SL laughs*] And then I got a call from [*laughs*] Alan Sugg, and it was an interesting call for a lot of reasons. The first reason was that about forty minutes before he called, I had begun the dreaded preparation for a colonoscopy.

SL: Yes.

[03:29:31] DF: And the—all the rules said that the preparation took

effect in an hour.

SL: Yeah.

DF: And it was forty-five minutes, and he calls me and . . .

SL: What's it called? It's called clear something. Anyway . . .

DF: Yeah, clearing your system.

SL: Yeah. [*Laughs*]

[03:29:48] DF: Whatever it was—anyway, he called and he said, "How's retirement going?" And I said, "Well, it's okay." [*SL laughs*] It wasn't going okay. I hated it. Nine o'clock in the morning I'm—I have read the paper twice, I've looked at the garden three times, I'm—"What in God's name am I gonna do the rest of the day?" You know, Patsy said, "I took you for better or for worse but not for lunch. Get outta here." So, you know, it wasn't going very well at all. So Alan said, "I want you to come back to work for me." And so we kind of got started talking, and I said, "Well, what would I do?" Said, "You want me as a kind of a consultant?" He said, "No." He said, "I want you to work—" it started off three and then kind of went four and a half days a week. And he said, "The bad part is you have to do it down in Little Rock." And I said, "Well, let's give it a try." And so my official [*laughs*—the end of that story was he kept saying, "Well, let's talk about what we're gonna do," and I said, "Alan, I

gotta go." And he talked a little bit more, and I said, "Alan, I gotta go."

SL: [*Laughs*] Really.

[03:30:53] DF: And I said, "Alan, I really have to go," [*laughs*] and hung up on the phone and then went off to have my colonoscopy or at least get ready for it. But what I have done for him is I've—he gave me a title that—I've already said I don't like systems haven't I? Nobody'll ever listen to this, so it's okay. But what I really don't like about systems is academic affairs. There shouldn't even be anybody in academic affairs in the system office because that's a campus prerogative. Campus people know about it. People in the systems don't know anything about it. So he said, "I want you to be vice president for academic affairs." I said, "Alan, no! Anything! Call me a flunky!" I said, "Please, just call me a consultant." I can't do that. There's a reason I can't do it, and I won't go into that, but—so finally I said, "Okay, but," I said, "you ought to know that I'm not gonna be your vice president for academic affairs. I will clean toilets, but I am not gonna be academic affairs." So anyway, I—what I've done for him is generally some kinds of project work—issues that took place in the math/science school, a program developed down at UAPB [University of Arkansas at

Pine Bluff]. I did the search for the chancellor at [University of Arkansas at] Fort Smith—things that he used to do. He used to chair all those searches. I think I've chaired five searches, and I'm right now doing the search for the chancellor at UAMS [University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences]. In fact, when you leave that's what I will—how I will spend the rest of my day. And have worked on a couple of scholarship programs, international student programs. I call it project work. I've done some data analysis for him on public policy issues having to do with graduation rates and things like that. He—first task he gave me was—he says, "Look at—you haven't been around here for a while." He says, "Look at the organization and see what changes you'd make if you were me." So after two days I gave him a report, and I said, "The first thing you have to do is get rid of the vice chancellor for academic affairs" [*laughter*] . . .

SL: Academic affairs.

[03:33:14] DF: . . . "and instead have a person who does public policy for you and keeps on top of what national and state policy issues are and looks at the data and those kinds of things," which I do a little bit of that—do have a—I don't—it's something above odd jobs and below—I'm not a vice chancellor for academic affairs. But I go to Little Rock two days a week. I

work closely during the legislative time with legislative issues, although that's not my job. Issues that campuses have—dealing with issues—weapons on campus and those kinds of things. I'll work on those. I don't know, gadfly? That's—there's probably a better—peripatetic is a good word. [SL laughs] I haven't used that in a long time. I'm . . .

[03:34:18] SL: You mentioned something about international students and . . .

DF: Interesting project that I got with the international students. When the tsunami hit in December of two thousand and four, if memory serves me, the world responded, and two people in the world—President—former President "George the Tall" [George Herbert Walker Bush] [SL laughs] the Bush that I like—and [President] Bill Clinton went out and did fund-raising for the—for Aceh Province for the—all the tsunami victims, and they raised a lot of money and for—relief money. And they took five million dollars of that relief money that they raised and set up a fund to fund, over several years, seventy-five students from Aceh Province in Indonesia—Banda Aceh is where the—really it was landfall for the tsunami in Indonesia. And absolutely devastated—I think a hundred and [vocalized noise] seventy-five thousand people killed. But part of the restoration—you know,

obviously, you have to fix roads and all the—that kind of infrastructure. But in addition to that, they funded these students as Fulbright Scholars to come to the United States. And, not surprisingly, they went to two universities—University of Arkansas and Texas A&M [University in College Station, Texas]. And so I managed that program for the system, since they can—some of 'em go to the Clinton School [University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service, Little Rock]; some go to UALR [University of Arkansas at Little Rock]. Most come up here to Fayetteville. And so, you know, my sense on that was that they're all coming and getting master's degrees and going home to be part of the rebuilding effort. But I thought—excuse me—some of 'em are in education. Some of 'em—public policy. Some of 'em are in public health. Some of 'em are in computer technology. I thought, "If they're really gonna be a force, maybe we need to do something to bring them together, not just as seventy-five people or cohorts of twenty-five who are studying at two universities, but that they have a common purpose." So we've done a series of workshops in team building, in networking, and they have now set up a—an organization that will last well beyond when they leave. And we're about to lose—we're gettin' our last cohort, I think, of students in. They

probably start school next week—tomor—Monday. And—but we've done about four or five workshops, and I'm working with a couple of 'em now on a Web site that they're gonna use to stay in contact. So it's been a very rewarding project. All of the students have come over. Indonesia's heavily—hundred percent Muslim—and they're a pretty—Sharia—the Sharia—they follow—follow Sharia Law in Aceh Province, so it—it's been kind of a new experience for me to work with a religious group that I've not had much effort—much time with. But it's been very, very, very rewarding. And the students—they're here right now, and I see 'em on occasion. Not as often as I ought to.

SL: So is . . .

DF: But that's been a good project.

SL: So . . .

[03:37:46] DF: But that's the kind of thing . . .

SL: Yeah.

DF: . . . that Alan doesn't have the time to do, and I keep him—hopefully, keep him informed. And I keep him informed, and—so the system office is able to do that. We're doing a search firm for the chancellor search at UAMS, and so I've been dealing with national search firms. And, in fact, every time I leave here, I go in and print off another proposal that I'm gonna be

evaluating over the weekend here for that, and I'll get involved with that search. But I essentially serve as his gofer. I mean, that's not a very positive way to put it, but he's got multiple responsibilities, and when those responsibilities need someone who's familiar with campuses and with academic life, then I do that. Some of the other people that work there in the system office never—I started to say never been on a campus in their life—but certainly haven't worked on campuses. So I kind of serve as a liaison with them and do everything except whatever the hell a vice president of academic affairs is supposed to do, 'cause I won't do it. [SL laughs] But it's on my card. I am officially that. [SL laughs] I'm not—never been much for titles.

SL: Yeah.

[03:39:15] DF: The [laughs]—I got a call this morning, and the guy was sending a proposal, and he said, "I'm trying to figure out how to address this." And he said, "Daniel E. Ferritor or Dan Ferritor?" "Just put Dan Ferritor." And he said, "Ph.D. afterwards?" I said, "You put Ph.D. afterwards, and you don't get the bid." [Laughter] I've never done that and I . . .

SL: Yeah.

DF: . . . I'm not gonna start it [laughs] as I hit age seventy. I can see age seventy in my high beams. I turn sixty-nine in

November.

[03:39:44] SL: Well, so what happened to that seven-year lease on life from your . . .

DF: Oh, there's a wonderful story about that!

SL: Okay.



[03:39:51] DF: I'd—I love this. One of the things that people do to the chancellor is ask him for basketball tickets. [*SL laughs*] I got this—you'll remember the game. You were, I'm sure, there. We played UNLV [University of Nevada, Las Vegas] and it was in Barnhill [Arena], and it was the toughest ticket in forever. And no tickets to be had. Absolutely no tickets. And I get up—Jean Market calls—she's the—who was my secretary then. And she comes in and she said, "I gotta put this call through to you. It's a cardiologist." And she told me the guy's name, and I said, "I don't think I know him." And she said, "Well, I already told him you were in and I'd connect you," and she said, "I thought it was maybe something to do with your heart." You know, everybody thinks I'm gonna die. [*Laughs*] And so I said, "Okay, put him through." [Dr. Carl] Gessler. Got a brother here in town, Brad Gessler. You might even know him. But Gessler gets on the phone and I said, "Yes, sir? What can I do for you?" And he said, "I'm an alum there." And I said, "Oh, great. That's

wonderful." And I said, "What can I do for you?" He said, "I need two tickets to the Las Vegas game," and I started laughing. I said, "You gotta be kidding." And I—he said, "No." And I said—he said, "I live in Birmingham [Alabama], and I'm coming up for the game." He said, "It's gonna be a great game." I said, "Yeah, it's gonna be great game, but," I said, "why would you call me?" And he said, "Well," he said, "because you're the chancellor." And I said, "Why didn't you call the athletic director?" And he said, "I did." And I said, "What'd he say?" "He said he didn't have any tickets." [DF Edit: He] said, "I'll give you money." [DF Edit: I] said, "I don't care whether you give me money. I don't have any tickets." I said, "Well, why'd you call me?" He said, "You're the chancellor." And I said, "Why the hell do you think I'm gonna give you any tickets?" I said, "Not only am I not gonna give you any tickets, I don't like cardiologists." And he said, "Why?" And I said, "Well, I had bypass surgery in 1984, and a cardiologist gave me seven years to live." And without missing a beat, he said, "If you give me two tickets, I'll give you seven more." And I said, "You got 'em." [Laughter] And I put seats up down on the floor, and he sat there. That's the kind of call that would come in.

SL: Yeah.

[03:42:19] DF: "I'll give you seven more if you give me two tickets."

"You got 'em." How quick a mind is that? I love it.

SL: Yeah.

DF: I love it. "Why'd you call me?" "You're the chancellor." I don't know how we got off on that.

SL: [*Laughter*] Let's see, what were we talking about?

TM: Well, seven years.

SL: Oh, yeah, seven years.

DF: Oh, the seven years. Yeah.

SL: Yeah, yeah.

DF: Yeah, so I ended up gettin'—I ended up gettin' . . .

SL: I mean you're seeing seventy in the high beams . . .

DF: . . . I ended up gettin' fourteen.

SL: Yeah.

[03:42:46] DF: And I told you, Joel Carver's a trustee on the—co-trustee on the Jones Center. He's also a cardiologist.

SL: Yes.

DF: And not too long ago I said something to him about "Oh, Joel, come on. I got heart disease." He says, "Don't give me that crap." He says, "Your heart's healthier than mine." He says, "If you didn't die [*laughs*], you're not gonna die." He says, "I hope you get cancer or something like that." [*Laughter*] So I guess I

don't get to play the heart card, as they say. But I do pull it out every once in a while. But, honestly, I never think about it.

SL: Yeah.

DF: I just—it just never entered my mind. The—Joe Hall did tell me once after the surgery—he said something about, "You need to—if you got stress in your job," he says, "you need to get rid of that." So when I took the new job, I—he said, "What'd you do that for?" And I said, "You told me I need to get a new job, so I did."

[03:43:47] SL: Well, sounds like it's much better than reading the paper over and over again and checking on the garden three times in a morning.

DF: Yeah, I don't have much of a—my life was work, and my work might've ended up being a little better for that. I think my family suffered for it. I was—you know, I talked about what a good mother Patsy was. I was nowhere near the father that she was a mother, nor the grandfather that she is a grandmother. And so much of my life has been my work that when you do retire, there really isn't anything to do. I'm sure as hell not gonna go out and play golf, and I'd have to take Ping-Pong up again, and I don't think my eyes are good enough for Ping-Pong. So this—whatever the thing is that I do down in Little Rock has

been a godsend. I mean, if nothing else, it gets me out of the house two days a week. They're very nice to me at the university—very, very nice to me at the university—always have been. So much better [*laughs*] than I deserve. I go by Ferritor Hall every once in a while and I just shake my head and think, "What in God's name was on their mind?" [*Laughs*] And they give—they've given me an office over there. [*Phone rings*] They move me about every three days, but that's okay. [*SL laughs*] But I spend two days down in Little Rock and three days in Old Main. And I pretend to work, and they pretend to pay me. I'm not quite sure what I do. [*SL laughs*] I've—I'm still pretty heavily involved in community activities. I'm on the Fayetteville Public Library Board. I'm about to finish up my term as president of that board and find out how little I know about libraries. But, golly, we've got a good library. It's a wonderful, wonderful operation. And I'm on the Washington Regional Medical [Center] Board [of Directors]. And talk about knowing nothing—I mean, I don't even know what they're talking about. They talk in letters. Everything is an acronym.

SL: Uh-huh.

[03:46:10] DF: Yeah. I mean, the "How's your BP?" I—was that "How's your bippy?" I don't know. [*SL laughs*] It's—that's

blood pressure, by the way. And so, anyway, I'm—I just kind of sit there through all the board meetings and write down these letters and then think, "Someday I'll ask a doctor what they all mean." I—at least I'm able to understand the financial part on that board, so I still keep my contact on that board.

[03:46:43] SL: Here's a—before we get to your family, what was it like then and what is it like now dealing with the University [of Arkansas] Board of Trustees?

DF: Well, the—I guess I always had very good relationships with the Board of Trustees. But, in part, the one advantage that the system has is that the system president does—interacts with the Board of Trustees much more than the chancellor does. I had less business relationship with most members of the board than I think Dave Gearhart does now. I think they're probably working a little more closely with the Board of Trustees than I did. I thought we had good Board of Trustees members the whole time that I was chancellor. There were some that I knew better than others. But by—and, you know, I think there was really only one board member that I had much conflict with at all, and it was over athletic issues, that—the general feeling that the university didn't support athletics as much as it should—that—and that issue was that the state in those days allowed the

university to take—started off three hundred and fifty thousand dollars of state money and give it to athletics, and I wouldn't do it. They didn't need it. They had—they were self-supporting. But this guy thought that any penny they got was something that they could spend well, and so that, I think, was the only conflict I had. But, truly, the Board of Trustees in the days I was there was much more—interact—interacted with either Ray Thornton or Alan Sugg. I get the feeling now that the board—that Dave Gearhart or John White will talk to more board members individually than I ever did. I saw 'em at board meetings and at football games and those kinds of things—bowl games—those kinds of things. But, by and large, my relationship was probably distant. That worked for me.

[03:49:22] SL: Well, and the makeup of that board is determined by the sitting governor. Is . . .

DF: Yes.

SL: And so it kind of reflects what's going on at the time of that governor's tenure.

DF: Oh, and it, I mean, certainly reflects other things. If you look at the Clinton appointees, which were by and large the people that I dealt with, tho—the Clinton appointees were all lawyers and bankers. That's probably a slight exaggeration, but not too

much. And today they're all businessmen. The [Governor Mike] Huckabee board's very different from the Clinton board. Very, very different. Not better or worse, just different interests, different people. And so your interaction with the board is really—a board for me, at least in my day, was presenting things to the Board of Trustees, and you gotta know your audience, no matter who they are. And so, you know, I would deal with the audience that I had. I've watched the board that we've got now, and they ask very different kinds of questions than the board that I dealt with. And they're questions that off the top of my head I don't know that I'd know the answer to now, but I knew the answer to the ones that I thought that I was gonna get asked.

[03:50:55] SL: Mh-hmm. And do you have much to do with the board now?

DF: As little as possible. [*SL laughs*] I [*laughs*—people would always say, "Golly, you get to go to all those bowl games and the Final Fours and all those," and I'd go, "I hate it! I hate it! I don't want to go to them. [*Laughs*] First place, the bowl games are at Christmastime, and it's the only time I have off. And, secondly, you got all the board together, and things happen when you put the board together." So I didn't—I liked an arm's-

length relationship, and I just can't believe the number of the nice board members that we had. And I don't think people realize the amount of time that those people give to that activity. And, you know, when I—as chancellor, I did a lot of volunteer work—was on boards and things like that. But when I went, the university paid my salary. I didn't get docked for leaving at three o'clock. When the lawyers went, they weren't making any money. The doctors went—they weren't making any money. Nobody was paying them, so there's a time cost, a cost away from your family. I think it's wonderful that people will give ten years of their life—ten years of their life to serve on a board, so I applaud 'em, but also keep a safe distance. [Laughs] But they're—I'm not dealing with things that the current board would be very interested in.

[03:52:37] SL: They had a question about the, I guess, the changing technologies and developments in the sociology area of study. Do you—I'm sure technology has affected sociology studies, just like it has everything else in the world.

DF: Well, there's—in—and I think I have to disclaim knowing very much about sociology. I'm—it's been a while since I've been involved, but there are all kinds of changes that the people who are doing sociology have to take advantage of. Some of 'em are

good. Some of 'em present some difficulties. [03:53:29] You know, sociology is big in terms of doing sampling and drawing samples of people that they hope will be representative of large populations. Traditionally, that's been done on telephone interviews. Today, if you're not doing it on cell phones, you gotta wonder are you getting a representative sample. I've got—my three kids—two of 'em I don't think even have landlines. They just deal—they deal with cell phones. So there's—the way you collect data is different. The sophistication of computing technology allows the sociologist to do analysis of data that's—just could never have been done. Back in the old days, when I started off in my statistics class, I had a slide rule, for heaven sakes. I—first electronic calculator I thought the—was the end of the world. [*Laughs*] I thought, "My God, they can't go any farther than that." So it's different. But, you know, teaching—I think the technology has reached into the teaching. I was talking to a colleague, and he had decided that his time with the students was precious and that their time with him was precious, and that to get maximum use of their time with him, he probably didn't need to be lecturing. He needed to be interacting with the students in some way. So essentially, what he's doing is he's taping all of his lectures, and the lectures are

on the Internet. The students view the lectures and the content before they come into class, and in class he deals with . . .

SL: Question and answer.

DF: He deals with question and answer. He pushes them. They're working in groups. But they're getting what they paid for, which is not a textbook which is what a lecture is. A lecture is a textbook given orally. And so that kind of thing is changing. And, you know, I'm still not sure—I was used to—when they went from blackboards to green boards. And now they're talking about Smart Boards. [*SL Laughs*] No board I know is very smart. [*SL laughs*] So, you know, I had to get out while the gettin' was good. I was probably in the performer category of teaching. I taught big classes, and big classes require a little more lecture than anything else. And so I probably was more of a performer than I was a—dealing in a small kind of symposium class.

[03:56:21] SL: Mh-hmm. Okay. I do want to start talking about your family. Is there anyone—you know, over your span of your career, you have interacted—you have worked alongside or maybe in some instances against, or on the other side of the fence with a lot of different personalities—some of them well

known. You've already kind of paid homage to the people that make things happen that never get heard about. What about—do you have anything to say about some of the folks that you've worked with that we do know those names, like—I just heard you talking about Frank Broyles. Is there anything that you want to say about Frank . . .

DF: You don't have to say Broyles. All you have to do . . .

SL: Coach.

DF: . . . is say, "You talkin' about Frank."

SL: Yeah.

[03:57:15] DF: And everybody will know what you're talking about.

I had a wonderful time with Frank. We had [*laughs*]*—*we had our differences. I think he recognized very soon that I knew nothing about athletics, but I think we developed a good working relationship. I was amazed at Frank's—what I thought were his strong, strong, positive attributes. He had an inc—he had just an incredible ability to see what was gonna be needed in the future, to know what somebody needed to do and where we needed to be in a certain period of time. I'm not sure he was quite as good at figuring out today and how to deal with today's problems, but his vision was something that was amazing to me. And his ability to motivate people to get them to see that vision

and get excited about it. And, I mean, he just became a cheerleader and believed everything, and he just wove a magic around. And I was just amazed that somebody could take a crowd and move 'em where he wanted 'em to be. I also was amazed at—one of the things that he and I would disagree about, and there were many of 'em, and—but it does no good to talk about 'em. In fact, most of 'em I can't even remember. But we would talk—we would exchange—we would perhaps raise our voice—probably me raise my voice a little more than he raised his voice. And when we got to the end, I said, "This is what we're gonna have to do." And sometimes it was what he wanted; sometimes it wasn't what he wanted. The minute I said, "This is what we have to do," he not only picked up on it, he justified it all, he became a cheerleader, and within ten minutes, I'm not sure he didn't think he thought of it.

[03:59:48] But whatever Frank Broyles did, he did with his whole heart and his whole soul. And I don't think he worked any harder on ideas that he thought we ought to do than he did on ideas that I thought we ought to do. But I enjoyed the time. I've got one Frank Broyles story. It's actually not a Frank Broyles story. It's a Dan Ferritor story to—just in case anybody ever listens to this and says, "He really does know something



about athletics." [SL laughs] Christmas Eve—I'm gonna think it was 1988, but I'm—it was thereabouts—1988—I get a call on Christmas Eve, and it's from Frank, and it's around eight o'clock, and he said, "We gotta talk." And I said, "What do we have to talk about?" And he said, "I'm afraid that Johnny Majors is gonna get the job," and I think he said at [University of] Pittsburgh, but I can't remember. And I said, "Who's Johnny Majors?" [SL laughs] I think I knew. He said, "He's the coach at [the University of] Tennessee." And I said, "What's that got to do with us, Frank? It's Christmas Eve." He said, "Tennessee'll offer Kenny Hatfield [University of Arkansas head football coach 1984–89] the job, and we've got to be ready. We've got to know who we're gonna hire." I said, "Frank, Johnny Majors hasn't taken the job at Pittsburgh," and I said, "Ken Hatfield hadn't been offered the job." And I said—he said, "We gotta talk." He says, "You gotta be ready for these kinds of things." And I said, "Okay, let's talk. What are we gonna do?" He said, "We need to hire Steve Spurrier." And I said, "Spurrier?" I said, "Is that the coach at Duke [University]?" [SL laughs] And he said, "Yeah." I said, "Frank, I don't know much about athletics, but the University of Arkansas is not gonna hire a football coach from Duke." I said, "Duke is a basketball

school." And I said, "Spurrier might've been a good quarterback, but," I said, "come on." He said, "Spurrier is the coach of the future." I said, "Frank, Spurrier is the football coach at Duke. It's Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas. I'll talk to you later." Hung up the phone and went in and I said, "Patsy, Frank's lost it. He thinks we oughta hire the football coach at Duke." There you go. Do I know my sports or do I know my sports?

SL: Yeah, no kidding. [*Laughter*]

[04:02:13] DF: But that's the way Frank's mind worked. That's— that was, "This is what we've got to do. Here's where it's gonna go. This is what we have to do," and, I mean, the fact that I didn't know a football from a goal post didn't mean anything. It was that on Christmas Eve that's where Frank was. Frank was in the future. "This is where football's going. Here are these nineteen things that have to happen. But if they do happen, this is where we're gonna be, and we're gonna be there first." And when I talk about good people that you work with, that's a good person. That's a good person. And my best story about Frank Broyles is when I became chancellor, I talked to him. Actually, I had never even met the man. And he said, "Well," he says, "good to know you. Good to work with you," and he said, "I'll be

retiring in five years." [*Laughter*] I said, "Okay. Pretty good."
I think Ray Thornton called. I said, "Ray, Frank Broyles said he's
gonna retire in five years." Ray said, "Frank says that all the
time." [*SL laughs*] I—what was that then—twenty-five years
later?

SL: Yeah.

[04:03:24] DF: That five years came true. So he knew his sports. I
absolutely refused to call him "Coach," however, because I told
him that that was one of his big problems. I said, "Frank, people
call you Coach." And I said, "Number one, you're not a coach."
And I said, "When"—I said, "There are few words in the English
language that when we say them, we give almost full acceptance
and belief to the person." I said, "General's one of 'em," and I
said, "Father or Pope's another one"—my Catholic background.
And I said, "Coach is another one." And I said, "People need to
quit calling you Coach." I said, "You're an athletic director and
you need to act like an athletic director." [*Laughs*] He didn't
like that.

SL: Yeah, but that's a good point.

DF: But they still call him Coach, and he will . . .

SL: Yeah, I still call him Coach.

DF: He will be Coach—he will be Coach forever. But, you know, I

went out of my way to never call coaches "Coach," and for the most part, unless I'm talking to a physician, I don't use titles. I—probably some kind of maverick sociologist in me—I think titles get in the way of people communicating and interacting with one another, and I never liked titles at all. And it—and I still don't. So—but that's—those are quirks.

[04:05:03] SL: What about [Governor] Bill Clinton?



DF: Bill Clinton was a—he was an interesting person to work for—I mean, to say he was the consummate politician is to say what everybody all—already knows. Bill Clinton—my perspective was Bill Clinton didn't really care that much about higher education. That wasn't the wagon that he was gonna hitch his horse to. Public education was something that he was really interested in. Higher education—I don't think he was interested in it. I don't think he cared that much about it. That's probably being a little unfair. The thing he liked most and saw as a real accomplishment was increasing the college-going rate. But that's again his interest in high schools. I don't think—I didn't enjoy working with him that much. He was more of a politician than I was. And, I mean, one of the best quotes—and I assume it's true. I've never—I've read it but not heard it—that Bill Clinton said was, "I've kept every promise I meant to keep," and

[*laughs*] when you're getting commitments from a governor that he's gonna fund something, you want him to fund it, and you don't want to know that that was a Tuesday commitment and today's Wednesday, and—so the governor's got lots and lots of things that have to be dealt with. And, you know, Ray Thornton said something to me once that—that's always stuck with me with regard to politicians and to a lot of other people. And Ray Thornton says, "The hardest thing about being a politician is people come to you with a hundred good ideas, and they're all good, and you know they're good. And they're worthwhile, and you know they're worthwhile. And you can only help 'em on four of 'em. And you gotta say no to people for things that are good and important and worthy." And dealing with governors, they know that higher education is important, but prisons might be more important right now in their life. So the politicians are hard people to deal with. It's a almost alignment of the moon before you can get a politician to be able to seriously consider your proposal because he or she has a hundred others that are equally as good as yours and has got limited resources.

[04:07:47] So you—my dealing with Clinton—I dealt with him for, gosh, eight years. Then he became president. They were good years for higher education, but I always thought his

interest was focused someplace else. He released three million dollars for Old Main. If you remember, I was talking about the Old Main project. It was really about eleven million dollar project, and we raised four and we bonded four, and we were still about three short, and he released that money that he didn't have to. So, you know, I say, "Thank you. Thank you, Governor." And always did. I mean, the thing I didn't like about Bill Clinton was, more times than I'd like to even remember, I either preceded him or followed him in speaking. [SL laughs] And, you know, you don't follow dogs—talking dogs and laughing children and Bill Clinton, and I had to do it. So those were—I mean, my normal speech phobia just went up to high gear on that. Boy, I'd almost pick up that bottle of stage-fright medicine, but I never did. The bottle's still unopened.

SL: [Laughs] You know . . .

[04:09:07] DF: But I liked him. I liked him—working with him much better than I did [Governor] Jim Guy Tucker. Jim Guy Tucker was—he just really didn't seem to have much time for higher education, and I—my overlap with [Governor Mike] Huckabee was only months so it was mostly Clinton and Tucker for my time as chancellor.

[04:09:35] SL: Senators? Congressmen?

DF: Absolutely loved [US Senator] Dale Bumpers. Dale Bumpers and [US Senator] David Pryor were just—they were godsend in different ways. David Pryor was not well placed to help us, and when somebody in a university talks about help, they're talking about money. And Dale Bumpers was chairman of [the Senate Subcommittee on] Ag[riculture] Appropriations during some of the years that I was chancellor. And he was able to—the Poultry [Science] Center was funded because of him. I don't know how many—must be well o—now, I'm grabbing—but well over a million dollars in legitimate money that came to the University of Arkansas because Dale Bumpers was the senator. It is not a surprise that the College of Agriculture [and Home Economics] is the Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture [Editor's Note: Officially renamed Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences in 1995]. He did so much for the university. David Pryor did anything that we asked him to do, but he was—again, he was on the Aging Committee [United States Senate Special Committee on Aging]. He was on [United States Senate Select Committee on] Ethics—he was never quite well placed to be on that committee. [04:10:57] I think I told you a story off campus—I mean, off camera—that I'll repeat. When we had the dedication of Old Main, [US Senator J. William] Fulbright and

Bumpers—and it was the first time they'd been on a stage together, because Bumpers defeated Fulbright [in the 1974 Democratic primary election], and Fulbright never fully got over it. And not being a politician, I didn't quite understand that, but they were on the stage together, and they made nice and Bumpers got up and got up to the microphone, and Fulbright was sitting there, and Bumpers said, "Every time I give Ferritor another million dollars, he names something else after Fulbright." And we just laughed. And at the time I knew that we were gonna name the college of agriculture after Bumpers. He didn't think we were. He thought we were gonna name, perhaps, the Poultry [Science] Center—he knew something was gonna get done, but he didn't think it was gonna be an entire college. And so he was absolutely great, and to be able to sit in a room with Senator Pryor and Senator Bumpers—they tell stories and reminisce. It was just—you know, I'm just a little kid from Kansas City. I'm—I don't get to play in the—in those leagues. [04:12:18] They cared very much about the university, and Bumpers was in a position to help. It was kind of interesting—when Betty Fulbright died—Elizabeth Fulbright died, Senator Fulbright came—we had a memorial service here on campus. Now, she never really liked Fayetteville, I don't think.

She was mainline Philadelphia [Pennsylvania], and they spent most of their time in Washington, DC. But when she died, there was a memorial service here. And after the service I—we went down and I took Fulbright to the airport, and the plane was delayed by two or three hours. I don't remember why. But—so I sat there and talked to him—the most delightful three or four hours in my life, and he said, "Oh, by the way," he said, "I want a scholarship named in Betty's honor. And I said, "Okay, what kind?" And we talked a little bit about it, and so I said, "Okay, I'll write something up and send it to you," and I said, "I think"—I started to say—not sure I even got that far—"that endowed scholarships are fifteen thousand dollars." He said, "Would a hundred and twenty-five thousand do?" And I said, "Oh, Senator, you just have no idea." And I began to think of what—we ended up sending—the student goes over to Europe on a scholarship. But anyway, he pulls out his checkbook and writes this check for a hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars and hands it to me, and I said, "Okay, I'll"—[*SL laughs*] "I'll give this to our treasurer. When do you want us to deposit it? I'll wait till you get back and everything." He said, "Oh, no, don't worry about it." He says, "It'll clear." [*Laughs*] I thought, "Oh, gosh."



[04:13:59] But I finally worked up my nerve, and I said,

"Senator, back in the good ol' days," I said, "you were chairman of [the United States Senate Committee on] Armed Services. We had a Democratic president, a Democratic Congress, [US Representative] Wilbur [D.] Mills was chairman of [the House Committee on] Ways and Means, [US Senator John L.] McClellan was chairman of the whole Appropriations Committee [US Senate Committee on Appropriations]," and I said, "We got nothing, and Arkansas got a river." I said, "Why?" He said, "You never asked." I said, "Never asked?" He said, "You never asked." I got on the plane the next week and went up and met with Senator Bumpers, and I told him the story. And I said, "Senator, I'm asking." And he put his staff on anything that could be reasonably done, and, you know, now they're called earmarks and feeding at the pig trough and all of those things. When you look and see what he was able to do in helping us on the Poultry [Science] Center to be able to bring the poultry community—business community together to jointly fund—and we've now got one of the—the best poultry centers in the world—gonna tell me that's bad? It's not bad. That's good.

SL: Yeah.

[04:15:27] DF: Yeah, you wanna call that a earmark or feeding at the trough, you get to call it. We're hogs. We like to feed at the

trough. But I don't think Senator Bumpers ever got money to us that I thought, "This one's a tough one. I feel a little squeamish about it." But he just did an enormous job for us. And then when Senator Pryor retired, I called him and said, "Hear you're retiring. Congratulations," and all this. And I said, "We'd like you to come here and be a distinguished professor for the next year." And he did, and I forget what we called him—the "somebody distinguished professor." [Editor's Note: Pryor served as the Fulbright Distinguished Fellow of Law and Public Affairs for the spring 1997 semester.] It was the best academic year that I remembered and that I've ever had in my whole life and that Pryor helped us put that together. So he was able to help in the ways he was able to help. Bumpers was able to help in the way he was able to help. And it was just amazing. Those people were so responsive. Certainly, that—and those were—they were the ones in during my time, so we were a very fortunate state. [04:16:49] But, you know, I still think about head of appropriations—senate appropriations. That's the [US Senator Robert] Byrd position. Hell, he funnels money to this little Jesuit college there—they've probably got a bigger endowment than Harvard does now [Wheeling Jesuit University, West Virginia]. Ways and Means—everything went through

Ways and Means on the House side. Armed Services—all that money went to Texas. You gotta say, "Good job, Lyndon" during those years. [Editor's Note: Lyndon Baines Johnson served on the United States Senate Committee on Armed Services.] But Fulbright said, "You never asked." I was with Bumpers—I said, "Senator, I'm asking."

SL: [*Laughs*] "I'm asking."

[04:17:28] DF: And they helped. Absolutely wonderful. We developed a great relationship with his staff, and they helped us get better relationships with [US Representative] John Paul [Hammerschmidt]—John Paul was never—he had the similar Pryor—problem that Senator Pryor had. He was never quite on the right committees for us. He was on [the House of Representatives Committee on] Transportation [and Infrastructure] though, and the first parking garage that we got—we tried to figure out a way to make that a parking garage and then decided that the big transportation bill was called the Interlocal Bill, and so we went up and argued that this was interlocal. We had our buses going in it, cars, and feet, and Hammerschmidt says, "We'll get it done." And he worked with Bumpers, and most of that building was funded through UMTA [Urban Mass Transportation Act] money. And, again, money

that we got from people that helped us. So we did well. We did well. We had without a doubt the two best senators in the Senate for my years. So—and one of 'em you probably know a little better than most. [Editor's Note: David Pryor is Scott Lunford's brother-in-law.]

[04:18:45] SL: You know, he's gonna—actually, he's gonna teach a course. He's gonna co-host a course.

DF: He told me he was.

SL: Yeah.

DF: He told me he was.

SL: This semester.

DF: That year that he was here as a—the programs he put on—and in [*laughs*] his own way, he said, "Well, Dan, what am I gonna do?" He says, "I'll tell you what." He said, "Like," he said, "let's say somebody in political science has a dental appointment. I could teach their class." [*SL laughs*] I said, "That's not how it's gonna work, Senator." [*Laughter*] "That's not how it's gonna work." [*Laughter*] But he did go in and teach a lot of people's classes, and he was there, and he brought in people. And you see what the Clinton School is doing down there now—what Skip [James L. Rutherford III] and those people are doing and bringing in the speakers. That's Senator Pryor. That's—he did

that for us. Well, and he also obviously started the Clinton School [Founding Dean of the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service]. So he was an absolute—absolutely wonderful. And the last time I talked to him he said he was gonna come up here, and he's teaching. Have they got a house or something?

SL: Yeah, they bought a house over by Woody and—over there on Sunset [Drive].

DF: Oh, that's right. That's right. He told me that.

SL: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm.

DF: So that's—great. We had awfully good luck. And I just don't know much about the—"Senator Pryor two [US Senator Mark Lunsford Pryor]," and Senator . . .

SL: Mark.

DF: . . . [US] Senator [Blanche Lambert] Lincoln. Yeah. I—I'm sure they're helpful. I've just—they're after me.

[04:20:25] SL: Yeah, yeah. Okay. What about your family—yours and Patsy's family?

DF: I got lucky.

SL: You did.

DF: I got lucky.

SL: How'd that—how'd . . .

DF: I got—'cause they had a good mother and because we compromised, and I've already told you what compromise meant.

SL: Yes.

DF: Talk about it and then we do what she wants. [*SL laughs*] And I do look back, and while they were very fortunate to have a mother, I think they got cheated a little bit on their father. And it's—you know, it's easy to say that the reason that you're not around is because you got work to do, but you're making choices. And those choices have consequences. And once you go back and realize that you made the choice, you don't get to remake it because their childhood's gone. So I regret that—some of the choices that I made, but I made 'em. Fortunately, most of the really hard time that I spent as chancellor, where I really was gone a lot, they were already grown and out having families of their own. But they've all done well. They've all done well in life, and we have five great grandchildren—five—not great-grandchildren. We have five wonderful grandchildren. God, I hope we don't have any great-grandchildren. Looking that old, do I?

SL: [*Laughs*] No, you look fine.

DF: Somebody look at that camera and see if I look that old.

SL: Is there a . . .

DF: That's what I need to do is get a face-lift.

[04:22:07] SL: Is there a story that you can tell about each of your children? Or is that an unfair question?

DF: Oh, it's a—yeah, I think that's maybe an unfair question. [*SL laughs*] I'll start off with my youngest because the best story ever happened, I thought—I was chancellor, and I always thought the kids had a special problem going through the university where their father was the chancellor. My oldest daughter—we only had one year of overlap, and actually my two daughters we only had one year of overlap. But my son—he did the whole four years with me. But at one point he was [*laughs*—there was some kind of a bust of an apartment, and it was a bookie joint. And the—they went in and they got all the records, and there were hundreds of people that had placed bets with this bookie. But Cannon Whitby, who was a basketball player, was one of 'em, and a guy named Witte and I forget which son it was, but one of Al's sons, and Al was the NCAA representative, and Sean Ferritor. And so Sean's name was on the list, and so I get a call one day and was panicked. Sean says, "Dad, I just got a call." I said, "Okay." [*SL laughs*] He said, "It was from a reporter." I said, "What'd he say?" He said,

"He says, 'Sean Ferritor?' I said, 'Yeah.' He said, 'Is Dan Ferritor your father?'" I said, "What'd you say?" He said, "Yeah. Should I have lied?" [*Laughter*] "No, Sean, you shouldn't have lied." [*Laughter*] There's only one Ferritor in the whole southern part of the United States." [*Laughter*] "Who the hell do you think is your father?" [*Laughter*] But I thought it was—it was tough . . .

SL: Yeah.

[04:24:02] DF: . . . tough being a—oh, the preacher's son is always got a tough go. And my daughter—my middle daughter, I think—she's very shy—extraordinarily well in school—double major in psychology and French.

SL: Oh, that's what my daughter is doing.

DF: I made her go do her junior year abroad. She did not want to do it. She said, "No, I don't want to." I made her do it. I said, "If you're gonna be a French major, you can't just learn the language. You've got to learn to think. You've got to learn the culture. You've got to become French or it doesn't work." So I made her go over there, thinking she was the least likely—the least outgoing of my children by far. And that going not only to a new school, but a new country and a new language—all of those kinds of things. And she just absolutely blossomed, and

did a wonderful job. Came back and has been teaching French ever since at the high school. So I pushed her maybe harder than I should've pushed. But my other daughter, Kim—my oldest daughter—was—she—she was "Miss Everything." She—she did well her entire life and still does—still goes in and—you know, I said my sister walked in a room and took over. My daughter walks in a room and takes over. And she ended up—she works in the health insurance business. I have one daughter who teaches, and my son has this catering company in Washington, DC, where—have you ever had a frozen margarita?

SL: Yeah.

[04:26:05] DF: He's got fifty frozen margarita machines and he caters parties all over Washington, DC—has trucks and employees and all of this stuff. And not too long ago, I was over at an event in Helena, and Blanche Lincoln was there, and I went up and said, "Senator, my name's"—she said, "I know who you are, but I know your son, Sean, a lot better. He caters all my parties." [*Laughter*] So the kids have done well, and I . . .

SL: Yeah.

DF: . . . think that's a credit to their mother. And they didn't have the kind of—they didn't have the tight cocoon that we had. We made a decision not to send them to Catholic schools, but to

send them to public schools. I'm kind of a latter-day—I believe private schools are important, but I think they take away from the quality of public education. And so I'm much more sensitive to it, and it's very odd for a person that's never sat in a public desk.

SL: Yeah.

[04:27:14] DF: And how I became chancellor of a public university is beyond me. I mean, Orville Henry [longtime sports columnist for the *Arkansas Gazette*, *Arkansas Democrat*, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and Stephens Media] couldn't understand it either because I didn't go to a Division I school. Somehow he thought that you had to go to a Division I school to be that. And I said, "Orville, not only the school," I said, "I don't know anything about athletics. I'm a big Ping-Pong player."
[*Laughter*] He didn't think very highly of me. But I'm—I really believe that public education is the most critical thing that any community can have and that they need to have as good a public education as possible. And to the extent that private education competes with it, I—I'm not sure I think that's very good. But I sure like that people have the choice of what they want. I—I'm certainly not an advocate of homeschooling, but I think you ought to have that choice.

SL: Options, mh-hmm.

[04:28:13] DF: The options are important. So I guess I'm a little bit of two minds with regard to that. But we did decide that our kids were gonna get a public education. And my mother—it killed her. We lived in St. Louis, and when I—we made the decision, she said—I said, "We're sending Kim," who was then the oldest, "to Jackson Park," was the name of the school. And she said, "You're not gonna send her to Catholic school?" And I said, "Well, the public school is nearer," and I said, "She's young, and we're gonna have her walk to school." And I said, "I just think that the distance and all"—my mother said, "Okay." She came up the next time. We went to church, and she said, "Is this where the school is?" And I said, "Yeah." And she said, "It's the same distance as the public school." We lived absolutely in the middle. I said, "Mother, I marked it off and the public school is a full foot and a half closer to our house [*SL laughs*] and we just decided that we wanted her to walk to school and chose the nearest school." My mother didn't think that was very funny.

SL: Yeah.

DF: But it—that was a decision, and, you know, each generation does things in a different way, and all of our kids are sending

their kids to public schools.

[04:29:35] SL: So how are—what are the age ranges of your grandchildren?

DF: It—the—well, it's easier to say the year they were born. My daughter was born in [19]64, so she's forty-four. My next daughter, [19]65. She just had a birthday, so she's probably forty-two or forty-three. My son was born in—he's gonna turn forty in—in November. So I got a forty, forty-three and forty-four, I think.

SL: And—but what about your grandchildren? How old are your grandchildren?

DF: Grandchildren are fifteen [Kelsey King] . . .

SL: Wow.

DF: . . . ten [Kendell King], seven [Quinn Kulp], four [Sean Michael Ferritor], and two [Allyson Ferritor].

[04:30:15] SL: And is it your mission in life now to spoil them or . . .

DF: Ah, Patsy's mission in life. I've—probably shouldn't admit this on tape, but I think my kids know it. Every day of their life I like my kids better than I did the day before, and largely that was because they became more adult. [Laughter] And I could deal with 'em on my level rather than dealing with them on their level.

SL: Yeah.

DF: Which my daughter, Kim, likes to point out that that's because I'm a selfish son of a—I don't need to go into [*SL laughs*] all that she says. [*SL laughs*] So I don't spoil 'em any more than I have to, but Patsy is—does a good job of—she just finished grandmother camp, where she had [*SL laughs*] the kids from here and the seven-year-old from Kansas City down, and God, I can't believe all the stuff she did with 'em. And she was just tired. I mean, worn to a frazzle. She's as old as I am, and they're young. And we've rented a house on the Outer Banks [of North Carolina] for the week of Thanksgiving, and all the families are gonna go out there, and Sean will come down from Washington, DC. It's not very far for him to drive.

SL: Right.

[04:31:42] DF: The first time he brought his—then he just had one—he had a son. He brought his son down. They flew down on a plane. He got off the plane and I could just tell he was fuming. He said, "You wanna know when I'm coming back here again?" I said, "When?" And he said, "When he's old enough to drive a car back here. I'm not gonna take him on a plane again as long as I live." [*Laughs*] So I felt just a little bit of—vindication's not the right word. [*SL laughs*] But that's not the right word. But,

you know, I used to say—they—somebody once asked me, did I want to live long, and I said, "I want to live long enough that Sean has to wipe the drool off my cheek." [*SL laughs*] And the other day he called and said something about—his name is Sean Patrick, and he named his son Sean Michael. But he—he's got a younger daughter named Allyson, who's about two years old. He said, "Well, I just got back from taking Sean and 'PITA' to the swimming pool, and we had fun and everything." And I said, "Who's PITA?" "Oh," he says, "I'm sorry, that's what we call Allyson." And I said, "What's PITA?" And he says, "Pain in the ass." [*Laughter*] Once again, vindication. [*Laughter*] It couldn't happen to a better person. [04:33:09] And it's kinda neat to see your kids grow and develop, because the—my middle daughter had the children first, and my older daughter just loved the kids and she was the greatest aunt in the world. But Sean—and if the child would cry, he'd leave the room, go outside and pace. I mean, literally just pace outside. He'd get so nervous. "I just can't stand for that kid to cry. Something's the matter. You gotta do"—and he just—he didn't want to touch him, didn't want to pick him up. I can't imagine a better father. [*SL laughs*] I cannot imagine a better father. It is truly—and this is another cohort thing—and as male and—traditional male and

female, as Patsy and I were—Sean and his wife don't seem to know that there's a difference between male and female. The— whoever needs to do the job does the job, and that's so wonderful to see, but he's just an absolute perfect father, so [*SL laughs*] all of my kids are good parents. And as I hate to have to admit, they're all better parents than I was. But they've all been successful—more or less stayed out of trouble. It's been good. Been good. They had a good mother. And I had a good wife. So anytime you've got a wife who knows how and enjoys compromise. [*SL laughs*] It's good.

[04:34:34] SL: Well, is there anything else . . .

DF: I . . .

SL: . . . you want to say?

DF: . . . I can't think of anything else.

SL: We've covered a lot of ground today.

DF: It all started on a . . .

SL: Now, I know you want to have two more sessions, right?

DF: Oh, I want to beat Al Witte.

SL: Yeah, that's the deal.

DF: That's the deal. I gotta beat Al Witte. I mean, he's old and fat.

Come on! [*SL laughs*] Well! [*SL laughs*] And through the whole thing he probably [*DF makes whistling sounds through his*

teeth—he whistles all the time. Did you notice that?

SL: No, he was actually . . .

DF: Didn't whistle?

SL: No, I don't . . .

DF: Did he play with coins in his hand?

SL: I don't remember. No, I don't think so.

TM: I don't remember—didn't hear it anyway.

SL: It was really . . .

DF: Al did not play with coins for two days?

TM: I'll check the tape.

DF: I'll bet he's in the—bet he took pills, then.

SL: [*Laughs*] Well, maybe so.

DF: He took pills.

SL: He was quite remarkable, actually.

DF: No, I just—I end with it all started on a cold November morning.

[04:35:22] SL: [*Laughs*] Well, do you want to say anything about Al Witte? I mean you . . .

DF: No, I worked—Al was the faculty representative for probably nine or ten of the years I was chancellor. You know, I did a lot of alumni—I won't say about—particularly about Al Witte, but I did a lot of alumni talks over the years that I was chancellor, from Kuala Lumpur [Malaysia] to Bentonville. West Fork—I did

one in West Fork once. And it's interesting, the—everybody there wants to know how old so-and-so is, and there are about ten names that I just knew were gonna come up—[James] Modisette [professor of accounting] and Witte and Phil Trapp [professor of psychology] and Willard Gatewood [distinguished professor emeritus of history] and Leo Van Scyoc—all of the people that I respected as faculty members, they were respected back then. And Al's name always came up. And you—there was never a law student who didn't know Al and didn't have intense feelings. [SL laughs] Either love or hate. [Laughter] He was the Kingsford of . . .

SL: Yes.

DF: . . . of our law school. [*Doorbell rings*]

SL: Mm-hmm.

[04:36:39 End of Interview]

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