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Bumpers College Oral History Centennial Project

Interview with

Jack Perkins
Fayetteville, Arkansas
1 May 2006

Interviewer: Teddy Morelock
Randy Luttrell was also present.

Teddy Morelock: This is completely informal.

Jack Perkins: Okay. Are we ready?

TM: We're ready. Today we are visiting with Dr. Jack Perkins, who is an emeritus professor of animal science here at the University of Arkansas [Fayetteville].

Jack, where were you born and where did you attend public school?

JP: Well, I was born in West Virginia in 1934. I started out actually in a one-room school and then in the second grade I got moved up to another school. So I just had that one year in that schoolroom. Then I went to high school in a little town called Gassaway, West Virginia. Then on to West Virginia University, and I was there a couple of—well, four years, I guess. Then I had a little round in the military—came back a couple of years later and went to work at the University of Maryland in the extension service. I did that for a couple of years and then got a

Master's degree at West Virginia [University]. I went from there to North Carolina [State University] and got a PhD there, and from there, managed to make it to Arkansas.

TM: [Laughs] So in your service—was this prior to [the] Vietnam [War]?

JP: It was. Yes.

TM: Were you raised on a farm?

JP: [I was] raised on a farm that was 650 acres. We had Hereford cattle and had some sheep—raised some crops. My dad never did anything except farm.

TM: So it was logical for you to go to West Virginia University?

JP: Yes, very much so. That was my home area. I probably wouldn't have gone, but Sears Roebuck [Company] gave me a scholarship [laughs], and I hated to let my scholarship go to waste. That kind of got me started, and [I] kept going to school.

TM: I didn't know Sears was in the scholarship business. I'd never heard of that before. Is it something unique to that area?

JP: I don't know whether it was or not. Students were awarded that scholarship every year—two or three of them. I don't know much about the history of it, really.

TM: That's a new one on me. Were you the first person in your family to attend college?

JP: Well, I didn't have any brothers or sisters. I was an only child. Yes, I guess I was [laughs] first. No, I see what you're saying. I believe my dad said he got through the fourth grade.

TM: So he didn't go to college?

JP: Right. He didn't. Mother went to high school for three years, but not long enough to get a degree. It was a situation where she had to go away from home and live in town if she went to high school. That cost quite a bit of money at the time.

TM: Well, I think it's kind of a generational thing. You're a little older than me, but that's about the same story with my parents. My dad went through the sixth grade, I think. So that's a fairly common story in rural areas, I suppose.

JP: Yes.

TM: When you went to college, what was your major—animal science, I suppose?

JP: Well, actually [laughs]—this is kind of interesting for somebody in horticulture. There was a guy in horticulture that ended up as my advisor. It was kind of catch as catch can as to who your advisor was. He ended up as my advisor, and I started taking all these horticulture courses. I said, "Hey, I want to get some of these animal science courses." "Oh, no, you just stay in horticulture." [Laughter] So I got to talking to some of my buddies who were in animal science—they called it animal husbandry then. They said, "You can change your advisor if you want to, and change your major." So I said, "Well, I believe I'll do that." [Laughs] So I went and changed my major. I spent about one semester in horticulture.

TM: So if you got that person as an advisor, you became a horticulturist.

JP: [Laughs] Yes.

TM: Who would you say was the most influential person in your career choice after you got into animal science?

JP: Well, that's not even a close call. There was a guy on the faculty at West Virginia named Harold Kidder—Bill Kidder. He was far and away the most outstanding teacher I ever had. He coached the livestock judging team, and he did a lot of different things. As a result, I spent a lot of time with him and was greatly influenced by what he thought about—professional-type things, anyway.

TM: So you wound up in more or less the same general area that he worked in? Is that correct?

JP: Right. He was trained in reproductive physiology. So I started in reproductive physiology, and when I started to grad[uate] school, I thought, “Well, that's a place I need to go.”

TM: You said you worked for [the] extension [service] in Maryland for a while before you did your Master's. What made you decide to go back to get a Master's?

JP: I got out of the service, and I'd kind of lost all my contacts as far as people I knew who I might ask about jobs and so forth. They had offered me an assistantship in the department, so I simply took a course of least resistance, really.

TM: You said, “I'm back. I want to go to school.” [Laughs]

JP: Yes. Right.

TM: How did you wind up at NC State [North Carolina State University]?

JP: Well, I had gotten married at that point in time, so there were two of us. Through Harold Kidder, who I spoke of earlier—I knew there was a professor at North

Carolina State named [Oberg?]. He was a friend of Kidder. So I wrote Dr. [Oberg?]. He said, “We’d be glad to have you come to North Carolina, but I don’t have an assistantship. There’s another guy here named Lynn [sounds like: Gogude?] that does have, if you want to work for him. I said, “Well, that sounds good to me.” It turned out he was another West Virginian. He really was a very outstanding kind of person in reproductive physiology. One of the things he did [was] he founded a sheep breed—this [polled Dorset?] breed was developed at North Carolina, and he did that.

TM: Well, I learned something there. [Laughs] I know we have a mutual friend that you attended North Carolina State with. Did you guys just get to be friends, or did you have classes together?

JP: I had heard about him before he came to North Carolina. He got there first, I guess. We had quite a bit in common. We’d see each other occasionally. George was always a guy who liked to spin a lot of yarns, and so forth. He actually cost me a lot of time when I could’ve been doing something else when he was in my office [laughs] having one of his bull sessions. I guess he came through West Virginia, and I did as well, so we had something in common.

TM: That sounds like the person I know. He likes to talk.

JP: [Laughs]

TM: Now, you said that when you left North Carolina State you came directly to the University of Arkansas [Fayetteville]. Is that correct?

JP: Yes. At North Carolina State there was a nutritionist, a Dr. Wise. I was trying to

find a job, and Dr. Wise came down to my office one day. He wasn't on my committee or anything, but he came down to my office and said, "They're looking for an animal scientist at the University of Arkansas. Would you be interested?" I said, "Well, sure, I would be." He wrote and replied to them. He always thought my wife was a really neat person, and I think that helped me a lot. [Laughter] I think if it had been up to me, he might not have recommended me too highly. [Laughs]

TM: So, as the saying goes, you married up.

JP: Yes, I did. Anyway, that's what got me there. You know, a lot of times in life it's just an association that you have or a friendship or something like that. Those sorts of things have turned out to be extremely fortunate for me.

TM: When you came to Arkansas, was it a new position, or were you replacing someone who had retired?

JP: I was replacing a guy named Sam Sabin. He had left here and went to Cornell [University]. I never did really have any acquaintance much with him. But, yes, I replaced him.

TM: Well, what were Fayetteville and the university like when you came here? It has changed quite a bit in the forty-some years you've been here.

JP: Yes, it has. I think there was only one restaurant that you could go to and get a hamburger. You'd go to [Vickmond's?] and get a hamburger [laughs], and that was about it. There just weren't many living quarters for student at that time, it seemed like. It's hard to really explain what *was* here. Where it used to be the

Holiday Inn, it's the Days Inn—where the Days Inn is located, you can just buzz through there without any trouble. There's no stop sign or anything. That was the northern limits of Fayetteville, for sure. And, you know, various things were different. For example, when I came here it was expected that everyone would work Saturday morning. I had been working Saturday mornings for a long time. [Laughs] That didn't bother me any.

TM: Did you have to teach any Saturday classes when you first came?

JP: Of course, if you consider the judging team. I taught a lot of those on Saturday.

TM: Sure.

JP: But, yes, usually there was something extra that you were expected to do at that period of time.

TM: Who were some of the other faculty that was here at the time you came?

JP: Well, one of the reasons that I came here—well, not that I came here, I guess—but one of the people I knew—this guy named [Daryl Bragg?]. He had grown up in West Virginia about five miles from where I grew up. [Laughs] His father's name was [Harv Bragg?], I think. I can remember my grandmother looking out the window and saying, "Well, here comes [Harv Bragg?] leading his old cow to breed again." [Laughs] Anyway, I was acquainted with [Daryl?]. When I got here, he said, "People in this faculty are *really* good people. Some of them are different. Now, Dr. Stallcup has a reputation of having a pretty hot temper. I wouldn't aggravate him." [Laughs] So I thought, "Well, maybe that's somebody I need to watch." Well, the first day that I was on the job, sitting there in my chair

and in came Dr. Stallcup. He said, “I just wanted to welcome you to the University of Arkansas. Anything that I have that you might be able to use or borrow, you’re more than welcome to that.” I never met a nicer guy in my life than Odie Stallcup. He wasn’t a lot of fun and games, but he was just such a sincere, dedicated kind of person. I always thought very highly of him.

TM: A very good scientist, too, wasn’t he?

JP: One of the very unusual ones that managed to do research in two different scientific disciplines simultaneously and publish in two. Most of us couldn’t publish in *one* [laughs], and he was publishing as a nutritionist and a physiologist.

TM: What was the animal industry like in Arkansas when you came? It has changed a little, I suspect.

JP: [Laughs] Oh, it’s changed immensely. It really has. I don’t know quite how to put that into perspective for us. One of the things that had just happened was they had gotten the area out at Savoy and stocked it with some cattle, and that sort of thing. They had gotten into the business of performance-testing bulls and so on, and that had kind of gotten out into the state and people were interested in that kind of topic. There was a good business of interchange back and forth between the university and the cattlemen’s association, and so forth. And as far as the cattle are concerned—well, maybe this would put it into perspective. One of the first things I did was go to DeQueen to judge a county fair, which I had done many times before. When we got down to the point where we were going to have showmanship, where the youth would compete with one another, why, they all

came out to show. Most of them had old rope halters. One guy had a hickory limb that he was using as a show stick. You know, I just really felt kind of sorry for those kids because nobody had ever told them *anything* about what procedures were in [fitting?] and showing and so forth. [Laughs] I had an opportunity to go back to DeQueen many years later—twenty or more—and people had show halters. They had nice aluminum show sticks. They really looked sharp. They knew exactly what they were out there trying to do. I thought to myself, “Boy, this is sure a big change.” [Laughs] Somebody needed to take the credit for that and, of course, most of it would’ve gone to [the] extension [service] because they were the people who were out there working with the people on the farm on a daily basis. If there was ever a doubt that they were having an impact on the people, I think that would just play there right off the hand. [Laughs]

TM: If you were judging that same fair twenty or twenty-five years later, how would the cattle have changed?

JP: They’ve changed a great deal. Just a great deal. The cattle were excellent-type cattle, and they obviously had been selected. But also they were properly conditioned and all that sort of thing.

TM: Probably a little bigger, too, weren’t they?

JP: Right. They went through that. I remember another time I was at Conway and I was judging a show. All of a sudden there was a terrific uproar at the end of the barn, and we just had to stop the show and find out what was wrong. [Laughs] It turned out that the—the cattlemen’s group, I guess, had donated a—no, it was the

PCA [Production Credit Association?—had donated a bicycle to the youth there, and a heifer had gotten loose and was right in the middle of that bicycle just tearing it all to pieces. [Laughs] A lot of funny things like that happened.

TM: Well, you haven't lived until you've been in a good county fair rodeo.

JP: Right. [Laughter]

TM: Not a rodeo *per se*, but a rodeo in the show barn.

JP: Right.

TM: Now, what was your research area? Were you still doing reproductive physiology-type work when you came here, or did you do other things as well?

JP: Yes, I did. When I was working on my Master's, which was at West Virginia, I was working with Harold [Kidder?]. Of course, that meant that I was in reproductive physiology. We were doing a lot of [palpation?] of cows and different things like that. Then when I went to North Carolina, I wanted to continue working with cattle, but that just wasn't possible because all the cattle were involved in other projects and my major advisor didn't have access to any cattle. He said, "You're just going to have to work with sheep." I'd had some experience with sheep and so forth, so I wasn't particularly upset, although I sure [wasn't?] getting my druthers. It turned out that Dr. [Oberg?] was working with sheep, and he had done something *really* unusual. He had transferred eggs from one sheep to another sheep, and that was really amazing for most people in that day and time. That got me really interested in that, too. So I started then in reproductive physiology in sheep. I don't exactly know how we got the idea, but

we started collecting fluid from the oviduct, figuring that was where the environment of the embryo was taking place was in the oviduct. We did quite a few things there. We devised some surgical techniques for recovering oviduct fluid. That really proved to be a really exciting area. Well, when I came to Arkansas, then, a couple of strikes were against me. First of all, they said, “Work with *sheep*? That’s not too good for Arkansas because we’re not a sheep state.” I said, “Well, no. You’ve got to realize that you can use sheep to answer some questions that might be important with cattle.” Anyway, that didn’t win me any friends. Eventually, I did shift over and started working with cattle and was working on body condition and body condition score.

TM: But you continued to do some sheep work here, didn’t you?

JP: I did. Yes. Mainly because I was the only one that really had much experience with sheep at that point.

TM: Well, see, if you hadn’t retired, you could probably be working with meat goats now.

JP: Yes. Right. [Laughs]

TM: I know you taught a lot of courses, Jack. What all did you teach? It seems like you taught everything that was taught in animal science.

JP: Well, I did, almost. I taught the freshman animal science course by myself, and in later years, team-taught that with some other faculty members. I figured out one day after I had retired that I probably had 6,000 students in class over the thirty-one or so years that I’ve taught. That’s a course that I taught every year all the

way until I retired. But I taught some other courses. They had a course called “breeds of livestock.” I taught that one for several years. They had another course called “sheep production,” and I taught that course. At some point in time, I was asked to teach beef production, and I taught it for about six or eight years—something like that. I coached the livestock-judging team every year.

TM: For the entire time that you were here.

JP: Right. The entire time.

TM: That’s almost a full-time job right there.

JP: You know, I was surprised that I got the job to come here because I came here on an interview and they sent me in to see Dr. John White. Dr. White was not a supporter of livestock judging and that sort of thing. He liked to talk about performance, and so forth and so on. So he was giving me this quizzing on what I would do with cattle, and how important breeding and selection and so forth were. He got me down to the point where he had me in a corner as to what I would do about livestock judging—that he didn’t think that was a worthy technique for selecting animals. Well, he kept on until I *had* to respond in some way. I said, “Well, Dr. White, let’s put it this way, if I didn’t believe that livestock judging had some merit, I really wouldn’t come here and sit here and talk to you that I wanted to coach a livestock-judging team.” [Laughter] I said, “That’s what you’re asking me to do is to coach a livestock-judging team, and I intend to use that technique.” Well, he immediately changed the subject, and he didn’t like what I’d said very well. [Laughter] Anyway, he forgot that, I guess, and went

ahead and hired me. Let's see, we were talking about courses. Horse production. I'd never had a horse-production course in my life. [Laughs] They said, "You're going to have to teach horse production." I said, "Well, all right. Give me a textbook and two or three days' lead, and I'll see if I can put something together." So I did that. It worked out not too badly. We didn't have any horses to work with, so we'd go out on field trips to various horse farms. We were down at [Askew's?] south of town one lab period. They were going to bring a mare out and bring a stud out and demonstrate safety features on breeding and so forth. When they came out, they had a halter on the mare and they had blinders on her. That was so they could keep them from carrying on and so forth. One of the students asked, "Why do they have blinders on that mare?" And I didn't even think. I said, "Oh, they're going to use an *ugly* stud on her."

TM: [Laughs]

JP: Well, a guy named Bob [Starr?] was putting on the demonstration [laughs], and he just fell over. [Laughs] He said, "I've never heard anybody say *that* before." Anyway, we had a lot of good times because we were so ignorant, I think, really. I'm sure I learned a lot more than the students did in that course.

TM: So a typical semester—what type of appointment would you have had? Say, fifty percent teaching?

JP: Yes. It was fifty to sixty percent, really. There were just no other faculty coming in, and we had to teach those courses.

TM: Well, you must've liked to teach or you wouldn't have been so agreeable on some

of those.

JP: That was kind of funny as well. I really didn't like the idea of teaching. My major prof [professor]—when I first got to North Carolina, he said, “You need to think about what you're going to do in your career and take coursework and activities that will further that. He was really a strong proponent of basic science and that sort of thing. He didn't think running around with livestock people necessarily was that much basic science. He agreed that I could do whatever I wanted to do, but he questioned that pretty seriously. Anyway, it turned out that when I got here—well, it turned out when I got to North Carolina—when I got there—as a grad student, I was expected to teach a couple of lab sections, which I had never done before. They had an old school bus that they took everybody out to labs in. The fuel gauge wasn't working, and they had a tobacco stick that they ran down into the gas tank [laughs] to see how much gas they had. Well, I kind of enjoyed that. Under the worst circumstances, it was kind of getting me back to some things that I had done before. Then I came here and I got involved in teaching. I found out that I liked teaching better than I liked anything else. I had thought earlier on that I didn't want any part of that *ever*, that that was just a waste of time. That was something that was a surprise to me, and I think a lot of it probably went back to Harold [Kidder?] because he was an outstanding teacher and probably changed my mind on that as much as anybody.

TM: So you think you actually enjoyed teaching more than research?

JP: I really did. I really did, because I've never had a research project come back to

my office and sit down and talk to me. I've had many, many students that came in and just visit and tell you what they've done in life, and so forth. So it's just one of those *really* pleasurable things. [Laughs] It supplemented your salary, so to speak. [Laughter]

TM: Did you have several graduate students while you were here?

JP: Yes, I did, usually not more than one at a time because I was so heavily involved in various things. But, yes, about one graduate student at a time. And some of those came back. We had an honors convocation a couple of weeks ago, and one of those came back from New Mexico State [University]. It was Tim Ross. Tim had been my second graduate student, I guess. He was being honored for some of the work he had done. But, no, I really did like teaching.

TM: Now, let's shift gears just a little bit. It seems I remember seeing you play the fiddle a little bit at some of these things they had around the college—various things.

JP: [Laughs] Yes, that's one of the things that I started when I was probably about twelve or thirteen years old. I got involved in music. It was just old mountain music. It was people's way of entertaining themselves. They moved from somebody's place this week to somebody else's the next, and had some refreshments and visited back and forth. There wasn't any TV to watch [laughs] and there wasn't a whole lot of anything to do. Anyway, I got involved in that. I've stayed involved. In fact, Saturday night we played up at the John Powell Center in Springdale. It's one of those things that just happened. It was certainly

not planned or anything like that.

TM: Now, is this the same group that you've played with for years?

JP: Well, the group—there have been a lot of different people that have been involved in it.

TM: There's been some turnover, then.

JP: One of the ones that people would recognize, I guess, is Donnie Dutton, the dean of adult education. I played in a band with him for several years. Gosh, I've forgotten the name of the guy who's a Supreme Court justice in Arkansas. He played some with us. Anyway, music was an interesting thing.

TM: I'm sure you've had some opportunities to leave Arkansas through the years. Why did you stay?

JP: You're absolutely right. When I came here, you just looked around and you saw a bunch of nice people that really didn't have much to work with. I thought, "Well, I'll stay here about a year and then I'll move on. By that time, I'll get another job." I had talked them about a job in South Dakota and one in Fort Robinson, Nebraska. I could see it would be possible to get another job, so I thought I would do that. Well, a year came up, and I was involved in some things right then. A really good job didn't pan out right then, so I didn't even think about it. I just said, "Well, we'll stay another year." Every year it seemed like it was a repeat. There was something that came up that [laughs] made me want to stay. As a result, I never did leave.

TM: So eventually it became home.

JP: Right. It became home. My wife is the kind of person that once she really settles into an area, she bonds with the people and so forth. Of course, that's a big factor. If you've got a wife who's wanting to go somewhere else, you may have to end up [laughs] going somewhere else. Yes, that was certainly true. In fact, that reminds me of another thing. When we moved here, I was driving a U-Haul truck and my wife was driving the car that we had. We crossed the river at Memphis [Tennessee]. You remember, I'm sure, what that looked like over there. We stopped to get gas, and my wife came around. She said, "You *lied* to me. This is not anything *like* the area you described." [Laughs] And I said, "Well, just hang on. We've got about 200 or 300 miles more to go." [Laughs] We came up Highway 23, and that convinced her that . . . [Laughs]

TM: She thought maybe you didn't lie after all.

JP: Right. Right.

TM: During your tenure, Jack, how has the university changed? Obviously, it has gotten bigger, but resources, facilities, philosophy . . . ?

JP: Well, I'm not sure that the philosophy has really changed all that much. People are still interested in doing things that would work somehow or another into food production. It's been an important area that—you don't have to be too smart to realize that you have to have food, and somebody has to produce this. As a result, you can take not just animal science, but the entire college of agriculture has really done a lot in food production. I think that's going to continue on. I think that's going to be something that will be supported. Other than that, we've got so

many techniques now that we didn't have earlier. For example, DNA [Deoxyribonucleic acid] analysis and various things like that—moving embryos around . . .

TM: Splitting embryos.

JP: Splitting embryos. Having an action where you sell embryos at an auction and so forth. I mean, that's a *drastic* change. It's amazing the things that have been done. I'm sure they'll probably continue, but I'd say that change in technology is just amazing.

TM: I went to a purebred livestock sale a couple of weeks ago, and the average for the sale was something over \$4,200 a lot. That would've been mind-boggling when you first came, wouldn't it?

JP: Oh, yes. [Laughs] Oh, yes, it really would.

TM: Well, let's be a little philosophical. What would you think was your most significant contribution to the U of A, to the state, and to science?

JP: I can tell you a little story related to that. When I went work to at the University of Maryland Extension Service, I went in—this was my first day on the job—I was sitting there in my chair, and in came this farmer that I didn't know. He introduced himself and talked a while. He said, "If you don't increase the average income in this county by a sufficient amount to pay your salary, you're just nothing but a leech." [Laughter] That's pretty rough talk, you know? [Laughs] He was about half serious and about half in humor. Anyway, that was something that made an impression on me. I guess if you asked me what my greatest

contribution would be, I'd have to say without any doubt, it's the teaching. I've probably done a little bit of research and found out a fact or two here that somebody didn't know. But teaching is what has really ended up being, to my surprise, something that I'm very proud of.

TM: When you see all those students come back and see they've been successful, that's a pretty good feeling.

JP: Absolutely.

TM: Any regrets about becoming an Arkansawyer?

JP: I think I'd have to say not a single one. Of course, the area that I grew up in is not really all that different from Northwest Arkansas. Now, it's obviously a lot different from the delta and that sort of thing. But it's been an environment that I fit into. Constantly you're going out in the state—meet people—kind of old and gray-haired now—and they say, “I was in your class.” [Laughter] No, lots of good—I could write a book about that, I guess—about all the mishaps and so forth that took place.

TM: Well, Randy, you usually have a question.

[Randy Luttrell?]: I think you ought to write that book. What sort of advice would you have for a student today coming to the University of Arkansas interested in animal husbandry?

JP: I would tell them, first of all, to pick an area that they really like. I've never known anybody that was really successful doing something that they just despised. It's really important, I think, for a student to get started with something

that he really does enjoy. There's a lot of opportunities for that, and a lot of people to help students. The advisor system that has been in place here for so many years—it does an awful amount of good by getting students pointed in the right direction and so forth.

TM: Well, you visit with students at other colleges on this campus. Quite often, they don't even know who their advisor is, so [the college of] agriculture is unique in that sense.

JP: Right. Exactly. I think that's very true.

RL: I know there's got to be just hundreds of students out there, but are there any of the students that come to mind when you think back? Are there a few of them that just pop out?

JP: Well, yes, I guess there are. Yes, a student named James Mitchell. I was his advisor. The first semester he came in with a straight F average. He came in to see me. He said, "You know, I just don't care for this school. I'm going to go ahead and let them draft me." [The] Vietnam [War] was going on then, so it wasn't any small decision. He said, "I'm going to go ahead and go into the service." Well, I didn't think much more about it. About two or three years later, he came walking into my office again. Of course, we visited a while. He had been in Vietnam. He said, "I've written out a list of courses here that I want to sign up for this semester." I looked at him. [Laughs] I said, "Jim, you've got two semesters of chemistry on here and a math course." He *really* had a monster of a [schedule]. He was trying to make up for the time that he'd lost. I said, "I

don't think that's realistic at all." He said, "Now, wait a minute. I came to see you because I figured you'd let me do what I wanted to do." [Laughs] I said, "I will. I'll sign this for you if you think you can do it." He said, "I guarantee I think I can do it." He came back in at the end of the semester, and he had almost a 4.0 average. He had a 3.89 or something like that. I thought, "Man, this is unbelievable because here's a guy—so then I talked about that. I said, "Well, what was the difference?" He said, "Motivation. When you get out in Vietnam and you're sitting in a hole over there, it doesn't take much to get you motivated to go back to school." He was one who certainly made an impression on me. Another one who made an impression on me—we went to Kansas City to a judging contest up there. At that time, these kids had to pay their way mostly to that contest.

[Tape Stopped]

JP: The contest was over, and they said, "Let's go down and eat at the Golden Hawks," or whatever it was. I said, "Well, okay." So we went down there—got in—waitress came around with a towel on her arm and everything—set up the table. One of the students sitting next to me, Claude Rutherford, said, "I don't have enough money to eat." I said, "Well, don't worry about that, Claude. I'll take care of that." Then I said, "You know, I don't want to eat in here, either." [Laughs] I just had this whole bunch of about six or eight students get up, and we *left*. Of course, it really hacked the restaurant off immensely. They had gone through setting up water for us and everything. [Laughs] But I thought, "That's

terrible. Here's a guy that—you're going to embarrass him by pointing out that he can't afford to eat." I think that people would've been a lot more supportive of livestock judging if all of them had known that kind of thing had happened to those people.

RL: Right. Is there anything you'd like to record—think about?

JP: Oh, I don't know. It's been a really, really enjoyable career. Arkansas has been an outstanding place—not only to work, but to live. There have been a tremendous number of people, both students and faculty that have gone through this university and have made an untold impact on the state and all the things that go on here.

RL: Well, I think Dr. Morelock and I have really come to appreciate that through this [oral history] project.

JP: Oh, this has been a *wonderful* project that you've got here.

RL: Yes. This is, what, [interview] forty or forty-one?

TM: I believe it's forty.

JP?: Well! [Laughs] I'm not going to ask you this, but I just wonder if you hit any duds in there. [Laughs]

RL: No, not a one.

TM: No.

JP: Okay. [Laughs]

TM: Well, thank you for visiting with us, Jack, and thank you for all you've done for the university while you were here.

JP: You're more than welcome in both cases.

TM: We appreciate that very much.

JP: I think that's an excellent idea you've got there.

FL: We've got it.

JP: How are you going to handle this from this point on? Are you going to put it together into a book or . . . ?

[End of Interview]

[Transcribed by Cheri Pearce]

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