

Mississippi State University Libraries

Lloyd-Ricks-Watson Project

Oral History

Dr. Jack Hoover

September 21, 2012

Interviewer: Dr. Mike Ballard

(Tape Side One, 000)

Dr. Ballard: Lloyd-Ricks-Watson Interview Project. Interview with Dr. Jack Hoover of Pascagoula, MS. Interview held in Stennis-Montgomery Room, Mississippi State University Libraries. Date September 21, 2012; approximately 4 p.m.

Well, today is September 24, 2012, and, as part of the Lloyd-Ricks-Watson Series, Dr. Jack Hoover is with us today.

Dr. Hoover: Thank you.

Dr. Ballard: Thank you for coming, and we're...

Dr. Hoover: You're welcome.

Dr. Ballard: ...Very delighted to have you with us, and your family...

Dr. Hoover: *(laughs)*

Dr. Ballard: And I always tell people when we do these interviews there are just really a couple of questions and then I just sit back and listen, because you can talk as much as you *(laughs)*...

Dr. Hoover: *(laughs)*

Dr. Ballard: ...as you want to... What Vance wants is (to know) what is your relationship to the building going as far back as you want to when you were young and were in

the building, what timeframe were you here, and then once you do all that, any jokes, anecdotes...

Dr. Hoover: *(laughs)*

Dr. Ballard: ...really cute nasty stories *(laughing)*...

Dr. Hoover: *(laughing)* Nasty stories?

Dr. Ballard? We've had them all the way from birds flying into offices, and...

Dr. Hoover: Oh.

Dr. Ballard: ...the flooding of the first floor...

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: And so we've had a lot of good anecdotes about the building. And how it was structured the way you remember before they did all the remodeling, so I'll just turn it over to you.

Dr. Hoover: Well, thank you. I think this is a very worthwhile project, by the way, to help document, you know, the history of what went on and so on. I think Vance's idea about doing this is outstanding, and I'm just happy to be a part of it. My father was an Agronomist, and we moved here from Ames, Iowa, where he got his PhD degree, and I was six years old at the time, in first grade. He preceded us here to Starkville so that he could find us a place to stay and all that.

Dr. Ballard: Mm-hm.

Dr. Hoover: So, I really grew up here in Starkville, and (I) also lived on the campus of Mississippi State later when our family moved since he was on the faculty. I have very fond memories of the building, and being in the building many times when I was a kid and I would go there. My dad's office was on the third floor, and I think I'm correct on that, and he was in a corner office which, actually, it looks right out

over the football stadium; he was on that side of the building. And I just remember many, many times as a little kid going up there and he'd be shuffling papers, and doing on the telephone, and doing that kind of work. And, of course, I was a little brat, sort of running around and getting in trouble, I suppose. But I just have fond memories of going up there with my dad and being there and being a part of it, you know; and these memories are more fun now that I think about it. And I remember going through; of course, there were no elevators or anything; and I went up the stone, as I recall, really sort of stone stairs, and I'd go... I remember some Soil Testing Labs up there that were being utilized, and I'd see what they were doing, and and I'm sure I learned some (things); maybe that's where I got my love for forestry; and I now have a vineyard, by the way, in South Mississippi. So I remember all that very fondly. The thing I remember exceptionally well is my dad, being an Agronomist, had to go to all the Branch Experiment Stations in the State, which, there was one Branch Experiment Station, as he explained to me, in every soil type in Mississippi; such as the Delta, such as up in the northern part of the State, and in the coastal area, then the central area, and so on. But anyway, we'd go, my dad and I...I didn't go with him on every trip, but at least, I'd say, twice a year he had to visit each one of the Branch Experiment Stations. And we'd go in an old pickup truck that belonged to the college and spend the night up there, and I'd go out with him in the field and meet all the people and do all that kind of stuff.

Dr. Ballard: Mm-hm.

Dr. Hoover: And those were very, very fond memories that I have of doing things with my dad in his job. Going back to the building again, I just have a lot of good memories of the building. I remember something about a flood. Now, I grew up here; I came here when I was in first grade and went through the twelfth grade and then went to Mississippi State, graduated in '55, and then went off to Medical School. So my time here was really about from first grade to finishing school, and then, of course, my dad retired later; and those were the main memories I have. I

remember the building and just being up there and being with my dad and seeing all the stuff he was doing, and again, seeing all the soil testing and the things that were going on in that part of the building.

Dr. Ballard: I can't remember the year of the flood, but we've been told it was the basement water running in, I think, from the south side coming in the basement down there where there were some offices; and...

Dr. Hoover: Right... correct... yes.

Dr. Ballard: And then because of the heat/cooling problems, sometimes they opened the windows but they had no screens and so *(laughing)*...

Dr. Hoover: *(laughs)*

Dr. Ballard: They had some birds...

Dr. Hoover: *(laughing)* They had some birds come in or something?

Dr. Ballard: Yes. One of the ladies who's still up there, by the way, and she's not all that old, but she... I'm trying to remember...I think a squirrel got in her office...

Dr. Hoover: Really?

Dr. Ballard: Because there was a big tree there...

Dr. Hoover: Yes, right...

Dr. Ballard: That was blown down in a storm a few years ago, and she said the squirrel crawled all over that tree all the time. And she said she just left and closed the door and went back later and the squirrel had gone back out, so she *(laughs)*...

Dr. Hoover: *(laughs)*

Dr. Ballard: *(laughs)* She was not going to try to remove it herself...

Dr. Hoover: Right.

Dr. Ballard: ...Which was probably a good move on her part.

Dr. Hoover: Absolutely. I brought with me a plaque that I've inherited after mother and dad, of course, were deceased, and somehow or another we had this thing that says, 'C. Dale Hoover, Head,' I think it says, 'Agronomy Department,' or maybe... and I brought it today; just the little plaque that gave his name and where he was located, so I just brought that, and I'll donate that to the library.

Dr. Ballard: We really appreciate that.

Dr. Hoover: Yes. I don't really have any other artifacts available. I did bring a sort of bio on my dad that I've given you; I have a copy at home, by the way, so...

Dr. Ballard: Good.

Dr. Hoover: ...You don't have to worry about getting a copy back, and I'll give that to you because it's a pretty good summary.

Dr. Ballard: And I am going to give you a sheet to put your own bio on.

Dr. Hoover: Okay (*laughs*).

Dr. Ballard: (*laughs*) Well, I don't have it with me, I'll send it to you.

Dr. Hoover: Oh, okay. That'll be fine.

Dr. Ballard: Let me check this folder first.

Dr. Hoover: Well, my dad was in that building.

Dr. Ballard: Yes I do.

Dr. Hoover: Well, you have it; okay. My dad was in that building forever. I was thinking the last several nights trying to remember all these things, and I don't remember his office ever being elsewhere than in that building. Now, his office was not in that corner until he became Chairman of the Agronomy Department.

Dr. Ballard: Mm-hm.

Dr. Hoover: And you probably know that, of course, this, well it had something to do with the building; and that is that the Agronomy Department was the first department in the whole University, Mississippi State University, to ever offer the Doctoral Degree...

Dr. Ballard: Right.

Dr. Hoover: And then they got the Seed Program going, and the Seed Technology Lab. I remember that was a biggie; my dad worked real hard on that. I remember all these things, you know, to some extent.

Dr. Ballard: I'm just gonna read you some names and see if you remember these people...

Dr. Hoover: Okay, right...

Dr. Ballard: And if you don't, that's fine, because some of them you probably won't; they're quite a bit older, and some of these have passed on, but...

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: These are names that Vance gave us just to see...

Dr. Hoover: Right.

Dr. Ballard: Dorthea Dickens, who was in Home Economics.

Dr. Hoover: The name's familiar, but I didn't know her.

Dr. Ballard: She passed away years ago. I never met her. And Dr. Giles...did you...

Dr. Hoover: I knew Dr. Giles quite well, and if I'm not mistaken my dad brought Dr. Giles to the University.

Dr. Ballard: Hmm; that's interesting.

Dr. Hoover: I believe so. They were very good, very close friends, and I know dad thought an awful lot of Dr. Giles, and I knew Dr. Giles as a kid.

Dr. Ballard: Yeah, my Bachelor's diploma was given to me by Dr. Giles.

Dr. Hoover: Really? Wow.

Dr. Ballard: And it was strange compared to now because... It was at the football stadium...

Dr. Hoover: *(laughs)*

Dr. Ballard: ...And we were marching in; but before we started marching Dr. Giles was going down the line giving everybody their diplomas as he got to them. Presidents don't do that anymore, students have to walk by them *(laughs)*.

Dr. Hoover: Yes, yes; oh, yes.

Dr. Ballard: And he was a Historian too, and that's, of course, that's my major field, and so we had a lot of good visits; and I'm from Choctaw County and still live there, and he knew a lot about Choctaw County...

Dr. Hoover: Right.

Dr. Ballard: So we got to be pretty good buddies. Charles Lee?

Dr. Hoover: No, I didn't know Charles Lee.

Dr. Ballard: Our current President, and he was a student in Lloyd-Ricks way back, but I don't know if your path crossed his.

Dr. Hoover: No, it hasn't.

Dr. Ballard: Louis Wise?

Dr. Hoover: I knew Louis Wise very well, yeah. I'm a little bit unsure... You know, dad brought in some very, very outstanding people on faculty. The Agronomy Department was actually, at a point in time, the largest department in the whole University, but I knew him quite well, yes.

Dr. Ballard: He was one of the happiest people I ever knew.

Dr. Hoover: Correct.

Dr. Ballard: Did you ever see him without a smile on his face (*laughing*)?

Dr. Hoover: No, no; right.

Dr. Ballard: Rodney Foil, was he here?

Dr. Hoover: Now Rodney, that name is very familiar. I've run into him, but I really didn't know him that well.

Dr. Ballard: Yes. He's still around. He's had some health problems...

Dr. Hoover: Hmm.

Dr. Ballard: But he's still with us. Baker Andrews.

Dr. Hoover: I knew Baker Andrews very well. I can tell you right now where he lived. He had lived right there in that house, I think it was the second house from the road there where 'malfunction junction' is...

Dr. Ballard: Mm-hm...

Dr. Hoover: They call it 'the junction' now, I think (*laughing*); they don't call it 'malfunction' anymore. But, yeah, I knew Baker.

Dr. Ballard: Well, it's not as bad as it was (*laughs*). Now he's the one... Is he the one that came up with the... special kind of fertilizer or something that?

Dr. Hoover: I think so, but, and I'm not...

Dr. Ballard: I can't think of the name of it right now, but...

Dr. Hoover: And I don't know the name...

Dr. Ballard: Anhydrous ammonia.

Dr. Hoover: Yes, anhydrous ammonia; there ya go, yes. That was a big thing; a big breakthrough really.

Dr. Ballard: And Dean Bunch.

Dr. Hoover: Yes, I knew Mr. Bunch. Did we call him Dean, Dean Bunch?

Dr. Ballard: That's actually his name.

Dr. Hoover: His name is Dean?

Dr. Ballard: His name is Dean.

Dr. Hoover: Yes, right.

Dr. Ballard: He may have been a dean (*laughs*).

Dr. Hoover: I think, yes. I know him just by his name, Dean Bunch. Yes, I remember him.

Dr. Ballard: That's kind of like Dr. Colvard, well, what was his first name? Gosh, I can't remember.

Dr. Hoover: I don't remember what his first name was.

Dr. Ballard: Anyway, it was kind of like that, it was kind of like you couldn't tell.

Dr. Hoover: Yes, yes.

Dr. Ballard: Verner Hurt? Did you know?

Dr. Hoover: No, didn't know Verner.

Dr. Ballard: Dr. Bost, William Bost of Extension?

Dr. Hoover: No, no.

Dr. Ballard: Clarence Dorman?

Dr. Hoover: I knew Clarence Dorman very well, very well, yes.

Dr. Ballard: You can talk about him a little bit because not many people remember him; he died at such a young age.

Dr. Hoover: Yes. I remember him, and I remember all of the association that my dad (had with) Dr. Dorman. We always called him Dr. Dorman, of course. But he was a

real leader and a real great guy and did a lot of things. My dad thought so much of him. You know? Just this core group that we're talking about that I know that just were real leaders in their field. Hard workers.

Dr. Ballard: I know Dr. Bunch...

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: I didn't do that interview, but I was here for part of it, and he wanted to talk about all his travels in South America; he didn't want to talk about the... (*laughs*)

Dr. Hoover: (*laughs*)

Dr. Ballard: He didn't want to talk about Lloyd-Ricks. So we got a lot of stuff on, you know...

Dr. Hoover: About his travels.

Dr. Ballard: You know.

Dr. Hoover: Oh, I can talk to you about travels, but I won't bore you with that.

Dr. Ballard: But... Well, you know, we don't put any brakes on anybody except, I don't know if you remember... Bill Fox...

Dr. Hoover: No.

Dr. Ballard: But I had to put the brakes on him, I don't, he's... You get him wound up and he's... I've known him for a long time, but... Let's see... Well, I've got your dad's name on here, I assume you knew him (*laughs*).

Dr. Hoover: Yes, (I) knew him very well, very well.

Dr. Ballard: (*laughs*) Those are the names I had. If you can think of anybody else's that I haven't called out that made an impact on your memory...

Dr. Hoover: Let's see, you said... Did you say Andrews, Dr. Andrews?

Dr. Ballard: Right.

Dr. Hoover: Yes...

Dr. Ballard: Any of the secretaries that you knew, some of those? There are some great stories...

Dr. Hoover: I remember some secretaries, but I would not be able to call them by name. I've got to tell you just several little things. I think one of the first things I learned as a boy going with my dad, (*laughs*) and my wife's heard me say this before, but he taught me, he said, 'Son, I want to tell you something. The stuff you get on your fingernails is dirt, and that other stuff that's out there that grows crops and so forth, that's soil. So you gotta know the difference. And don't use the word *dirt* when you really mean *soil*.' So I learned early on that, you know, soil has a special meaning and that dirt is what you get under your fingernails. So, that was one thing. And another thing, my bringing up, my associations with my dad, my travels, learning about Agronomy, and he grew up on a big wheat farm in Kansas, (*unintelligible*), and then he got his PhD in Soil Chemistry. And I went, as I said, on a bunch of trips to branch experiment stations. But I suppose that's where I developed a love for the out-of-doors, and I worked in high school (during the) summers with the Forestry Department, you know, to get a summer job, and Forestry was available. And we went out to the experimental forest out here and did some pretty hard work. Well, when it came time to go to college, I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do. I had thought about medicine, but I didn't know if I could really hack that. And I had this experience in Forestry, and I loved forestry and the out-of-doors, so I went into Pre-Forestry here at Mississippi State and stayed in that for 1-1/2 years, (I) even went over to Gulf States Paper Corporation in Tuscaloosa one summer and cruised timber with the Forestry students; there were 14 of us, and they invited us up in groups of two; the more junior guy would be the compass man, the other guy would be the estimator; and that was in rugged country around the Black Warrior River in Tuscaloosa. But it was because of the influence of being with my dad and so on that I had this love for forestry. And, of course, then I had switched to Pre Med. But still, you know,

we have the farm out in Vancleve and we grow grapes now, hybrid muscadine grapes; I have a large vineyard. And so all this comes from my association with dad, the building (*laughs*) where I was so much with my dad, and the trips, and so on.

Dr. Ballard: Yes, next month they're having a...meeting of the National, I don't know if I'm telling this, the name of the organization, I don't know if I've got it completely right, but it's like the National Organization of Agricultural Historians, are meeting here.

Dr. Hoover: Hmm. Are they meeting here?

Dr. Ballard: Yes; and the History Department Head asked me if I would write something. Well, I'm a Civil War historian, and...

Dr. Hoover: Okay, right...

Dr. Ballard: But I told him, I said, 'Since Vance has already done something on the Extension, I'll just write you a chapter on MAFES,' and I just finished this morning.

Dr. Hoover: Huh; wow.

Dr. Ballard: And I learned a lot that I didn't know, and how the program started, and after World War II how it just boomed all over the place...

Dr. Hoover: Right, right.

Dr. Ballard: And there are a whole bunch of stations and substations now all over the State.

Dr. Hoover: Huh.

Dr. Ballard: But I knew a lot about the one at Stoneville in the Delta because...my grandfather ran cotton gins all over the Delta...

Dr. Hoover: Wow, yes.

Dr. Ballard: So I had heard it mentioned of, and he didn't work that far south, he was up in the middle of the Delta, but that, I think, is probably the shining star of the experiment stations, mainly because of where it is...

Dr. Hoover: Right.

Dr. Ballard: And they have really expanded over there...

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: Thad Cochran has gotten them some money. I think they named the building after him over there, but that was interesting just to see the kind of projects they have worked on, things that never occurred to me, and...

Dr. Hoover: Yes, true.

Dr. Ballard: Measuring the impact of heat on horses (that) are being pulled down the highway in trailers (*laughs*)...I would have never, I'd never think about that.

Dr. Hoover: Right.

Dr. Ballard: You know, that's the things that people that work with horses... that's the kind of things they should know. And...

Dr. Hoover: Yes, that's true.

Dr. Ballard: So, I guess what struck me is the experiment station people are always thinking outside the box.

Dr. Hoover: Yes, and that's what they're supposed to do, you know?

Dr. Ballard: Yes, absolutely.

Dr. Hoover: They're supposed to do that.

Dr. Ballard: So they may have an impact, well, just like Extension, but I think maybe even more so than Extension. They've had an impact around the world, you know?

Dr. Hoover: Oh yes.

Dr. Ballard: Because their job is to make things grow even faster, better, and... I don't have to tell you all that, you know it. But...

Dr. Hoover: In reading that bio, (I discovered that) my dad did a lot of... I haven't read his publications, but it says in there that if you want a list of his publications and all that, well, you know, (it tells) how to get them. And, I've never researched all that, but I didn't know that he had done a lot of writings like that.

Dr. Ballard: Yes. A lot of them did. It kind of evolved over the years. You know, it started out pretty much just science, scientists, experiments. But then as everything started growing, they brought in academics, teachers who also did research.

Dr. Hoover: Right.

Dr. Ballard: So it, that's when they began to... Now the whole operation, I think, is called Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine...

Dr. Hoover: Okay.

Dr. Ballard: And I think they're even thinking about adding continuing education to that, I don't know... Centralization is the key word on campus now because it saves money...

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: But it is a fascinating field...No pun intended (*laughs*).

Dr. Hoover: (*laughs*).

Dr. Ballard: Having a station focusing on the type of soil where they are...

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: ...You know, which is an obvious thing to do; but people don't think about it.

Dr. Hoover: Right, right. Well, I had always thought that whoever designed (the stations) way back when we became a Land Grant Institution that whoever figured out, 'Okay,

you need a branch experiment station in every major soil type in Mississippi,' I thought, 'You know? That was pretty smart to locate them in the soil types of the State.' Like, if we know the Delta has real fertile-type soil, you know, and so on and so on...

Dr. Ballard: Well, it was founded; the State Legislature passed the act to create the Experiment Station in 1888.

Dr. Hoover: Mm-hm.

Dr. Ballard: Now Lloyd-Ricks, the first part of that building was not built until, I believe, 1939.

Dr. Hoover: Right.

Dr. Ballard: But they've just kind of had spots around campus, but right from the beginning they started that. They set up three or four stations...

Dr. Hoover: Right.

Dr. Ballard: And then, of course, they kept expanding and changed some, I know like the McNeal Station in South Mississippi is still there...

Dr. Hoover: Um-hm; right.

Dr. Ballard: But it's assumed now under another seven or eight stations that are under a bigger... (*laughs*)

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: ...So the administrative structure has changed a lot.

Dr. Hoover: Right.

Dr. Ballard: But the purpose of the work really hasn't.

Dr. Hoover: Right, no.

Dr. Ballard: You know, I mean, they've gotten into more areas; but I really have a greater appreciation of what all they do now that I...

Dr. Hoover: Oh yes.

Dr. Ballard: Now that I wrote that chapter, it's...

Dr. Hoover: We moved here in 1939 or '40, I don't remember which. But that was the time that my dad came down ahead of us, and, this digresses a little bit, but, he left us in Kansas while he was down here looking for a house and getting situated. And, at that time, I was in the first grade. And I went to a one-room schoolhouse for six months, one-room schoolhouse; it had six grades in it, out in the country, you know; and dirt roads. I told my grandchildren this a hundred times, but; how we had to walk through the snow and the ice and the rain, and take a lunchbox, and, you know, there were six grades in that one-room schoolhouse. But...

Dr. Ballard: Well I've heard stories the same thing down in this part of the country.

Dr. Hoover: Yes. But it was something else. No nice cars or busses or anything like that; you walked to school.

Dr. Ballard: So your family was here, then, during World War II.

Dr. Hoover: Yes, we were.

Dr. Ballard: Because the...

Dr. Hoover: (I) remember that very well, as a kid.

Dr. Ballard: I can't remember his name, but the Experiment Station Director, every annual report he wrote during those years he would comment on how the stations were dealing with the war, and...

Dr. Hoover: Yes, during the war effort?

Dr. Ballard: And they had to figure out what to do with all these men that were leaving to join the service, and how were they going to replace them...

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: And yet, they said every year the yields that would record because they were working on these to improve to make up for the loss of labor.

Dr. Hoover: Really? Huh...

Dr. Ballard: To me that was... Patriotic was the perfect thing that came to mind that they were doing.

Dr. Hoover: Yes. Well, then you had the shortages of gas, rubber, sugar... I remember because I was a little kid in school, but you know, you were limited in your travel, where you could go, limited in buying candy bars; and I remember that. And we just couldn't get candy bars.

Dr. Ballard: No. They talked about, you know, they were just beginning to mechanize. Well, any machine you had went to the government...

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: ...Because they were going to use it to do something with it...

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: ...Or melt it down to make something else out of it...

Dr. Hoover: That's right.

Dr. Ballard: ...So, I'm sure it was frustrating for them...

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: ... But they stayed with it. They didn't...

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: ...They didn't pull back. In fact, they talked about a lot of women that came to help out in a lot of ways.

Dr. Hoover: Yes, women started working in the factories and all that when the guys went off to war.

Dr. Ballard: Yes, my mother worked in an ammunition factory over here at Prairie...

Dr. Hoover: Yes, I remember that.

Dr. Ballard: Over at West Point.

Dr. Hoover: I knew some guys that did that, they were older than I. They were about to finish high school, you know; and I'm just third, fourth, fifth; but they had lived close to me.

Dr. Ballard: Yes, she was about 17, 17 or 18 when she went over there...

Dr. Hoover: Yes... went off to Prairie, I remember that work.

Dr. Ballard: And I've seen pictures of what it was like out there, it looked like a small college. And they had dorms and...

Dr. Hoover: Really?

Dr. Ballard: You know?

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: And, of course, they had the buildings where they worked on the ammunition.

Dr. Hoover: Right.

Dr. Ballard: It seemed like to me that would have been a dangerous job to have (*laughs*).

Dr. Hoover: Well I'm sure it was dangerous to be honest about it.

Dr. Ballard: But yes, it was like a... and she saved... they had a newspaper that was published just for that area...

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: And she saved some of those, and I donated them to the library.

Dr. Hoover: Huh, yes.

Dr. Ballard: But it was... had to be an interesting time. Of course, I was born in '46, so I'm one of the boomers, but...

Dr. Hoover: Yes (*laughs*). Yes, you are. That's true.

Dr. Ballard: (*laughs*) And I'm retiring at the end of this calendar year, and I'm looking forward to it.

Dr. Hoover: Oh, are you really? Congratulations.

Dr. Ballard: But I've lived in Ackerman all my life but one year, and my wife is from Illinois...

Dr. Hoover: Hmm.

Dr. Ballard: And she, I don't think she'll ever get used to the heat down here, but I tell her, I said, 'I haven't either (*laughs*), you know? Nobody gets used to it' (*laughs*).

Dr. Hoover: (*laughs*)

Dr. Ballard: You just learn to tolerate it and try to stay in an air conditioned building.

Dr. Hoover: Well, at least you don't have to worry about the snow and the ice they have up in Illinois.

Dr. Ballard: You know, but she misses the snow.

Dr. Hoover: Yes, mm-hm.

Dr. Ballard: And the last Christmas we went up there, we've got three granddaughters up there and we have to go see them. We don't really care about anybody else, but we have to see them.

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: And we were driving in and it started snowing, and we stay at a motel kind of between everybody; (*laughs*) it's centrally located in the town of Norton, between Bloomington and Peoria...

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: ...And the next morning there was seven inches on the ground.

Dr. Hoover: Wow, (that is) a lot of snow.

Dr. Ballard: So we made it just in time.

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: We'd have gotten trapped...

Dr. Hoover: Yes.

Dr. Ballard: Any further out. But I really came to appreciate what the Midwest produces by going up there, you know, the cornfields. Of course, they have had a bad year this year because of the...

Dr. Hoover: Drought, yes.

Dr. Ballard: Drought, but those cornfields are beautiful.

Dr. Hoover: Oh, yes.

Dr. Ballard: They really are when they are in full... And the terrain around Peoria is kind of rolling hills, it's not flat like a lot of other parts of Illinois, so, it's kind of pretty. But can you think of anything else you want to throw in? I don't want to keep you here too long.

Dr. Hoover: No except, you know, it was just a lot of fun to grow up in the environment that I grew up in with the college environment with all the education available and everything else, you know, and I sort of feel like I was with a certain special group of people because, you know, education is a big thing on a university campus,

and meeting all the educators and teachers and researchers and all that, and it's been... But, but I went in the building that we're talking about many times over, I don't know, I'm going to say four or five years, to see my dad and be up there, so I have great memories of that.

Dr. Ballard: It was kind of like a big family.

Dr. Hoover: Yes, yes.

Dr. Ballard: I can remember those days.

Dr. Hoover: And I would run into the people that we just talked about frequently because they were all very close and their offices were close and all that.

Dr. Ballard: But you just didn't think about one day sitting there trying to remember all of them
(*laughs*)...

Dr. Hoover: (*laughs*) That's right.

Dr. Ballard: ...And nobody does. Well, listen, we appreciate it very much...

Dr. Hoover: Thank you all. I enjoyed being here, and I appreciate the opportunity.

Dr. Ballard: And we'll stay in touch with you.

Dr. Hoover: Okay.

Dr. Ballard: And I have the form here...

(Tape Side One Ends, 443)