5-26-2010

Interview with Mr. Harold A. Ward, III

Harold A. Ward III

Wenxian Zhang
Rollins College, wzhang@rollins.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarship.rollins.edu/oralhist

Recommended Citation
http://scholarship.rollins.edu/oralhist/24

This Oral History is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Special Collections at Rollins Scholarship Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in Oral Histories by an authorized administrator of Rollins Scholarship Online. For more information, please contact wzhang@rollins.edu.
Interview with: Mr. Harold A. Ward, III  
Wednesday May 26, 2010  
Wenxian Zhang, Alia Alli & Jennifer Ritter  
Rollins College Archives

WZ: Good morning, my name is Wenxian Zhang, Head of Archives and Special Collections. With me are two students, Alia Ali and Jennifer Ritter. We are going to interview Mr. Harold Ward, III -

HW: right.

WZ: So I understand that you are a native Floridian. You grew up in Winter Park.

HW: That’s correct, and my father was too.

WZ: Yeah, tell us about your family background. I understand your grandfather was a Winter Park pioneer.

HW: Uh, yes, he came when he was eight years old, so I guess that would have been something of a pioneer in the 1980s, oh 1880s, and had raised his family here. His father actually - my great grandfather - was the original one, Charles H. Ward, he came and settled and his middle son was my grandfather, Harold A. Ward I.

WZ: Okay, tell us about your grandfather.

HW: Well, he uh, grew up here and actually took some classes at Rollins, which at that point had both some high school as well as college classes – and I think he was actually in the academy and was awarded a certificate in Business Law. Later on, he served for a while as a trustee at Rollins – much, much later, of course not while he was still a student. But, he, then after his education, which did not go much beyond the academy, he, like his father, was farming at citrus and worked with his family, and then he opened a store on Park Avenue, which was sort of a general store, or perhaps if he didn’t open it, he at least worked there, and got into real estate and that sort of thing, and in connection with that, he met Mr. Charles Morse, who was one of the early well-to-do people in Winter Park. And the story as he used to tell it, was that Mr. Morse came in and said that he was interested in some real estate – he wanted to buy some real estate. So my grandfather was thinking about what can I show him that would be suitable, and Mr. Morse said, “No, no, you don’t understand. I want to buy a lot of real estate.” He ended up buying the town that was for sale - the old Winter Park Company assets. He apparently took a liking to my grandfather, because he appointed him as his agent in Winter Park, since Mr. Morse still lived most of the time in Chicago and had his winter home here in Winter Park. And that was the beginning of the Winter Park Land Company, which was the company that they formed to hold the assets, and my grandfather worked there for most of – well for all of – his life; he retired right after his 50th anniversary, but died soon after that, so it – I mean it was his entire career. In addition to that, while he did a lot of other things such as he and a friend founded the Lake Charm Fruit Co. in Oviedo and built an ice plant and packing plant there, and they bought citrus and celery and vegetables, and were fortunate enough to have two railroad settings –
competing railroads that wanted to carry their produce and their citrus to the Northern markets. So, that was another business that he was in for his entire life as well.

WZ: Yes, Oviedo is my hometown and I know of Lake Charm. We have collection here in the archives of the Mead Collection of Lake Charm, that’s his residence – his home, so I’m familiar with that.

HW: My dad was one of the founders of Meade Manor – I guess is it still called Meade Manor, the subdivision there where they built some houses back –

WZ: Uhm-hm.

HW: - way back?

WZ: But your grandmother also attended Rollins Academy, is it?

HW: Uh, I think that was my great aunt – I think my grandmother may have, but I don’t think so. She was from Iowa and her family came down here – I guess maybe she did take some courses at Rollins.

WZ: Yeah, we have some records indicating that both of your grandparents attended Rollins –

HW: (speaking at the same time) Annie – Annie, Annie Ward, you probably know more about this than I do (laughs). Believe it or not, I wasn’t here at that time (laughter).

WZ: But, is it that your family house originally located on the campus of Rollins - I read somewhere on campus, do you know any –

HW: Well, the original Charles H. Ward house was on Lake Mills – I mean Lake Sylvan – and still is - it’s still there. My grandfather’s house that he bought right after the turn of the 1900s to the 20th century was on Lake Mizell, and it still exists, but it’s been moved now over to Lake Berry because it was on part of the property that was sold for the development of Windsong. That house was where the pool and recreation center for Windsong is located now. My mom and dad lived for a short time in a house very close to the campus, but they did not own it; they were just renters when they first married. And my dad, I guess, was born in another house – Bird, Birdseye, or something like that – but was, I think, on what is part of now the Rollins campus, but it wasn’t at that time. But he was born there before they moved to Genius Drive in the property on Lake Mizell.

WZ: Was your grandfather also the mayor of Winter Park in the 1920s?

HW: Uh, he was mayor, I don’t know whether it was 20s, it was probably around that time. And his older brother, Fred Ward, also was the mayor.

WZ: Um-hm, so tell us about your parents. Your father was a successful businessman.
HW: Yes, he came to Rollins as well his last year of high school and then for a few courses after that, but then he went for his final three years to the University of Florida in Gainesville. He wanted an engineering degree, so he obtained a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the University of Florida, graduated there, and took a job with Westinghouse Electric in Pittsburgh, and went to Pittsburgh for a year and decided that was not for him. He had spent all of his life in Winter Park and did not particularly enjoy Pittsburgh at that time. Which was – Pittsburg was a far different place than it is now. My daughter and her husband and my grandchildren are all in Pittsburgh; it’s a beautiful place, but it’s not now the smoky, dirty, manufacturing, and mining place that it was then. Some of the old pictures that he has just show a dismal, grey, and smoky sky and low visibility, so I can see why he wanted to come home - and he did, and got a job with what was then Florida Public Service Company; it was the electric company and he was basically helping with surveying swamps, doing pretty hard work, physical labor on that. And then when my grandfather and his friend, Mr. Cole, built the Oviedo Packing Plant for Lake Charm Fruit Company, well they hired my dad to do the electrical work, since you know, he got an electrical engineering degree, but I don’t think he ever expected to be doing electrical contracting. But anyway, he did that and helped them build that, and then after that, he went to work for that company and spent his career working there. He was running it pretty much for quite a while before my grandfather died and then after he died, he ran it completely and they went in to some additional businesses that they hadn’t been in; they originally were not grove owners - they were simply buying the fruit and packing it and selling it - but after my dad took over it, he went on a program of planting and trying to raise citrus, which made a big difference in those days to have some steady business other than what you could buy or sell depending upon what the market happened to do. And he spent his entire working career there.

WZ: I think you are the first person that we talked to who was also a Winter Park native. So tell us what it was like growing up in Winter Park.

HW: Well, I probably ought to go back one step and mention my mother –

WZ: Okay –

HW: - because she was a Florida native also, born in Ft. Pierce. Her father had come down when Henry Flagler was building the Florida East Coast Railroad down to Miami. He worked for Mr. Flagler on that construction project and had wonderful stories about living in a tent in what is the middle of downtown Miami now, but a little different then. Anyway, he was running a store - after he finished with Mr. Flagler, he came up to Ft. Pierce and was running a store there - and my mother was born there. And later they moved to Oakland, west of Orlando on Highway 50, and he farmed there and continued to run a - I think a general store or some kind of retail operation - then later moved into Orlando. But my mother went to Florida State University, which at that point was Florida State College for Women in Tallahassee, and got a two-year degree there – a teaching certificate – and came back here and taught for a couple of years, because the family was not in a very good financial situation, and then went back and got her bachelor’s degree and then again came back and taught here, and she was a teacher in Winter Park schools and in Winter Park High School, and the assistant principal. When I came along, she retired from active teaching; I guess I was too much of a full-time job for her to continue on with her teaching. Anyway, that is what you asked, what I thought I ought to fill you in on the
other side of the family. And my folks of course, they met here and my mother actually taught a number of my dad’s younger siblings, as he was one – he was the oldest of eight children, so that was a big family.

Anyway, growing up in Winter Park was, you know, I thought a wonderful experience. I look back on it: I don’t know how we survived without air-conditioning, but we did; we didn’t have anything like that and it was hot like the Dickens and there were bugs and all of that, but it was a great place to grow up, a small community, it was really more separate from Orlando and the metropolitan area then than it is obviously now; it’s engulfed by other – other buildup. But we lived for the first nine years of my life out on Oakhurst Avenue in a small framed house, which no longer exists; it was torn down, and there is a great big huge house there now, but that was the only house in Comstock Park other than Mr. Comstock’s house and a couple of others, and there were no other houses on Oakhurst or in the block across the street on Palmer. And Mr. Harris, who was living down in the Comstock house would bring his cow each day up to the pasture across the street from our house. And I could explore all around the area with my dog and my wagon and so forth – well so I’m told I did anyway (laughs). It was a different environment than it is now. We cut a path through from Oakhurst over to Palmer so my sister and I could walk over and catch the school bus at the corner of Sunset and Palmer - and we rode the school bus. In those days there were just two schools; there was the elementary school, which was one through six and was down where SunTrust Plaza is now, and then there was the high school, which is over where the Ninth Grade Center is now. So I spent six years, plus a year of kindergarten at the Park Avenue Elementary School, and then five years at the high school before I went to early college in Chicago.

But, we had the normal things that folks did in those days. We had a movie theater, and that was about the extent of any kind of structured outside entertainment. We had cub scouts and the boy scouts and church. I’ve been a member of the congregational church all my life, and the family’s been it since my great grandfather came in the 1880s – and he was a deacon and active in the church. So it centered pretty much around school, church, and activities like the scouts. The only real retail area was Park Avenue. There were a few things on Fairbanks – the dry cleaner place was on Fairbanks, and the grocery store and the filling stations were either on Park or right off of it. That’s sort of a rambling summary of Winter Park in those earliest days.

WZ: That’s so interesting. That theater - is that the Colony Theater?

HW: Well, before that it was the Baby Grand, which is down where the Winter Park Land Company offices are now, but then when I was in elementary school, the Colony Theater was built, and that was really great because they had a rate for students of $0.09, and they were open after school so we could get out of elementary school and if we had $0.09, could go to the movies and have a relaxing after school afternoon at the movies. But, yeah it was the Colony Theater, and they changed the movies about every two or three days so you never had to worry about seeing the same one twice. There were other movies in Orlando, but we didn’t get down there.

WZ: Then you decided to go to Chicago. Tell us about your college life in the windy city.
HW: The way that came about was not anything that I had planned, because I had lived in Winter Park all my life, and had been with my family to right before the war up to West Virginia to visit some relatives in Maryland and then later after the war we took some family trips – but I never had spent any time in a city, and I’d never seen snow, I’d never been anywhere in the winter where it had been that cold. So it wasn’t planned, but Osburn Wilson, principal of the Winter Park High School was a good friend and also a good, really remarkable person, and he decided that he would like to see if I could get a scholarship for early admission to the University of Chicago. So he took it upon himself to get this comprehensive exam that they had and to administer it to me and help me get an application to go up there. And it turned out that I was accepted and given a full scholarship including, you know, the works (laughs) – tuition, room, and board – but of course at that point the tuition my first year was only $514.00, so it wasn’t the tuition that Rollins or any other school has now.

So, I went, and Chicago at that time had a non-traditional way of putting students in courses. Robert Maynard Hutchins, who was quite a well known educator, was the president of the University and later chancellor by the time I got there. And the so called Hutchins Plan was a four-year program that was designed to start after your sophomore year of high school and run through your first two years of college and then three years of graduate school for a master’s degree after that. So, a person going for a master’s degree would get a master’s degree at the same time they would under the more traditional twelve-four-one approach. And the way they did it though, was to administer placement examinations the first week that you got there, and based on how you did on these exams, you were placed in courses that would be necessary to get that first four-year degree. The program struggled because not too many families were anxious to send their sophomore children to a big city school in probably not the best part of Chicago at that time. So, it struggled and that’s probably why I got the scholarship (laughs). But I went after my junior year of high school and then as a result of the placement exams that I took when I got there – well I was pretty good at taking exams, I didn’t know much, but I could take exams pretty well – and I was able to get through my bachelors degree in two years after my junior year, so I actually had my bachelors degree at age eighteen from the University of Chicago.

It was a great experience and I thoroughly enjoyed it and it was not – you know, they talk now about helicopter parents, I am sure they are none anywhere around here, but once you went away to a place like that in those days, unless you had considerable money, you were there except for Christmas maybe and Spring Break. I went up on the Greyhound bus; it was a great thirty-six hour trip – nice bus. And that’s the way I got back and forth until later on law school. I did go on the train a couple times, and the airplane, which at that time, was also a very – you know, airplanes had not become busses - we still had busses – it served as busses but - it was a great experience. And at the end of those two years, I didn’t know what I wanted to do, so I had the opportunity to apply for a scholarship to the law school there, which I did, and again was fortunate. I got a full scholarship, so I was able to go on then and spend three more years in Chicago at the University of Chicago Law School and got my degree there in 1952 – no I’m sorry - college degree in ‘52, law school ’55. Then went from there to a year as a law clerk to Mr. Justice Black at the United States Supreme Court in Washington and spent a year there. And then of course those were the days of universal military service required time, and so then I – having been deferred all that time, I was – obtained a commission in the air force and went in
to the air force for my three years of service. That’s more than you asked, but that’s the long version of the simple question.

WZ: That’s a very interesting story. Tell us your experience of working for Justice Black.

HW: Well, it was a wonderful year. It was an opportunity that I’d never thought I would have, and was grateful to have. Justice Black was from Alabama; he had been a senator from Alabama before President Roosevelt appointed him to the court, and he was confirmed in spite of the fact that he didn’t have a judicial background, and so they are talking now about it. I think he turned out to be one of the most significant justices that have served in the history of the court. Anyway, he had recently become a widower before I got there. He – each year, each justice had two law clerks, except for the chief justice, who had three. But the others had two, and so Justice Black usually selected his law clerks from Alabama if there was someone he felt would be qualified, or if not, at least from the South, so it was a big advantage for me in getting that position to be from Florida, even though I had gone to school in Chicago. And so, I was fortunate enough to get it and fortunate enough to spend a lot of time with him since he was a widower and didn’t have family responsibilities. His children were grown and his youngest, JoJo, his daughter, was still at home, but she was a young adult - about my age as a matter of fact. And so, we got to spend a lot of time together. The law clerks, Justice Black’s view was that they were there for him to educate, not for him to receive a lot of help from because he didn’t, I think, need a whole lot of help on what he was doing. He was of course, very experienced at that point as a Supreme Court justice. He wrote his own opinions – he didn’t have his law clerks write his opinions – he would let us edit and suggest and do research and that sort of thing to fill them out, but the first drafts were always his. And so, that’s why I think if a scholar were to look at his opinions over the years, they would see a style that was unique to him and not changing with the law clerks that had been doing some of the drafts for the other justices. We – my co-clerk and I – our primary responsibility was to review all of the petitions for certiorari or appeal and people trying to get their case heard by the supreme court, and to write a no more than one page memo on the case to Justice Black summarizing the facts pertinent to legal issues and making a recommendation on whether or not the court should hear the case. A recommendation was, I think, just to let us feel like we were having some input to it, but I think he pretty much knew which ones he wanted to take based on the facts and the issues. So we did that, and then of course, we helped with some research and editing and proof reading and that sort of thing on opinions.

I also had the wonderful experience of being able to ride with him back here to Florida. Twice during the year, the court takes a recess in Christmas and then again in February. Justice Black was a great tennis player and he loved at that time of year to come to Florida to play tennis. And he had a place that he went to in Miami that he liked. So, he and I drove down on both of those occasions, and he dropped me off either in Winter Park where my folks could pick us up, and pick me up in Titusville or somewhere in between if we were going straight down the coast. So I got to spend a good bit of time with him one-on-one and get acquainted. And he was just a remarkable person that you could feel very comfortable with and that you could learn so much from that, it was an outstanding experience for me. On one of the trips, we went through Birmingham, Alabama, which was his hometown and where he had practiced law before he went to the senate, and his son – his older son – Hugo Black, Jr. lived there and was practicing law
there, and this term of court – the fifty-five term – was the term right after the term in which Brown vs. Board of Education was decided, so it was quite a time of turmoil in terms of the South particularly and segregation in the schools and so it was – Justice Black, having been on unanimous court, who felt very strongly about the issue and voted essentially to desegregate the schools, was not a very popular person in his hometown or in the State, so it was interesting just to observe that first hand - his son took a lot of grief – burning crosses in his yard as he was practicing law there. They were taking it out on the son what the father had done on the court and of course, it’s hard now to believe that things were that touchy at the time, but they were. And Hugo Jr. ultimately – not right away, but ultimately – moved to Florida to practice in Miami for the rest of his legal career. He’s still there, he’s retired, but he’s still in Miami. But it was very difficult for him and his wife and his children for that time. There were still, though, a lot of good old friends in Birmingham that the judge - we called him - had and maintained and kept in contact with and during the couple days I was there with him, I got to meet some of those folks. Some of judges then, in federal courts in the South were having a very difficult time too, because they were the ones that were getting the cases that were coming up implementing the desegregation decision. They were subject to an awful lot of criticism and in some cases, threats and concerns. But that’s a long answer again, which means to answer to the question, but experience for that year, it was great.

WZ:  That’s great; it’s fascinating. Can you tell us about your military service?

HW:  Yeah, that was - well the bottom line was that I flew a desk in the Pentagon for the Air Force. I was able to obtain what they called a direct commission, simply because of the law degree and the experience with the court and so forth, and assigned to the office of the General Counsel of the Air Force, who was the lawyer for the Secretary of the Air Force. And I had to spend two years – I mean two months – in what they called basic training, but it wasn’t the sort of basic training that most guys had to go through. That was at Lackland Air Force base in Texas, so I spent two months there and then back to the Pentagon, where I spent the rest of the three year term. And I worked primarily for the Assistant General Counsel in charge of fiscal matters: budgeting, contracts, appropriations. One of the big projects that I worked on that was really interesting and that I enjoyed was – that was the time when the Air Force Academy was being built in Colorado and there were continual squabbles with the Congress over the money that some felt was being too extravagantly spent and wasted on fancy stuff for the military that they were not happy with. So we had a lot of time going back and forth and explaining why certain things were necessary. There was one big issue about the medicine cabinets in the dormitories, for example. You know, they were something like $60 each or some astronomical sum for that time. Congress – some of the congressmen were upset about that as well as a lot of other things, from the athletic facilities and all.  

But it was fun doing that and then also I was counsel for the Contract Board of Adjustments. When an important small contractor would get in financial troubles because he either didn’t have the capital to perform his contract or had been too low if it was a fixed price contract, would apply for an extraordinary relief from his contractual obligations and then the Air Force had a procedure for essentially adjudicating those claims in a non-judicial form, so that if there were good reasons why relief should be granted, it could be done. And I worked on a number of those cases and got to travel a fair amount to the West Coast and to California and
Colorado in connection with the Air Force Academy. So my Air Force experience was very good, but it was certainly not at a time of war. It was after Korea and before Vietnam, so it was a very fortunate time to be in the military. Eisenhower was president and he didn’t seem to interfere too much with what the Pentagon was doing. Of course, having a military background, I think felt more comfortable in some of the decisions that he had to make than others would have. There again, a long answer (laughs).

WZ: So, after your military career, then you launched your successful legal career. What made you decide to come back to Florida - to Winter Park?

HW: Well, going back again a little bit, during my – between my first and second year of law school I worked in the summer for a lawyer in Orlando, Gene Carpenter, who had been here for a long time and another just delightful gentleman. He took me under his wing and let me participate in almost all the stuff he was doing, so I got some idea of what practice here would be like. And then, between my second and third year of law school, I worked for a Washington D.C. mega-firm – Covington and Burling, which even at that time, had over a hundred lawyers in that Washington office. I thoroughly enjoyed it; again had some wonderful mentoring opportunities there and I liked Washington, so I was very happy to be able to go back there to have my clerkship and then also for my military service. Having had those experiences, I think I decided it would be most compatible with my priorities to come home and practice in a place here. And I had also, between the time that I got through at the court and had to report in Texas for the Air Force for a couple of months there, I had worked in Winter Park with the office of Red Winderweedle. And he again was a wonderful mentor; he took me in and we got to spend a lot of time together and I got to see what his practice was like. So he had told me at the conclusion of those two months, he said I want you to come back here. When you come back, you’ve got a job if you will take it. And I said well I sure think I will, but maybe I didn’t know at that point. Anyway, bottom line again is, that offer remained open and I did take it. By that time, he had taken on a partner – another Partner – Dan Hunter, who was practicing with him, and he’d had some health problems and had a heart attack, and so they had brought in another lawyer who was helping – Bill Mateer. Both Bill and Dan went on to successful law firms of their own later on. Dan Hunter and Mr. Winderweedle and Mr. Webber Haines, and Webber’s son, John, whom I had gone to school with in Winter Park and I – after I got out of the service, decided to form a five-person firm here in Winter Park, which then was Winderweedle, Haines, Hunter, and Ward, and subsequently when Dan left to form his own firm, it was Winderweedle, Haines and Ward, and then Winderweedle, Haines, Ward and Woodman, when Victor Woodman came on as another partner then. But it was an interesting decision to make because I was tempted in many ways to stay in Washington, and had the opportunity, but decided that I’d rather come back here from the quality of life standpoint, and I’m glad I did. I served as Winter Park Municipal Judge on a part-time basis for several years and later in my practice began specializing in Wills, Trusts, estate planning and not-for-profit organizations. I became Board Certified in Wills, Trusts and Estates and a member of the American College of Trusts and Estates Counsel (ACTEC).

I’d met my bride, Libby - Mary Elizabeth Lewis - who is now my bride of over fifty years - we had our fiftieth anniversary here a couple of years ago - and met her in Washington and we were married there. Oh, incidentally, Justice Black came to our wedding, and then he
also, after we’d moved back down here, came down a couple times on his way to Miami and visited with us, had dinner with us. And so he continued to take a great interest in his law clerks, and that was fun too. And then, on making the decision to marry Libby (and convincing her to agree) was really the right decision. There again, I couldn’t have had a better opportunity, a better choice, and occasionally, I think she even agrees with that (laughter). Who knows – no, she does, we’ve had a great and very fortunate time together and raised our family here.

JR: In addition to your law career, I know you’ve been involved a lot in the civic life of the city. Can you tell us a little about that?

HW: Um-hm. Can I go back and tell you some things though about Rollins, and things that I did early on, and then I’m going to come back to that. But I don’t want to forget that, so I put down a few things that I remember about Rollins and Winter Park from going back. Is that within the boundaries of what we can –?

WZ: Yes.

HW: - talk about? Okay, good. Well, my first connection with Rollins as a kid, I think was selling the program for the Animated Magazine, which was held out here in Sandspur Bowl before the administration building was there. And Hamilton Holt brought in some really big named folks: movie stars and athletes and writers, and Edward Murrow and Greer Garson - these names may not mean much to your generation, but they certainly did to ours. That was a connection with Rollins. And then during World War II, my dad was just over the age to be eligible for military service and all three of his brothers went, but he was old, so was here, but there weren’t many other folks that had any technical abilities, and so he was fixing radios for everybody and one of the things he did was to run the projector at the Annie Russell Theater for the weekly college movie. The College would put on a movie for the students that they would come to once a week, and he got to do that. So my sister and I got to come down and watch the movie for nothing. We had to sit up in the balcony and stay away from the college students, but we had a good time doing that.

And then the – oh, during high school, I was a member of the Rollins College band for about a year. And the only thing that I remember doing was going to the University of Florida for the last football game that was played between Rollins and Florida, and marching on the field in this (laughs) raggedy band. We didn’t have uniforms; we put on white shirts and marched down the field. And I think Rollins lost by a fairly wide margin - (laughs), it was not a real football contest and the band contest wasn’t much either, but I had a great time doing that. And then, there was here at Rollins, there was a professor named Dr. Paul Douglass, who founded what was called the Center for Practical Politics. You may know about that, but my mother’s sister, my aunt, Eve Bacon, was his secretary assistant for a number of years. She later wrote the two volume History of Orlando. And then my dad’s first cousin, Fred Ward, was the treasurer of Rollins for years, and so we had those connections. And then when I was selected for this scholarship at Chicago, Dr. Holt had just retired, and Paul Douglas – was it?

WZ: Wagner.
Paul Wagner, right, Paul Wagner – had come as president not to last very long, but he had come from Chicago, was a University of Chicago graduate and was a whiz-kid with Bell and Howell and so forth. And anyway, he was kind enough to invite me to come over and visit with him. It was the first time I’d been in a college president’s office, and I came over and visited him and he was most gracious to me, and encouraging about the decision that I’d made to go to Chicago. And one other thing that I remember is when Harry Truman got his honorary degree from Rollins. I wasn’t inside the Knowles Chapel to see the proceedings, but I was outside with a large crowd to be able to see the president. And while we were waiting for him to come out, or when he did come out, there were all the photographers of course, and the people and them, and all of a sudden, there was a bang – it sounded like a shot and you know, it scared me to death, and all those people enclosed around him – and what it was, was a flash bulb from a photographer’s flash camera, but it was a scary moment for me. I’ll always remember that.

And also after I started practicing law here, I actually taught on a part-time basis a business law class here at Rollins. It was an eight o’clock class and the students were not always anxious to jump into the more exciting areas of the business law curriculum. But Dan Hunter – Dan Hunter was teaching it most of the time, but I helped him and taught here a good bit on that, so I got an exposure to Rollins there. And then finally, before I became a trustee, I did work with Hugh McKean, who was President then, to reroute Fairbanks Avenue because it used to come straight through where the Science Center is, and then make a sharp left turn in front of the athletic facility and then come around what is now Osceola and on down to the canal and out Brewer to Aloma Avenue. We had to work with the State and with the City to try and get the property, which we were able to do, so we could make room for that site for the Science Center and also make Fairbanks a more smooth transition other than a ninety degree turn into Osceola. So, that was another thing that I did with the College.

Some of the other – to get back to your question – some of the other things that I did in those days - advertising in the practice of law was not something anybody did, and it certainly wasn’t something that I wanted to do, but the way most lawyers managed to make their contacts and meet folks was through civic and other sorts of community engagements. When I first – the reason you should do that is never to solely try to advance your business or as a substitute for advertising, but it was an accepted side-benefit of things that you could do, that would be something that you enjoyed doing, that would hopefully benefit the community but still expose you to folks that might someday need a lawyer or businesses that might need a lawyer or could at least have some idea of who you were and what your capabilities were. So anyhow, with that background I did actively become involved in the community, as did my wife, Libby. I was president of the local heart association. I was the vice president with a wonderful lady, Kathlyn Fosgate of Winter Park Youth Center Committee, in which we raised the money and built a youth center, which no longer exists because it was more popular at first than it was later on. The kids didn’t seem to come so, anyway, it’s now where this Crosby Wellness Center is.

And I was active in the Chamber of Commerce. The junior Chamber of Commerce back in the 60s named me Man of the Year – Junior Chamber Man of the Year, or whatever it was, which was a nice honor. I became a member of the Rotary Club, and I served a year as president of the Winter Park Rotary Club and I was president of the – then president, now they call it Chairman of the Chamber – Winter Park Chamber of Commerce for a two-year term. And I was active with – oh, I was president of the Audubon Park PTA Parents Association one
year, my kids were there – all three of them went to Audubon to grammar school. And I guess the other community and civic things – some were related to the church. I was Moderator of the First Congregational Church here on a couple of occasions, and Moderator of the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ. I became the attorney for the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ, which is the Congregational Church’s national organization, and got well acquainted. As a matter of fact, I was on the search committee that hired Charles Burns, our conference minister way back. He had been – he came from Ohio and had been active in national church affairs and introduced me to some folks. And the story there is that I became chairman of the Board of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, which was their homeland ministry outreach program, and I was on the Board for six years and was chairman for the last year and chairman of the search committee to obtain the new minister to direct that effort when the long time minister, Howard Sprague had decided to retire, and subsequently passed away. Then after that, on the church side, I became a member of the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ, which is sort of a board that meets between the biannual general synod meetings of the all the churches from around the country. And I became chairman of the business and finance committee of that Executive Council and served on that for two or three years. And then after that, I became a member of the Pension Boards, which administer the pensions for all the ministers and retired employees and so forth of the national church. That’s based in New York. I became vice chairman of that and served on that for a good while. I also served as a member for the Board of Trustees of Winter Park Hospital – Winter Park Memorial Hospital – back when it was a community independent hospital for a nine-year term, and then a year as treasurer and then another nine-year term, so I spent a lot of time with the hospital. Then, of course, I’ve been on the Rollins Board since 1978, so it’s time for some change there (laughs). But it has been a wonderful experience. Those are some of the major outstanding things from my perspective. Oh, in 1999 - the Chamber of Commerce named me Citizen of the Year, which was nice – had a nice presentation, gave me a plaque and a golf club, which was very nice. And then this last year the Winter Park Historical Society honored Kenneth Murrah and me as their honorees for the year - interesting, because Kenneth and I had been debate partners in high school. We both grew up here and Kenneth came along later, I think in the fifth grade, but we’ve known each other for years. So that was a nice thing that they did. And there’s probably some other stuff that I’ve left out that I shouldn’t have, but that covers probably more again than you want to know.

WZ: You mentioned the street of Fairbanks Avenue. Is that in the late 60s?

HW: Uh, yeah, when was the Bush Science Center built? That was late 60s, wasn’t it? So this would have been shortly before that - might have been the middle 60s. I am having more and more trouble – I can remember things that happened, but I can’t pin down the year that they happened except for particular events in my life.

WZ: Tell us your experience working with some of Rollins’ folks. You mentioned Hugh McKean; how was that experience?

HW: Well, I became a trustee after Hugh was president, and after Jack Critchfield – because Jack had resigned and taken a job with the telephone company. So I didn’t ever work with Hugh on Rollins other than in connection with that street realignment that I mentioned. But
subsequently, I became Hugh’s personal lawyer and his wife, Jeannette McKeen – Jeannette was the granddaughter of Charles Morse, and she and my – of course after Mr. Morse died – she was the person who owned the Winter Park – she and her brother – owned the Winter Park Land Company and my grandfather in effect worked for them. So, I had some connection with the family, but I’d never done legal work for them. They came to me, and I became their lawyer and I helped them form the Morse Foundation, which operates the Morse Museum of American Arts and helped Jeannette with her foundation. She already had established back in the early 1950s the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation, which was named after her mother. So I worked with them a lot and I can get in to that more if you want.

But as far as the College is concerned, I became a trustee at the same time Thaddeus Seymour became president. I was invited to become a member of the Board by one of the other trustees then, Marilyn Mennello, who died a few years ago – Michael’s wife. And she came to see me and asked me if I would serve on the Board, and of course I was honored in doing that. That’s something that I hadn’t expected that I would ever be able to achieve, because I wasn’t an alumnus and didn’t have a million dollars, so I was very pleased to be asked. I thoroughly enjoyed my service with the Board. Thad Seymour and I – I don’t know how well the two of you (referring to Jennifer and Alia) would know him, but I imagine you (referring to Wenxian) had some contacts with him and he is just one of these delightful people who is just fun to be with. I think being a student here with Thad as president must have been one of the best relationships that you could have between a student and a president of a college, because he just loved the students and the College. And he, I think, was instrumental in transforming the way the College thinks about itself and making us think about – you know, we’re just not a Central Florida institution that’s playing basketball with a college in Lakeland or a fledgling UCF; we are a regional, or national really, college that attracts students and faculty and should be known both regionally and nationally and recognized much more than we had been. In all fairness, it was Dr. Holt who brought a lot of national recognition to Rollins when he was president. Anyhow, Thad had this vision for the College and he would make us think about ourselves in ways that I think were more ambitious and more challenging than we sometimes had been in the past. Since I wasn’t a trustee before Thad came, I don’t really have any basis for that other than my impression. But Thad did a fantastic job; he was responsible for making the contacts with the Olin Foundation and for raising the money that built this building that we’re in (referring to the Olin Library). And I was fortunate enough to be chairman of the Board of Trustees for three years during his tenure; that was 1982 until later – ‘82 till ‘84 or 85 I guess, part of ‘82 and part of ‘85. And I have a picture of myself with Thad and Lawrence Milas, who was the president of the Olin Foundation out here cutting the ribbon on the front door of Olin Library twenty-five years ago. And Thad also – we had our first really successful fundraising campaign under his leadership. Andy Hines, who was a trustee and was the president of Florida Power at that point, was the chair of that drive and a lot of people worked very hard and raised money that enabled us to fix up the campus a lot and to improve the looks of it. And of course this building made a big difference.

So, that was a wonderful time, and then I was on the search committee of the College that enticed Rita Bornstein to come as president. And she just took right off from where Thad had left and with her very direct abilities in fundraising (laughs), where she said, “This is what you should do,” and her stature also as an intellectual, as a teacher, a writer, an author, made her a
great person to work with. After I was chairman of the Board of Trustees, I was chairman of the business and finance committee for many years; I still am as a matter of fact, so it’s time for a little change there. I worked with her closely in that capacity and also with the other trustees. And of course Rita was responsible for the campus pretty much the way it is now. That was a huge time of new expansion as such, though the student body numbers did increase, but the facilities were all totally upgraded - The Cornell Center of Social Sciences, and the Cornell Museum. George and Harriett Cornell were colleagues on the Board of Trustees – well George was, Harriet was not a trustee, but she was always with him at get-togethers, after meetings. His love for the College and his funding of it at his death was just such a big, big thing. From the time of Jack Critchfield – I guess from Hugh McKean to Jack Critchfield, really Jack and Thad Seymour, and then Rita – just deserve – and Bill Gordon, who was head of the alumni then, just deserve so much credit for nurturing that relationship and making George and Harriet feel good about what they were doing. And I just wished if they could see what, you know, at this point, what a difference it’s made in the College.

Dealing with investment of the endowment has been a real interest of mine, and I’ve been involved in that because of my trustee committee assignment. And that evolved from a relatively small endowment. When I came on the Board, as I remember, it was not more than $30 million. It was – of course inflation has done some (laughs). Anyways, it was very small compared to where it is now and it still much smaller than it ought to be, but George and Harriet made a big difference.

Oh, one other thing that I remember – that when Thad came on as president, he didn’t quite realize, I think when he took the job, that the College wasn’t as affluent as it should have been. We would always have to go borrow money during the summer in order to keep things going until the tuition money came in for the fall quarter. So we were always borrowing money from the bank to keep from bouncing checks. And, the person who was treasurer, when he came resigned, or retired or something – anyway, so here he was with no financial officer and so he came to me and said I want you to be treasurer of Rollins College. I said (laughs), I’m busy practicing law. He said “Well, you won’t have to do anything. All you got to do is be treasurer because I need somebody as treasurer. I’ll take care of it.” (laughs) And typical Thad, he did. So, I was treasurer for a while, but I was glad when that was over with. I did have the experience of having been treasurer of the Winter Park Hospital for a year back between my board of services. Now, what was the question I was supposed to be answering?

WZ: No, you answered all of the questions.

HW: Okay, okay (laughs).

WZ: So for a follow up question –

HW: Oh, I didn’t get to Lewis - I got to –

WZ: Okay, okay (speaking at the same time)
HW: Oh, I got to get to Lewis. I wasn’t on the search committee but Mike Strickland was chair of it and a good friend, and a long time friend of Hugh and Jeanette McKean as well, and was a former student here, and on the Board of the Genius Foundation with me in recent years – anyways, Mike was chairman of that committee and they selected and convinced Lewis to come. All three of these presidents that I’ve worked with – Thad, Rita, and Lewis – are totally different people, different personalities, different interests, different approaches, but all three have such unique qualities in their way of approaching things. And the one thing that they all totally share is a vision for this College. That’s where we want to be and then where we’re trying to be and where we have gone a long way toward being, I think. And Lewis, I think, had really emphasized the faculty scholarship – Rita did too, and then Thad – but he’s emphasized that, and he comes across as more of an academic in his approach to the community than perhaps either of them did, though both of them were strong academics in their own right. Rita’s just written another book – she is a remarkable woman. But I think – and Lewis has made some really good decisions about governance and the faculty and students and the administration and has provided a lot of leadership. I have not worked with him as closely as I had with some of the earlier ones, but I have obviously been pretty involved with that. I think he certainly has a nicer house than either of his predecessors had, which I know he and Paula are enjoying and using for the benefit of the College.

I haven’t said anything about the other trustees, but all along we had a really good Board of Trustees in my opinion. And I think, though I’m not as close to it, I think we’ve had a good faculty, and people that are really interested in teaching and also in doing the other academic things, publishing and lecturing and so forth that academics do. To me, it’s been an all together great experience.

WZ: You mentioned other trustees. Tell us your experience working with other members of the trustees – Tiedtke or –

HW: Well, of course John Tiedtke, who had been a member of the Board for a long time when I came on board – he was associated with the College even before that. He taught photography, I think at one time, and he had been chairman of the Board for a long time. There hadn’t been any real turnover in the chairmanship. And so, I think he concluded with maybe some persuasion by Thad that we ought to have a little bit more - not just the same people doing the same things forever. I’m certainly not one to talk about that, because I’ve been here doing this (laughs) same thing forever. But anyway, John decided that he would step aside and that’s when I became chairman of the trustees. But John was a delightful person to work with. You know, he would come up with some unexpected things at meetings that you wouldn’t really think he would bring up, but he would, and he would ask these difficult questions. I remember in the later years when we were trying to come up with enough money to go ahead with the renovation of the Keene Music Hall building, and John was sitting there, and he turned to Rita and he said, “How much are we short?” And Rita had right at her fingertips almost to the penny (laughs) the amount she needed to break ground on it, and he said, “Well, you know, I think I could do that.” You know, that’s the sort of trustee that we’ve had. You know, John was exceptional – George was exceptional – in their ability just financially to do that because most just don’t have those type of resources. But John, - after John said that, Rita immediately had the vice president, I guess it was for –
WZ: Cynthia, Cynthia Wood?

HW: Uh, I think it was George Herbst –

WZ: Okay -

HW: - at that point. Yeah, but anyway, she said, “George, go get the gift agreement.” And we kept the meeting until George came back with the gift agreement and John signed it so she had the pledge right there (laughs) for the Keene Music Hall. You know that’s just one anecdotal sort of thing. Betty Duda followed me as chair of the Board; she’s the first woman, I think, who was chair of the Board, and did a wonderful job. And Betty is just so gracious and interested in people. She comes up and just exudes in her personality and I think that was a big help.

Another person I never would have met or known if it hadn’t been for the Rollins board membership were Fred and Joanne Rogers. Joanne was a trustee for many years up until - I guess she resigned a couple years ago. She felt like she needed to not have the obligation of being down here quite so much. But they were really interesting people to visit with. Joanne is a really accomplished pianist. She and a friend of hers do – or did, I don’t know if they’re still doing it – duet, or duo-piano concerts. And she did one not too long, about ten years ago, when we were at the – I forget if it was at Annie Russell or in the Chapel – but anyway, really amazing talent that she has. She, I guess, since her husband was so nationally famous that it must have been difficult for her sometimes, but she never indicated that she had any problems with anything like that. She just was always upbeat and positive. It’s not really good to go down and pick out individuals like that, because there are so many others that I’ve worked with that have done remarkable things.

Charlie Rice was one who not only gave up his time and ability but also his money and was very generous. And now, fortunately, his wife, Dianne, who also grew up here in Winter Park, and her brother Don was in my class in high school, played baseball - went to Rollins, played baseball for Rollins - and Dianne is now on the Board of Trustees. She had her first meeting this last meeting, so we’re looking forward to involving her more in the College. I mentioned Mike Strickland who has been a very important member of the Board for a long time. Going way back is Bill Miller, who was also a good friend and good client of mine and Warren Hume, likewise, a good friend and good client. And Warren is still living, Bill’s passed away, but they were just big supporters of the College both financially, and with their time and interest as well. Another who is still alive and is still a trustee emeritus is Joe Guernsey, who was trustee long before I was. He was at the last meeting as a non-voting trustee emeritus. Oh boy, I should have made a list before I came so I could not leave people out. Hopefully, this will not be published all over the place so that people that I’ve left out will not feel bad.

WZ: You’re fine.

HW: (Speaking at the same time) – It’ll be put away somewhere.
You also mentioned the ribbon cutting ceremony for Olin Library. Is there any other significant movements or stories you would like to share with us?

Well, another huge contributor to the College over the years was Harold Alfond, and his daughter – or his daughter-in-law, Barbara – served on the Board of Trustees, and his son, Ted, has been on the Board of Trustees now for quite a while – Ted Alfond. And ribbon cuttings, I remember the one where we dedicated the new Harper-Shepherd Field – of course it’s been there a long time – but the new baseball stands there. And Harold was here for that, and I really enjoyed visiting with him and getting a baseball cap. I never would have got one as a player, so at least I got one as a person there who helped dedicate the stadium. And also, when we dedicated the boat house – the Alfond Boat House – he was there, and I enjoyed being a part of that ceremony as well. And let’s see, I guess there were numerous others done at Cornell while there had been all kinds of things down there that has gone on, but I never was involved so much in the Cornell Museum – that’s what I’m talking about now, the museum – because I’ve been so closely associated with the Morse and I’m chairman of the Board for both the Morse and Genius Foundations now. My interests in terms of art have been more concentrated on the Morse than on the Cornell. But I did meet the new director the other day and he seems like a remarkable, likable, intelligent, capable guy and I’m looking forward to seeing more of him.

Other – what other things should we talk about in terms of the College? I guess – now the more mundane things of the issue of dealing with the structure and the organization of the Board of Trustees. One of things that we did that I was involved with early on was restructuring the committee - the structure of the Board - so as to separate it in to three primary areas of business and finance including investments, and then academics, and then development. So we’ve got three vice presidents that have the titles related to that. Now, development is now institutional advancement, and the provost is the vice president for academic affairs, and the vice president for finance is the one that relates to that. So the board committees now are structured under the same setup as the administration, so that we have a vice president that is in each area. We did here about three years ago, separate – when the Cornell money came in, or started coming in – we separated the investment function from the budgeting and finance function and formed a separate investment committee. Originally, that was a sub-committee of the Board of – of the business and finance committee. Now, it’s a separate committee that has responsibility for the investment of the endowment and for the other funds of the College – not the operating funds, but the permanent endowment funds, and whether permanent or temporary endowment – anyway, all of those investments are under the supervision of that committee. And Mike Strickland has been doing a great job on that; he’s taken over that responsibility.

So what are some of the challenges that you had while you sat on the Rollins Board of Trustees?

Well, you know, resources are always a challenge, and because no matter what, there is just never enough. We’ve got so many potential things that money could be spent on. Not just bricks and mortar, but programs – but I think Lewis, I think I should have mentioned this – Lewis’ emphasis on the internationalization of the College, both the students and the faculty, has been a source of great benefit to the College, and I think could certainly use a lot more resources to expand. In terms of bricks and mortar, we really need to renovate and update or replace – probably renovate and update – the Bush Science Center, because that building has been there a
long time, and there’s some things like the dormitories that really had to be done and have been
done and are being done, but in terms of updating the facility with some of the more advanced
and expensive equipment that scientists need now is a real challenge. I think probably it
would be a rare exception of a professor here that couldn’t give you all quite a list of ways that
additional resources that would enable him or her to do some more remarkable things; because to
me it’s amazing that we’ve accomplished what we have with the resources we have. If you
look at the University of Richmond is one, when you look at some data — they have a close to a
billion dollar endowment and that should make a big difference. So resources are one thing.
I think going forward, without the faculty and the students we can’t do anything, or wouldn’t
have any reason for existence. The students really – the bottom line, if we don’t have good
students, we can’t expect to reach the goals that we have. And the Cornell money has been
very helpful in that – the Cornell Scholars and the – now there’s another group of scholars, I
think —

JR: Deans –

HW: That’s you, good, congratulations – I think enable us to get people like Jennifer who
might otherwise go off to Harvard or Yale or Princeton or something like that, instead of coming
to Rollins. So, that, again, comes back to resources. And I guess the reason that I focus on
that is because I think the primary responsibility for development and the resources is with the
Board of Trustees – I mean that’s where it’s got to start, and obviously cannot do it all. But it’s
got to have leadership from the Board if it’s going to succeed.

WZ: You mentioned your involvement with the Morse Foundation and the Genius Foundation.
Could you tell us more about that?

HW: Yeah, that’s a whole other story. You want to go into that one? (laughs) Well, isn’t the
tape ever going to run out?

WZ: Don’t worry about it.

HW: Oh, don’t worry about it? Okay. Well, after I got to know Hugh and Jeannette better –
I’d known them for a long time since my grandfather had worked for Jeannette, in effect at the
Winter Park Land Company – but I got better acquainted with them. Jeannette decided that she
would like for me to be her lawyer and Hugh agreed with that, so I started representing them
individually. And then, they were so involved in the art collection. Hugh was a professor of
art before his presidency at Rollins, and he was a remarkable guy. He would come up with
some of the most off-the-wall ideas. He was not one of those think-inside-the-box people, by
any means. I could – I’m wandering around here – but I could almost always count on Monday
morning at the office first thing getting a call from Hugh about some idea he’d had over the
weekend. And some of them were very (laughs) difficult to implement. For example, he had
the idea he didn’t want the museum to be asking the community for money because he thought
the College and the symphony and the public institutions that were dependent on money from the
community should do that, but the Foundations should not. But however, people kept asking,
well what can I do, I want to do something, and so forth. So he came up with an idea – his
codicil program – everybody could do a codicil to their will that would leave a hundred dollars
for art for the Foundation. It didn’t matter that I thought that was a totally impractical (laughs) thing because number one, not a lot of people, particularly more wealthy people, don’t transfer their wealth under their wills. They use trusts or they use other arrangements, so they don’t have codicils that they were doing; and probably to go to a lawyer and have a codicil made would cost you the hundred dollars that you could just give to the Museum anyway (laughs). So, anyhow, I never could talk him out of it. It was one of those attention getters that was outside of the box, and gave everybody a good laugh if nothing else. And also, we’ve also had some people that did give a hundred dollars - not necessarily by a codicil - to the Foundation.

But getting back to the question, working with them individually and then that involved as we went on, the Foundations I mentioned. I think Jeannette had already established back in the early 50s the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation, which didn’t have great assets, but she used that as a vehicle for some of her charitable interests. And she was interested in not only art, particularly interior decorating, she was the owner and actually hands-on operator of the Center Street Gallery, which was wonderful art and – well, art gallery and sales place down on Park Avenue, and then later also the Golden Cricket. She acquired and she owned and operated that. And she was a member of the Interior Decorator’s Association, did what we called the vignettes in the Morse Museum. A lot of them we still – we did it one at a time – put it up for one and then go on to another. But they are essentially, the use of art objects from the collection that the museum has in a room or in a setting where you could see how they would fit into your life if you were fortunate enough to own pieces like that. So there would be a den, for example, a Stickley chair and some furniture, and then also maybe a Tiffany lamp, a painting by one of the artists in the collection – they had quite a collection of American art at the Museum. So I got involved in that with the Foundations with both Hugh and Jeannette, and then when they died – Jeannette died first and she had left basically her money to Hugh for his lifetime and for his support, and then after his death to the two Foundations, and then Hugh did the same thing when he died, he left his estate to the Foundations. So they had no children and Jeannette’s brother, who had been co-owner with her early on of the Winter Park assets - the Winter Park Land Company assets, which all ended also in the Foundations, had left his assets to the Foundations at her suggestion. That was really fortunate because he was a bachelor and lived alone in Chicago and really didn’t have much connection with Winter Park except for his sister. So the wonderful, ultimate result was that all of their wealth which originated with Mr. Morse, which was substantially increased by both Hugh and Jeannette – Hugh was a good business man as well; he was one of the founders of what’s now ABC Channel here – Channel 9 – and when they finally had competing interests in that, they went on in litigation for years, but when it finally resolved, he did very well in that investment. He also had some real estate that he did well in. His was not – and he had artwork too – so his was not an insignificant amount either. But the community now has the benefit of that and that so far at least, we’ve been in and we’ve been able to support the Museum, which they both wanted, without asking for any kind of public or any help; it’s all endowed. And that incidentally, is almost unheard of. A lot of people – wealthy people – that have a wonderful art collection will leave the art collection to an entity but they don’t endow it, so then the entity has got the art, but they don’t have any place to display it, so they’ve got to raise money and put up the building and then they have to raise the operating costs because you don’t operate a museum on the admission charges. So here in Winter Park – and I don’t think most people appreciate this, if they don’t, they should – anyway, we’ve got a first-class nationally known art collection, primarily known for the Tiffany, because that’s the
thing at the moment that’s the big draw, and we’ve also got the money to house it, and we’re building now an addition for the Laurelton Hall part of the collection. We’ve got an endowment to support it, and fortunately, the endowment is large enough that it’s been able to support other institutions that Hugh and Jeannette were interested in – the College being one of the major ones since their death. We’ve managed to come up with the money for a big part of the gymnasium athletic facility, for remodeling Elizabeth Hall – what do you call it? – the Elizabeth-

WZ: the Elizabeth Genius Hall-

HW: We always, sometimes called it Elizabeth, but maybe that’s not what they do – anyhow, and for the new gateway and money for most of the other buildings, at least in part, and an endowed professorship. The money has been large enough so for to support not only the Museum, but also these other things that they were interested in - the Orlando Museum of Art and the Philharmonic, United Arts, the Foundations support United Arts each year and also the United Way, and a number of smaller gifts. The Winter Park Hospital, they made a substantial gift that enabled the new baby place to have the Elizabeth Morse Genius Nursery there, so that’s another one. And then we were able to give substantial contributions for the medical school at UCF. Hugh, I have always understood, though I can’t document it, was one of the original people in the community that each put up one thousand dollars to match a land donation for where UCF now sits; and Red Winderweedle, my senior partner was another one of those people. Hugh was one of those people that I think was instrumental in getting UCF off the ground. If he wasn’t one of those, at least he certainly supported it over the years, that’s the sort of thing that he’d been doing.

WZ: So now looking back, how do you view your life and career as a successful lawyer and Rollins board trustee member, and being a citizen of the Winter Park community?

HW: Well, I hope it’s not over; that would be first thing. But it’s obviously closer to the end than it was to the beginning, that’s for sure. But as you can probably tell about my willingness to spout forth about me and all the things that I’ve done, that I feel probably better than I should about it, but I feel good about it. I have had huge, huge help all along, and I just can’t emphasize enough the support that my wife, Libby has provided. She was president of the Junior Service League; she’s been involved in all these other organizations, including the Congregational Church. She’s taken most of the responsibility for what I think, is a very successful outcome that our children have had. We’ve got three children, three children, oldest daughter is the one that lives in Pittsburgh, and she got a scholarship to Yale, and went to Yale and met her future husband there. And then she got into Harvard Law School and he went to Harvard Medical School and got married, so they lived in Cambridge for a while (laughs), then started having a family. She practiced law with a big firm in Boston for about three years, but then after the second child, she had to drop out because she was doing real estate stuff and advising in all these various little towns around Boston, and they were all having their meetings at night, and so her husband was doing internship and residency and was working twenty-four hours a day. So anyway, she stopped, and after a while, he decided after his completion of his residency at Mass General, that they would move to Pittsburgh, where he got a position with the University of Pittsburgh Hospital. He’s been there ever since, and they have four children.
The oldest is a junior at Yale; at the moment, he’s in Egypt, where he spent last summer doing some kind of work that I don’t understand, that’s related to the international aspects of our situation there.

And then their number two child, their daughter, just finished her freshman year at Princeton, so you know, they turned out pretty well I think. It’s too early to tell, I guess. And then the younger two are both delightful kids. One of them is finishing her sophomore year at Peters Township High School outside of Pittsburgh; and the youngest son is in school there in Peters and is just a really likable kid, and I’m very proud of them. And our son, the number two child, is our son, and he’s in Gainesville. He’s had several careers; his most recent one is as a social worker. He decided that after getting a degree in geography from the University of Colorado and a master’s degree in Biology from UCF that he wanted to be a social worker, but he worked for the St. John’s River Water Management District for about ten years as a biologist, and I think the bureaucratic pressures on what he was doing were just a little more than he felt comfortable with. So he moved to Gainesville and actually got his Masters degrees course from Florida State University at their branch in Gainesville, so anyway that’s the way it worked out. So now, he is working in Gainesville as a social worker and has no children – not married and doesn’t have children – was married, but it didn’t work out so we don’t have any grandchildren there.

Then our youngest daughter, Mary – all three kids went to Winter Park High School – and then Mary went to Vanderbilt for college, and met her future husband there. He graduated actually before she had – and then he was working in Atlanta, so when she graduated, she got a job in Atlanta with a public relations firm there and worked there for a couple years, and then she decided that she wanted to go to law school. So she went to Emory Law School and got her degree at Emory and then moved – and they wanted to come back here, so they did – and my son-in-law enrolled at Crummer and got his MBA at Crummer, and then she went to work for a local law firm - it was Jessie Graham’s firm and now its merged with somebody else, so it’s under another name - but she practiced for about three years here and then her children were coming along and getting older. She has three children, all of whom are in school in Maitland where they live. So, that’s family and I’m very proud of it, and I just had to throw that in to say that nobody can feel good about things unless they’ve had a lot of help along the way, and it’s been all kinds of help I’ve had not only from family, but from friends, my law partners – we’ve been fortunate to have a successful law practice and got some really hard working lawyers that carry it on while I do fun things like this.

WZ: You have any questions that you would like to ask?

AA: You said that your career is not over yet. What other endeavors are you planning to do?

HW: Well, I’m not sure anything totally new and different, but I sure enjoy what I’m doing now in terms of the foundation work, and in terms of the relationship at least with the College, though I think I should – and I’ve told the chairman of the College Board of Trustees – I should become a trustee emeritus or something and so no longer continue as chairman of the business and finance committee and I’ve been there too long. They need some fresh blood and some turn over. But I’d like to continue on the committee, and then I also - I enjoy doing a lot of
outdoor things. We were fortunate - we’ve got a place that we haven’t used much up on a mountainside in North Carolina that I’d like to spend some more time up there. But when we get up there, we tend to be doing a whole lot of what I guess you call yard work. Things grow so fast up there in the summer – the spring and the summer – it just grows like mad. I’m trying to keep back the forest and keep the plants and bushes alive. So that’s a lot of fun - totally different sort of things, but nevertheless, I’m not hanging it up and going to the retirement center quite yet, though that could come. Our children probably hope that it doesn’t come after they have to make the decision to put us away or something.

WZ: Anything else you would like to tell us before we close?

HW: Well, let me see; I think I’ve rambled on so long about me and all the things that I’m interested in, but I do have a great interest in Rollins College, even though I never attended here. Oh, incidentally, one of the real high points was that I was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Rollins after my term as chairman of the Board of Trustees.

WZ: - 1986,

HW: -very, very important to me, and I appreciate that so much, and the results of it. Anyway, I’ve had more recognition that I need and it’s – I don’t want it to come across that I think I did it all, because I certainly didn’t – not anywhere near all of it.

WZ: Well, thank you so much. We really enjoyed your sharing with us your family history, your life story, and would like to thank you for all your contributions to Rollins College and the Winter Park Community.

HW: Well, thank you for the opportunity; I appreciate it.