

C. T. PERIN & KARL E. LIMPER

2-25-92

Tape #1

(K.L.) ...You in the Miami University Oral History Archives, an interview that is being conducted with Ted Perin as the interviewee and Karl Limper as the interviewer at the home of Ted Perin at 138 Hilltop Road on the twenty-fifth of February, 1992, in a rather dark, unappealing type of afternoon in midwinter, but in spite of all of this not-inspiring weather, Ted, would you be good enough to let us know something about yourself and your origins? What brought you to Miami University? Okay?

(T.P.) Okay. I, of course, was born in Hillsboro, Ohio--was raised there--went to school in Hillsboro, Ohio, up to the point where I was ready to go to college. Interestingly enough, though, I had omitted a grade. While going to school, I skipped the second grade, which left me out of high school at the age of sixteen.

(K.L.) Oh boy.

(T.P.) Which was a little bit young to go to college, and so I stayed another year in Hillsboro--took a post-graduate course--studied a little bit of Spanish, I studied Physics, and studied Engineering Drawing--just for kicks. Then I was ready to come to Miami in the fall of 1934.

(K.L.) Do you remember what the size of the population was then? The student body?

(T.P.) Miami population was probably around three thousand, I would guess, because, I think, by the time I left here it was around thirty-five hundred. So I'm just guessing around three thousand.

(K.L.) I've got some exact figures, but I forgot to bring them.

(T.P.) Yeah. Well,

(K.L.) But that's around...

(T.P.) it could have been in the two thousands,

(K.L.) Yes.

(T.P.) but around in there someplace.

(K.L.) Yeah. What was your major at the time?

(T.P.) Well, I came here with every intention of getting into Business Administration. The name had a certain appeal...maybe "administration" appealed to me, and I thought, "That sounds like something where I can get a job

when I get out of here." Now, this was in the depths of the depression, and I wanted to be sure to get work, and so I decided I'd get into Business Administration.

(K.L.) Where was that centered on campus back in those days?

(T.P.) It was in Irvin Hall.

(K.L.) The whole building, or just part of it?

(T.P.) Oh, no. English was there, and there were other offices there, too. Irvin was one of the main office buildings and classroom buildings on campus--between Irvin and Harrison, Arts and Science didn't have anything else.

(K.L.) Yeah. Well, except Brice Hall, which... *[Brice Hall a science building, stood where the north wing of King Library later was built.]*

(T.P.) Oh, Brice--oh, of course, I should have thought of Brice, because...

(K.L.) Why not?

(T.P.) because that's where I went next.

(K.L.) Okay.

(T.P.) At the end of one semester, I...with things so-so, I wasn't very excited about it; I didn't like the subject matter that I was studying; I didn't like the...well, I just wasn't... didn't find it appealing. So I went to Joe Bachelor, who was our advisor, our head of residence, out at Fisher Hall, where I was living. I talked with Joe, and Joe said, "You shouldn't be in Business Administration anyway." And so, he said, "What would you like to get into?" Well, I had been taking Geology my freshman year.

(K.L.) Strange subject.

(T.P.) And a subject I liked very much. I was taking it from S...S... S...sand...sanderson...

(K.L.) Sandefur.

(T.P.) Sandefur...B. T. Bennett Toy...Bennett Toy Sandefur.

(K.L.) Yes.

(T.P.) And he was an excellent teacher. I enjoyed his classes, and he sort of encouraged me to go into Geology. At the time, he was living with a cousin of mine, [Walter M.] Petie Everhart, out on Bonham Road. He and his wife were living out there. Petie was influential in my coming here.

(K.L.) Oh, really?

(T.P.) And so, actually Petie's first wife had been a cousin of mine, and so we were very good friends, and he was influential in getting me here...getting me into an F.E.R.A.

job, which was later N.Y.A., and he sort of watched over me my first years. So, since Geology did appeal to me, and I enjoyed the staff over there, I switched over to Geology.

(K.L.) Who else was in the department at that time...in the Geology Department?

(T.P.) Well, [William H.] Shideler, of course, was there,

(K.L.) Will Shideler, and Ralph Street...

(T.P.) Ralph Street was there.

(K.L.) With J. J. Wolford?

(T.P.) Wolford was there, teaching economic Geology...

(K.L.) Right. Yeah.

(T.P.) and the Geography Department was...oh, maybe they were over in McGuffey.

(K.L.) They were in McGuffey. They were in the School of Education at that time.

(T.P.) Yes.

(K.L.) But above Geology in Brice Hall was Physics, was it?

(T.P.) No. No, it was Zoology.

(K.L.) Yeah. That's right.

(T.P.) Zoology was up there. All the Zoo labs were in Brice Hall, and the Geology labs and classrooms were in Brice Hall.

(K.L.) Yeah. Okay. I'm interrupting you.

(T.P.) No. That's all right. I stayed on in there for...well, I've left out something. It's very important, I suppose. My N.Y.A. job--F.E.R.A., at that time--was in Psychology. They had an opening up there, and Petie was a friend of Everett Patten, and he told Patten that I was coming, and wanted to know if I could get a job there, and Patten gave me a job sight unseen,

(K.L.) Wonderful.

(T.P.) if I could type...

(K.L.) Oh.

(T.P.) and I couldn't type anymore than using my forefingers on a keyboard...but this was in June, when this opportunity presented itself--June of 1934--before I came to Miami, and so between June and September, I taught myself to type.

(K.L.) Oh, wonderful.

(T.P.) I was given a book on where to place your fingers on the keyboard, close your eyes and memorize the keyboard, and then learn to type. And so I came here with the idea of typing for Psychology, but...

(K.L.) Where was Psychology?

(T.P.) Psychology was on the top floor of Harrison Hall. There was only one telephone in the whole building at Harrison Hall, and Patten paid for that himself, in the Psychology Department. That was our telephone.

(K.L.) Was it up on the second floor?

(T.P.) It was on the third floor of Harrison. The top floor. Well, I went up to report for my job. Patten answered the door, when I knocked on the lab door there, and took me in, and he said, "Can you type?" I said, "Well, after a fashion." So he said, "Let me see you type." And he sat me down at a typewriter, stood over me and watched me while he dictated what he wanted me to type, which wasn't completely successful. But he was very nice about it. He said, "Well," he said, "I can use you anyway here in the laboratory," he said, "if you'll continue to practice your typing." So, I never did type for Psychology. We always had somebody else to do the typing and I got on to other things, but that's the way I started out in Psychology.

(K.L.) So your spare time was over in Harrison Hall?

(T.P.) My spare time was in Harrison--the top floor of Harrison all the time, and I put in hours and hours up there.

(K.L.) Now, you had to take Chemistry with Geology? Where was Chemistry then?

(T.P.) I didn't take Chemistry till my senior year.

(K.L.) Oh.

(T.P.) The Chemistry was over in what's now Kreger Hall--Hughes Hall at that time, and they also had a little laboratory--lean-to shed outside there where the laboratories for Chemistry were located.

(K.L.) Was that a war surplus building or something? From World War I?

(T.P.) I think the laboratory building was probably a World War I surplus.

(K.L.) And then what other courses would be part of your requirements then?

(T.P.) Well, I took English.

(K.L.) English. That was where?

(T.P.) I had [Robert B.] Sinclair for that.

(K.L.) That was in Irvin Hall?

(T.P.) That was in Irvin Hall. Had Sinclair, a delightful person to take a course from, and he had some familiarity with Hillsboro because of other students who had come here from Hillsboro, and so we...it was like old home week when I was in his class, and he made me feel at home, and that was just real nice. And I remember taking a course in Civics--Government--Poli Sci today...And I took it from [Oliver J.] Frederickson.

(K.L.) Frederickson.

(T.P.) Remember Frederickson?

(K.L.) Oh, yes. Yeah. That was Irvin Hall, too?

(T.P.) That was in Irvin Hall. Frederickson was a nice fellow--jittery as can be, dry as could be, and his lectures completely dry, no humor, no nothing much...but he...I suppose he was a good professor.

(K.L.) What was he like physically? I don't know whether...

(T.P.) He was a rather slight person. Rather slight built.

(K.L.) I've sorta a vague memory of him.

(T.P.) Yeah. And as I say, he was jittery, and he had a little nervous laugh at times, and probably didn't know any of his students--who they were. He had come here, I think, from Idaho, when [Dean Harrison] Dale came here. I'm not sure about that. But anyway, that was my other course for my first year, I think.

(K.L.) Geology, of course, was just beginning...

(T.P.) Geology was my science.

(K.L.) physical and historical.

(T.P.) It was...Yeah. Just the regular...

(K.L.) Did you have to take Zoology also?

(T.P.) No. I never had a course in Zoology.

(K.L.) Never took any biological science at all?

(T.P.) No. Did we have a Botany Department then?

(T.P.) Yes. It was in Brice also.

(K.L.) That was in Brice also, I'm pretty sure. Oh, and remind

me...who was the chairman of Botany then?

(T.P.) Oh...probably Williams? Dr. [Stephen Riggs] Williams?

(K.L.) No. He would be Zoology.

(T.P.) Oh, he was Zoo. Okay.

(K.L.) S. R. Williams.

(T.P.) [Robert A.] Hefner...let's see...would he be Botany?

(K.L.) He'd be Zoo also. Well, let's go on. Maybe I'll think of who it was. Sophomore year...What happened then?

(T.P.) Well, I was still taking Geology--majoring in Geology. I took Woford's Economic Geology,

(K.L.) Good.

(T.P.) which I enjoyed very much. And I took Sandefur's Mineralogy.

(K.L.) Down in the basement for lab?

(T.P.) No. We were on the first room on the left as you went into Brice. On the first floor.

(K.L.) For lecture?

(T.P.) No. For the laboratory, upstairs.

(K.L.) Oh, the first room on the left. A little tiny room.

(T.P.) Yeah.

(K.L.) Yeah. Okay.

(T.P.) Uh huh. And had balance scales in there, and blow pipes, and gas, which was generated down in the basement--a little gas-generating machine. And I took that, and enjoyed it very much. Did well, I think, in both courses.

(K.L.) Good. Well, one would expect that.

(T.P.) But all the time, I have to admit, Patten was working on me.

(K.L.) There was more than just your working for him.

(T.P.) Yeah.

(K.L.) He was working on you.

(T.P.) Well, when I came here--I'm not bragging, but I ranked very, very high in the entrance test that they gave to all the incoming freshmen here. I was at the ninety-ninth percentile.

(K.L.) Oh, wonderful.

(T.P.) A lot of things...Patten was the one who scored those papers, and he knew what my scores were in all those different tests that we took.

(K.L.) So he was beginning to do some proselyting.

(T.P.) So he began to work on me and...I don't know...I...I originally...oh, in my freshman year also, I was taking Spanish. I took Spanish from...Marion...

(K.L.) Miller?

(T.P.) Miller. Marion Miller.

(K.L.) Yeah. Marion Miller.

(T.P.) And I did well in Spanish. I had planned to go...after I started majoring in Geology I thought, well I'll go to South America, I'll take Spanish, and I'll do some prospecting down there, I guess in ??? or whatever I can find down there...or Mexico, because my father had spent a number of years in Mexico in the early part of the century, so I thought this was a good deal. But again Patten was working on me, and I was doing well in Psychology, in fact he had me take sophomore Psychology my second semester of my freshman year.

(K.L.) Wow.

(T.P.) And I did well in that, and so by my sophomore year, I was...let's see...I took a course in laboratory Psychology--experimental, and by the second semester of my sophomore year I was a laboratory assistant.

(K.L.) In Psychology?

(T.P.) Yeah. In Psychology. And so there I got to work with all the equipment. It was sort of the cross between Physics and something else, I don't know, but I enjoyed working with the apparatus and enjoyed setting it up and seeing it was...

(K.L.) Whose course was that?

(T.P.) Beg pardon?

(K.L.) Whose course was that?

(T.P.) That was...half of the year was taught by St. Claire Switzer and half of the year by Patten.

(K.L.) Oh.

(T.P.) And they...that year...that way they got a whole year of Experimental Psychology, and it's a year course.

(K.L.) Were you a lab assistant in Geology too?

(T.P.) No. No. I might have said Geology. I never...

(K.L.) No, you didn't say that. I wanted to ask...

(T.P.) No. I was never a lab assistant in Geology.

(K.L.) Oh. Okay.

(T.P.) I was beginning to get away from Geology almost by this time, I suppose.

(K.L.) You had half of a Geology major, and you were getting into the advanced courses in Psychology...

(T.P.) Getting in Psychology.

(K.L.) this was just your sophomore year.

(T.P.) That's right. I didn't see much future after a while in Geology. I began to worry about where it was going to lead me, partly because I had a feeling that I just wasn't getting oriented right then--I'm not criticizing Geology, although Shideler, I felt, wasn't particularly helpful in orienting me toward graduate school and so forth, and Patten assured me that I could go on to graduate school in Psychology and he could get me a spot.

(K.L.) I think Doc Shideler's psychology...philosophy was, perhaps, that if you wanted to major in Geology, he wanted to let you tell him about it, and then come your senior year, he might think about a place where he could put you for graduate work. But I don't think he was a recruiter.

(T.P.) No. He wasn't.

(K.L.) You were in a department where there was a good recruiting chairman.

(T.P.) Well, of course, Sandefur was there, but I think Sandefur might have been losing his interest in teaching, because shortly after that he branched over into administration--teaching less and less.

But by my junior year, I was firmly in Psychology and so forth. One thing that might have made a difference also... let's see...I'm trying to think whether it was in my junior year that I took Mineralogy, or my sophomore year. It might have been in my junior year I took Mineralogy, but anyway, Wolford had had a tour of the Eastern Appalachia area...

(K.L.) Summer tour.

(T.P.) Summer tour...which I hadn't been able to take, and this particular summer Sandefur was taking a western tour--this next summer--he was taking a western tour, and I wanted to go on that, but I did not have the money to go on the western tour. I just couldn't do it. And I remember Jean Edwards [later Mrs. Arthur Palmer] was on it and a lot of my friends went on it, but I didn't go. And so, had I gone, I imagine



that might have made a difference.

(K.L.) This could have made a difference.

(T.P.) Could have been all the difference.

(K.L.) Summer trips...

(T.P.) But I didn't do that, and so that changed things. I had worked the summer between my freshman and sophomore year. I pride myself on having built the high school in Hillsboro. I was the time keeper on the job there, and I earned twenty dollars a week and saved every penny of it...for that summer...for our next year here at Miami.

(K.L.) Chapel was compulsory back in those days?

(T.P.) Twice...was it twice a month you had to go?

(K.L.) Once a week?

(T.P.) One week...once a week, and maybe you had to go...

(K.L.) You could go more often, but you had to minimally go to at least two.

(T.P.) Oh yes. You had a requirement then.

(K.L.) Or something was added to your graduation requirement.

(T.P.) That is correct. That is correct. Or if you were bad and cut your classes, you might have additional chapel added or hours added to your requirement for graduation. That was when we had mandatory class attendance. You were allowed, as I recall, six cuts a year, but if you cut before or after a holiday that was triple cuts, and so they added up pretty fast.

(K.L.) If you decided you were going to leave one of those before...

(T.P.) If you wanted to leave early, you took a triple cut, and that was pretty bad. Unless you had a "B" average. If you had a "B" average, then you got unlimited cuts. They were pretty nice about that by the time I graduated. I think that had developed maybe while I was here. By the time I graduated, a "B" average was...would let you cut.

(K.L.) I sort of remember you had as many cuts as the course had credits. If you were taking a four-hour laboratory course, four credits, then you were allowed four cuts, three if it was a three...

(T.P.) That might have been used at some time. I just don't...

(K.L.) Yeah.

(T.P.) I don't know. That way, if you took a three-hour course, you

used up all your credits on a cut...

(K.L.) On one cut.

(T.P.) On a triple cut.

(K.L.) Yeah. What about Physical Education requirements? Where were they met?

(T.P.) Well, you know, the first two years, I think, you had to take Physical Ed.

(K.L.) One course every semester for two years.

(T.P.) For two years.

(K.L.) Yeah.

(T.P.) And during my first year, I went over to see VanVoorhis and told him that I was working in the Psychology laboratory and it was taking an awful lot of time and wanted to know if there was any way to adjust my Physical Education, and he was very nice about it he said, "Yeah, Perin, why don't you just come in when you can and work out." So that was really the extent of my Physical Education. My first year...in fact VanVoorhis wanted to put me in his records because on the University meals I had gained something like twenty-five pounds, and he attributed that to my diet and my working out. And I really put on the weight and I was still growing, really, and I only weighed about a hundred pounds or so when I came here, and put on twenty-five pounds right away. But, no I didn't have much Physical Education. I did play in the Band my first year.

(K.L.) Marching Band?

(T.P.) Marching Band. Concert Band. And there was a fellow named Norman...Theodore Norman was leading the band at that time.

(K.L.) What was your instrument?

(T.P.) Cornet. I had played cornet ever since the fifth grade over at Hillsboro, and I'd gotten fairly good at it. In fact, I played in a dance band here my freshman year, also.

(K.L.) Campus Owls?

(T.P.) No. We had a Fisher Hall Dance Band and we were engaged to play at Johnny Black's down in Hamilton.

(K.L.) Wow.

(T.P.) Johnny Black had been the composer of "Dardanella" and "Paper Doll"...had been in on those things, and he ran a beer joint down in Hamilton.

(K.L.) South side?

(T.P.) No.

(K.L.) Do you remember where it was?

(T.P.) About where Eaton Manor is now, as I remember.

(K.L.) Yeah. That would be near south.

(T.P.) And we played down there a couple of engagements, and then that was the end of it. We weren't asked back. We weren't good enough really to play more than two engagements because we would have used up all our repertory tunes, and that was it. But that was an experience.

(K.L.) Did you get into debating or any of the other extra curricular...

(T.P.) No I didn't.

(K.L.) journalism...

(T.P.) I didn't get into politics. I didn't get into theatrics. I got into nothing more. For the rest of my time here after my freshman year, I was busy really the whole time in Psychology...

(K.L.) Fisher Hall is where you started. For how many years were you there?

(T.P.) I was there for my freshman year and my senior year. I came back there my senior year as a...

(K.L.) As an R.A.?

(T.P.) proctor. We called them proctors then.

(K.L.) Proctor. Yes.

(T.P.) Yeah. The second and third year I ran the Perin Apartments uptown. They were over the Varsity Barber Shop and over... was it Heck's had an eating place up there where the Campus Owls played? This big building up there...

(K.L.) Was it the south side?

(T.P.) where Baskin-Robins is now...

(K.L.) On the south side.

(T.P.) On the south side...Baskin-Robins and I've forgotten what else in there now.

(K.L.) Heck's Restaurant?

(T.P.) Yeah. It was in there. And anyway, this building was owned by Petie Everhart, my cousin, and an aunt of mine in Hillsboro. She'd put money up for this building.

(K.L.) Was the name Perin?

(T.P.) And so...so I...they said well...asked me if I would run the apartments...If I did, why I'd get my room free.

(K.L.) Well, good.

(T.P.) So...for the work that was involved, and so we named it the Perin Apartments while I was up there...the second and third floors...we had ten boys up there and it was a...

(K.L.) Was there a single stairway that went up there?

(T.P.) A single stairway. It went right up to third floor. And we had a dormitory...two dormitory rooms and the rest were study rooms.

(K.L.) Uh huh. Dormitory rooms on the very top floor? Study rooms on the second floor?

(T.P.) The dormitory was on the second floor along with a...had a living room there. These rooms had at one time been occupied by, I think it was a Jewish Fraternity that was up there, and they'd gone broke in the tough times. And they had moved out and left their double bunk beds, what furniture was there, and so forth, and just left that with Petie Everhart for payment for the rent, I suppose, and so we took it over.

(K.L.) Your study rooms were top floor?

(T.P.) Yeah.

(K.L.) The second floor was the...

(T.P.) The top floor was entirely study, the second floor was partly study...no, the second floor was almost entirely living. We had a living room there and dormitory space.

(K.L.) Aren't there people living up there now?

(T.P.) Yes. John Minnis fixed it all up and put in heat and so forth. We had coal stoves, which we had on the top and the second floor. I carried the coal up for those stoves, and we kept pretty snug during a terrible winter, one time when it was down in the twenties below, we kept snug up there in our rooms.

(K.L.) Could walk to the campus.

(T.P.) Walked to the campus...just down the street...

(K.L.) Yeah. That'd get you awake in the morning.

(T.P.) It was a nice walk right down there. We didn't have many occurrences up there except one time when one of our boys swallowed his teeth in his sleep. He had a bridge or something, and I heard him coughing and I said, a fellow named [James] Cattell, and I said, "Jim, what's the trouble?" and he gasped and he said, "I swallowed my teeth." And so I

went down...took him down on the street...this was at 2:30 or so in the morning, and there was a night watchman down there with his car. He took us over to the hospital. Dr. [J. D.] Schonwald was called. Schonwald came in and x-rayed him and thought he...maybe he saw this thing and just left it alone...just let it take its course as it were. He had really swallowed it instead of inhaled his teeth...He had swallowed them. Eventually they got them back. But the interesting thing there was that the news picked this up and they broadcast all over the State of Ohio that this boy, Cattell, had swallowed his teeth, and his mother over in Steubenville heard about it on the...in the paper before she got any word from Oxford. But by that time Jim was all right. No big problem.

(K.L.) Now, were these all upperclass? And I assume they were all men in the Perin Apartment.

(T.P.) These were all men. No women were permitted up those steps.

(K.L.) Well, they had to be in a residence hall on campus, I'm sure.

(T.P.) Yeah. Yeah. But we got this...this was very unusual...allowing a group of unaffiliated men to live off campus. See, we weren't affiliated...

(K.L.) Yes. Yeah.

(T.P.) And Morris...A. K. Morris was very nice to us, and he said, "All right..."

(K.L.) Was he vice president then?

(T.P.) He was vice president. He said, "We'll let you do this if you don't get into any trouble." So we watched it very carefully. We had one fellow who maybe drank a little bit too much, and we kicked him out. We said, "We don't want you, 'cause you're dangerous to us." And no...this was a very well-run place. I have a clipping over here. I just want to...This particular clipping refers to the number of Phi Beta Kappas at Miami who were N.Y.A. students. All of the boys, almost all the fellows up in the Perin Apartments...later we called it the Perin Arms, and some people called it the Open Arms, but that was a misnomer, that wasn't true. All of these boys up there were--except one or two--were on the N.Y.A. They were working for their food and so forth.

(K.L.) Where did you eat?

(T.P.) We would eat "short" we called it: no breakfast--we would eat lunch and dinner at Ogden Hall.

(K.L.) Oh.

(T.P.) On the campus. Well, some of the boys ate out in the various houses...I mean there were eating clubs around.

(K.L.) Not fraternities?

(T.P.) No, not fraternities. Eating clubs run by these ladies and you could board there... or get your eating there. But most of us ate at Ogden Hall. And out of our group...I just wanted to point out that out of our group up there, as I recall, there were seven of us, but by our senior year, of course we were no longer together in our senior year, but seven of that group became Phi Beta Kappas.

(K.L.) Wonderful.

(T.P.) And the lights in the Perin Apartments were never off, really. Somebody would be going to bed while somebody else was getting up to study. Some would study almost all night. I was an early riser. I'd be getting up at 4:30 or so to do my studying, often while somebody else was coming to bed, particularly the pre-meds, they seemed to study longer and harder than I did. Well, it really was a very nice thing.

(K.L.) Were they all N.Y.A. students?

(T.P.) Almost all of 'em were N.Y.A. I can recall one whose father had enough money that he was not an N.Y.A. student. The rest of us were. They were students...

(K.L.) And working for what they got?

(T.P.) Uh huh. And Miami made national mention because of the N.Y.A. students who were Phi Beta Kappas. Ten members of Miami Phi Beta Kappa were N.Y.A. students for that particular year. And it points out here, it says, "One was offered four scholarships in four different institutions and has elected to study Psychology at the University of Rochester." Well, that was myself.

(K.L.) Charles Theodore Perin.

(T.P.) I had four graduate school offers. And I accepted Rochester, but just about that time an event happened at Yale. There was a fellow named Doug Elson, from Miami, who was a laboratory assistant at Yale, and he had to have a kidney removed, and so Professor Hall, at Yale, called Patten and wanted to know if he had anybody else who was available, and I became available, Rochester let me out, and I went on to Yale then to do my study. Hall was one of the most important people in the field of Psychology at that time, and I got to be his right-hand man for four years at Yale.

(K.L.) What was his specialty in the area?

(T.P.) Well, he originally went there because of his interest in testing--aptitude testing, but he had changed pretty much by the time I got there. He'd also done...

(End of Side One of Tape One)

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Tape #1--Side 2

- (T.P.) ...graduate school, were Columbia, Yale, Rochester, and Stanford, and I'd taken Rochester because Yale did not offer...didn't have enough money for a complete assistantship there at the time until Doug Elson became ill. That loosened up money...made it available to me...and that's why I later went on to Yale under a stipend of...I think it was \$800 a year, which was a heck of a lot of money in those days.
- (K.L.) Yes. Yeah.
- (T.P.) Pretty good. So that was where I went for the four years of Psychology.
- (K.L.) Now you graduated in what? Thirty...
- (T.P.) This was '38...
- (K.L.) Yeah.
- (T.P.) In the summer of '38, and I got to New Haven right...almost in the middle of the disastrous hurricane that they had up there and experienced that for my first week at Yale.
- (K.L.) Oh, good.
- (T.P.) Yeah.
- (K.L.) A good breaking-in.
- (T.P.) Really broke me in.
- (K.L.) Yeah.
- (T.P.) Yeah. Now where would you like to turn? You don't want to spend four years at Yale.
- (K.L.) Okay. Well, how many years were you there at Yale?
- (T.P.) Four years.
- (K.L.) Four years. Earned a doctorate?
- (T.P.) I got my master's...
- (K.L.) Master's...
- (T.P.) after two years and my doctorate...
- (K.L.) Then your doctorate...
- (T.P.) after another two years.

(K.L.) Okay. You've got your doctorate. Now you can't hang around there any longer.

(T.P.) No. There was a war on.

(K.L.) Well, that's right. Yeah. Thirty-eight and four is forty-two.

(T.P.) Uh huh.

(K.L.) Okay.

(T.P.) In fact, I had been...I had gotten out of the draft for two of the years, I suppose it was, I don't remember, but in order to complete my work at Yale, because I convinced the Draft Board the I'd be more valuable if I got my Ph. D., and they agreed. They let me finish.

(K.L.) Well, you were right on that.

(T.P.) So in '42 I was out of Yale and I went back to the Draft Board and said, "Now what do I do?" They said, "Well, if you can do something in Psychology, we can continue to defer you." So I came over to Miami. I talked with Fatten and Switzer, and Switzer at that time had gone into uniform and he was working at Wright Field in a psychological position there.

(K.L.) Oh, that's right. Yeah. Where was Clarke Crannell? Was he in...

(T.P.) Oh, he comes after the war.

(K.L.) He comes post-war.

(T.P.) Yes. He's after the war.

(K.L.) All right.

(T.P.) That always bothered Clarke a little bit because my roots here went clear back to 1934. And he was...

(K.L.) He was a youngster...

(T.P.) he was about forty-five, forty-six, I guess it was he came here.

(K.L.) So in '42 you came back to Oxford.

(T.P.) Forty-two...I got a job as a civilian over at Wright Field.

(K.L.) Oh, with [St Clair A.] Switzer?

(T.P.) Well, yeah. In the same outfit that he was in over there. He was in military, but I was in civilian clothes, and I got that job. And the Draft Board let me go for another year. But then after one year of that, they said, "We're sorry, but we just can't justify this any longer, we'll have to take



you." So, the people at Wright Field wanted me, still, so when I was inducted down at Ft...what is it?

(K.L.) Benning?

(T.P.) No. Down at Campbell. What is it?...Ft. Campbell?... Ft.?...whatever...down in Kentucky. I went right to Camp Lee, and while I was at Camp Lee doing my basic training, a letter came through from Wright Field..."Send this man right back as soon as he has finished his basic training." And that was an interesting experience because this was the final day at Camp Lee--Ft. Lee now--and my whole outfit was being shipped out. They were getting their assignments to go here and there in the Quarter Master Corps, and everybody had been assigned except poor Perin, who was standing out there on the field--believe me or not--this is true, all by himself, and no disposition had been made of me yet. There I was, and I wondered what is coming, and the First Sergeant went down his list, he said, "Oh, Perin, you've got a good deal." And so I got on the train and came back to Wright Field. As a Buck Private. Back in the same job that I'd had as a Ph. D., a civilian.

(K.L.) Yeah. Now you had a uniform.

(T.P.) Classification--wage administration--but I was in uniform. And I stayed there throughout the war then. Got promoted pretty rapidly to corporal, sergeant, staff sergeant, and then just stayed there and enjoyed it the rest of the war.

(K.L.) Now, did you find a bride during any of those days? Were you...

(T.P.) Yes. My last year...

(K.L.) I don't mean to pry too much in your private life.

(T.P.) My bride was a girl I'd known in Hillsboro for many, many years. Her family and my family knew each other. Her father was associated with the bank where my father was associated, and we went to the same church and so forth. She was a couple of years younger than I, but we knew each other.

And...I'd like to insert this, because this whole thing adds up to something just almost unbelievable. I was not dating this girl. In fact, there was no particular connection with this girl at all until...well it started way, way back in 1933. I had a chance to drive a car out to the west coast. Well, Jean, my present girl and wife, was...her family... mother and grandmother were living at La Jolla and Jean was going to school--high school--at La Jolla, and since I was on the west coast, my father suggested, "Why don't you go down and see Mrs. Sparter and Mrs. Fletcher and Jean while you're there?" So, sure enough, I had an opportunity to get a little car and I went down to La Jolla. I didn't see Jean, but I saw her mother and grandmother and very cordial and so forth. Later on, when I got back to Hillsboro, Jean's mother invited me around for dinner one night. Apparently I had

made enough impression on her as a nice young man, and so Jean was put out a little bit because she had other friends, but anyway I came around and went to her mother's for dinner...very, very enjoyable and so forth. And that was that. I did see Jean more and more often, though. So by the time I had graduated from Miami, she had come over here to spend the weekend...she and her mother came over to my graduation and so forth. Things were developing.

(K.L.) I can see that. Yeah.

(T.P.) Well, Jean went to Vassar, and I was at Yale in New Haven, and New York City is sort of a nice meeting-place.

(K.L.) Neutral ground.

(T.P.) Yeah. And we had mutual friends in New York who invited us down for weekends. And Jean would come down from Vassar, and I went down from New Haven, and we saw each other on weekends...and gradually things developed. By the time 1941 had come around, we were pretty close friends. In fact we had decided we were going to be married, which we were in the few weeks right after Pearl Harbor in 1941. We were married on December the twenty-sixth...twenty-seventh, maybe...

(K.L.) Right after Christmas.

(T.P.) Don't tell Jean I can't remember, but it was a day or two days after Christmas, and we went back to New Haven and she was with me then my final semester at Yale. She got a job and she already had a master's in Botany. So she got a job doing research at the experimental station there, and we finished up my dissertation and got out of there in time to go back to Dayton and my job there. So that was how Jean and I got together. We were married in '41 and graduated in '42 then came back to Dayton. We were there until '45, I guess it was.

(K.L.) Okay. And did this bring you back to Miami right away?

(T.P.) Oh no no no, no. In '45 I was still in service, and this was when people were trying to get out. I had friends in high places by that time. I really, seriously, had had quite a lot of power for a Staff Sergeant, and I had friends all around, and an opportunity arose for me to go up to the Lewis Propulsion Laboratory at Cleveland, part of, at that time N.A.C.A., now it's N.A.S.A. Aerospace.

(K.L.) What was the N.A.C.A.?

(T.P.) N.A.C.A. it was. It was National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

(K.L.) Committee.

(T.P.) It was a committee, and [Charles A.] Lindbergh was on it and a number of famous people were on this board; and so a letter came to Wright Field asking for my services up there, and I

was let out of the Army Air Force to go up to Cleveland, as a civilian, and take this job up there, which was the same kind of work I was doing at Wright Field. Jean and I lived up there, in Lakewood, for one winter, and that was all we could stand of Cleveland. The climate was terrible, and we had a very inadequate apartment...very inadequate, and we wanted to get out of there, and in the spring of '46 a call came from Washington, where I had friends, and wanted to know if I would be available to come there as Chief of the Wage Administration and Assistant Chief of the Classification Wage Administration Division. And so I said, "Sure, I can do it." And so I resigned up at NACA--up at N.A.C.A., and went to Washington.

(K.L.) But you had been at Yale. That gave you a pretty good winter. But Cleveland, yes, you would get a more healthy winter.

(T.P.) Oh, Yale's a wonderful climate, compared with Cleveland. Right on the coast there--maybe one or two good snows a year, but fairly mild, and Cleveland was windy and cold and miserable and we hated it.

(K.L.) Okay. So you went to Washington, D. C.

(T.P.) Then we went to Washington, D. C., where our son was born...Charlie was born in December of '46, and we stayed there until '47. In the summer of '47 I was aware that the Washington life had been real rough, I mean it was very...a lot stress and strain in this job that I had--a lot of letters to senators and congressmen, hearings and so forth, lots of decisions, and I thought there was just too much stress in all of this. [E. F.] Patten got in touch with me and said, "We have an opening in Psychology." And I thought well that sounds very, very nice--living back in Oxford with our son, maybe more children later,

(K.L.) Uh huh.

(T.P.) and being on the staff happily at Miami.

(K.L.) Did Jean have a job in Washington? Was she working?

(T.P.) No. No.

(K.L.) She was a housewife.

(T.P.) She was a housewife. Yeah.

(K.L.) Uh huh.

(T.P.) That was another problem. We lived clear out on Georgia Avenue--out by the hospital out there, and...

(K.L.) It's on the north side?

(T.P.) Oh, yeah, way out.

(K.L.) Yes.

(T.P.) Walter Reed--you know where Walter Reed is out there--right across the street from Walter Reed, and I had to go from there all the way...first of all down to Gravelly Point, where the National Airport is, then later on we moved over to the Pentagon, so I had the trip clear to the Pentagon from clear up north. Which was a lot of driving and so forth, but I think I would have been all right there had not this opportunity come along. That sort of called me back, I suppose.

(K.L.) 1947.

(T.P.) This is '47. Uh huh. And so I came out here and was interviewed by Hahne, [Miami President Ernest H. Hahnel], and he hired me, and...

(K.L.) What about Dean Will Alderman? [Miami Arts and Science Dean William H. Alderman]

(T.P.) I don't remember if I saw Alderman on that trip or not. Anyway, I remember going right to Hahne, and he said, "Yeah." and so I got the job. Unfortunately, they could offer me only half of what I was getting in Washington. I took a cut of exactly half. I was making good money in Washington. I came here for exactly half and had to start almost over again, you see, working up the scale.

(K.L.) Your expenses were a little less here, though.

(T.P.) Oh yeah. Yeah.

(K.L.) You didn't have the commuting.

(T.P.) And we had family over in Hillsboro, and in many ways it was much, much nicer.

(K.L.) Uh huh. What changes do you recall...the difference in Miami University from the time that you left with your bachelor's degree and the time when you came back in '47? From nineteen what?

(T.P.) I came back in '47--from 1938 to '47.

(K.L.) Nine years. Were there any extensive changes that had happened then?

(T.P.) Well, there were a few physical changes. Harrison Hall was still here--much-used--and Brice and Irvin, and so forth. Upham Hall had been completed, the first phase of it was completed by that time. They were getting ready to start on some more of it. Vetville had been built, and some of the other temporary buildings had been put up for classrooms and so forth on the campus. There was Building C and Building something else. I don't know.

(K.L.) There was no University Center at that time? And there were some frame buildings there that were...

(T.P.) There was a...there was a...what did they call it?

(K.L.) Architecture had one there.

(T.P.) Yes. They were down by where Shriver Center is now, and there was a hang-out up on the main campus, right near Elliott Hall.

(K.L.) Yes.

(T.P.) That was a temporary building.

(K.L.) They called that a student center or something.

(T.P.) Yeah. It wasn't wigwam. It was something else of that sort. [A revamped wood military theatre structure called the Redskin Reservation--the Res] But that was up there. The big change, I think was in the...all the Veterans going to Miami. Let's see...they were coming back with their Veteran's rights.

(K.L.) Yes. That's why I got called back.

(T.P.) Uh huh.

(K.L.) Will [William H.] Shideler saying, "We've got a lot of Vets here."

(T.P.) Yeah.

(K.L.) "Get back..."

(T.P.) When I started teaching, we had a lot...a lot of Veterans here.

(K.L.) Good students.

(T.P.) Good students, most of 'em.

(K.L.) They were older and knew why they were...

(T.P.) They were gonna get through and get out of here and get jobs. I enjoyed that.

(K.L.) There was an impressive increase in numbers for you then? In the size of the student body? In '47 versus '38?

(T.P.) I have no recollection what the numbers were by this time. You'd have to get that from your list, because I just...I have no idea of how Miami was growing. I knew it was growing. Classes were bigger. Our Psychology Department consisted of [E. F.] Patten, [S. A.] Switzer, [Richard J.] VanTassel,

(K.L.) Oh, yes. VanTassel.

(T.P.) and when I came here in '46...oh, these are smaller numbers than I had thought even. I would have thought they were...I came in '47...

(K.L.) That's one semester. That's not total for the year.

(T.P.) Oh, I see. These are...

(K.L.) The number of students for a particular semester.

(T.P.) Well, that would be the same for the year almost.

(K.L.) Well, except it would be twice as many for two semesters if you added them together.

(T.P.) Oh.

(K.L.) But you shouldn't. That's distorting it.

(T.P.) Student enrollment...you'd have...

(K.L.) Yeah. The figures should mean the same.

(T.P.) Well, anyway...anyway this goes from in '41...when I left here in '38 it must have been around three thousand,

(K.L.) Yeah.

(T.P.) because by '41 it was 3,256, by '46 it was 2,270, then it went up to 5,000--almost right away. By '51--five years later--it was up to 5,000, then '61 it was 7,000, '66 it was 10,000, '71 it was 12,000.

(K.L.) Uh huh.

(T.P.) Yeah. The numbers had dropped off during the war.

(K.L.) That's right.

(T.P.) Down to 2,270 and so forth.

(K.L.) Any new buildings?

(T.P.) And then there was another member of the faculty I don't want to forget. It was Brodie Taylor.

(K.L.) Brodie Taylor.

(T.P.) Brodie Taylor was here. He taught Philosophy and Psychology. He had a daughter here...Lee Taylor who later on married a Hefner boy--Lee Hefner.

(K.L.) I don't know if you knew John Hefner--married John, I think, because...

(T.P.) They live up in Michigan.

(K.L.) Oh. Then that's the other Hefner. I'm thinking of the one down in Texas.

(T.P.) No. This is up in Michigan. Lee Taylor Hefner.

(K.L.) Uh huh.

(T.P.) We were still up on the top floor of Harrison Hall when I came back here.

(K.L.) And weren't there a lot of statues up there?

(T.P.) Yes.

(K.L.) That Bud [Marston D.] Hodgkin had brought...

(T.P.) Well, they went up there later,

(K.L.) Later.

(T.P.) because the top floor of Harrison had Psychology and the laboratory for the School of Business--they had all the calculating machines up there on the top floor of Harrison.

(K.L.) Oh, they did?

(T.P.) Yeah. All the calculators. But I'm incorrect when I say I came back to the top floor. In the meantime they had moved down to the first floor,

(K.L.) That's what I thought.

(T.P.) and that's where I was when I started teaching in the fall of '47--in the east wing of Harrison. And I taught there until Millett thought the building was going to fall down and had it demolished.

(K.L.) Even if he didn't think it, he voiced it that way. Who else was in the Psychology Department?

(T.P.) Barschak. Don't forget Erna Barschak.

(K.L.) Yes, Erna, yes.

(T.P.) The German who spoke a little English.

(K.L.) Yes. She was all right. She was quite a character.

(T.P.) And then Crannell was here by that time--Clarke Crannell. So the department had grown quite a lot.

(K.L.) Yeah. How long did <sup>Erna</sup>~~Lee~~ stay? Not very many years, did she?

(T.P.) Yeah, she stayed here probably five years after I came here.

(K.L.) Oh, she did?

(T.P.) Yeah. Uh huh. In fact, she was just on leave from here when she went to New York and she died in New York, but she never did really leave Miami.

(K.L.) But she died while on...

(T.P.) She died while she was on duty here. I remember going up to the hospital in New York to see her. She had cancer and was dying, and never got back.

(K.L.) Then, when John Millett "condemned", quote unquote, Harrison Hall, the new Benton Hall was being built.

(T.P.) That's probably so. Yeah.

(K.L.) But Psychology didn't move over there right away, did it?

(T.P.) Oh, no, no the new Benton Hall...no, it was not being built at all. That came years later. I'm sorry, I was thinking about Roudebush. Psychology moved out of Harrison Hall before...

(K.L.) Where did you move to?

(T.P.) We went down to a temporary building. Down where Hiestand Hall is now. Right by Hiestand.

(K.L.) Okay.

(T.P.) They had practice rooms down there for...

(K.L.) It was a temporary building.

(T.P.) It was a temporary building, and we had one wing of that and the pianos were in the other wing for practice.

(K.L.) I remember that.

(T.P.) Remember that?

(K.L.) Yes. Yes.

(T.P.) And a temporary building...building Nine, I think,

(K.L.) Down South Maple Street.

(T.P.) something like that. South Maple Street.

(K.L.) Yeah. That was while the new Harrison Hall was being built.

(T.P.) Right. We were down there for several years.

(K.L.) Because the old Harrison Hall was razed during the summer when the students weren't around.

(T.P.) That's right.

(K.L.) Am I remembering that correctly?



(T.P.) Yes. I have some pictures of that.

(K.L.) Yeah. Okay. Then the new Harrison Hall and...

(T.P.) So we moved back to the third floor of a new Harrison Hall.

(K.L.) With special rooms up...air conditioned rooms for...

(T.P.) For the laboratory animals.

(K.L.) for experimental animals.

(T.P.) They were up in the towers and up in the top.

(K.L.) Yes. Quite a furor about the fact that Psychology's animals were getting air conditioning, whereas the humans over in Upham Hall and Irvin Hall, worse yet.

(T.P.) The rats were important.

(K.L.) Yes.

(T.P.) Yeah. We stayed up there.

(K.L.) Okay. You came back. What was your specialty then?

(T.P.) Well, my specialty by that time was Industrial Psychology and Statistics, which I had never taught, of course, and I'd done well enough at it that I could teach it, and so that was my first teaching: General Psychology, Statistics, and we called it Business Psychology, which was required of the School of Business majors--Psychology 262, 263.

(K.L.) When did the controversy begin, as you recall it, between the School of Education--Educational Psychology--and Psychology Psychology?

(T.P.) Well, that was going on...it was going on for years, but it finally came to a head, I think, that fateful Senate Meeting, when the vote was finally taken, as I recall, by the Senate, to leave Psychology over in the School of Education--Educational Psych over there.

(K.L.) Uh huh. Who was chairman at that time? John...

(T.P.) Patten was still chairman.

(K.L.) Was Patten still...

(T.P.) Uh huh. And we had one fellow named...oh, I won't get into that...anyway, we lost the vote, and the people are still laughing about it. The psychologists didn't help their cause very much.

(K.L.) I was Dean at the time,

(T.P.) Yeah.

(K.L.) and I suffered literally through it.

(T.P.) Anyway, it's probably for the best, I suppose. It's better to have it the way it is. We were busy enough anyway, and Patten didn't really want to take on Educational Psychology, but he was willing to do it. He had taught it for years and years. [Dr. Ruth] Ortleb was over in the School of Education and a number of other people. John Millett was president by that time. Yes. So we went our way, and Education went its way.

(K.L.) Were there any other exciting incidents in the Psychology Department that you recall?

(T.P.) Post War?

(K.L.) There was the moving from Harrison Hall over to Benton Hall.

(T.P.) Yeah. We moved to Benton Hall. That was fairly uneventful. We got nice quarters over there. I...actually...I admit I fought against Benton Hall. I didn't think that we needed a whole building. I didn't think that we needed all that laboratory space because...I came back here primarily in the Miami tradition of teaching--had been successful at that...Miami was good at that, and I hated to see the change taking place where everybody had his hand out for a grant. This was a time when grants were very important apparently. "And while you're up, get me a grant"...was one of the favorite slogans, you know. And I wasn't in favor of hand-outs and I wasn't in favor of grants, and I didn't think we needed a whole great big, blankety blank building. So I didn't offer very much support for it. I didn't fight it. I just didn't give much support to the building. And so, we moved into our fine quarters over there.

(K.L.) Was Clarke Crannell in the department? I don't know why he keeps coming to my mind, but I'll tell you later, when you moved over to the...

(T.P.) Oh yeah. Yeah. He'd been here since I came back in '47. He was here.

(K.L.) But, did he take the move across the street, too?

(T.P.) Yeah.

(K.L.) To the new building?

(T.P.) Oh, they built a whole laboratory for Clarke Crannell over there.

(K.L.) Well, that's what I was going to ask.

(T.P.) A huge room, that was completely painted black, for his visual studies, cause that was his area of interest. And they built that whole laboratory for Clarke and it was never used by anybody else. When he retired, that was the end of it, and they started using it for other things.

(K.L.) Well, the reason he comes to my mind, and I have to insert this in here, was a niece of his we met with her husband, when we were going up the Sacramento River on that cruise up to Sacramento and back to San Francisco. And our conversations--every time we'd talk--would be about what Uncle Clarke did, and "Would you tell me a little bit more about Uncle Clarke?" Well, I had to try to remember things about Clarke Crannell and how he would build so many things.

(T.P.) Clarke was a bug. He was flighty as could be.

(K.L.) Well, he was one who enjoyed himself...

(T.P.) Immensely...he enjoyed himself...he enjoyed teaching immensely, he was sure that nobody else could do it, though, except Clarke and his methods. He enjoyed doing research. He had a Wright Field project, I remember, for a long time--an Air Force Project, with that trailer outside Harrison Hall, right outside the door, where for one winter or year, people would go in and be run through their tests and so forth.

(K.L.) Did the courses that you taught change through the years? Did you give some up and take others to replace them?

(T.P.) Well, not a whole lot. I picked up the History of Psychology...some of the philosophical history, which I enjoyed very much because I had been exposed to that at great length at Yale.

(K.L.) I would think so. Yes.

(T.P.) And Patten had always taught that and later on he turned that over to me, and I taught Social Psych. Since I'm not much good as a sociologist or social psychologist, I did not enjoy that. I upgraded our Business Psychology course to a 400 level course,

(K.L.) Oh, you did. Wonderful!

(T.P.) which I taught. And that was...I enjoyed that. And I even taught, for a couple of semesters, a course in Hypnosis for our graduate students.

(K.L.) How many chairmen did you serve under? Can you list those?

(T.P.) Well, I served under Patten, and then following Patten was Switzer, and then following Switzer was Lex...the one that went up to Canada...

(K.L.) Went up to...

(T.P.) Victoria.

(K.L.) Alexander...I can't remember the last name either.

(T.P.) Lex...a...it'll come back to me maybe.

(K.L.) Yeah.

(T.P.) Because after he left, I think, was it Jahnke?

(K.L.) John Jahnke?

(T.P.) Did Jahnke take that?

(K.L.) I would think. Yes.

(T.P.) And then Pucker took it for a period,

(K.L.) Uh huh.

(T.P.) and then Ray White took it.

(K.L.) Had you retired when Ray White took it?

(T.P.) No. I was with...It might have been on my last five years when I was on half time for five years.

(K.L.) Yeah.

(T.P.) That was a good deal. When Ray was there. And we had one other one in there and I can't think of his name.

(K.L.) Yeah. It strikes me that there was somebody else in there.

(T.P.) He came from California and stayed for about a year or so and left. I have all that in the history of the department that Fern Patten wrote. She wrote the whole history including every course that was offered in the...

(K.L.) Oh, really.

(T.P.) in the department. Yeah.

(K.L.) Have you updated that?

(T.P.) No. No. Never touched it since.

(K.L.) When did she write that?

(T.P.) A...

(K.L.) It was after Patten died. In the fifties?

(T.P.) It would have been in the...

(K.L.) Sixties?

(T.P.) early eighties, I guess.

(K.L.) Oh, in the early eighties?

(T.P.) Yes.

(K.L.) Oh, that recently?

(T.P.) Uh huh.

(K.L.) It doesn't need much updating then.

(T.P.) Not a whole lot.

(K.L.) Yeah. Do you care to give your...

(T.P.) Lex...Milton...Milton...

(K.L.) Milton.

(T.P.) was the last name.

(K.L.) Yes, that was it.

(T.P.) And he followed Switzer.

(K.L.) I have a feeling he was decimating the department when he went up there, because he drew one after another...

(T.P.) He drew Ron Hoppy with him. He went up there, and one of our research people, Alexander, went up there with him, but I don't think any faculty members left.

(K.L.) Yes, there was one more, who, I had a feeling that the department did not feel...

(T.P.) Well, that was Alexander, I think, Bruce Alexander.

(K.L.) Oh, Bruce Alexander. Yeah, I was thinking Lex Milton... Alexander Milton.

(T.P.) No. Bruce Alexander went up there and a...

(K.L.) Yeah. That was it. Okay.

(End of Side Two of Tape One)