

Raymond W. Knight

Interview I

2-10-71

Tulsa Historical Society & Museum

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Raymond W. Knight

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Recording of Interview with Dr. Raymond Knight

Identification of Interviewee Retired principal of Tulsa Will Rogers High School,

Subject(s) of discussion Cherokee Nation; Education in Oklahoma; Governor Bill Murray;
Tulsa and it's leaders; Will Rogers and the Will Rogers Memorial; and Oklahoma
Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Name of Interviewer Pen Woods

Date and place of Interview Oklahoma Christian College

February 10, 1971

Brief synopsis of Interview

Discussion of Knight's background and his grandmother who was a Cherokee;
Discussion of the School at Hominy and the leaders of Hominy Oklahoma; Discussion
of the Will Rogers Memorial and his acquaintance with Will Rogers; Discussion of
Alfalfa Bill Murray and his campaign for Governor; Discussion of the schools in
Tulsa and some of his former students; Discussion in great length of Will Rogers
High School and its activities and honors; Discussion of being President of OEA;
and Discussion of the establishment and framework of the Oklahoma Blue Cross and
Blue Shield

Catalog file No.

166

MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
<i>Tape 2 Left TR</i> 209	Discusses his background-- date of birth, parents and early education.	
218	Discusses the presentation and celebration of his 50th year from graduating from High School at the same year school.	
226	Discusses college work.	
228	Discusses coming to Oklahoma and living at Hominy.	
229	Discusses coming to Tulsa and entering the Tulsa school system.	<i>SCHOOLS</i>
235	Discusses his Grandmother and her experiences in Oklahoma.	
257	Discusses her thoughts of the Civil War.	
266	Tells Grandmother's name was Crutchet and having Cherokee blood in her.	<i>INDIANS</i>
272	Discusses not being interested in being of Indian blood.	
278	Discusses having a book about his time in schools of Oklahoma and a picture of his Grandmother in it.	
287	Discusses his Grandmother having Indian land on the Cherokee nation.	
290	Discusses his Grandfather being killed accidentally.	
295	Discusses his grandfather participating in travel elections.	
303	Discusses his Grandmother marrying again and he disposing of her property without her consent.	
304	Discusses an effort to get the land back which was around the <i>Tulsa</i> .	

MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
306	Discusses how she got the land something about 34 acres.	
314	Discusses the hazardous time of living in OK when she first came here.	
322	Discusses his Grand Grandparents first living in a sod house.	
330	Describes his Grandmother as being a quiet woman.	
343	Discusses his father making the run into into OK, somewhere around Arkansas City, Kansas.	
348	Describes his father making the run in a covered wagon with his brother.	
353	Discusses his father staking a claim but not following through on it.	
357	Discusses the Sooners.	
362	Discusses his father not staying long enough to keep his claim.	
372	Description of the type of people at the run.	
392	Discusses coming to Tulsa during the race riot.	
394	Describes the race riot.	RACE RIOT.
437	Discusses coming to Hominy in 1925 and what brought him there.	
454	Described xxxx Hominy when he came down in 1925.	
462	Discusses addressing a PowWow in 1926 or 27.	

MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
498	Discusses receiving 2 indian blanks for speaking.	
505	Discusses Paul Pitts being the last Osage Chief he personally knew.	
510	Names some of the leaders in Hominy at that time.	
	(John Abbott, Shucamola, Drummons, Carl Matthews, Harry Madless, Ray Mulindorf, Crommer, J.A. Presbury)	
521	Talks about Ray Mulindorf and his family.	
538	Discusses the Petets and Crowes being prominent in the work of Indians.	
548	Discusses his book "Toward Excellence".	
559	Compliments Oklahoma Christian College on the work with students.	
572	Discusses going to Princeton Univ. for Scholarship Board.	
583	Describes the school at Hominy.	
611	Discusses one of his companions and assistant principals became Pres. of J.C. Penny's.	
622	Continues to discuss the school.	
635	Discusses some of the visitors to Hominy Hl. School. (alfalfa Bill Murray)	
629	Discusses Alfalfa Bill Murray speaking to the students. (when he was running for Governor.) (also his visit with him)	

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MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
000	Discusses His indian friends at Hominy. (just names the names)	
008	Names some men promenant in Hominy.	
014	Discusses teaching only things for College bound students.	
021	Discusses problems of adequately financing schools.	
025	Discusses people in Hominy being very interested in the school system.	
031	Discusses knowing Will Rogers.	
058	Discusses Will Rogers just falling into the writing of articles.	WILL ROGERS !
064	Discusses meeting him again just a short time before his Alaskan Trip.	
071	Discusses being Chairman of the Board of Will Rogers Memorial.	
074	Discusses being in the process of making a book out of his (Will Rogers) writings. (probably be 15 volumes.)	
086	Discusses moving to Tulsa in about 1930.	
089	Discusses the Fire Bell Measures. of Bill Murray.	
097	Discusses being in Bill Murray's office during Gov.	
101	Discusses coming to Tulsa. and knowing Henry Gowens.	
123	Describes the Tulsa Schools in 1930's. (budget Problem)	
139	Names some of his students and how he made friends	

Tape 5
Left
TR 1

MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
139	Discusses Anita Bryant Green being one of his students.	
168	Discusses Buddy Fallus being a student at Will Rogers.	
172	Discusses the Will Rogers High School being a good school.	<i>SCHOOL/WILL ROGERS H.</i>
184	Discusses once a week assemblies put on by the students.	
189	Discusses having graduates being all over the world U.S. and various professions.	
194	Discusses the formation of Will Rogers High in 1939-1940 school year.	
196	Discusses being principal in 1950 to 1969.	
198	Discusses having a prodical at every assembly. (using the pledge allegence to the fxk flag and the American Creed as part of the ceremony)	
209	Describes Will Rogers Hi as having a very high curriculum.	
215	Discusses Will Rogers Winning the Bellomy Award. (which promoted citizenship)	
230	Discusses Dr. Zacharius from MIT asking Will Rogers High	
	to be one of 50 experimental schools in the Physical science Department.	
246	Discusses the Philosophy of schools and trying to have a highly selective curriculum.	
271	Discusses his definition of Education as being a purly modification of behavior.	

Tulsa Historical Society & Museum

MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
277	Discusses not ever having a drug problem and mostly having students who are ver cooperative.	
289	Discusses being the first President elect of OEA and Presidentx of the OEA 1964-65.	
301	Discusses loosing teachers because of poor pay.	
317	Discusses as being President of OEA meeting many times with the Gov. and Legislature to get better school legislation.	
334	Discusses the state adopting a saying "No new taxes for any purpos purpose."	
344	Discusses invoking sanctions on Oklahoma.	
357	Discusses the background of the Tulsa County Historical Society.	
370	Discusses future hopes of the Tulsa Society.	
382	Discusses some of the actions of the Will Roger Memorial Commission.	<i>Museums/ will ROGERS memorial</i>
395	Tells that Will Rogers Memorial is the 2nd biggest Shrine in the US as far as visitors are concernad. making a book x	
404	Discusses again the process of the life story of Will Rogers and his Works.	
420	Tells of some special guests to the Memorial. (Bob Maculloh, Joel McCray, Bob Hope)	
429	Discusses Will Rogers being a free Shrine.	
438	Discusses the Budget of the Memorial.	
457	Discusses the Oklahoma Blue Cross and Blue Shield officers Ralph Bethel and N. B. Helen	

MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
477	Discusses the teachers policy in Blue Cross and Blue Shield.	
509	Discusses the formation of Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Oklahoma.	
546	Discusses his part in Blue Cross and Blue Shield in the Education part.	
582	Discusses the departments of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield.	
595	Discusses the connection with the National Blue Cross and Blue Shield.	
620	Discusses the two boards Blue Cross Board and Blue Shield Board (Shield is made of doctors)	
646	Discusses becoming Computerized.	
663	Discusses the purpose and aim of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield.	

MEASURE SUBJECT MATTER DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)

260

Born Fort Scott, Kansas 1-4-1903. Moved to Columbus Kansas, entered high school. Moved 24 miles north to Gerard, Kansas, completed school and graduated in 1920. A year ago I was invited back to recognize my 50th year graduation from high school and I was the speaker of the evening at our reunion to approx. 20 of my former classmates of 1920. It was shocking realization to find it had been 50 years since I had graduated. (Laugh) Went to Kansas State Teachers College at Pittsburg, graduated with an AB degree in 1925. Came to Oklahoma as high school principal at Hominy, Oklahoma until Fall 1929. Came to Tulsa in the fall of 1929 as elementary school principal for 3 years. Remained 17 years at elementary - junior high. In 1950 moved to Will Rogers High School as principal until 1970.

303

I visited my grandmother, of Cherokee heritage, when I was in high school in Gerard. I asked about her early experiences in Oklahoma. She was 92 in 1919. She told me she came to Oklahoma in 1848 from Kingston, Tennessee with her husband and family, settled at Bluejacket, Oklahoma and remained there a great many years. She gave birth to 18 children, all but 3 lived to maturity. My father had 11 brothers and 3 sisters. I was interested in the Civil War and asked her what she remembered. She related some of the skirmishes involving the indians and either one army or the other; mostly the indians, particularly on the side of the south. She said this shocking thing to me "do you realize my mother lived during the time of Washington?" Well, I didn't even realize this was a possibility, but when she related it and she was born sometime in the early quarter of the 18th century, sometime around 1830, she related this about her mother and living. They were on the east coast at that time along in Georgia, I believe. My grandmother's name was Crochit and she was Cherokee. I never was particularly interested in that phase of my ancestry because, not that I was ashamed to ask, but it appeared to me that a great many people of questionable character, morals and reputation oftentimes claimed to be part indian when in reality they would be a disgrace if it were true. In all my years of experience I never did any research to see how many in our family were of indian blood. I like to think of indians as being good Americans and in fact, the first 100% Americans. She was a great woman and looked her indian heritage. Her picture and a little story on her early life in Georgia and Tennessee and Oklahoma is in a little book which was edited and published about my life in the schools of Oklahoma.

I had a great many relatives in Oklahoma, a lot of whom I'd never met, most of my uncles had come to Oklahoma, and some later dispersed, but they all raised large families. After Grandfather Knight, a full blooded Englishman, died an untimely death (he had been shot - but not seriously enough to kill him, and his horse dragged him home, mangled and dead, because he had gotten his foot caught in the stirrup) and this was during the tribal elections and he participated to some extent and these were hot affairs in Indian Territory.

She married another man and he disposed of her property against her will without her consent. There was some effort to repossess the land it was around Bluejacket, so she did have an Indian allotment, it wasn't a lot of land, by that I mean when they made an allotment under the Dawes

MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
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Commission these parcels of land were sized in terms of the amount of Indian blood you had. I think she had 30-40 acres. They tried to repossess it because it became mineral land. There was coal and later some ore.

405

She used to tell me of hazardous times they had living in Oklahoma, not only to gain a livelihood but wild animals that attacked people in this early day; panthers, for example. It was dangerous for children. She lived in a sod house, later developed a homestead. My father participated in the Oklahoma Run but she didn't. She was a quiet woman and not filled with descriptive words. I admired her because of the principles that guided her life, respect for integrity, truthfulness.

Father made the run near Arkansas City, Kansas. He was in a covered wagon, had a brother, Henry, with him, who lived in Perry. Father staked a claim but didn't follow through. Many participated as a lark. Many sooners staked out the claims before the run. There was a lot of claim jumping, also. All types and descriptions of people, particularly men with no principles who were selling water. You could buy whiskey cheaper than water.

502

Came to Tulsa after the race riot, saw evidence of it. I think the first incident occurred at the Tulsa Hotel. % of loss of life was mostly negro. I was just out of high school, made the journey with a friend in a 1916 Model T, didn't hit any pavement from Pittsburg, Kansas until we hit Tulsa city limits, where Peoria crossed the RR tracks. Another fella came with me and we saw evidence of the riot, were cautioned by the police not to involve ourselves in this and we were shied away from the area where incidents could have occurred. A lot of curiosity seekers were present, along with myself, coming to Tulsa. That was my first view of Tulsa and I will say at that time it wasn't very impressive. There was some pavement at 1st and Peoria, rest was dirt road clear up through Skiatook and the Kansas line. If it rained a little you had the hazard of getting stuck and someone having to pull you out. That didn't happen to us on that trip. We were just a couple of young fellas out for a lark on a weekend to see what was happening in Tulsa. There were a lot of guntoters and a lot of men shooting people on sight and with no provocation other than maybe they were identified as a particular race and they fired at will. I couldn't say how much life was lost at that time but it was considerable because I was not a resident of Tulsa, just a curiosity seeker, so I don't know exactly.

552

Hominy 1925 - an opportunity to try my wings at teaching. I had heard about teaching opportunities in Oklahoma. Pawhuska was my first stop and I talked to the superintendent there and he was interested in me but said he'd let me know so I went on down to Hominy and met A. W. Beavers, superintendent of schools, and I wasn't with him 30 minutes and he had a contract ready for me to sign so I stayed 4 years and got acquainted with a great many indians as well as whites and had 4 profitable years in Hominy.

MEASURE SUBJECT MATTER

DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)

- Came to Tulsa in 1929. Hominy had some paved streets in 1925, one east-west, and 1 north-south. There were a great many Osage indians living in Hominy on oil royalty head right basis. They were receiving something like \$4000 each quarter for every head right. An awful lot of money. They had struck oil in the Osage and these were restricted indians, each had a guardian. I made some lasting friendships. I had the privilege of addressing a pow wow there at the insistence of Chief Bacon Rind and John Abbott, the Tulsa counterpart of the Osage leadership in Hominy. So it was on John Abbott's place that I addressed this pow wow on Feb. 22, 1925 or possibly 1926 or 1927. Don't remember for sure.
- 593 Pow wow was quite a large group - 3 to 400 indian men, with some women and they came to the high school and John Abbott, a full blood Osage, asked me to come address the group. I asked him why don't you ask the president of the bank (Ray Mullendore) or some member of the board of education or secretary of the chamber of commerce and he said "already try 'em, we want you." They wanted me to speak the next day, George Washington's birthday, which was short notice. I told him I'd be happy to do anything he asked me to and meet his group of Indian friends from New Mexico, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Colorado, west segment of the population that now meets in Gallup.
- There were 3-400 stoic faces as I looked out at the crowd. I tried to do a patriotic job but the thing about the experience is that I never knew when I was turning anyone on or off period. I had an interpreter standing by my side and I had a microphone with me and I'd talk 5 minutes and my interpreter would take one sentence to say what it took me 5 minutes to say and then I would start out and maybe say one sentence and he would stop me by laying his hand on my arm and then he'd talk for 5 minutes on what I'd said in one sentence. This was a most unusual experience and I shall always remember it. They were very kind and appreciated my acceptance. The next day John Abbott brought me two new indian blankets which I still have as a memento of that occasion. I have a host of friends in Hominy and this has been a long time ago. I frequently got a visit from Paul Pitts, the last Osage chief I was personally acquainted with. He died about a year ago.
- 642 Prominent Indians: Shunkamola, John Abbott, and prominent businessmen who served as guardians were the Drummonds, Carl Matthews, Harry Matliss, Ray Mullendore, Mr. Kromer, J. A. Presberry, the Petitts, and the Crows.
- 655 Ray Mullendore was related to Mullendores in Cleveland and the ones on the ranch. A conservative family, made wise investments in land and real estate of various forms. Highly regarded by the citizens of Hominy. They were outstanding leaders and big property owners, especially those from Cleveland who were also in the banking business and cattle business.
- 673 Fred Petty was the only other white man at the pow wow. I have a complete picture of these Osages that hangs in my study at home. Mr. Abbott delivered the picture along with the blankets.

MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
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The title of the book is TOWARD EXCELLENCE. I don't remember if their picture is in it or not. These words, TOWARD EXCELLENCE, kind of defined me because I was constantly seeking ways to improve things at Will Rogers High School and make it one of America's best and I think we pretty well succeeded. We are known in every major educational institution in the U.S. from Washington D.C. to California and our graduates are scattered all around the globe.

700 I go to Princeton once a year for national scholarship board. This is my last year. We award \$175,000 - 200,000 a year to mostly freshmen, some 4 year, but mostly 1 year.

713 Hominy - the high school was relatively new, 3 story, 600 students were there at the beginning of the depression. But there was a recession before the 1929 crash. We closed our home economics and shops, phys education, as an economy because they were not necessary to enter college. My recommendation was not to close that, but we kept Spanish, French, and Latin and the academic subjects.

One of my asst principals later became president of J. C. Penney in New York - Ray Jordan. We were a team. He was in charge of the junior high. Shops, junior and senior high were on the same grounds.

One of our visitors was Alfalfa Bill Murray who spoke to the student body on his return from Bolivia, he was seeking election as governor. I thought he wouldn't be elected. He looked around my small office as he had a chew of tobacco in his mouth and said where's a spittoon. I said, Mr. Murray, I'm sorry but the school board doesn't furnish that. Just open that window and you can expectorate out the window. He did, it was a windy day and it blew back against the florentine glass and before the rain washed that gob of juice off my window he was in the governor's chair. He had a wonderful voice and made a fine presentation on Bolivia. Before he left, he asked me if I'd make a small contribution to his campaign and I asked him what do you want, Mr. Murray. And he said just enough bus fare to get to Pawhuska and I said, Mr. Murray, you have it and my good wishes. I still didn't think he could get elected but I was in error. I visited him at the state capitol after the election. He was a great character and had a great deal of wisdom and a fine delivery as a speechmaker. I contributed a whole \$2.00.

I had a good many indian friends in Hominy, Walter Mayton, Shunkamola, Burkhardtts, Whites, Fred and Cecil Drummond, Carl Matthews, Mr. Ogleby, J. A. Presbery, Mr. Kromer, Ray Mullendore, Harry Matliss, Sam Gordon, who later moved to Norman with drygoods businesss. Being mainly an agricultural and oil community I thought we should have saved home economics and shop because only 30% went on to college and 70% would have profited from home economics and shop.

862 In Pittsburg, Kansas one time I visited in the home of the potentate of the syetic shrine.

MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
	<p>I knew him personally because he had a son my age. He told me one day on the street that the shrine was going to have a special guest on their Saturday night banquet and Will Rogers was going to speak. Mr. Pingrey asked me if I'd like to meet Will Rogers and I said yes. He said he'll be at my house in the middle of the afternoon. Drop by and you can meet him. My wife-to-be was one of Mr. Pingrey's secretaries.</p> <p>I met Mr. Rogers and I was still in college. Mr. Rogers asked me what I was taking and what I intended to be and I said well, it looks like I'm going to be a school teacher and he kind of ducked his head and said "well you know, I had a niece that was just dying to be a teacher" and then he put his finger up over his nose, looked over his glasses at me, and he said "she darn near did." and then he further responded "starved to death" - this is typical of Rogers humor. He saw funny things in everyday living, every waking moment. He just saw relationships among people that were comical. This affair had highballs served but Mr. Rogers didn't participate and didn't smoke. From the correspondence and writing of his I've read since, he imbibed occasionally in his younger days when he was a cowboy in Texas, South America and South Africa, he had joined several wild west shows, rodeo circuits and championship roping shows and got started in show business through Zack Mulhall.</p> <p>I met him again in Tulsa in the Tulsa World office with Norris Henthorne shortly before he died and I was on a park board with Mr. Henthorne.</p>	
988	<p>I talked to Mr. Murray one time and I said you are in a peculiar, precarious position as governor of Oklahoma. Aren't you afraid you'll be one of the guys they'll try to impeach and he said in a deep voice "if they ever do it'll be like a bunch of rabbits treeing a wildcat" and he meant it.</p>	
1010	<p>I knew Johnston Murray even better than Bill but I was in Bill's office as governor, and he remembered fondly the trip to Hominy.</p>	
1020	<p>I came to Tulsa as a result of a convention I went to in Dallas and I met the personnel director of the Tulsa Public Schools in Dallas at the Kiwanis Convention. He said, do you have an application on file in Tulsa, and I said no sir, I don't and he said well about everyone else does, I don't know why you shouldn't. I asked if he was recommending I file an application and he said he'd welcome an application from me. He said he couldn't promise anything immediately but he said he wouldn't forget me. I filed an application and it stayed on his desk I don't know how long and whenever I was in Tulsa I'd go by and see him. The last time he said I'm going to surprise you. I don't think you believe we'll hire you but I've got something for you this fall.</p>	
	<p>Mr. Perry Gowens was also a great character. He served under Wentworth as the director of</p>	

MEASURE SUBJECT MATTER DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)

personnel and later became superintendent of schools and also business manager and he had a fine 9 year term as superintendent, very human sort of superintendent. He wasn't as well versed in education practices as perhaps he should have been but he understood human nature better than any man I ever met. He had an insight into character and understanding of people and their acts of behavior and he read them just about right every time.

1069 1930 - harrowing times to meet the budget. Good staff, in the process of retrenchment. Laid off a lot of teachers. Budget for the whole system a year then wouldn't carry the Tulsa Public Schools for one month now. Our physical property had all run down, our maintenance department was run on a shoe string, they couldn't even fix a leak in the roof because we didn't have any money.

1114 Anita Bryant Green, has 4 children, she was a wonderful person, has religious background, loves to attend religious conferences and made 14 appearances at the White House along. She was an excellent student at Will Rogers. Participated in all school activities, excellent academic record, member of music department, soloist in assemblies, and it was in the a cappella choir in assembly that she got the inspiration for singing the Battle Hymn of the Republic. It ran chills down your spine hearing the Battle Hymn from the A Capella Choir. This is what she sings a lot in national hook ups now. She really believes in the United States of America. Many people her age today have mixed feelings and doubts today but she really has faith in America.

Buddy Fallis, District Attorney of Tulsa, was a Rogers student. He is carrying on an effective program against the use of drugs.

We had lots of student teacher planning at Will Rogers and were frequently rated in the top 10 high schools in America. We had loyalty and accountability for time and effort from our students. All assemblies were produced by the students, not the teachers or principal and only time I was on stage was when they invited me. I usually sat in the audience.

1248 Will Rogers High School opened in the Fall of 1939, graduated first class in 1940, I came in 1950, I finished in 1969.

Frances Bellamy, a Boston patriot, wrote the Pledge of Allegiance and we used a certain protocol to begin the assembly with the pledge and then the Americans Creed which I think is more impressive than the pledge. Most of our visitors didn't know it. It was written by William Tyler Page at Annapolis, Maryland and the original American's Creed is encased in bronze in an institution across from the Naval Academy in the Annapolis State House.

I've always been proud of having a progressive school curriculum.

1306 We received the Bellamy Award by a national organization listing Will Rogers High School as particularly good in developing citizenship programs in 1957. They only picked one school every

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MEASURE SUBJECT MATTER DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)

	<p>50 years. The next will be 2007. We tried to carry out the spirit that we think made America - respect for our nation, our flag, institutions, and our young people benefited most when they had this type of attitude and feeling about their school. They did a better job in class. The teachers responded and were treated with respect.</p>	
1345	<p>Dr. Zacharias from MIT met me in Tulsa one time at the Mayo and asked me if I'd like to participate in a physical science study program sponsored by the President of the U.S. (Eisenhour) this was when Sputnik went up and all high schools were failing in science and math. This was a new program in physics and we'd be one of 50 schools that would be pilot schools for that program. We were rated highly also by the North Central and every college and university where we sent students.</p>	
	<p>BEGINNING OF TAPE 5, Side 2 Left</p>	
01	<p>Most high school students have an excellent attitude and record, as it should be. Every student is important and worthy of a teachers time. Nobody is put in a categorized group because of limitations of experience or maybe his aptitude for knowledge. We try to provide a program that each could live up to his potential and his aptitudes to improve himself and move toward excellence to the extent of his ability.</p>	
12	<p>I was president elect of the OEA in 1963-1964 and became president in 1965. During my tenure (and by the way I really didn't want to accept that job because I knew it would take me away from Will Rogers H.S. a great deal.) I was imposed on to respond to the call because we were at a low ebb as far as financing schools in Oklahoma and the legislature didn't seem inclined to want to make any big strides of improvement. Then we had a change of politics in the state house so not only the legislature was having difficulty in finding the money but also the governor was limited in what he thought could be financed in Oklahoma.</p> <p>We were so dissatisfied with the low salaries and our better teachers going to California or wherever they could get a decent living wage, which we were not paying, so we had a rough time for a while in Tulsa. We got replacement teachers from people who were not as well qualified personally or professionally. In my opinion we have never caught up to where we should be so I think the new governor is assessing the situation just about right. We ought to be average in the U.S. and we are 45th. This is not an enviable position and the only way to get better teachers and to improve your educational program is to provide more money - not just to pay teachers salaries. You can always attract better teachers when you have got a better salary schedule, better prepared teachers and better in performance, better in their role of leadership in leading children in the right direction, so, when I became president of OEA we had to meet the legislature and the governor and I don't know how many times I had that experience and I filed my appeal before the legislature as well as before the governor</p>	

MEASURE SUBJECT MATTER

DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)

trying to defend the legislative program that we hoped to implement during that session. We did make some progress and Gov. Bellmon reluctantly I would say went as far as we wanted him to go. He did make some improvement but we weren't keeping up with our bordering states and we haven't to date. We keep getting farther and farther behind as we compare ourselves with surrounding states. I think the present legislature and the governor-elect, and this isn't discounting Mr. Bartlett's effort, because a great deal of improvement was made during his term uncompleted thought.

55

When I was president of OEA I was the spokesman for the teachers and I went about the state in every county of the state meeting school people and patrons trying to get them to put pressure on the legislature to find more money for education but this has always been a hard thing to do because we adopted a philosophy during Roy Turner's administration and we never laid it aside until this year of no new taxes for any purpose and this had a bad effect on the school system because certainly you could justify spending money on education if it is going to improve youth and their opportunities for the future.

I spent most of my time during that year and it was a long year for me, trying to convince people that they should see the way toward exercising their influence on the legislature and the governor to raise more money to have better schools and to give their own children a better opportunity.

69

We made some progress but not as much as I would have liked to see, and there have been considerable improvements since 1964-1965. We did invoke sanctions, we didn't go all the way. We didn't blackball Oklahoma as we were accused of doing. But it was pretty well known across Oklahoma and America that Oklahoma teachers were not going to stand still about this matter of increasing revenues for education - we did make some progress as a result of imposing sanctions and we kept everybody out of Oklahoma until conditions did improve and any teacher who came into this state looking for a job was under sanctions and could be blackballed, couldn't even join the association if they had attempted to do so. This had a pretty drastic effect upon the legislature as well as the governor and we began to look for money.

83

Tulsa County Historical Society has been in existence for some time but inactive in the last several years. It is organized and regulated by purposes and bylaws as trying to perpetuate a record of people. I've been real pleased at the response of our former members in renewing their memberships and we have employed an executive secretary and he's a very knowledgeable fella and really has been working at this thing and we are on our way toward rejuvenating an organization that has a purpose but lacks money and we are going to see that that is provided. That is going to be one of my major jobs. To see that it is adequately financed and we can do some of the things that are described in our objectives and in our by-laws. We have interested members and I predict that in a very short time we are going to announce a program that will gain greater support than ever.

Tulsa Historical Society & Museum

MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
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107	Will Rogers Memorial Commision - annually we recognize his birthday on November 4th. We bring to Oklahoma outstanding personalities who were friends of Will Rogers. We have a very fine gathering of people interested in Will Rogers and the memorial. During my tenure on the board we had a number of projects to improve the memorial. We have air conditioned it, rebuilt the vault, rebuilt the caretakers home (and I refer to the manager as the caretaker). The manager and the curator are Mr. and Mrs. Bob Love. They do an excellent job. It might be of some interest that this is the second biggest shrine in America so far as the number of visitors are concerned. Mt. Vernon is #1. Will Rogers Memorial is #2. We exceed 900,000 every year and sometimes it exceeds one million visitors a year. The memorial is open 7 days a week from 9-5. Full staff. Bob and Paula, their name is Love, demonstrate their love for that institution. At the present time our biggest project involves OSU trying to set up ways and means of financing and publishing and editing of his life story, or I should say the works of Will Rogers (the papers he had written). Will Rogers works are going to be published in 14 or 15 volumes and the first volume will come off sometime in the month of February, this month, and made available to libraries across America.	
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138	All of the visitors we've had have had their speeches taped. Our speaker last November was Bob McCullough, the international president of Lions International, he lives in Tulsa and he made a very fine presentation. We've had all the movie stars of recent years, Joel McCray, Bob Hope, etc. These tapes are at the memorial.	
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The legislature has been very considerate of us, they have never rejected a Will Rogers budget, it is the only free shrine of this kind in America and that is the reason we've had all these visitors - its open and we don't sell a thing there except good will. The cost of the operation has gone up because we are on a 40 hour week with our employees and time and a half or double time, so this has hurt our operational procedure because we have to keep up. The budget is close to \$50,000 which isn't much of a budget. That includes utilities, clerical, janitorial, its a pretty limited budget. We get our top help at a very reasonable fee and the rest goes for employees. It isn't an adequate budget.

175	Oklahoma Blue Cross and Blue Shield - I'm affiliated with them. Mr. Ralph Bethel, the president and I've known him all of the years he's been affiliated with Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and his predecessor, M. B. Helen, who first organized the Oklahoma Blue Cross Blue Shield in the fall of 1939. By 1946 we had got going. I've considered many things but for part of my time I'm the educational consultant for BCBS that carries on a continuous educational program for its employees, 455 employees in Tulsa. We have a divisional headquarters at Oklahoma City, lawton, Chickasha, Muskogee, Enid and one more. I joined BCBS because of the great need for health care within the teaching profession. It is non-profit, excellent management. We are unfortunate in that both the rising cost of hospitalization and medical care, physician's attentions, are also going up in price and this makes it a very heavy load on a family to carry the burden of Blue Cross	
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MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
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226

membership for their entire family at OEA but OEA is fortunate in having a master plan for all teachers and their families and the rate is intensely low, it doesn't even meet the needs and there is going to have to be some adjustment I'm sure as the contract is renewed but teachers and administrators are health conscious and they utilize their pre-paid health program to the extent that no money is made on OEA group as a profession. Because we usually have a deficit at the end of the year and this year it is around \$160,000. I have a brother in Chanute, Kansas that has a family plan that costs him \$51.00 a month and in Oklahoma at the present time it is \$25.85 which is a real reasonable family rate and we've had that for two years and \$10.85 for an individual and \$3.95 for a student in college so these are attractive rates that we have had through BCBS.

When Mr. Helen came to Tulsa in the fall of 1939 there had been a predecessor from Texas, BCBS started in Texas by a group of schoolteachers. Mr. Bee came to Tulsa to start the program in Oklahoma and he stayed a relatively short time until Mr. Helen came down from Wisconsin and took over leadership and he had been building it for about 30 years. He's deceased now and Mr. Ralph Bethel was his first assistant and succeeded him at his death. But health care is essential to everyone and they must have some resources. It used to be almost impossible to get into a hospital but with the BC cards you can get in the easiest of anything I know of. But a person who doesn't have BC almost has to sign his life away to get any consideration to get in a hospital. It is true that many get in who can't pay and this makes the costs higher as the hospital has to absorb the costs of non-paying patients and I guess they don't pay the doctor either. I didn't want to sell anything, but a service, to people and I'm dedicated to that goal. I've been involved two years this coming September. I've been involved closely.

The people who process the claims have to know a lot about human anatomy to check all the bills submitted for payment on Blue Cross-hospitalization; and Blue Shield-doctor, to see that they are not in error - so they are in the process of education all the time - studying the human anatomy and also to understand the terminology that the doctor uses. Some people might try to use Blue Cross to make false claims which means they are really cheating against their fellow members when they do this. We check this out carefully but occasionally this does happen.

We aren't an insurance company, we aren't in this to make any profit whatsoever, but we do want to provide the facilities necessary to render the service that the health care program must have in order to do business and I think we have that in the 12 story building in Tulsa, a fine property and worth much more than the Blue Cross members paid for it and it is cheaper than renting a building. Its built and paid for, so it doesn't cost anything but ad valorem taxes, which we pay. We don't have to pay, but we think it is only right to taxpayers that we should pay the ad valorem taxes whenever we reside and we're here that but I'm tired of all the

MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
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divisions and the professional work that we do. They have a community department, claims department, educational orientation department, non group department, Champis (takes care of those in the armed services), Medicare (\$50 million a year, a service they do for the government without any profit, just what it costs to process medicare claims for the hospitals). Our budget for last year was \$117 million for Oklahoma.

296 We belong to a national association of individual plans in education of our respective states, but in each state they have their own independent organization and they do affiliate with a national organization which was created by the executives of the various state plans across the nation and we pay dues to the national organization to keep the national office open. It is a coordinating office and they render a lot of services. As you know no matter where you are in the United States, Europe or anywhere in the world, they will admit you to a hospital and there is communication that has to go through the national office to coordinate your benefits and see that you are taken care of wherever you are.

310 There are two boards, the Blue Cross board and the Blue Shield board (made up of doctors) and they furnish the information that helps write the contracts that each member has provided these services. These boards meet annually or more often if necessary and these men give a full day of their time plus serving on committees that function all year long. They are conscientious dedicated people, high caliber.

When computerizing, it took a while to set up to handle 650,000 claims, before that it took 5-6 weeks to pay off a claim. A little bit long and now we've got it down to less than a day after we receive the claim, due to the computerization.

341 I would like to see us make a living legend on the story of Blue Cross Blue Shield in Oklahoma. I think there is a story that should be told to the people so they would better understand the organization of which they are a part. We are not competing with insurance companies and they should know this and why. There are some people who drop the BCBS and regret it later because the profit making organizations cannot handle the health care part of the coverage that you would like to have in the manner that we can handle it, because we just are not interested in making a profit - it just isn't possible. We want to run a good organization for the purposes of which we are organized.