

Carl Clawson

Interviewee: Carl Clawson

Interviewer: Courtney L. Tollison, Ph.D.

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Transcript

Dr. Tollison: Today is November 18, 2004 and Mr. Carl Clawson and I are here on the Furman University campus. My name is Courtney Tollison and today Mr. Clawson and I are going to take a walk around the campus. Mr. Clawson began working here at Furman in 1955, retired in 1983, began working here when only the lake existed – no buildings at that point in time. He was educated at Clemson University. Thirty-one structures were built under his direction here. He is the 2004 Bell Tower Award recipient. Today we're going to take a little walk around and talk about some of these buildings. You were about to tell me something about the arc here at Furman Hall? Or, excuse me, the Administration Building?

Mr. Clawson: Yes. The campus was built on an arc and that arc goes through the front doors of the library which is the center of the campus and it also goes through the chapel which is also is centered and we'll be going down to, on the blueprints, it's called the classroom building. What's its name?

Dr. Tollison: Furman Hall?

Mr. Clawson: Furman Hall. And we'll see that. That is the first building that was started on the campus in 1955 along with dorm "E" which, I forget the name of it, we'll check that later, but dorm "E" which was the first men's dormitory was also being built along with the classroom building. They're the first two buildings that were under construction in 1955.

Dr. Tollison: Great.

CUT TO NEW LOCATION

Dr. Tollison: Yeah, there's definitely an arc right here. Now what do you think about this construction on Furman Hall?

Mr. Clawson: I think it's very, very substantial and it's very good. It's beautiful work and it will be here for many, many years yet.

CUT TO NEW LOCATION

Dr. Tollison: You were telling me about how when the campus was built the student body wasn't nearly as large as it is today.

Mr. Clawson: That's correct. That's true. I realize that the added population at Furman has caused many changes in the buildings. But we've just seen, going through the classroom building, and there are changes but they're mighty good changes and progress is being made as it should be.

Dr. Tollison: Tell me a little bit about the construction of Furman Hall. This was the classroom building and you mention it was the first building that was built here aside from the nursery.

Mr. Clawson: That is correct. Furman Hall was started in 1955 along with one of the first men's dormitories. The construction is very sound today as it was in those days. I do see that they are making some beautiful renovations and expanding the office space and the classroom space because, obviously, Furman is much larger in student occupation now than it was in 1955. Anyway they're doing a good job, it's a beautiful building, and it remains a beautiful building.

Dr. Tollison: Tell me why it was important to have the classroom building here first. You were building this in 1955. Who was on campus at that point in time? Were some of the men here?

Mr. Clawson: No. The men did stay here during 1956, the session of 1956. At that time the classroom building wasn't completed but there was enough rooms during that time for them to have adequate classroom space. And at that time, as I mentioned, one of the men's dormitories was being built at the same time so the freshmen were moved out to that first dormitory during the session of 1956. This experiment didn't work very well.

Dr. Tollison: Why was that?

Mr. Clawson: We had so many interruptions with the construction program and the students were out here, more or less, all by themselves. The center part of the classroom building, which was designed as a home ec. building, or rather center, and during those times the home ec. education was dropped and we had a little temporary canteen in the center of the classroom building.

Dr. Tollison: Is that where the students ate?

Mr. Clawson: The students ate there and also had "butter pat fights." Anyway, that didn't work too well so we didn't have any more students out here on the new campus until 1958. We moved the men's campus in on 1958 during the summer.

Dr. Tollison: What about the women? They came here in 1961?

Mr. Clawson: The women... Later, of course, we had to build five women's dormitories, and we needed the auditorium, and we needed the dining hall and other buildings that would be required before we could move the total campus out. So the women were moved out in 1961.

Dr. Tollison: There was a post office in here in the center of the building near the canteen as well wasn't there?

Mr. Clawson: That's correct. We had to have a little temporary post office for the freshmen who had moved out during that session. And even had some of the girls from GWC, at that time we called it GWC, had to be bussed out for their part of the classroom work. Everything was temporary at that time and we had to wait later in 1958 to become a more permanent university.

CUTS TO NEW LOCATION

Mr. Clawson: From this viewpoint you can see the center of the chapel... the name?

Dr. Tollison: The Daniel Chapel?

Mr. Clawson: Yeah. And that is directly in front of the center of the library.

Dr. Tollison: Can you draw a straight line between the two?

Mr. Clawson: Yeah. The center line of the campus goes through the center line of the library, right through the ponds, up to the chapel.

Dr. Tollison: Well planned.

CUTS TO NEW LOCATION

Dr. Tollison: Tell me about the construction of the Duke Library here.

Mr. Clawson: The library, dedicated in 19... we'll have to look that one up

Dr. Tollison: '56 I believe but I don't know for sure.

Mr. Clawson: I'm sorry.

Dr. Tollison: 1957.

Mr. Clawson: 1957. I understand the new expansion and renovations are absolutely beautiful and I look forward to getting in there and looking it over and getting lost again. But this library was given with funds from the James Buchannan Duke Foundation. And during our move-in the upper floor was not furnished at that time but since that time not only had that been furnished and the expansion has, obviously, made a beautiful addition to the library.

Dr. Tollison: Now this was one of the buildings that had to be here along with a men's dormitory, one of the men's dormitory buildings, and Furman Hall as well.

Mr. Clawson: Correct. It was one of the many buildings that had to be completed before we

could move the men from the men's old campus...

Dr. Tollison: Downtown...

Mr. Clawson: In 1958. Men's campus downtown. Along with the library came the dining hall, of course, and the three men's dormitories had to be added.

Dr. Tollison: They were all built at one time you mentioned.

Mr. Clawson: Yeah, the three added men's dormitories were built at one time.

CUTS TO NEW LOCATION

Dr. Tollison: So you were telling me that, there are double doors here, and the geographical center now is through the center of this center pane. Is that correct?

Mr. Clawson: That's correct. The doors have been changed. The other doors that were there, as they opened, double doors, the center was there, but obviously the center is still the same through the total opening that we have here now. What a beautiful job they did on the expansion of the library.

Dr. Tollison: They did.

Mr. Clawson: I tell you it's just absolutely beautiful and needed.

Dr. Tollison: And we were admiring the chapel as well

Mr. Clawson: Yes the chapel is a beautiful...

CUTS TO NEW LOCATION

Dr. Tollison: Tell me a little bit about the master plan. I understand there was a master plan for the construction and layout of the campus. Who came up with that, first of all? And how closely did you all follow it?

Mr. Clawson: That's a good question. Normally the plans are made quite a long time ahead of time and, I believe, that the architects, the architectural firm from Boston, had been chosen and was in place when I came to the university. But I think the main reason that Dr. Plyler and Mr. Alester Furman and Charlie Daniel, all those who had such a big part in getting Furman University the property and the ability to move out to the new campus formalized. The architects were the architects of renovating Williamsburg, Virginia.

Dr. Tollison: And Innocenti-Webel?

Mr. Clawson: And Innocenti-Webel, they were the landscape. And the building architects, Perry, Shaw, Hepburn and Dean...

Dr. Tollison: Out of Boston?

Mr. Clawson: Out of Boston, were instrumental in the renovation of Williamsburg, Virginia with the nice handmade brick and all those good things. And Dr. Plyler had expressed his desire to build this campus in somewhat of a colonial atmosphere. So that's really the background and after the architectural firm along with several others were to give their ideas with the renovation for the trustees at Furman and Dr. Plyler and Mr. Alester Furman and Charlie Daniel, all those people had a say in selecting which renditions they liked best. And it came out to be Perry, Dean, Hepburn and Shaw out of Boston. And this campus was and is built somewhat on colonial atmosphere as you can tell by the architecture of the classroom building, the science building and the administration building.

Dr. Tollison: Tell me about the brick.

Mr. Clawson: The brick on the first several buildings, which were built from 1955 to 1958, is a colonial handmade brick. And as time went on the manufacturers were able to make a handmade looking brick similar but by mechanical means and due to the extreme cost as time went on we had to change from the strictly handmade brick. But anyway the manufacturer had done a good job to simulate the brick.

Dr. Tollison: Yeah, they matched it very well. Now did you all use any of the brick from the women's campus and the old downtown men's campus on this? I think I've read somewhere where the bricks in the walkway leading to the bell tower were bricks from one of those campuses and the bricks in the fountain circle in front of the women's dormitories were bricks from the old women's campus. Is that correct?

Mr. Clawson: That is true. Some of the best brick were used for walkways, not in the buildings, but for walkways and other instances where they played a very useful part. Dr. Plyler was very strong about wanting as much of the old history of the old university moved out to this. Now you might notice the colonnades leading into the women's dormitories back there near the lake. They were all taken down piece by piece from the women's...

Dr. Tollison: GWC

Mr. Clawson: GWC. They were taken down piece by piece and they are the original entrances to GWC over in Greenville.

Dr. Tollison: Oh wow. I did not know that.

Mr. Clawson: We tried to keep as many plaques of interest and obviously we wanted the bell tower carried over as a symbol. And there are many instances that we have on the campus that are very noticeable.

Dr. Tollison: Now tell me about, before we get into the bell tower, along the curbs there's

stone, I believe it's stone. You can see it circling where the grass meets the road right here. And from what I understand there was quite a bit of discussion about what material to use in terms of the sidewalks and that kind of stuff.

Mr. Clawson: Well, there again, the first curbs that were laid from the main entrance up the, do we call it the mall, you'll notice that they are granite stones. We actually had big cakes of stone moved in and a stone mason, I'm sorry I can't remember his name right now, but a stone mason actually split those blocks and the granite curb you see is handmade right on the campus. Those were early thoughts and wanting to carry over Williamsburg-type history but, then again, economics took over and they became too expensive so we had to go to the regular concrete curbs later on.

Dr. Tollison: Now tell me about the old men's campus. I don't know if you spent much time on that campus or the GWC campus but tell me what it was about those campuses that necessitated the move.

Mr. Clawson: First of all let me correct something. It's not "old men's" campus it's "men's old" campus. I made that error many times and was embarrassed about getting corrected.

Dr. Tollison: That's very true. I hadn't thought about that. (laughs)

Mr. Clawson: But anyway, the buildings, I don't know how old they were. I understand though that... Yes, I do know... 18...

Dr. Tollison: The tower and the Old Main were built in 1854.

Mr. Clawson: 1854. The first old college building that was built is now over here facing the bell tower.

Dr. Tollison: And that's 1850.

Mr. Clawson: Yeah. Dr. Clement Furman was the first professor and they used that little classroom building built on the men's campus. But as years went by the facilities, there was no air conditioning over there, they had steam radiators, and the equipment was old and worn out, and also the campus was crowded. Most of the dormitories were completely out of date. They were concrete floors and brick walls and the heating systems were completely exhausted. I think by far the correct move, or option, in those days was to come out on new land and rebuild the campus. The old campus, both campuses, were outdated and would have been too expensive to renovate and also the land was too small to do any expansion at all.

Dr. Tollison: Right. By that time, I guess, Greenville had developed to the point where it had really started to close in on the campus and that there was no land to be purchased to expand anywhere close by. And even the football stadium was not

adjacent to the campus. It was sort of way down a hill. Wasn't it Serrine Stadium? I guess that wasn't considered part of the campus, was it?

Mr. Clawson: Well, it was Furman's football field...

Dr. Tollison: But there was stuff in between...

Mr. Clawson: I think there was land between there but, obviously, it didn't belong to Furman. It was separate. But Serrine Stadium we kept using that, of course, until we built the new stadium out here in 1981.

Dr. Tollison: '81 I believe...

Mr. Clawson: We finished it in '81.

Dr. Tollison: Tell me about that. Who was a big proponent of the football stadium, of wanting a stadium on campus. Was that something that was important to Dr. Johns? Or was it part of the master plan?

Mr. Clawson: There were two or three townspeople that...

Dr. Tollison: Eugene Stone maybe?

Mr. Clawson: Well Eugene Stone, of course, started it all by putting some heavy equipment out there. I was trying to think of another name, the coach who was so important to Furman.

Dr. Tollison: Lyles Alley maybe?

Mr. Clawson: No, that was before that. Well maybe not before that but Lyles was the basketball coach...

Dr. Tollison: We can come up with the name later

Mr. Clawson: Well, ok, your question again?

Dr. Tollison: Tell me about the construction of the football stadium.

Mr. Clawson: Well Eugene Stone at that time owned some mountain property that he was developing and he had a bulldozer and what we called a drag pan and he had that sent out to the campus where the stadium is now located but it was in the woods in those days.

Dr. Tollison: Just a bunch of trees out there?

Mr. Clawson: Right. He and several other businessmen and one of the coaches (we'll have to look this up) were instrumental in getting funds raised for the starting of the

construction. One day I had a visit from Dr. Johns in my office down in the Maintenance Building. He said "Carl, can we start the stadium?" My eyes popped open, I said "Yes sir, anytime." And he said "Well Gene Stone delivered some equipment down there near where the stadium would be." And he said "This equipment has been down there about a week." So I said "Dr. Johns, I didn't even know it was down there. What did we want to do?" And he said "Well can we clear enough that would not..." He said "The stadium isn't planned yet," but said "Can we clear enough to use that equipment and not upset any future plans that may come along?" So we did. We started clearing the area without any real knowledge at that time about going on with the construction of the stadium. But with earth moving equipment moving and the priorities that so many times people wanted things began to blossom. A real campaign was set up. So then the next stage was they asked us to look into a contractor and see what one would cost and one thing moved to another and first thing you know we had a contract, we had the funds that backed it up, and there we went.

Dr. Tollison: (laughs)

Mr. Clawson: I'm sorry I can't remember names...

Dr. Tollison: No, that's okay.

Mr. Clawson: I can almost picture, he's a well, well known coach.

Dr. Tollison: It wasn't Bob King was it?

Mr. Clawson: No it was beyond that. And Gene Stone and...

Dr. Tollison: Did Dick Sheridan coach here?

Mr. Clawson: He coached, yeah, during the construction.

Dr. Tollison: Was that the name you were thinking about?

Mr. Clawson: No, this was one of the older coaches and I'm just blank.

Dr. Tollison: We can come up with it later. I can't remember it either. (laughs)

Mr. Clawson: I wish I could...

Dr. Tollison: Oh no, we can talk about that later. Tell me why you decided to come to Furman, to take this position at Furman.

Mr. Clawson: After World War II I thought I wanted to, and did want to go back to my hometown in Rock Hill and it so happened that a large plant, Celanese Corporation of America, was building a large plant which at that time was forty-

two million dollars which during those days, that was a huge project and Daniel Construction Company was the contractor. To make a long story short I came out of the service in '45 or '46 and this plant was just being started, just being staked out, and I got a job that plant as assistant field engineer and the Daniel supervisor, he was a vice president with Daniel Construction Company, Mr. Carl Thrash [Thrasher], asked me, at the conclusion of building the plant, what my plans were. And I said "Well I want to stay in Rock Hill, I want to be with a project like this that I can live with from the start and know all the phases." And he said "Well, if you ever change your mind, get in touch." So five years later I got a phone call from Mr. Thrash...Thrasher, not Thrash... and he told me about the planning at Furman University, that Furman was looking for someone who could manage construction of this type and also, hopefully, would be interested in staying on and operating the physical plant. And so that was good news to me because I was ready to move. And I came up for an interview with Dr. Scarborough who was past president of Federal Farm Banks and had retired from that. And I understand he came up to help Dr. Plyler with the administration of not only, hopefully, the new university but biggest part of the old.

Dr. Tollison: Now was that the first time you met Dr. Plyler?

Mr. Clawson: Yes. Well, by the way, Gerald Dean, who I've already mentioned, was the project manager for the architect, he was in town and he and Dr. Scarborough were to interview me. So Mr. Thrasher made arrangements for me to come in one evening, to come to Greenville in one evening, and meet Dr. Scarborough and Gerald Dean at Poinsett Hotel. So I drove up, it was a cold winter night, I parked in front of the Poinsett, I made sure I was there on time. So I was wandering around finding no one that I thought was the two people that I was supposed to meet. I called Mr. Thrasher. I said "Mr. Thrasher, are you going to be in on this meeting?" I said "I'm at the Poinsett and nobody else is here." He said "No, I'm not going to be there," but he said, "Gerald Dean and a Dr. Scarborough were going to be there. Give 'em time." I said "Okay." So I wandered around a little bit in the lobby. I saw these two men walk in, they're looking around, they sat down in two chairs. I should have gotten fired right there. I walked up to them and I knew, I just knew, I said two men coming in like that looking around. I walked up to them and I said "Are you two looking for a brilliant young engineer?"

Dr. Tollison: (laughs)

Mr. Clawson: They looked at me. We immediately made friends. Anyway they asked me about [inaudible] and so they said "Could you meet with Dr. Plyler tomorrow morning at ten o'clock?" "Sure." So obviously they had already...

Dr. Tollison: Made up their mind about you.

Mr. Clawson: ...talked to Dr. Plyler. And I walked in there, they introduced me to Dr. Plyler, he

was back of his desk, he stood up and we shook hands over the desk. And Dr. Plyler – grand old man of Furman...don't say old, he was a grand person. Anyway we didn't need to talk much because obviously these two had already talked to him and said what a bomb I was and all that. So Dr. Plyler asked me a few questions mostly about where are you from, how's your family and this that and the other. Then he got up from his desk and said "Well," sort of dropped his head and walked around the desk and said "I don't know," he sort of shook his head and I thought "Lord have mercy, have I blown it?" He sort of shook his head and said "Well, it sounds like this young man would be a good addition here but the only thing is..." And I thought "Oh my, what's coming?" "The only thing is... he's a Clemson man!" And I said "Dr. Plyler, if you get me and a couple more Clemson men over here we'll straighten this place out." (laughs) And we were good friends from there. He was a grand, grand person.

Dr. Tollison: Tell me a little bit more about him as a person. What was important... What kind of vision did he have for this campus?

Mr. Clawson: He was Judge Plyler before he became president of Furman and, as I said, he wanted a Williamsburg-type, leisurely, out-in-the-open, walking, emphasize that two or three times, walking campus and that's what the original layout was. We knew there'd be some car parking and we made what we thought was adequate, all this over here, pretty big parking lot. His vision, now this used to be an open porch, the vision you know was that we could get in discussions sitting on the porch here, breezes blowing, can you imagine back in those days, it wasn't what's going on you know, the riptide of people back and forth. So anyway that's about the best I can describe.

Dr. Tollison: Who came up with the idea to put in fountains?

Mr. Clawson: Dr. Plyler in cohorts with Dick Webel. Mr. Webel was one of the finest persons I've ever worked with, knowledgeable, and I just felt so small, he just knew so much. So he and... with Dr. Plyler's questions and asking what could be available he did a lot of traveling. Some of this stuff came from Italy.

Dr. Tollison: Like what for instance?

Mr. Clawson: I could be wrong here, but I think this fountain in front of the women's dormitory. Don't quote me without a little bit of research on that because I was so busy, I had so much to do, that if he and Dick Webel approved something that was it. We'd do it. But he, being the landscape architect, worked very, very closely with Gerald Dean. And Gerald Dean's engineers, we all worked, obviously, close together. And he would, for instance, this fountain out here is the cooling water for the air conditioner over here for the dormitories and the auditorium. He would design the fountain to accommodate the engineers' needs for re-cooling water so many times. And the same happened with the library. And then we extended one, as you can see, from the science building.

Dr. Tollison: So what cooled Furman Hall, the first classroom building, what cooled it?

Mr. Clawson: The classroom building has equipment under here and it's tied on to the fountain.

Dr. Tollison: To the front fountain?

Mr. Clawson: Umm hmm. But this building had its own compressor, a 75-ton Trane, heating it but I think we changed that even before I left. We didn't have room in its room so we had to cut the foundation wall out and we came out into the ground and put a, when you walk over that way you're walking over part of it, built room underground and covered it up with dirt. I'm a little bit cold on... that's when we did away with that 75-ton unit... that's details you're not interested in now, I'm sure.

Dr. Tollison: Tell me about the bell tower. You all decided that you wanted to... Was it known as a symbol of Furman even on the men's old campus?

Mr. Clawson: Oh yeah. That was taken for granted.

Dr. Tollison: And you wanted to preserve it

Mr. Clawson: Because it's on the seal and, incidentally, this is [inaudible] but I'll say it, the seal that was put on the women's dormitory, and then the seal that's put on the Duke Library, those the architect had them built out of... I can't think of the word I want...

Dr. Tollison: We can fill it in later.

Mr. Clawson: They were built out of a material that squirrels liked to eat, it had salts in it... what is it, a cast...

Dr. Tollison: Like plaster?

Mr. Clawson: Plaster, a plaster-type. And the squirrels got into this one over here and ate holes in it. And I had been responsible to do a lot of signage, you know, aluminum signs on classroom doors and taller buildings and all these things. So, it was a firm in Columbia, I contracted with them to build two new of these seals in anodized aluminum. The color is throughout the whole plaque and it's metal so the squirrels can't eat it.

Dr. Tollison: So how long did the first two last?

Mr. Clawson: Four or five years.

Dr. Tollison: And the squirrels loved it I'll bet

Mr. Clawson: They liked it. It's just another detail.

Dr. Tollison: Tell me about the bell tower. You all decided you couldn't transport it out here.

Mr. Clawson: No. First of all two stories of one side of it was connected to the old Clement Furman Main Building over on the men's old campus and also it was built out of handmade brick which was soluble in storms. The only protection it had was the stucco and if the stucco began to fail and crack off the weather would actually eat into the brick. None of it could be moved. Also the framework inside was wooden crosstie. So we just had to get the dimensions worked in and build... well you've got all that story.

Dr. Tollison: So that you could build another one. And where did you all initially decide or think that you would put it?

Mr. Clawson: Two locations were discussed. At that time the rose garden was not there.

Dr. Tollison: Were there plans for a rose garden?

Mr. Clawson: Not at that time. And the architects thought that it would be ideal to have it between, where the rose garden is, between the Student Center and the Dining Hall. But there were some of us who felt that it ought be out where it would be distinguished on its own merits and not be part of something else. Because another thing there, when you're on the road here, you would already be about fifteen feet above the tower. You'd be looking into the second floor of the tower if you are on this side. So we built it... that little, tiny peninsula was about six feet wide and we had to rebuild the peninsula. And at that time the stone wall around the lake had stopped off at the curb of the dining hall. So we ran the stone wall all the way around to the end and back up around the bell tower side for that purpose and built a new modern structure.

Dr. Tollison: So what is it made of? What kind of materials is the bell tower today made of?

Mr. Clawson: It's concrete frame and it sits on pile-driven pilings, fifty-two foot pilings. There's three of them on each corner so there's twelve pilings that that concrete base sits on and then the concrete structure, the reinforced concrete structure, and the fill-in, what we call the curtain walls are twelve-inch concrete block stucco.

Dr. Tollison: So you said that there were beams, piles is that what you called them, fifty two feet below, what into the lake?

Mr. Clawson: Mmm hmm

Dr. Tollison: Or is that...

Mr. Clawson: That's pilings

Dr. Tollison: Okay. What's the material down there? Was it driven into just water or is it actually land, is it earth that it's...

Mr. Clawson: It's driven into the land, the bowl of the lake.

Dr. Tollison: Underneath that is land, is dirt.

Mr. Clawson: Oh yeah.

Dr. Tollison: So tell me about the lake, and then I want to get back to the bell tower. The lake is a man-made lake. Is that correct? But it was here before you took the position as engineer here. Did you all enlarge the lake or give it more definition?

Mr. Clawson: No, it's just like it was then. The definition was given, obviously, when they dredged it. It's got two streams coming in from the mountains. And the peninsula that the bell tower is on was not as it is. As I said, that had to be rebuilt.

Dr. Tollison: Do you know what the peninsula that was originally there, what that was intended to be? Just an area you walk out on?

Mr. Clawson: It's just the way the land was. As water came up to fill the lake the little strip, I call it a peninsula, a very small strip of land, it happened to be a little higher than that over there and that over there and the water came just like lakes will, they'll reach their own level, seek their own level.

Dr. Tollison: Oh I understand. So then you all just added some dirt, created a wider space and then that's when you decided to put the bell tower at the end of it.

Mr. Clawson: The blueprints of that are over there in the physical plant. I did the survey and the layout of it.

Dr. Tollison: And so your original thought process with that was if you were further away you could appreciate the full height.

Mr. Clawson: The full height and not only that but we knew we would get resonance from the chimes, you know how they resonate off the water. And it was a full view from there because anywhere you go around, even crossing the dam you see, just like the picture shows its distinctive, has its own merit. In other words it said "I don't want to be part of another building."

Dr. Tollison: It certainly is beautiful. So if we were to put the "old tower" and the, we'll call it, the "new tower" side by side and you're standing five, ten feet away how do they look different in physical appearance? Like the other one was white.

Mr. Clawson: They're as much alike as I could humanly make it.

Dr. Tollison: The outside of the bell tower today you said is concrete? Is that right?

Mr. Clawson: Yeah, well it's stucco. That's what they're repairing out there now. The stucco began to weather and drop off. Some of these ledges and fluted areas have taken so much weather because, after all, it's standing out there and it collects wind, snow, ice, rain right through it. It's taken a lot of beating and so that's why they're reconditioning it now.

Dr. Tollison: So the old tower, it had the same stucco appearance on the exterior. Is that correct? You said it had some brick and the wooden crossties, is that what you called it, inside and so that was mainly the structure with the stucco on the outside.

Mr. Clawson: Yeah, it was a brick structure.

Dr. Tollison: And this has the stucco on the outside of it and you said it's concrete block?

Mr. Clawson: Concrete block.

Dr. Tollison: Inside. And the steps. Did it have the circular steps that the tower today has leading up to the top?

Mr. Clawson: No, it was different. They had wooden steps. You would make about eight steps up this side and turn on a platform, eight steps on that side. In other words, it was square just like this one but their steps went up the sides of the tower like that.

Dr. Tollison: So there were steps and then a landing, a flat landing, and then steps and then a landing. Okay, gotcha.

Mr. Clawson: But we decided the steel spiral steps would take so much less room and give you really more observation around each level.

Dr. Tollison: So how many times have you been up to the top of that one?

Mr. Clawson: Quite a few.

Dr. Tollison: (laughs) I never made it all the way to the top. I get a little nervous that high up. It's a beautiful view though isn't it? From the very top?

Mr. Clawson: It really is.

Dr. Tollison: So did Dr. Plyler request that you climb to the top of the old one and create or document all the specifications?

Mr. Clawson: No, not really. I knew that before, you see, the men's campus was to be demolished and was demolished. But I knew that that feature if it were lost

would be lost forever because there were no blueprints of it. So I took a day or two off and just went over there and measured it up.

Dr. Tollison: How did you measure, for instance, the very top of it and the top of, I guess, the roof of the tower. Were you climbing in and out, around and all.

Mr. Clawson: It had windows, as you can see, at every elevation and there was an opportunity to stick one leg out the window and one leg in the window and I had a pad strapped on my knee, on my leg, and I'd just reach up with a ruler and just measure everything and make notes on my leg.

Dr. Tollison: (laughs) Wow. That's a great story. So two sides of the old tower were actually connected to Old Main building.

Mr. Clawson: As you can see in that picture located when you go back down, it was built out as a side of the classroom.

Dr. Tollison: But the height, is it eighty-eight feet and one... two...

Mr. Clawson: It comes out one inch.

Dr. Tollison: Eighty-eight feet, one inch.

Mr. Clawson: I laugh about that. I use that as a kidding point, of course.

Dr. Tollison: And that's within how much of an inch in terms of the difference between the height of this tower and the height of the old tower, what's the difference in height?

Mr. Clawson: Well I hope they're the same.

Dr. Tollison: I've heard it's maybe one fourth of an inch or something miniscule.

Mr. Clawson: That's one of those things that shouldn't have been printed.

Dr. Tollison: (laughs)

Mr. Clawson: And I told them that. I said, you know, that's embarrassing because anybody knows that you can't make a rendition of a tower that old... they say one sixteenth of an inch... I don't know where that [inaudible].

Dr. Tollison: (laughs) But it's so impressive, in the same right...

Mr. Clawson: But anyway it stuck.

Dr. Tollison: Because that much of a disparity is so ridiculously small.

Mr. Clawson: That's ridiculous.

Dr. Tollison: It's so impressive.

Mr. Clawson: I don't even claim... if I'm within even six inches I'd be happy.

Dr. Tollison: Well you ought to be real happy because I think you were within one sixteenth of an inch which is pretty exact to me.

Mr. Clawson: No way. You see there were no instruments involved. Oh, you can survey within a quarter of an inch for hundreds and hundreds of feet. Nowadays it's the utmost accuracy but there's no way to do that on that old tower.

Dr. Tollison: How did you measure the height of it? Did you go up there with one of those...

Mr. Clawson: Each elevation on the sketches, each elevation has its... in other words from the floor of this one to the ceiling of that one [inaudible]. You know I didn't know how much it was going to add up to until I added everything together.

Dr. Tollison: Right, right. So you just went out there with a yard stick or a meter stick and measured all the details. That's a great story. Let's talk about the decision to build the student center. I understand that that was important to President Blackwell to have another place because, from what I understand, the students congregated mostly on the main floor of the library before that there was a student center, before there was another place for them to go. And he thought it was important that the students have a place to organize their social activities and the student organizations and things like that. So tell me about the building of the student center. Was that in the master plan?

Mr. Clawson: That's a good question.

Dr. Tollison: We can look.

Mr. Clawson: In the early, early... I think it was. What year are we talking about?

Dr. Tollison: I think the student center was completed, opened in '65.

Mr. Clawson: Is that...

Dr. Tollison: Let me look here...

Mr. Clawson: '65 sounds about right.

Dr. Tollison: Yes, the student center...

Mr. Clawson: Dr. Blackwell came in '64

Dr. Tollison: Original drawing April 6, 1964 and then completion May 10, 1965. Well Dr. Blackwell couldn't have been in on the... he wasn't here in April of '64. So he couldn't have been in on the original plans. That had to have been either Dr. Bonner or President Plyler.

Mr. Clawson: Well it was started in '64 and Dr. Blackwell came in '64 right?

Dr. Tollison: He came in the fall of '64 and was inaugurated in February of '65

Mr. Clawson: I'll put it this way, whether the early, early, early original plans, I can't swear to that, because we didn't go by that very much. But as we began operating, the student center, it was originally planned. Now whether it was originally planned before '55, I can't tell you that, but it came as a known entity that we needed it and would be part of the campus. But I think probably some of the, I'm a little confused about what part of the 50s, but things sort of developed as we went along too.

Dr. Tollison: So it was sort of chaotic when you first got here, it must have been with all this new construction. Did things settle down a little bit and then pick up again in the mid 60s with the student center?

Mr. Clawson: Well things went pretty solid past the mid 60s because we began building after '58 everything kept moving up toward getting the women out and the student center was planned in that section of time.

Dr. Tollison: Let's see what else is in here... Montague Village. That was initially married housing wasn't it?

Mr. Clawson: Yeah, it was in the initial early plans.

Dr. Tollison: Furman had a lot of married students then?

Mr. Clawson: I don't think so really.

Dr. Tollison: Was that commonplace, that there would be married housing?

Mr. Clawson: It was contemplated and that's why it was called that but it really never did develop as that. When we would have an overload of students they let seniors go out there for the first, I don't know how many years, quite a few years.

Dr. Tollison: Were you all concerned... When this campus was built, it was built according to the capacity of the student body. So it was suited to the needs of the student body when the student body was around 1,500 and has since had to be enlarged, because the student body has grown, in terms of places for students to live and things like that. Classroom spaces...

Mr. Clawson: Actually the growth pattern began to move just as you see it has moved long

after that. In other words, we had an overgrowth of women students and I had to hurriedly put four mobile homes. Did you know that we... Were you ever here when they were there? What happened, as I understood it, foreign students who had gone over to England...

Dr. Tollison: Oh, students that were on foreign study?

Mr. Clawson: Yeah, foreign study. And somehow or another miss figured. They took off too many here and didn't have any room for those. I guess they forgot about them. But I had to go to Laurens, a manufacturing place over there in Laurens, and they built four mobile homes that I had set up right back of the women's dormitories between there and the lake. And that, of course, that brought on the need for the extra two dormitories so it's sort of been... Just like you see long after that these new buildings, Dr. Johns building and Riley and what you see coming along right now, and the renovation of the library and everything expanding out as time dictates.

Dr. Tollison: Now what about the shack and the hut and there's one other building out there, I can't remember what it's called...

Mr. Clawson: They came from the women's campus.

Dr. Tollison: Okay

Mr. Clawson: The shack was the shack over there.

Dr. Tollison: And what was that used for?

Mr. Clawson: The women's little canteen building, refreshments and all that.

Dr. Tollison: And that was situated behind the row of buildings because on the women's campus all the buildings were joined so it was just one row of buildings and the shack was located behind it? When you're looking from College Street it's behind it.

Mr. Clawson: Yeah, it was out... a little independent building just like you see over there now. And it was one of those things where let's move as many things as we can from the old to the new and put things here, there and yon. Those were moved, I believe it was in... we moved the women in '61 but those were moved before that, I think.

Dr. Tollison: The shack, let's see, construction - 1937, to new campus additional 1961. And the hut must be new. It was constructed in 1973.

Mr. Clawson: Those were built for overflow. We couldn't build a big brick and stone building but we knew we could do that. We got caught short again. And, of course, that little white building further around came from the old campus, men's campus.

Dr. Tollison: Right. Tell me about the golf course. That was part of the master plan too?

Mr. Clawson: Yeah. Dr. Plyler played baseball in his day. He wanted all these amenities that were needed. But the golf course was started in, what, '57?

Dr. Tollison: Here we go. Golf course constructed front nine holes in 1955 and back nine in 1958. Was that because of money as well that you did the first nine and then decided to complete the back nine later?

Mr. Clawson: Oh yes. And it was about all we could handle at the time. (laughs)

Dr. Tollison: Was it unusual that point in time for college campuses to have golf courses? Was that seen as a luxury?

Mr. Clawson: Golf began to get prominent as a sport in colleges and I think Dr. Plyler was more foresighted than a lot of people. I don't think Clemson has had theirs but about eight years. And it became a need as time went on. But during those early times I think he wanted to get a base out there to get started because (don't print this) when you're raising funds you don't talk about building a golf course. You know what I mean?

Dr. Tollison: Right.

Mr. Clawson: So we just slowly got some of those things started at very little cost. We did a lot of that ourselves. You can see he had it well planned in his mind because we had that and no kickbacks about how come you did that before you did a dormitory?

Dr. Tollison: (laughs) Furman has sort of a, it's a nickname, "The Country Club of the South." Do you know where that name originated from?

Mr. Clawson: No I don't.

Dr. Tollison: I've read that when the Furman trustees and administrators decided that they wanted to build a new campus in the late 40s that, in between this 1950 - 1953, in between this time period where they were drawing plans for the new campus that they needed money for it and the South Carolina Baptist Convention took to calling the board of trustees the "country club" board because they kept saying that they wanted to build this grand, beautiful campus out here that looked like a country club and that's when that started.

Mr. Clawson: I think they were wise in building substantial buildings that wouldn't need to be torn down in fifty years and you can see what we've got.

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm. They're renovating the inside, and a lot of that has to do with technology, but the structure of the buildings that you all built still remains.

Mr. Clawson: Yeah. I think that there was a lot of that going on but that was a little bit out of

my realm.

Dr. Tollison: Let's talk about... oh, we didn't have an admissions building until 1981. Do you remember where admissions was located?

Mr. Clawson: That's not true...

Dr. Tollison: Is it? It says admissions, financial aid, original drawing April 25, 1980, completed in 1981.

Mr. Clawson: Okay, but admissions was in this building...

Dr. Tollison: Oh, okay

Mr. Clawson: And later stuck off in the corner of another building. That's what that's all about.

Dr. Tollison: But they didn't have their own building until...

Mr. Clawson: Correct

Dr. Tollison: And then, of course, the infirmary was part of that as well.

Mr. Clawson: The infirmary, when was it?

Dr. Tollison: It's the same because the infirmary was upstairs and admissions was below that.

Mr. Clawson: Now they've moved over here right?

Dr. Tollison: Yeah, they're over there in that new building.

Mr. Clawson: The thing is that people would come and wouldn't know how to find them and, rightly so, they were moved. But at that time that's the only place they could stick them. (laughs) Sort of outgrowing things as we went along.

Dr. Tollison: What about the dining hall? That was one of the earlier projects as well in that flurry of the buildings from '55 to '58 right?

Mr. Clawson: '58, we had to have that ready.

Dr. Tollison: The canteen, I guess was not adequate.

Mr. Clawson: No, no. It was just maybe twice as big as this room. And, of course, they had given up on home ec, Furman used to be strong in home ec, but once the college took that pretty much over and I think they're still fairly strong in home ec, maybe not. But that was strictly a temporary set up there for bringing those students over that...

Dr. Tollison: The dining hall's beautiful. Did the master plans always have the back of it to be glass? And so was that just an additional perk?

Mr. Clawson: No. Even in the renderings that they furnished to try to decide which architectural group should be selected really were far reaching. I mean they had really nothing to the final planning but even in the renderings they're showing that curve and I doubt whether those renderings are even available anywhere.

Dr. Tollison: So when you all decided to place the bell tower out there it was just an added perk that you would be able to look out of the dining hall and be able to see the lake and the bell tower and everything.

Mr. Clawson: Yeah, it was not in any of the original planning. It was just the thought that we can't let that be coming down and not have our bell tower.

Dr. Tollison: Right. The baseball stadium was early. That must have been important to Dr. Plyler.

Mr. Clawson: Dr. Plyler got a lot of these things in early because I think he figured that they had to come early because the funding was so terribly tight after the war. He had a lot of foresight, the track was built, the baseball stadium was built, and tennis courts. We had six men's tennis courts before we had anybody out here to play.

Dr. Tollison: Where were the first tennis courts?

Mr. Clawson: Over there where they are now.

Dr. Tollison: Okay and then there were some...

Mr. Clawson: In '61, or somewhere along that time, we built, I think, maybe it was four?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm. I think those are still over there.

Mr. Clawson: A lot of those things were added as necessities as the time became right to have to have them.

Dr. Tollison: Probably the cabin and the cottage, 1976. That was probably the same, just an overflow from the women's... and you needed extra.

Mr. Clawson: Correct.

Dr. Tollison: Now, did you oversee construction of the Blackwell's home and the Johns' home?

Mr. Clawson: No, they were already built by other architects. At least Dr. Johns' home was. This head of some large mechanical insuring company here had moved out and

they bought that temporarily to put Dr. Johns in and Dr. Blackwell's... I don't know. I think it was already there and bought for him and not built preparing for him. I could be wrong there.

Dr. Tollison: But now Furman doesn't purchase homes for the president because we have White Oaks.

Mr. Clawson: Right.

Dr. Tollison: So that's where the president will live.

Mr. Clawson: And that, of course, was built by Charlie Daniel.

Dr. Tollison: How involved was Charlie Daniel on this campus in terms of the building?

Mr. Clawson: Very much so. They built most of the early buildings but, let me bring this up, money was tight in those days and we could borrow money from the Home Finance... HHA... I called it the Home Financing Agency of the government. They would lend money at a low rate, I think it was 2%, for institutions for buildings that were income producing. Okay, well dormitories, you could get loans on, they're income producing, and even the dining room. We could not get it on such things as the administration building or the classroom building or the science building. So in those days we got government loans on everything that we could and the others had to be by endowment raising and so on and so forth. Like this auditorium is named McAlester Auditorium. They gave the bulk of the money for the auditorium.

Dr. Tollison: So did Furman go into serious debt for a few years before donors started providing a lot of money?

Mr. Clawson: I don't recollect that we had any problems of that nature at all. Once we built the income-producing buildings they kept themselves up. And it finally began to take hold, as you gain ground or gain speed you had more people and the fund raising committees were at work.

Dr. Tollison: I just saw that the greenhouse, 1954. So that was the first structure aside from, well, the lake, which we really wouldn't call a structure I guess. Is that still here?

Mr. Clawson: Some of it is. Some of it's been taken out. It was quite prominent for us to do that in the early days, and Dick Webel suggested that, and somehow or another we got the money for that. They were built before I came. But we raised a lot of the shrubbery here. When you put up a building you had to landscape it.

Dr. Tollison: This is a great history that you've written. Oh here we go, campus make-up inside the fence, plus or minus 446 acres, the lake on campus is a 30-acre lake?

Mr. Clawson: Uh huh.

Dr. Tollison: Golf course is a 170 acres, golf course lakes are 3 ½ acres, and the athletic, physical education fields are 52 acres. So altogether it ends up being right around, is it 750?

Mr. Clawson: Right around 1,050.

Dr. Tollison: Oh does it?

Mr. Clawson: See, Furman owned Stratford Forest back then and they owned Edgefield back there and the total back in those days, I always had set in my mind, was 1,200 acres. There's different ways you can cut it up and look at it and that's just more or less the basic... it comes out to be how many...

Dr. Tollison: There's nothing at the bottom. I wonder if we could...

Mr. Clawson: Well there should be. Let's see what you've got. You're right. I guess I didn't bring that. I think it's out in the car.

Dr. Tollison: I think that article from the newspaper says inside the gates it's now 750.

Mr. Clawson: That strikes me as being correct.

Dr. Tollison: That sound about right?

Mr. Clawson: Yes. Here's what I was trying to say, in 1978 we expanded. The Dana, that's the big automotive supply, they gave money for that. We expanded 6,050 feet then. But 750 is correct. That's inside the fence.

Dr. Tollison: Now, let's see, the daycare center was built in 1974. I have no idea where that daycare center is located.

Mr. Clawson: There's a little house up here that was already sitting, you know where the driving range is? The golf driving?

Dr. Tollison: Yes.

Mr. Clawson: If you go out this road you'll go by it.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. Is this Roe Ford Road?

Mr. Clawson: It's just right over there.

Dr. Tollison: That road over there?

Mr. Clawson: Our road goes into Roe Ford. But if you go out this gate and cross the railroad tracks, just as you cross the railroad tracks, the house on the left.

Dr. Tollison: Okay.

Mr. Clawson: It's just a residential house that was taken over for that.

Dr. Tollison: And the house was already here before...

Mr. Clawson: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: What did the land look like when you first came out here without any of the buildings? I've seen pictures.

Mr. Clawson: It looked barren.

Dr. Tollison: (laughs) Were there cows out here?

Mr. Clawson: When the classroom building was going up and that one dormitory, I remember standing on the first floor level as it was being built, where the second floor porch is now, and looking out over the lake and of course I couldn't see anything but the classroom building over here and bare ground and I thought to myself, I'd stand there in late evening, look out over there and say "I wonder what it will be like in ten years."

Dr. Tollison: (laughs)

Mr. Clawson: But it was a progressive job and that's what I liked about it. I started out saying I thought wanted to stay at that plant. I was at the very earliest building but I got tired of that interior function later on. But this, it was something building every month. I never got through being excited.

Dr. Tollison: (laughs) Always something new.

Mr. Clawson: Always something going on all the time.

Dr. Tollison: Tell me what was your most challenging project here, for whatever reason.

Mr. Clawson: I think the most challenging part of the problem was the lack of funding. You see we started out and we couldn't have a blueprint of all these buildings and money flow in and build all these buildings. Wake Forest was able to do that because they had the Reynolds' money to back up. So where we got caught was when we built the classroom building it was all by itself. We had to spend money for its own heating plant. When we built the men's dormitory we had to put in its own heating plant. For a total well-planned project from start to finish we would have had a central boiler plant which later on, a couple of years ago, they went to the expense of putting in a central air conditioner, you saw how the ground was torn up and everything. If we could have had the money to build Furman University all at one time as it is we would have had a central power plant but I lost that. I had even gone in planning up to Boston to look at a similar

plant that we thought we wanted to have here but that time, if you'll note on the timing, the science building we only built the center section. When the women were coming out there would be much too much we built the two wings. So everything we did had to have its own heating plant which is not the most efficient. However where we could take advantage of it we did. When we were building the five women's dormitories, I'm not talking about the extra, the original five, and we built the auditorium at the same time we were able to put a big enough heating plant over there to do the auditorium. So wherever we could we would take advantage of it but, to this day, all of the buildings, unless they were built as a cluster, all the buildings have their own heating systems, heating plants as I call them. That was the hardest thing. And then, too, we had to do things in leapfrog, as you probably gathered, getting ready for the men to move out and then getting ready for the women to move out. It was difficult to plan and spend money for future power cables and things like that that we knew had to come but we didn't have the money to do it at that time. So that was, I would think, the part of a lot of our planning, the hardest problem. It's not criticizing, it's just facts.

Dr. Tollison: Right, it's just the reality of the situation. How did those challenges exist? That was a problem, obviously, in the 50s and perhaps the early 60s or so?

Mr. Clawson: I'd say... See when the water treatment plant, I won't call it sewage... I can answer that...

Dr. Tollison: Well the physical plant...

Mr. Clawson: I know when it was, it was '67 - '68, water treatment, it should be there somewhere. Anyway, that goes on to say, for instance, I remember the trustees who were on the building committee and Mr. Alester Furman and Dr. Plyler... I say my heating plant because I'm of that nature. To me the heating plant was one of the most important buildings on the campus but the science building hadn't been built and, I never will forget that meeting, I pointed out why it would hurt the overall plan of the university because as I said I'd been up to Boston of a couple of trips and I had always said we could accept these few buildings but there is going to be a stopping point, a turnover point, that we need the physical plant because I could see the rest of the growth that had to be made. But then they put the question back to me, saying "Well if we do that we can't build the science building. We've got to have the science building because here's the students with their books." And that made sense but, at the same time, the engineering group [inaudible] I worked with in Greenville, we got an appointment with Mr. Alester Furman, Jr., in the old [SCN?] building, it's torn down now. It was about the sewage treatment. We had to accept building a plant because the county was too far down the line for us to join in on their treatment trunk line and there was no money. So we had to build, you probably don't even know about it, a sewage disposal plant right outside the gate of the physical plant building down there on this side of the railroad track and we didn't use that but a couple of years before I got permission to tie into the...

PAUSE TO FLIP AUDIO TAPE

Dr. Tollison: You were saying you didn't really use the water treatment plant

Mr. Clawson: A couple, three years. It was in 1967 and finished in 1968, that we tied our system into the county because they had moved a couple miles up this way and so then we destroyed the sewage disposal plant. So those are the... you said "What's the difficult part of it?" It was the coordination of doing things that we had to do that we knew was a little bit wrong but we had to do it to keep things going.

Dr. Tollison: Well probably just getting people to realize that you can't just build a building. There has to be some sort of support system in there, as you were saying, things like the water treatment, things like the heating facility, things like that. The buildings have to be supported by other things.

Mr. Clawson: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: What structure do you take the most pride in on this campus?

Mr. Clawson: That's a hard one.

Dr. Tollison: Do you have your favorite old stories about all of them?

Mr. Clawson: Well, no I don't really because I knew the group as we were building all were sorely needed. As an individual project I would have to say that the bell tower probably. It's sort of little, out by itself, and there it is. But I really couldn't think of a favorite because everything I saw going up was needed and it was growth and I was happy with it.

Dr. Tollison: Do you have a favorite among the new buildings that have been built since you left? Since you retired in 1983? We've got a lot of them. We've got Johns Hall over here and Riley Hall and then the chapel, of course and...

Mr. Clawson: Well, yeah.

Dr. Tollison: Hipp Hall?

Mr. Clawson: I was in on all the planning of the Art Building but I left before it was actually built. I really haven't been in the other buildings enough to... I just think every one you mentioned is great. The chapel, we had looked forward to it. We knew it would be coming but there were a number of years. The fact that we started some rendering drawings on it long before I left but it wasn't going to come into being until so and so. I think the library expansion, of the little bit I saw when you and I walked in, it's just magnificent. It's so much more operative and larger than the original although I thought the original was very, very, very good as it was in its day.

Dr. Tollison: Right and I'm sure it was adequate then.

Mr. Clawson: It was magnificent to what they had before. You probably never saw the little library on the men's campus.

Dr. Tollison: Umm umm.

Mr. Clawson: But anyway, that's progress.

Dr. Tollison: Anything else that you want to add? Do you like to walk around here nowadays?

Mr. Clawson: Whatever you want.

Dr. Tollison: Oh, do you like to take walks around here and observe its growth, the growth of the campus?

Mr. Clawson: If we're not taking too much of your time.

Dr. Tollison: Oh no, I mean do you do this as a hobby? Just in your own time. Do you ever come to campus and just wander around?

Mr. Clawson: Oh, I see what you mean. Yeah, I do that. I take walks and think back and sometimes I think about some difficulties we had with this, that, and the other, but how it's always grown. But I think it's just magnificent the way everything's developed. But I do love it. It's like I was looking at that big old tree... it was like that when I was talking about it.

Dr. Tollison: Did you all build the Poinsett Highway... I think Mrs. Plyler was telling me something about how Poinsett Highway really wasn't... it was a very small road...

Mr. Clawson: Oh it wasn't there. When you're coming up at the overhead bridge from Greenville and you could take a right through the neighborhoods, that's all we had. When I used to come into my work on this campus I had to go up that road and come up a little dirt road out here and that little house that was my first office was up there where the music building is now. But the highways are completely, it wasn't in existence at that time.

Dr. Tollison: I heard that President Plyler, he drove to Columbia one day to get permission because Furman had to essentially create an exit off of, or I guess... Was Poinsett Highway there, was it even a dirt road? Was it a road at all? When did you build the gatehouse and the exit off of Poinsett Highway?

Mr. Clawson: Well the new highway had been built at that time. Does the gatehouse show up there?

Dr. Tollison: It says... gatehouse completed in 1957.

Mr. Clawson: I'll put you back into Greenville, you know where the old Shriner's Hospital was?

Dr. Tollison: No.

Mr. Clawson: If you're on that side of town, Stone Lake area the Poinsett 271 was not even built. I used to have to go up through a village/town towards Paris Mountain and come in from Paris Mountain across into here. So this highway work had been done before '57 and when we built these gatehouses we tied into the road just as you see it right now on the 271 bridge there. Of course they made an improvement by having a longer ramp built there to make it more safe to get out, but all that was done before we moved the men's campus.

Dr. Tollison: So there was a bridge already in place there that Furman could go under.

Mr. Clawson: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: Because that's a nice addition. And I believe I heard that President Plyler did not want just the concrete, very industrial looking, he wanted it to be pretty and stone.

Mr. Clawson: We had conferences with the Highway Department people and they were "Yes, yes, yes." But they slipped that in honestly, we had no control on that. But we thought we had an agreement to architecturally improve that. But he did, he wanted that entrance to be improved but as it turned out we did all the improvement on that entrance right there so it worked out.

Dr. Tollison: So did Furman lay the pavement for the exit ramp or did the state do that?

Mr. Clawson: I think the state did that. They're supposed to design a safe entry. But we took care of all the paving within the gates.

Dr. Tollison: Right. Well it certainly is beautiful. I'm going to go ahead and turn this tape off if that's all right with you.

CUTS TO NEW LOCATION

Dr. Tollison: Well here we are at the bell tower and it's under construction right now.

Mr. Clawson: Renovation.

Dr. Tollison: Renovation, excuse me, you're right. You're absolutely right, under renovation right now.

Mr. Clawson: I wanted to get up on that scaffolding. I waited too long.

Dr. Tollison: (laughs) They're taking it down right now. Is that what they're doing? Oh I see. So is the renovation complete?

Mr. Clawson: No, just that phase of it I'm sure.

Dr. Tollison: Just the outside phase?

Mr. Clawson: Uh huh.

Dr. Tollison: They were gonna clean up the outside. Those clocks look like they're new, or at least have been cleaned.

Mr. Clawson: Yeah, they were on schedule to put in new controls on them because one would get out of step with the other and we had to get some new controls to coordinate the four clocks. So one would be at one time and the other'd be at another and that didn't look too good.

Dr. Tollison: And you were telling me that there are beams that run 52 feet, is that what you said? Down into the ground?

Mr. Clawson: They're what we call pilings.

Dr. Tollison: Pilings?

Mr. Clawson: P-I-L-I-N-G-S. There are three under each corner and they were drilled in 52 feet. You drive them until you get a certain resistance that will hold the load. And you folks that are on campus a lot are going to enjoy the chimes once again. They're scheduled for... All the mechanisms are going over and replaced. And they're so beautiful and it's just a shame to let them hang up there and not use them.

Dr. Tollison: Of course.

Mr. Clawson: So I think everybody's gonna enjoy them very much.

Dr. Tollison: I know I will. Now you said that this is the peninsula right here that you all widened. How wide is it now? It was about six feet before?

Mr. Clawson: Yeah, I don't remember.

Dr. Tollison: Is it about double that, maybe, or so?

Mr. Clawson: Oh I think it's triple that. You see this stone wall also had to be run. At the time we did that it stopped off up here at the curve of the dining hall. And we got the same people, the stone mason that I told you cut up these stone curbs, he did all this stone work.

Dr. Tollison: Right there. And you mentioned those colonnades over there were...

Mr. Clawson: They came from the Woman's College over in Greenville. And there's a pair over here, right over here...

Dr. Tollison: Can we see them from...

Mr. Clawson: Wherever that road... I don't see it from here. Yeah, you can see it over that shiny car, right over there?

Dr. Tollison: Oh, okay. Oh I see one.

Mr. Clawson: There were four of them.

Dr. Tollison: There's one.

Mr. Clawson: Two that lead into each entrance to the Woman's College.

Dr. Tollison: Now didn't there used to be a bigger bridge that connected... that went right across the lake right here?

Mr. Clawson: Mm hmm.

Dr. Tollison: What happened to that?

Mr. Clawson: They did away with it in favor of this more permanent. That was one we built because we put these cottages over here and they had to communicate back and forth. I think we built that in '60 or '61 but they've got a more permanent set up now.

Dr. Tollison: Let's go look at the Old College.

BREAK TO INTERVIEW WITH DAN MATZ

Dr. Tollison: Why don't you tell me your name.

Mr. Matz: My name is Dan Matz. I'm a sophomore here at Furman.

Dr. Tollison: Okay great. And you live here in Echo Cottage? Is that what we call it?

Mr. Matz: We call it the Eco Cottage.

Dr. Tollison: The Eco Cottage

Mr. Matz: The Eco College or the Echo Cottage. It gets called both.

Dr. Tollison: Now how is living in Eco Cottage different from living in the dorms over there?

Mr. Matz: I'd say one of the primary differences is that we have the solar panels where we get some of our electricity. I think about 20% of the power we get comes from the solar panels. And we recycle weekly and compost vegetables, eggshells, bread, leftover things that don't get eaten. And then we try and conserve water

and energy. And we also compare our data from our water usage and power usage to the meters next door.

Dr. Tollison: So you all have a little bit of a competition here going.

Mr. Matz: I don't know if I'd call it a competition.

Dr. Tollison: More of a comparative study.

Mr. Matz: But we compare weekly on how much energy we use compared to how much energy they use in a week.

Dr. Tollison: And they are with the conveniences, electrical, plumbing and that kind of stuff?

Mr. Matz: We have special washers that use less water and shower heads that use less water and toilets that use less water.

Dr. Tollison: Now this is a pretty new thing for Furman isn't it?

Mr. Matz: I believe it's been done in the past ten years, I wanna say even more recently than that.

Dr. Tollison: Perhaps the past four or five years or so?

Mr. Matz: I think we're maybe the fifth group that's lived in here.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, so about five years. Now do you see it as an inconvenience or do you see it as you're helping to contribute to...

Mr. Matz: I find it's kind of an advantage because you're not living in a dorm as a sophomore. You have your own kitchen and your own washer and dryer, and it's good for the environment and all of us that live there, we enjoy doing it.

Dr. Tollison: Certainly. You all volunteered to live there?

Mr. Matz: We signed up for it last year.

Dr. Tollison: Excellent. Well thanks so much for talking to me. I appreciate it.

Mr. Matz: You're welcome.

BACK TO CLAWSON INTERVIEW

Dr. Tollison: You were saying vanBergen, they did the bells? The carillon?

Mr. Clawson: Yes, they originally came to do the New York World's Fair and while they were here they built a 58-bell carillon at the Citadel. And about that time we were

building the tower and Dr. Plyler said "Well we want a carillon but we want 60!" He wanted to beat Citadel one way or the other. So anyway, they're here to restructure some of the electrical controls and they are already retuning what bells need to be re-tuned. And as we open up the tower for visitation you're gonna hear some beautiful music.

Dr. Tollison: When do you think the tower will be open?

Mr. Clawson: We're hoping to rededicate it sometime this spring.

Dr. Tollison: Excellent. Spring of 2005.

Mr. Clawson: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: Let's go take a look at Old College. And this building you mentioned was constructed in 1850.

Mr. Clawson: It was the original classroom building for Furman Academy as it used to be called before they went to the name of Furman University when they were relocated.

Dr. Tollison: And you mentioned before this was constructed in 1850?

Mr. Clawson: 1850. It was the first classroom building in the Columbia Seminary. It used to be called Furman Academy but Furman University became the name when they moved to Greenville. And I think it was Vardry McBee that gave land for Furman University to build what was then the men's campus. This building was the first classroom building and we moved it in 1957, I think it was, to become a part of the history of the new campus.

CUT TO OLD COLLEGE SIGN

Mr. Clawson: 1851. We said '50 I think.

Dr. Tollison: Yeah we did.

Mr. Clawson: That was close wasn't it?

Dr. Tollison: Now, did you all have to reconstruct these steps? The wooden steps? Did you all have to reconstruct the wooden steps?

Mr. Clawson: Yes, those are built here. I believe the doors are original and they are. The door and the building and everything is original but I couldn't claim that the steps are original. As we said it was moved here in 1958. And I believe Dr. Clement Furman was the first professor in this building in Columbia and our classroom building now is named for Dr. Clement Furman.

CUT TO NEW INTERVIEW

Dr. Tollison: Formerly the brick on the peninsula leading to the bell tower came from one of the old college campuses downtown. What are you guys doing with that brick now?

Mr. Elliott: Well the brick that were usable are going to be reused under the footprint of the tower and then we also save the rest of them for future projects around campus.

Dr. Tollison: Terrific. So they're definitely being preserved.

Mr. Elliott: Oh yes.

Dr. Tollison: Excellent. And do you know from which campus they came from?

Mr. Elliott: I do not.

Dr. Tollison: Gotcha. Are you aware Mr. Clawson?

Mr. Clawson: The Woman's College.

Dr. Tollison: They came from the Woman's College. Excellent. So now some of the bricks are you said in the footprint of the... so right underneath the bell tower?

Mr. Elliott: That is correct.

Dr. Tollison: And what have you all done to the bell tower?

Mr. Elliott: Rebuilt the profiles and repaired all the damage from forty years of weathering and then re-sealed it and hopefully it'll be good for another forty years.

Dr. Tollison: And I see vanBergen's here. What are they doing?

Mr. Elliott: They're redoing the bells and controls and all so that'll be ready probably in December sometime.

Dr. Tollison: So when's the... Mr. Clawson mentioned the rededication will be sometime in spring of 2005?

Mr. Elliott: That's my understanding.

Dr. Tollison: Excellent, excellent. Well it looks great!

Mr. Elliott: Well thanks.

Dr. Tollison: Thank you very much. What's your name?

Mr. Elliott: Bob Elliott.

Dr. Tollison: Bob Elliott and what's your position here at Furman?

Mr. Elliott: Well I'm actually not an employee here, I'm a general contractor. I'm president of the Elliott Group.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. You've got a great Furman hat on.

Mr. Elliott: Yes I do (laughs)

Dr. Tollison: Nice to meet you, thank you.

Mr. Elliot: Nice to meet you.

CUT TO WALKING TOWARDS BELL TOWER

Dr. Tollison: It's so big when you get up close.

Mr. Clawson: You see these older bricks? They're hard to do a pattern with because they're handmade.

Dr. Tollison: Right.

Mr. Clawson: But they're lasting, good brick

Dr. Tollison: Well I'm glad that they're gonna save part of them.

Mr. Clawson: Y'all look pretty!

Worker: Thank you.

Dr. Tollison: I guess that's where they've done the... put the old bricks in the bottom of it right there?

Mr. Clawson: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: Perhaps if you mean that in the areas that are still standing...

CUT TO BELL TOWER FLOOR

Mr. Clawson: [inaudible] you go up. That's when you had a ladder without the cage around it. I went up and stood on that bar with one foot right there.

Dr. Tollison: You be careful! (laughs)

Mr. Clawson: Oh me.

Dr. Tollison: Oh my goodness.

Mr. Clawson: You coming up anymore?

Dr. Tollison: Ah, maybe a little bit. Not very far.

Worker: This stood forty years.

[inaudible]

Mr. Clawson: Why didn't you come up here? (laughs)

Dr. Tollison: (laughs) Did you enjoy it?

Mr. Clawson: I did.

Dr. Tollison: Did it bring back old memories?

Mr. Clawson: I'm keeping you too long though.

Dr. Tollison: No, not at all. Did you go to the top? Did you go all the way to the top?

Mr. Clawson: Yep.

Dr. Tollison: Oh my goodness. Pretty view, huh?

Mr. Clawson: I didn't climb up on the roof. (laughs)

Dr. Tollison: Did you stick your leg out like you did on the old campus?

Mr. Clawson: Yeah, how about that?