

**Continuation of Oral History Interview with
HOWARD H HAYS, JR.**

July 29, 1998

CONDUCTED BY TELEPHONE

Erickson: Good morning, Tim. This is Jan Erickson.

Hays: Boy, you are right on the dot.

Erickson: Well, I knew that you were anxious to get your day going, and so I wanted to call you right away.

Hays: Well, I thank you. I do have a couple of caveats as I was thinking of your call.

Erickson: Yes.

Hays: One of them is that my memory is spotty and tricky, and while today I may not be able to think of John Smith's name, by tomorrow when I'm not even trying to, it pops into my mind.

Erickson: Absolutely.

Hays: And the other is that I don't have the energy that I used to have, and it might be that about half an hour of this would be more than I wanted to undertake in one day.

Erickson: That's ok.

Hays: So, I may speak up and ask you if you could continue another day.

Erickson: Absolutely. That's just fine, Tim. And on the first part of your comment, I transcribe all this, all of the text of this, and so I'll send that to you, and if there's something you think about that you'd like to insert, it's perfectly fine. We can do that.

Hays: Oh, I'm glad to hear that because reading it and reflecting on it will give me other ideas. I would be quite surprised if it didn't give me ideas or better ways to explain something.

Erickson: Good. Well, that will work out perfectly then. Well, would you like to start with your relationship with the different chancellors, beginning maybe with Provost Watkins?

Hays: Yes. I don't have anything particularly revealing to say. He was a very fine, very bright, very down-to-earth sort of fellow. I think everybody in the community was impressed with him. He made friends, he was practical—he wasn't theoretical. He may have been a little theoretical at times, too, but where it called for practicality, he was practical. And he was determined to go ahead. I thought that he was very impressive in the job. Well selected for the job.

Erickson: Oh, good. And then how about Dr. Spieth?

Hays: Dr. Spieth was a bit more withdrawn and a little bit more the faculty type. Harking back to Gordon Watkins for a moment, I was very much impressed with the recruiting job he did. The original faculty was quite a line up, and it was small enough, and I was interested enough and young enough and so were they, that I made a number of good friends. I learned to know all or practically everybody on the first faculty, and it was an impressive group. They were not only impressive then, but they went on to be impressive in their careers.

Erickson: Oh, that's wonderful.

Hays: That was great. Well, getting back to Spieth. He was a scholar and a gentleman. He didn't have the PR, he didn't have the impact on the community or anything like it that Gordon Watkins did. I think this was in part a failure to recognize the importance of the community, but also just as a matter of personality, he didn't have it. And that's an awfully negative description of him. I think he was respected on the campus and things went well under his administration.

Erickson: Sure. And then you probably knew Ivan Hinderaker very well because he was here for a long time.

Hays: Oh, I learned to know Ivan so well and I think he's a great guy. I think he was perfect for riding through the student unrest of his period. He was candid, he was upfront, he didn't try to draw the line and dare them to step over it. He would listen to them. He'd put up with a certain amount of their demonstrating and their mistaken concept as to what they should be doing and how they should be displaying their sentiment. You know, it was a pretty wild period. This was long before you were born, Jan.

Erickson: Oh, hardly. I was in college then, Tim. I remember it quite well.

Hays: Well, I think it's no accident that UCR didn't experience the violence and the destructive acts of vandalism that many campuses did. I don't mean that there was none of that, but it was miniscule compared with some of the things going on.

Erickson: Well, Tim, you were the editor and publisher at that time. How did you handle that, you know, from the newspaper perspective?

Hays: Well, I hope we did a good job of reporting it. We were candid. We weren't trying to cover things up. We had a newsroom that had a lot of self respect because they were given a lot of rein, but that doesn't mean that they weren't edited well. It meant that in a day when some papers had points of view that were supposed to be reflected in their news columns, we weren't burdened with that sort of thing.

Erickson: Um hmm. Well, let's to on to Chancellor Rivera.

Hays: A very nice fellow. As you know, he didn't last long in the job ...

Erickson: Right.

Hays: but he attracted attention because he was a minority. I was called by Otis Chandler asking me what kind of a board member he'd make at Times Mirror and recommended him.

Erickson: Oh, uh huh.

Hays: It's just a shame he didn't last longer.

Erickson: It sure is.

Hays: Ivan had ... I do a lot of this harking back ... but Ivan had a wonderful wife and I think it's grand that they're both still alive and enjoying life.

Erickson: They are. I saw them recently, Tim, and they asked about you, too.

Hays: They asked about me?

Erickson: They sure did.

Hays: What kind of report did you give them?

(laughter)

Erickson: Well, only good, of course.

(More laughter)

Hays: Oh, you covered up. Well, that's fine.

Erickson: No, they are doing just fine.

Hays: Good. I have an affection for them.

Erickson: Yes. They are a wonderful couple. How about Dan Aldrich. Did you know him? He was here for a short time, but ...

Hays: Yeh. I knew him. Well, he'd been down at Irvine.

Erickson: Yes. And you know, early in his career he was at the Citrus Experiment Station, too.

Hays: Oh. That's what I was going to say.

Erickson: Uh huh.

Hays: Oh, I don't have much of an opinion one way or the other on him.

Erickson: Sure. Well, how about Ted Hullar?

Hays: He didn't last long. I have a favorable impression, but he moved on too fast to have much of an impression.

Erickson: Right. And then came Rosemary Schraer.

Hays: Yes. Well, she was community minded. Again, I didn't know her as well as I did some of the earlier people in the office and I was more involved in extracurricular activities in the profession, hopping around the country. But I saw nothing negative about her. I thought she held the office gracefully and with dedication.

Erickson: Right. And how about Ray Orbach?

Hays: Well, I ... gosh, he looks good to me.
(chuckle)

Erickson: Well, you are a longer distance away now.

Hays: Gosh, yes. I'm not the guy to appraise him. He does well with The Press-Enterprise lecturers.

Erickson: Great. Well, in the early days ... let's talk about some of the UC Presidents that you worked with, because I think that you did have a relationship with some of them, did you not?

Hays: Well, limited. Go ahead and try the names on me.

Erickson: Ok. How about Dr. Sproul?

Hays: Oh, he came down here. He showed up and I met him. I saw him on just more than that one occasion, but I didn't really have ... I don't think that my name came through with him.

Erickson: Ok. How about Clark Kerr?

Hays: Yes. I knew him a bit and found him impressive. A brilliant fellow.

Erickson: And Dr. Hitch was another.

Hays: I am having trouble remembering Dr. Hitch. How long did he last?

Erickson: You know, I don't think too long. I am not sure. I think he replaced Clark Kerr when Governor Reagan fired Kerr.

Hays: I see. Kerr was considered too liberal by many, wasn't he?

Erickson: Yes, evidently. How about David Saxon?

Hays: I don't have any really

Erickson: Ok. How about David Gardner?

Hays: Well, I was favorably impressed by him, but again, it's a situation where I really have nothing to say.

Erickson: Ok. That's fine. Let's talk about the period of time that you've served on the Foundation Board of Trustees for UCR. Were you one of the founding members of that?

Hays: Yes.

Erickson: What were the goals? Why did you decide a foundation was necessary?

Hays: Uh. What year was that and who was Chancellor?

Erickson: You know, I don't know exactly, but I am thinking it was in the '70s, so probably Ivan Hinderaker.

Hays: I think there was a feeling that we sort of drifted into that and people who had been active in the creation of and perpetuation of the Citizens University Committee took roles in it. I believe that the initiative there came from the campus saying that something like this should be organized and offering us opportunities to participate.

Erickson: Um hmm. Did you help get some of the other members, too?

Hays: Oh, I don't know.

Erickson: Can't remember? Ok.

Hays: I believe I was one of the sort of inner circle that those first selected and was consulted on who should be added to the group.

Erickson: Right. I thought you were.

Hays: It was a small group to begin with and it grew.

Erickson: Ok. I wonder if you share the story about the endowed gift that you gave to the Honors Program. If you remember, Mel Opotowski related it at your celebration last year.

(laughter)

Hays: What happened?

Erickson: Yes.

Hays: Somebody or other ... whoever was covering the university was looking at a matter of gifts or was tipped off on a big gift where the donor was seeking anonymity.

Erickson: Um hmm.

Hays: So, how the hell did that go ... Anyway, Mel Opotowski, who stands for the freedom for the press, privilege of the press has to have access to information of all sorts, particularly information housed with public agencies.

Erickson: Yes.

Hays: He came to me and was exclaiming the fact that the university was holding this information in secret and that we ought to do something about it. If necessary, we ought to sue to get access to this information.

Erickson: Oh, goodness.

(laughter)

Hays: We were pretty quick to sue for information from the courts and others. We carried two cases relating to the justice system all the way back to the Supreme Court, as you may know.

Erickson: I did hear about that.

Hays: Won both of them, and Jim Ward was our attorney on those at the appearances on the Supreme Court. (pause) Where are we?

Erickson: Well, what were you thinking? Were you tempted to tell Mel that it was your gift?

Hays: Oh, I did. I don't know that I did the first time. I may have reflected on it and then called him back in.

Erickson: I see.

Hays: But I knew that I wasn't going to tell him we can't sue. And yet it would be a little bit ridiculous if we had.

(laughter)

Hays: And so that's how that came out.

Erickson: Nevertheless, it all worked out didn't it? Well, let's talk about The Press-Enterprise Lecturer. How did you come up with that concept?

Hays: Well, the easiest answer would be, I don't know. I think it was a matter of recognizing the importance of a few annual lectures that were being given around the country, or if not, the potential importance of some of them. It was a limited list and still is.

Erickson: Did you know them personally? The lecturers?

Hays: Some, most of them. In the case of the first lecturer, I had met him. We were able to get him, I think, largely because my immediate ... (pause) wait a minute ... our Editorial Page, Norm Cherniss, was our Editorial Page Editor. Norm Cherniss had, just the previous year or two, been named a Nieman Fellow, and I believe that he was largely responsible for recruiting our first lecturer (Louis M. Lyons). And I might say that I was very aware of the importance of the first few lecturers being names that were impressive in the profession so that future lecturers would want to add their names to the list.

The second lecturer I did know—I knew him a whole lot better than I knew the first one. John Oakes was the second lecturer (John B. Oakes), and he was a member of the Ochs family of the New York Times and his father had Anglicized the name, during the first world war, I think.

Erickson: Oh.

Hays: And he was enjoying a distinguished career as the editorial page editor of the New York Times. He was very early as a conservationist in a day when that word was little used and seldom recognized. And he was also among those that were earliest and most vehement in opposition to the Vietnam War.

Erickson: Oh, uh huh.

Hays: In any event, he was a big name. And who was No. 3?

Erickson: You don't have that list, I am sorry.

Hays: That's all right. We were off to a good start with the first two.

Erickson: We sure were. Well, we've had 30? ... how many?

Hays: Thirty three.

Erickson: It's amazing.

Hays: Yes.

Erickson: Because the attendance is really extraordinary, isn't it?

Hays: I think it's particularly surprising at the present that we have so many people who are regular in their attendance. They've come for fifteen years, and only missed once or twice, or come for twenty three years in some cases. It goes back a long way.

Erickson: Right. No, it's wonderful.

Erickson: Well, Tim, when you were the owner and editor of the paper, what was your philosophy on establishing the relationship with the campus. I mean, how did you feel that you should respond?

Hays: Well, I thought that Riverside, up until the day that the liberal arts college was established, was a university town without a university.

Erickson: Uh huh.

Hays: I don't mean to slight the Citrus Experiment Station when I say that, but without an academic university.

Erickson: Yes.

Hays: It had characteristics of a university town, including a very large public library and the Mission Inn. All sorts of things seemed to be appropriate to a university town. And by a very large public library, I am talking about the book collection. It was and still is extraordinary for a town to stick with what it was, extraordinary for a town the size of Riverside in that day. (pause) Where are we going?

Erickson: Wherever.

(laughter)

Hays: What was the question?

Erickson: I just wanted your thoughts on the relationship between the newspaper and the community.

Hays: Oh, I see. Well, I was enthusiastic and a lot of other people were enthusiastic. We did all we could to secure it and then to support it.

Erickson: Um hmm. Well, how do you feel about the university of today with its growth pattern and the possibility of establishing more professional schools?

Hays: I am all in favor. I'll tell you, you couldn't have a finer employer in your community than a first-class university. And it's stimulating the community in all sorts of ways.

Erickson: Good.

Hays: Cultural opportunities for everyone.

Erickson: Well, if you wouldn't mind diverting just a little bit, you have been so active in the Mission Inn, I wondered if you would just comment on that briefly?

Hays: Well, initially I didn't think the Mission Inn could be saved. I just thought it had gone too far. But I was fighting the idea that it be turned into an old folks home, which was the most likely possibility.

Erickson: Um hmm.

Hays: But I was interested in such peripheral possibilities as St. John's in Annapolis, Maryland. Are you aware of that school?

Erickson: No, I am not.

Hays: Well, I am not surprised. It's a very small school, it's a college, an independent college. And it concentrates exclusively on the traditional or classical education. You just learn the things that might have been learned at Oxford years ago.

Erickson: Oh, uh hmm.

Hays: In any event, it seemed to be better known in that day than it is now. Now that I am talking about it, I don't get any reminders of it. In any event, they were talking about the possibility of establishing a western campus. Somehow or other, they developed an interest in the possibility of the Mission Inn. It wasn't my doing, but I did drop in on them on an eastern trip and tried to fan that interest. I am going down a side track here.

Erickson: Oh, that's good.

Hays: But I am just indicating that I had no conception of what the Inn should be and I had very modest ambitions for it. As time went on, it became very ambitious.

Erickson: Yes. Did you know David Carley?

Hays: Yes. Now who is he?

Erickson: He and his brother were involved in the first renovation of it.

Hays: Oh, sure. And his brother had been the Governor or Vice Governor of Wisconsin.

Erickson: Something like that. Yes something.

Hays: The Carley Brothers.

Erickson: Right.

Hays: Yes. Well, I met them. I knew them a little.

Erickson: And then it went to the ... gosh, I can't remember the name of the bank?

Hays: Connecticut General Life.

Erickson: Was it. Ok.

Hays: A group of us went back to campaign with them at one stage trying to get them to be benevolent and sell it to the city or sell it to some potentially good user at a price less than they had in it.

Erickson: Well, how did Duane Roberts come into the picture then?

Hays: Quite by surprise.

Erickson: I think for everybody, huh?

Hays: I don't know who brought him up as ... I think he nominated himself.

Erickson: Oh, I thought maybe you did.

Hays: Oh, no. I didn't have anything to do with that.

Erickson: Well, we are all happy that he emerged.

Hays: That's right.

Erickson: Would you talk about your interest in the CMP, the California Museum of Photography?

Hays: I liked the concept and was supportive and tried to be helpful in raising money for a location downtown. I became good friends with Charles Demaris.

Erickson: Yes.

Hays: I was a good friend of Charles Demaris at the time he was taking it over. But I was interested in it in earlier days. Incidentally, Ivan Hinderaker was really the key guy there.

Erickson: Is that right?

Hays: There was a fellow from Sacramento ...

Erickson: Oh, yes. Mead Kibbey.

Hays: Mead Kibbey was very instrumental. Between them, they landed the big collection.

Erickson: The Keystone Mast?

Hays: Yes. The Keystone Mast Collection. They were responsible for that. But I was sticking my toe in lots of things, meddling in lots of things and I did get into that. I became a partner of Mead Kibbey in some of the early purchases that were made. I can remember that we ... (pause) the very famous photographer that lived up in northern California ...

Erickson: You mean Ansel Adams?

Hays: Ansel Adams. We got some Ansel Adams stuff at a great bargain because he knew that we were going to be passing it along to the school.

Erickson: Right. Well, Tim, I thank you very much. Is there anything else you can think of to bring up?

Hays: I don't think so. I may when you send me that material.

Erickson: Great. I will get it all typed up. I have the first part, you know, when we talked in person. So, I'll get this worked up and then I'll send it to you.

Hays: Well, that's great. I appreciate it.

Erickson: Thank you so much. Say hello to Susie.

Hays: I'll do that. Give Jim my best.

Erickson: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW