

INTERVIEW

Riggs, Carl D.

OU Biological Station

Interviewed by Prof. Horace Bliss

February 1, 1981

IB This is Horace Bliss in Tampa visiting with Carl Riggs, who was at the University for some twenty-three years, but left in 1971 in order to take on a post at the University of South Florida. Tell us about yourself now, Carl.

CDR Horace, as you remember, I came to the University of Oklahoma in 1948 as an instructor in the Department of Zoology. I served at O.U. until I left there in 1971 and during those years I went through the various professorial ranks--I was curator of the Zoology Division of the Museum and I served as Director of the Biological Survey for almost all of those years and founded and directed the University of Oklahoma Biological Station. I also served as Dean of the Graduate School, as Vice President for Graduate Studies and my last year at O.U. I was Acting Provost.

IB That was quite a record, Carl and certainly remembered. There was one common touch that we had, we were both graduates of the University of Michigan and I think that brought us together fairly early in your time in Norman, but my fondest recall is of the Biological Station and the times that I was able to go down there with different people to enjoy some relaxing time. Tell us more about that Biological story because I think you've got a real interesting story for this collection.

CDR Horace, the first year that I was at O.U. I taught Zoology I and also developed a course in fish biology. The man who was then Chairman of the Department, Teague Self, and a man who worked for the Oklahoma Fishery Research Laboratory named Bill Thompson had the idea of some sort of a course on Lake Texoma which is a large _____ as you well know in the southern part of the state on the Red and Washita Rivers and Bill Thompson and I went to the Army Engineers, based in Dennison, Texas and talked

them out of a sixty by thirty foot barge and a big Higgins power boat to move it and during the summer of 1949 I had a dozen graduate students who worked with me on that barge studying the lake and the fish fauna of the lake. We, incidentally, had a cook who cooked for us that year who we got out of jail in Madill, a very fine cook enjoyed him very much--he's now long dead, named Sherman Smith. But that summer was the beginning really of the Biological Station because the works that we did there attracted a great deal of attention, we had newspapers from all over Oklahoma and Texas coming down and doing feature stories on the students and on me with a lot of pictures and it was a lot of very positive publicity for the University. One of the people at the University who became interested in what I was doing there was J. C. Mayfield, the then Director of the O.U. Book Exchange. Jim and I became very close friends, as you well remember. One of the reasons why we were close friends is that we were both avid fishermen and Jim would come down and fish with me on Lake Texoma on my time off, and one of Jim's close friends was a man named Norman Brillhart, who was President of the First National Bank in Madill.

HB I've heard that name Brillhart somewhere. How did he come into the picture on the Station?

CDR Well, Mr. Brillhart, Brill, as we all called him, became interested in the work we were doing and would drive down from Madill which is only a short distance away from the Station to observe our activities. He spent several days with us throughout the eight and a half to nine weeks we were there and even spent one night on board the barge with us. He had acquired, or his bank had acquired, a shell of a building and six acres of land which was to have been a resort hotel, but the developer over extended himself and the bank was forced to foreclose. The bank had no use for a shell of a building and six acres of land on the north shore of Lake Texoma, and

so Mr. Brillhart got the idea of giving that to the University if the University would develop it into a permanent fishery research station on Lake Texoma. He bought that property from his own bank's sheriff sale and did indeed give it to the University for such a purpose. When I was approached about the idea of doing this, I thought that it would be a better idea to develop on a broader basis instead of simply a fishery research station, to have a biological research station so that we could investigate the total biology of the lake and the area around the lake and that's what we finally decided to do.

HB If I understand you rightly, Carl, all you had was a shell of the main building that didn't even have a roof, is that correct?

CDR That is correct. It was unimproved land and this shell, concrete block building was all it was with an incomplete roof, not even concrete floors in most of the area. What the University did was to get the interest of Boyd Gunning who was then Director of the Alumni Association and I believe the O.U. Foundation and Boyd helped us to make contact with the legislature and with the very, very staunch support of Raymond Gary, who you remember later became Governor of the State, but at that time was Senator from Marshall County and at that particular time Chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate. We got an appropriation of some \$90,000.00 to refurbish and complete the original building and that was done but it was not done quite on schedule so instead of opening the Station in June of 1950 as we had planned, we had to postpone the opening until the first of July and so the first summer session which was in 1950 was in July and August of that year, rather than in June and July as all subsequent sessions have been.

HB What was the administrative arrangement for the first session, Carl?

CDR Well, remember I was still a relatively new person at O.U. and so I was named Acting Director of the Biological Station and I had an Advisory Committee which

consisted then of Larry Snyder who was Dean of the Graduate College and Howard Larsh, Chairman of the Botany/Microbiology Department and Teague Self who was Chairman of the Zoology Department. We all were very compatible group and worked well together and with the aid of Mr. Gunning, again, we did manage to do all the logistical things to make possible ~~the~~ beginning the session.

HB What was the first session, or first couple of years, how much were you able to do down there?

CDR Well, I can't remember in detail without checking back on some records the exact number of students that we had those first two years, we didn't have a large number. I think we had something like twenty-five or thirty the first year and moved up in the mid forties the second year and most of the students we had did come the first two years from the University of Oklahoma. Our faculty, the first year, with one exception, came from the Botany and/or Zoology Departments at O.U. and some of those faculty members, Elroy Rice, John Goodman, Teague Self, served for a number of years on the faculty in the succeeding sessions.

HB What sort of courses were you able to offer and where did the students live while they were down there?

CDR Well, ^{that} the courses/were offered were Botany/Zoology courses and they were such courses as: fishery biology, ornithology, natural history of vertebrates, natural history of invertebrates, parasitology, entomology, good basic field biology oriented courses. Both students and faculty lived all in that one main building, which had two laboratories, one dining room, and one little recreational area and the rest were divided up into a men's dormitory which was a large single room with a common bath at one end of it with about forty beds in it and then a women's dorm which was upstairs and divided into individual two and three room apartments, and faculty quarters in apartments

on the first floor of the building. All of the personnel then lived there and the meals were cooked in a kitchen, which is still there. You know the kitchen right behind the dining room and served in that dining room, and the students and faculty paid a common board bill for the entire board and room bill for the entire summer. Because of the newness of this sort of activity to me and others who were there we did our local food buying in the town of Madill or in the town of Kingston for dairy products and we did arrange to have a local dairy deliver milk into the Station. I remember that well because unfortunately that first July it rained twenty-seven out of thirty-one days and the road way into the Station became impassable and the milk truck had to be pulled through by a tractor every day that it delivered and every day that it left. That experience resulted in building a new road before the second summer and that road was built by my walking along an imaginary contour being followed by a large bulldozer that the Army Engineers furnished and that then became the permanent road into the Station and is that today.

IB I think I've seen on my visits down there some pretty good collections of plants and animals but when were those started?

CDR Well, the collecting of animal and plant specimens for teaching purposes began the very first summer that we were at the Station, and a number of important distributional records for the State and for that general area had been established at the Biological Station and not only is there a large collection of plant and animal materials at the Station, but the collections in the major museum up on the Norman campus and in other museums around the country were made at the Station. So that has been a ^{one} very valuable function of that aspect of activity there.

IB The times I have been down there--there have been some women in the kitchen and I'm wondering about who runs the menu?

CDR

That has varied over the years, but that first year I was a bachelor, I talked Ida Self, Teague Self's wife, into being the Dean of Women for the handful of girls that we had there and also the meal planner. We had as our cook, a man from Norman, O. M. Stricklin, who either Strick or his wife, served as cook for a number of years after that very first year and Strick did the cooking and he loved to fish and when he wasn't cooking he was fishing. They've had different cooks since that time and the meals are no longer planned by a faculty or Station administrator's wife, rather they are planned by the people who do the cooking in the kitchen. The food supplying is now done totally by wholesalers who bring the food in on a weekly basis, based on orders that are given to them in advance.

HB

On the visits that I have been down there recently there seem to be the same number of cooks, and if I don't bring them down a can of popcorn, they don't treat me right.

CDR

Well, I can understand that, cooks like favors just the same as anybody else. One of the things I wanted to mention is the first year at the Station was a difficult one in many ways. I mentioned the fact that we didn't even start classes until July 1 even then the building was not completed and so we had carpenters and painters working on the walls of the various rooms there including the laboratories, we only had two labs for six classes and therefore, we had either two classes meeting in the same room at the same time, or more frequently one would meet outside under a large tree and we had portable blackboards and the students were just as attentive and learned as much out there perhaps more than they would have inside. As a result of that crowded situation, however, we knew that we had to expand and expand rapidly, and so we immediately began plans for the next session of the legislature to get some additional money. Raymond Gary became President of the Senate and was able again to help us in getting, I think a hundred and ten thousand dollar appropriation for the building of three additional laboratories and a water processing plant so that we would have adequate water. The first year we tried to use well water and we

simply couldn't get a well that would deliver water of a decent quality that would take care of cooking and drinking and bathing, etc. Quite often there was as much sand coming out of the shower head as there was water and even one time the water had a little oil in it, which excited some people, but never amounted to anything.

HB What sort of relations did you have with the community during that first year?

CDR We had excellent relations, Horace. We made a number of very lasting and important friendships and in addition to that of Norman Brillhart that I mentioned earlier, we hired as our custodian, Clyde Johnson who lived immediately across the road from the Station and Clyde has served the Station long and well since that time. His wife, Laureen, has served as cook for the summer session on two occasions and for special meetings and a lot of the local people have helped us by working in the kitchen, working in the custodian positions around the Station etc. We also had magnificent support from a number of people with the Army Corps of Engineers. I'll never forget the help that Eddie Laird gave us, first when we had that barge on the lake and then later after we established the Station, keeping us apprised of interesting fishery problems that occurred around the lake, making sure that we were in good graces of the Texas Fish and Game Authorities, also on the Oklahoma Fish and Game Department was a man named, Curley Everett, who was the local ranger who was a constant aid to us in many ways. He would take the new faculty into interesting areas for field trips, showed us where a lot of fine fossil beds were and was instrumental in ^{an} archaeology development that we had at the Station for a couple of years because he knew where there were some old Indian burial areas. Also, I have to acknowledge the help of Dick Pile who was the Resident Engineer first, when we first developed the Station, and then Charles Solomon who followed him. These two men were based in Dennison, Texas, and J. Roberts of the Corps of Engineers--those people were just invaluable to us. The main Engineer in the State of Oklahoma, Bob Hunter, constantly gave us support and had a great deal to do with the early

success of the Station. Our relationships in the towns of Willis and Kingston and Madill and as far away as Durant were very good. Our faculty consistently gave lectures, programs at Civic Clubs, Garden Clubs, etc. We were asked to speak before Fish and Game Clubs, talked about some of the problems of commercial fishing and most all of these were very well received and the Station became a very positive asset for the University.

IB Didn't a man named Northcutt become interested in the Station? I think' that he later became one of the Regents.

CDR Yes. Well, Glen Northcutt was a dear personal friend, still is and was very instrumental in helping us get the Station started. I can remember well the last frantic two or three days before the July opening of that first session when we were trying to get road signs up and get finishing touches done on the building for a little dedication ceremony and for getting the students all ready to move it--Glen and I went around on the various roads in the area with a shovel and a sledge-hammer and an iron bar and dug holes and put sign posts in concrete so that people would be able to find their way to the Station. That was his first introduction to me and to the Station. He was continually supportive from that time on and when he became a member of the Board of Regents and when he became Chairman of the Board he was strongly supportive of the Station.

B What was the early attitude of the Board of Regents toward the Station?

DR Oh the part of some of the Regents, one of well; that's an entity of the University and they must be doing the right thing and they didn't pay a whole lot of attention to it, but some of the Regents, Tommy Benedum, Oscar White, Rayburn Foster, Quintin Little, George Short, all became very much interested and all had some individual part to play in the long time success of the Station. They supported us very vigorously in many, many ways.

HB Was there any sort of financial support for students in those early days?

CDR Well, yes. We had graduate assistantships from the very beginning and if it weren't for the fact that I had three or four or five very good graduate assistants that first summer we never would have been ready to open and would not have had the first session. One of those graduate assistants incidentally is a colleague of mine in Florida. He is the Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Central Florida. His name is Leslie Ellis. Without exception the other assistants have all gone into biology professionally and have all had successful careers as biologists. The source of financial aid for students that we developed very early was that a number of alumni at the University would give summer scholarships which would cover the basic costs of the tenants to the Station and then we would award these on a competitive basis to the best students who applied. I particularly remember the excellent support that we got from Duncan, Oklahoma from such people as Hiram McCaslin who has always been a great support of the University in many, many ways, but also of Tom Jones and Lynn Colbert-- they supplied one or more scholarships every summer for a number of years.

HB What changes developed over the first few years of the Station's life?

CDR Well, I assume you are referring to the changes in curriculum, etc. We did expand the curriculum as the size of the student body grew. We attempted each year to have a nucleus of faculty from O.U. but to also bring good field faculty in both botany and zoology from other universities and so we did have people that would come from schools in Texas, from Oklahoma, from Michigan, from New Mexico, we got--and from Kansas, we tried to have a good variety of faculty to have different people each year if possible to bring in new ideas and new concepts and that also helped in bringing students from other areas so that we had a good cosmopolitan student body. The main thing that changed, of course, was we developed a real sound research program

on various aspects of the biology of the lake and of the area. We were fortunate to be able to get from the Army Engineers a long term lease to several hundred acres of land adjacent to the lake and kept it from being developed or widely used and it is really quite wild and quite ideal for certain types of biological research. Some of the research programs that have developed there were for example that of Dr. Charles Carpenter, who in 1957 as a result of the very high water which destroyed a lot of his natural lizard habitat study areas developed some controlled areas on the grounds of the station and this led to a series of very fine grants from the National Science Foundation and led to Chuck being one of the world's leading authorities on lizard behavior and now he's moved into snake behavior. Teague Self got involved in the parasites of the fishes of the lake and this led him to interest into different parasite groups and he has become one of the world's authorities on a group of parasites called, "pentostomas". George Sutton's early ornithological work during his second stay in Oklahoma was done at the Biological Station. In fact, my bringing George to the Biological Station resulted in our being able to hire him on the faculty of the Zoology Department and as you know, he became one of O.U.'s most well-known and revered faculty members as a recipient of the University's Outstanding Service Citation and is a member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. George J. ^{Goodman} _{??} did a significant amount of collecting in that area and as you know, he probably knows more about Oklahoma plants than any other man living and has built the finest collection of Oklahoma plants in the herbarium on the Norman campus. Elroy Rice got interested in his early work on plant inhibitors and started some of that at the station and he too has now become a world renowned authority on plant inhibitors.

IB Were there any faculty from Oklahoma State University.

DR Yes. I was able to attract Bryan Glass an _____ from Oklahoma State and George Moore an axiologist from Oklahoma State. George, particularly served on the Station faculty for a number of years until he retired from active work.

We and I collaborated in teaching classes on a number of research projects. We directed, or co-directed the masters and doctoral candidates and we published a number of papers together based on work done at the Station.

HB When you're down there and it isn't too easy to get in and out, what kind of a recreation can you have down there?

CDR Well, the academic pace at a field station, a good field station, is very intense. Our classes, for example, met all day two days a week. That is one particular course would meet, let's say Monday, Wednesday from eight in the morning until 11:30 and then we'd have lunch and then they'd go back and meet until five. Another class would meet Tuesday and Friday and another class would meet Wednesday and Saturday, and we had several of those going those two day arrangements like that going simultaneously. Most students took more than one class so that of the five normal school days of the week, they went at least four of those from early in the morning until late in the afternoon. Breakfast was a 6:15 in the morning and if you were late for breakfast, you didn't get it. And because of the pace, the physical pace, people got hungry, so they got up and ate breakfast and then they went to class bright and early and worked hard all day. So recreation became very important. We had horseshoes, we had a volleyball game going every afternoon virtually when it didn't rain out in the front yard, we had ping pong in the building and later we built an outside pavilion for ping pong, we had a fine swimming beach down directly in front of the main building of the Station for those who liked to boat and fish they could do that too and so there was a lot of good wholesome recreation at all times. One of the particularly gratifying things was to see the children of those faculty that stayed there for a number of years grow up virtually every summer at the Biological Station, with so many good things to do all day that were good for them physically, good for them intellectually, no way ~~for them to~~ ^{really} get into any kind of serious trouble. I think that there is still a great deal of paternal relationship among those young people who were there and who lived together ~~fraternal~~

every summer for all those years.

HB One Fourth of July you certainly had something going. Tell us a little bit more about how you managed that?

CDR Well, Fourth of July usually came on a week day and the University had a holiday on that day but we never did. George Cross closed his eyes and let us go ahead and ignore University rules and regulations because of the special nature of the Station's activities. But one of the things that we did do is we let classes out at 4:00 on Fourth of July and then all the students and the faculty and the staff and anybody in the local community who wanted to come were invited to a big dinner on the grounds and we always had fried chicken and we always had watermelon and we had lot of contests and a soft ball game and a volleyball game and a horse-shoe pitching contest and we ended up with fireworks that night, mostly shot off by yours truly, but also we would involve all the kids with the Roman Candles and Sparklers and that was always one of the highlights of the summer for, again for the young people at the Station.

HB Now you have floating boat houses in a well protected harbor, how long did it take to get those developed?

CDR Well, one of the major problems that we had during our first oh three or four years of operation, was getting classes in the sixteen foot boats and we usually would have three of those boats loaded up with students and there'd be four students per boat to go out on the lake. The wind is prevalent as you know in Oklahoma from the Southwest and the lake is six miles wide in the Southwesternly direction across from the Station over into Texas, so sometimes the waves coming in would be two and a half to three and a half feet high and it was not only quite wetting, but sometimes

also dangerous to try to get a heavily loaded boat out from the ground, so we decided to develop a harbor that would be protected and we did this by getting the Corps of Engineers to come in and dredge out the boat house cove which you now know. And also to build a break water out of creosoted poles and heavy concrete planks to protect that harbor. Unfortunately, we didn't reckon with the power of the waves and about two years after that break water was built the water was a little higher than usual, the waves smashed it down and exposed the floating boat house to heavy wave action. The first boat house was built--it was built, designed by Benny Schultz of the Physical Plant and was built by the University Physical Plant crew, welders, down on the swimming beach in front of the Station, and it was built to float on fifty-five gallon steel drums. All the drums were in place and wired there so they wouldn't fall out and we thought we would have to wait until the following spring til the lake came up and floated the boat house free and then we'd take it around and moor it in the harbor. Well, again as luck would have it, right after they finished the boat house it started to rain, and within two weeks after it was built the lake came up enough to float it away and we put it in the boat house where it has been ever since; or rather in the boat harbor where it has been ever since.

HB Was that rock sea wall that extends around several sides always there?

CDR No. I mentioned the heavy wind, the wave action that we had, that--those waves and the annual fluctuation of water level caused the bank to become badly eroded so that when we first opened the Station there was about a three foot bluff and within three years that was about a fifteen foot bluff and the land had eroded back some thirty feet from that original line. It was obvious that we if didn't stop this, it would or could actually eat away most of the Station ground, so in 1956 when the lake was at its lowest level, there was a large ledge of limestone exposed to the south and to

the east of the Station and I talked a man from the Hercules Powder Company into coming in and showing Clyde Johnson and me how to shoot dynamite and how to use a drill and after he taught us then we drilled that rocky point and dynamited it-- loosened the rock and built the sea wall from that rock. It was quite that simple because that low rain-fall period was disastrous to the local farmers and Raymond Gary had now become Governor of the State and was looking for ways to aid farmers around the State and so he gave the Station, out of his contingency fund something between ten and fifteen thousand dollars which was a fair amount of money in those days to hire those local farmers to take that rock and to build that sea wall. So we did the dynamiting, we hired a local contractor to load and haul the rock, and the farmers put it in place and they built the sea wall plus the stone break water that now protects the boat harbor and that I think will last forever because some of those rocks, as you know, are three and four feet square. So we added another boat house because we got additional boats and larger boats so the boat harbor now has two boat houses in it and protected again by the sea walls that were built in 1956.

HB There's more than that one main building there and you have a string of them, it looks like about seven or eight sizeable buildings there. How did that happen to grow?

CDR Well, Horace, I mentioned that the first appropriation took care of building the main building and the second appropriation built a laboratory building, which contained three laboratories and a pump house--really was two pump houses, one pump house down by the lake that pumped water out of the lake into a filtration plant up at the top of the hill and we also built one additional dormitory, or apartment building, for faculty with that second appropriation which took the faculty out of the main building and left all of the housing units in that main building for students. It wasn't long however, until we outgrew this space but there was no State funds available. I went to the National Science Foundation on two occasions and got sizeable grants to build

build an additional laboratory building and a research building and an additional dormitory so that at the present time I believe there are three separate dorm buildings three separate laboratory buildings, the research building, the original main building, the two pump houses and then from our own resources and from our own labor, we built that old _____ galvanized iron barn that we keep the trucks and the other equipment in. The most important additions that the National Science Foundation helped us to finance, was the Library Building which houses the library itself and significant study area for the students and faculty, and that's been, as I say, one of the most important additions that we could have ever added.

HB How do you manage to maintain all of those buildings with such limited custodial staff?

CDR Well, during the time that I was Director and the time since Loren Hill has been Director, the Biological Station has received just magnificent support from the Physical Plant personnel of the University of Oklahoma. From the very beginning, Walter Kraft, who is now dead, the then Director of the Physical Plant made a number of individual trips to the Station--helped us lay out the plans for the original building and for the additions that followed. His successor, John Kuhlman, behaved in the same way. I remember well the support that we got from Dutch Hoover, one of the carpenter foremen; Jake Kaplin painting foreman; Dale Houser the plumbing foreman, and believe me the Station could never have existed were it not for Jay Kelso, the electrical foreman who for many, many years would come to the Station, day or night, to trouble shoot in terms of the serious electrical problems that we frequently had. Remember that everything there depended upon electricity--our ice boxes, our water system--everything that we ran in the laboratories ran off of electricity and we had one REA line coming in there and that was subject to storm damage and would often go out and so we had ^{an} emergency generating plant which we would turn on and keep us going until the Physical Plant could get back down there and do any inside of the ground repairs that had to be made.

The REA would take care of the outside of ground repairs. But we were able to maintain the buildings with relatively small staff because we had good local help and mostly because we've had such superb support over the years from the Physical Plant personnel.

HB You mentioned the two months of summer session--what about the rest of the year, what happens down there?

CDR Well, there is a great deal of research that goes on at the Biological Station on a year round basis. We do have resident biologists there now who not only work there with their own research programs, but help students from O.U., from O.S.U., from other universities in Texas and Oklahoma or even other parts of the country, who come there and do work. In addition to this sort of research effort, there are a number of classes from O.U. and surrounding universities that will take trips to the Station in the winter through the week or over a week-end and live and work there. We have university functions down there, meetings of various sorts. We have the "school out of doors" which I think you have been a part of in the past, which involved students from the O.U. Lab School and Biological Station staff who helped to instruct them. We've had for many, many years 4-H clubs having meetings in the spring before the summer session begins and in the late summer and fall after the summer session is over. All of those 4-H sessions involved instruction by Biological Station faculty and students. It has also been the site of a number of national or regional or state-wide meetings because it is conveniently located between Oklahoma and Texas, because there is adequate housing there for a meeting of reasonable size and if you have to go beyond that there is housing in the nearby communities that can be used.

HB You mentioned there was some archaeological work that was done in the region, what can you tell me about that?

CDR Well, one of the fun things that Jim Mayfield and his wife and my wife and I use to do on week-ends when we'd go down to the Station for various and sundry purposes was to hunt arrow-heads. The lake level fluctuates and there is persistent wind action so the shore line would be eroded away and heavier material would be left behind and in the spring particularly when the lake would begin to recede you could often find many, many arrow-heads. We found over a hundred in a two or three times of careful hunting, and that came to the attention of Bob Bell of the O.U.'s anthropology department and also I mentioned that Curley Everett had mentioned some Indian burial grounds. I mentioned this to Dr. Bell and for two summers they brought field crews to the Station for the full summer session for credit and excavated these Indian sites, including burial grounds and uncovered a lot of very valuable data including about a dozen skeletons, found a lot of pottery, a lot of implements and evidences of campsites, etc.

HB Have you ever had any bad weather problems?

CDR Well, we had several kinds of bad weather problems. I mentioned the long drouth which had quite an effect on the faun and flora of the region and also lowered the lake level considerably. That was followed by the heaviest rain fall in which the lake came from its lowest level of below 590 feet above sea level to above 623 feet above sea level--now that's some thirty vertical feet of lake fluctuation in less than a month's time. And you can imagine what a profound change that had on the plants and animals in the area of the lake shore that were inundated by all of that water. In addition, the Biological Station was hit on two occasions by tornadoes. One time was right in the path of the tornado and the U.S.F. official weather station the barometer was not demolished although it almost was but the needle before the little house fell apart went clear off of the belt. _____ tornado tore the roof off of the men's side of the main building, demolished a number of the temporary housing units that we had there, for which I was grateful this time to get rid of them, and did quite a bit of damage in the region. Of course we had a number of storms

during the summer which added to some of the interest in biological studies to see the effects of these storms on the fauna and flora of the region. No one was ever injured by virtue of bad weather except for occasional mashed thumb while trying to get out of the boat when it was pitching in against the side of a rock or against the boat house.

HB When did you finish your term as Director of the Station?

CDR Well, Horace, I became Graduate Dean in 1965 and that first summer I attempted to direct the Station and to be Dean simultaneously, and it didn't work very well and so I set about to recruit at least an assistant director. I found, after one year, Loren Hill, the incumbent Director who came in first as assistant director and then in either '66 or '67 became Director of the Station and has served in that capacity until today.

HB Was it easy to give up this?

CDR No, it really wasn't. After you put so much of your life into something like the Station and see it develop from scratch to one of the very best in the United States it was not easy to give it up, but I want to say that I have been absolutely delighted in the way that Loren Hill has taken over and continued the development of the Station and made a number of changes clearly for the betterment of the Station that I probably wouldn't have thought to make. I think it is very valuable entity to the University and to the science of biology and I think it will continue to be that for many, many years. I am very proud to have had a part in the development of that portion of the history and the function of the University of Oklahoma. The Station is an excellent example of how a University, really without the facilities to do what we were able to

do, did something through the help and cooperation of so very many people. The Station never could have happened without the original gift from Norman Brillhart, it couldn't have happened without the hard work of Jim Mayfield and Boyd Gunning, and without the excellent administrative support of President Cross and Roscoe Cate and Pete McCarter who were the Chief Academic officers in the early history of the Station. The excellent people who have served on the faculty have contributed regularly to its development in so many, many ways other than just the academic progress of the institution, and I've also acknowledged what the Physical Plant personnel have done to keep it going in times when we often didn't think we were going to be able to keep it going. No one person who can take a deep, big bow for the success of the Station--it's a great example of University team-work all of those who have been involved with it can be proud of this.

HB But it takes a captain like you to do the job of bringing all these things together.

END OF SIDE 1 OF TAPE 1

NOTHING ON SIDE 2