1994

UA3/8/9/1 Tall Tale Tom

WKU President's Office-Meredith

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Biographical/Historical Note:
The president's office was created in 1906. The search for a new president began with Kern Alexander's resignation announcement on April 11, 1988. The Board of Regents elected Thomas Meredith as president August 5 and installed September 21, 1988. Under Meredith's leadership, the campus expanded with the purchase of the Bowling Green Center, creation the Institute of Economic Development and the implementation of the first strategic plan Western XXI. He also hired WKU's first female vice president, Barbara Burch. Meredith had served the university for a little over eight years when he announced his resignation February 5, 1997.

Thomas Carter Meredith was born in Owensboro December 7, 1941. He obtained his BS from Kentucky Wesleyan in 1963, his MS from WKU in 1966 and his PhD from the University of Mississippi in 1971. His early career was spent teaching high school in Owensboro, Kentucky and LaHarpe, Illinois. From there he moved into administrative positions in Jeffersonville, Indiana and the board of trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning in Mississippi. Meredith was vice chancellor for executive affairs at the University of Mississippi when he came to WKU in 1988.

Description: Satirical song regarding Thomas Meredith's trip to Europe at WKU expense. Song also references WKU Foundation administrator Robert Rutledge as "Texas Bob." Song written and performed by T.K. Stand.

Dates: 1994

Formats: 1 audiotape, 1 wav file, 1 mp3 file

Subject Analytics:
Folk songs
Meredith, Thomas Carter, 1941-
Rutledge, Robert

Satire
Songs
Western Kentucky University

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Higher Education Administration
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Accession Information: These records were transferred to the WKU Archives from the President’s Office in accordance with the records retention schedule.
**Access Restrictions:** none

**Preferred Citation:** UA3/8/9/1 Tall Tale Tom, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.
Gather 'round people, hear a sad tale, but true
About a man who thinks that he's been fooling me and you
His name is Tall Tale Tom
He don't like telling where the money is gone

Now Tom had a sidekick known as Texas Bob
And Bob, well he was kind of b-b-between jobs
Tommy called up Bobby and he said Bobby "You ought to come on up to Bowling Green,
It's the prettiest little town with the most affordable housing that you've ever seen."

His name is Tall Tale Tom
He don't like telling where the money is gone

Well Tommy and Bobby they cooked up a scheme
And a new foundation came into being
To celebrate they partied down at Opryland
And they ran up a tab of over six grand
Grown men, Opryland, Over six grand

His name is Tall Tale Tom
He don't like telling where the money is gone

Now summertime was the time that Tom liked to get away
But first he looked around for someone else to pay
He heard that there were colleges in England and France
This had to be checked out, he got approved for four grand
England, France, four grand

I could've told him that, I rented Shadowlands at the video store for two bucks

But Tommy wasn't done yet he still needed some pocket cash
And Texas Bob well he was in charge of the Foundation stash
Bobby gave Tommy about 500 more
Said bon voyage Tom as he walked out the door
Bon voyage to 500 more

His name is Tall Tale Tom
He don't like telling where the money is gone

Well Tommy must've had a good time 'cause it was hard to recall
The business that he did and the people that he saw
Except at the college in France there was nobody home
So he and the missus just looked around on their own
They had a grand old time on four and one half grand

Four and one half grand but at least that was cheaper than if they'd gone to Opryland