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## UA37/35/3/1 Arndt Stickles Interview

O. J. Wilson

Arndt Stickles

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**Western Kentucky University**  
**UA37/35 O.J. Wilson Faculty/Personal Papers**  
**Subseries 3 WKU History Project**  
**Item 1 Arndt Stickles Interview**

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**Description:** Oral history interview of Arndt Stickles.

**Dates:** March 1, 1967

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Audio recording  
Cherry, Henry Hardin, 1864-1937  
Education  
Garrett, Paul Loos, 1893-1955

Ogden College (Bowling Green, KY)  
Thompson, Kelly, 1909-1993  
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# Oral History Recording List UA37.35.3.1 ~ Records

11/16/2021

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
Tape 1	1	00:00:00	<p><i>Arndt Stickles - He said I can't pay you but \$100 a month. I was getting \$120 in the last school [unintelligible]. No, back to the point, they had to go easy, there was a lot of opposition. And when the bill was up in 1922 to turn it into a full college there was a whole lot of opposition. Largely from the Ogden, not all, not all the staff cause a lot of the colleges, I mean Western's best friends lived right here. But there were at the same time a number of people who weren't enthusiastic about state institutions in education. You understand that?</i></p> <p>OW - Yes.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:01:00	<p><i>AS - Being a southern state, well, and the women just hated to see Ogden die. Well the state bought that building/little girls school going to pieces because it wasn't getting enough attendance to be self-supporting and there wasn't any other support you know. So the old man who had most of the stock, Potter, [he was] glad to get a chance to sell it. You don't get a chance to sell a college every day, you know. Even a small one.</i></p> <p>OW - Yes, yes I understand.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:01:38	<p><i>AS - Well now they had to go easy on that contract business, that's the reason I mention this it's very hard to do.</i></p> <p>OW - Yes.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:01:50	<p><i>AS - Because the business a lot of the business men in Bowling Green didn't want it to die, you know. They didn't want Ogden to partner, I don't know what all they didn't want, but they didn't want a state institution and a lot of the women didn't want the Potter to go. So they had to be easy on that 20 year agreement. And the buildings were standing there and of course people who understood knew it would go to pieces completely and then tried to make that agreement with them. That's how we got joined up with Ogden and that's the reason why this 100 year contract was made. By that time there won't be anybody alive that had anything to do with [unintelligible]. That's a long story but</i></p> <p>OW - Well I'm glad to have that background. Let me come to the matter of President Garrett's administration and ask you some questions about him.</p> <p>AS - All right.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:02:49	<p><i>OW - What would you regard, Dr. Stickles, as being his personal and professional qualifications to be president?</i></p> <p>AS - Well, you want me to be frank about it.</p> <p>OW - Yes.</p> <p><i>AS - I liked him personally, very agreeable person, personality. Not an outstanding personality, but a very let's call him a good citizen, but he was not in my judgement prepared to take an institution of this size. He was a high school, he was a city superintendent of a little place, Versailles, isn't it? I think it was.</i></p> <p>OW - I believe that's right.</p> <p><i>AS - I think it was Versailles. I want to be fair on this. I liked him, we got along fine and all that, but his, well, I'll just say this, he had nothing but an AB? degree and I believe that was from State, is that right?</i></p> <p>OW - Georgetown, I believe.</p> <p><i>AS - And then when he became president up here and a man by the name of [Thomas J.] Coates was president of Eastern they filled out an AM? A paper, a paper AM. Now that gives you an idea, I don't care to say anymore about qualifications. But I want to put it this way that they were not what I would consider now or even then as the situation demanded it.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:04:42	<p><i>OW - Were there other applicants or aspirants on the campus? I have understood that Dr. Ford was one of the people who aspired to be president.</i></p> <p>AS - Well, no, this is just guess. If Mr. Cherry ever said anything I never heard it. But there were people who thought and it was gossip that when Mr. Cherry would die Mr. Ford would become president. He was more frequently mentioned. He was head of Agriculture up here, had a doctors from Wisconsin. I don't know where his AB was, it doesn't matter he got his doctors up there. It's not a patent doctor, he made it.</p>

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Tape 1	1	00:05:32	<p>OW - Were there other people who aspired to be president?</p> <p>AS - Now I can't answer that. If there were, it was kept quiet. I don't know.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:05:40	<p>OW - All right, let's go back now. You say that in a general sense the word his academic preparation may have appeared to be somewhat lacking . . .</p> <p>AS - Lacking [unintelligible]</p> <p>OW - How do you think his seventeen and a half years as president confirmed the judgement of the Board, if it did, in selecting the Board of Regents. What in his overall administration do you think he, would you rate him as having done a superior job, an excellent job, a good job, fair, how would you rate his overall service?</p> <p>AS - Well that's a hard question to answer. Of course, you understand this, Mr. Cherry was in a class to himself. Nobody else around here, nor in the state of Kentucky for that matter, in the school business now living say that could make for, I mean to put it this way, that any man that would follow Cherry would have a job on hand. Of course, we people of the faculty we kept our mouths shut, just good sense to, but we all knew that. That there was a lack of the old kick in the enthusiasm. This is no accident of what you see around here. That was one of his pat expressions, "What you see around here is no accident."</p> <p>OW - President Cherry . . .</p> <p>AS - President Cherry, go ahead . . .</p>
Tape 1	1	00:07:15	<p>OW - I notice that during President Garrett's administration he built two buildings, McLean Hall and the Union Building and he purchased the Rock House. How do you account for the fact that there was no more development going on, no more expansion going on at that particular time?</p> <p>AS - Well, I would say that the, in the first place there wasn't the money to be had to do this thing, this sort of a thing and in the second place with the attendance we had we had buildings enough. And there was no great big upsurge of attendance at the state university or at Eastern and there were only two institutions besides the university. This institution and Murray, I mean Richmond [Eastern Kentucky University]. Murray wasn't founded, you know, and what's the other, Morehead . . .</p> <p>OW - Morehead.</p> <p>AS - I don't know what date that was when they were founded, but it must have been about '40, was it? Or do you know?</p> <p>OW - I don't really know.</p> <p>AS - Well, let that go, I don't either. But I just mean to say there was no great educational wiggling in Kentucky that demanded a lot of college buildings. And a president's home and all that sort of thing [unintelligible] The old president's home under Garrett that was done, but I would be inclined to say that it wasn't Mr. Cherry's fault in any way that Mr. Garrett didn't build more buildings or create more enthusiasm. It just didn't exist in Kentucky. Now that's the way I want to put it.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:09:23	<p>OW - Dr. Stickles, did, so far as you know, President Garrett subscribe to any particular philosophy of education or philosophy of administration?</p> <p>AS - No, sir, I don't know if he did, I don't know it.</p> <p>OW - I've heard it said, it's been quoted by other members who were contemporaries of yours that he repeatedly was heard to say, "Make haste, slowly," that is to say if you're in a hurry do it deliberately and methodically rather than go off half-cocked. Did you ever hear this kind of statement?</p> <p>AS - Well, yes. He was very conservative and I, now this is just guess, I haven't any business even saying it, but he gave the opinion that he wasn't sure about certain things. Let me show you the contrast. When Mr. Cherry had something in his head that he wanted done, he called a meeting of the whole faculty [unintelligible] weren't very numerous and he'd say, "Now this is what I've been thinking about, how would this college think about if we did this? Made this move?" and so on. Well, plain truth of the matter is whatever he was thinking about, went. And we agreed, I don't mean that there was any, it was never, I'll just say this, there was never and I was with him until his death and a good long while after, there was never any split. Now he fired a few people, I don't mean, that was just in the run of things, you know, but there was just no a whole lot of enthusiasm, not a whole lot of enthusiasm in the education circles for buildings and attendance. People didn't go to those like they do now. It's hard for us to understand, for you to understand especially, why the difference. Now people are coming here, however, before I quit here in '54, this will sound strange to you, we had several people from New York, several from Massachusetts and close to Harvard and some from Connecticut and Rhode Island even before I left. [Unintelligible] if you look at where they came from up</p>

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			<p>there now, you'd find they get quite a few out of state people, down East. I can't explain that except that youth likes to go away from home. And they go, have their parents pay the bill and of course they had to. No, there was not any urge, let me put it while Mr. Garrett was president for a lot of new buildings. It just didn't exist. Here or [unintelligible] for instance. The University [of Kentucky] just pert near went to sleep. The old president [James K.] Patterson died and they elected a lawyer. What was his name? [Henry S. Barker] President, he didn't know anything about, oh I didn't want to put it that way, but I mean he was not a teacher and didn't pretend to be and I've always thought that they selected him because he was convenient and would create, he was a very popular man. What's his name? After Patterson?</p> <p>OW - I'm not familiar with who that man was.</p> <p>AS - Well, you know well, Patterson was the old president of the college and he died and then they elected the lawyer. Now, right now I can't think exactly what his name is. Well, anyhow it's such a thing as 500 students, new students, 200 new students each semester it didn't exist.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:13:52	<p>OW - Did you ever hear that President Garrett expressed the hope that this institution would never be larger than 2000 or any other particular figure?</p> <p>AS - No, sir, I never heard that.</p> <p>OW - Never heard that. You mentioned a moment ago that President Cherry had a custom of bringing the faculty together to share with them some of the things he intended to do . . .</p> <p>AS - Yes, all the time. When he had thought out the whole doggone thing and he knew that if he mentioned it, discussed it, it would be adopted. And it was.</p> <p>OW - And was . . .</p> <p>AS - I don't know, I'll just put it this way. Now you can ask any of the other people. I don't know of a single measure of any importance that ever came up that Mr. Cherry advocated that failed.</p> <p>OW - Did you find that President Garrett did not do this? Did he not follow through with that technique?</p> <p>AS - Oh no, he did not. He didn't call those meetings, those enthusiastic meetings and make a speech and I rather think this is it. This is what you wanted to know. [unintelligible]</p>
Tape 1	1	00:14:56	<p>OW - Were you present for the first meeting which was conducted under President Garrett after he became president?</p> <p>AS - I can't answer that.</p> <p>OW - At this meeting he's supposed to have made this mistake, this misstatement . . .</p> <p>AS - I may have been there, I'm not saying I wasn't, but I don't remember where I was on that . . .</p> <p>OW - Let me quote for you what he was supposed to have said and see if you remember it. It is stated by other people who were present that he said at that particular time that he could not fill the shoes of the late President Cherry because those shoes were much too big for him. But that notwithstanding that fact he would do his best as president and he only hoped that the faculty would make a place in their hearts for him as fully as they had done for President Cherry. Does that strike you as something you were present to hear?</p> <p>AS - No. That sounds entirely right, natural, but I don't remember. I'm sure I was at that meeting, but I can't prove it. My memory doesn't go that far.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:16:10	<p>OW - Let's go to the next statement then. Were you familiar with President Garrett's hobbies? Do you know what he did for recreation? Did he hunt, fish, read, hike?</p> <p>AS - He fished. I don't know about hunting. [unintelligible] I don't believe he had a hobby of any sort.</p> <p>OW - All right. How about his particular talents? Did he possess any unique talent that you feel ought to be discussed or written about?</p> <p>AS - I can't answer that.</p> <p>OW - You mention the fact that President Cherry fired a few people along the way. Did President Garrett fire anybody? Did he, how would you rate him as a person in human relations? How'd he get along with people?</p> <p>AS - Oh fairly well. Fairly well I think. I say fairly well. I've told you there wasn't any enthusiasm about education. There was no question that I can remember that arose that called for a lot of enthusiasm or for new buildings and so on. That's my son. [feedback] I want to say this in deference to Mr. Garrett when it came to actual questions of the educational</p>

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			<p>system or what the high schools were doing and the common schools, he, Mr. Garrett knew more about that than Mr. Cherry did. Now when a question that, how shall I put it, came up relative to the curriculum or what you should teach, he, Mr. Cherry made this remark over and over [unintelligible], "Ask Herman/Harman (?) about that. I don't know anything about it."</p> <p>OW - Herman was the Dean? [Herman Matthews? W.H. Matthews In College High?]</p> <p>AS - The actual workings in the high school in the grades. "I'm here to manage the school. Ask Herman." And he'd laugh.</p> <p>OW - Yes.</p> <p>AS - And there was a whole lot of choices he didn't, if you'd ask him, "Is the so and so a good thing for the high schools, now?" Unless it was something very pronounced, he'd say, "Why I don't think about that." He was entirely frank.</p> <p>OW - Yes.</p> <p>AS - And the [unintelligible]</p>
Tape 1	1	00:18:53	<p>OW - How do you think President Garrett got along here with the community? How did he relate himself academically, socially, religiously? How did he relate himself to the community here? Was he active?</p> <p>AS - Not very. I should say not very. Not offensively inactive, but I mean he did not have the enthusiasm, that's been told. He did not have his finger on the pulse of what was going on in Kentucky, which Mr. Cherry watched closely. If he saw something he thought would hurt Western he began immediately to circumvent or not allow it to come up. See?</p> <p>OW - Yes.</p> <p>AS - Circumvent it or got around him to us, why it was an entirely different thing what [unintelligible] we'll see in Hazard or over in Benton. It was entirely different from when it got to reality here to what it was there.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:20:13	<p>OW - How about the kind of people with whom he surrounded himself? His selection of faculty members and of administrative assistants, how sound was his judgement do you believe?</p> <p>AS - Well, he'd have occasional faculty meetings, but he did not have the grip ever that Mr. Cherry had, but I never, I didn't blame him because I've told you before getting a man in here following him was a he-man's job. He was a Baptist as far as I know, he was in good standing. Nothing, no particular enthusiasm about it. He was as far, well let's say, as the ordinary things you'd expect a teacher to have, he had. I mean, he'd get drunk [unintelligible], gossip, there was gossip about his drinking, I can tell you that. But that would arise in most anybody. And whether Mr., whether he ever was drunk while he was president, I don't know. Did somebody knock? Now, to begin with he didn't as far as I know he fired nobody in the then faculty. And he got along with them all right, but I would say this, he was in no sense the man that would have the ability to go all around and look into a fellow that Mr. Cherry had. He just didn't have it.</p> <p>OW - What would . . .</p> <p>AS - I'm not saying that to deteriorate him, I'm, he's an everyday good citizen. That's about [unintelligible] but not a man who understood what's going on and I'm going to correct that or I'm going to adopt it. Now, that wasn't in his program.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:22:49	<p>OW - What personal weaknesses or professional weaknesses, if any, would you say President Garrett possessed?</p> <p>AS - What?</p> <p>OW - What personal weaknesses or professional weaknesses, did he have any professional weaknesses particularly that manifested themselves in his administration?</p> <p>AS - No, I don't know. I can't answer that. If he did it was very quiet and rather small. I would say.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:23:19	<p>OW - Some people have said that President Garrett was a political appointee. That he was placed here not because he wanted it particularly or that he was particularly qualified, but the governor at that time wanted him here and he was placed here. How well was he received when he first came by the faculty? Do you think they respected him?</p> <p>AS - Well, no, I wouldn't say they didn't respect him, but I would say they sized him up as rather inferior. I would say that.</p> <p>OW - Rather inferior, did you say?</p>

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AS - Yes, compared to Mr. Cherry. People who are with us now, Mr. Cherry was president when this school was born, you know and carried right on through to '37. And he'd have stayed there as long as he lived naturally. Why, if he'd lived ten years I don't think he'd pay any attention to the age limit. Well, there was no age limit then. There wasn't any 70 now get out. No we didn't have it back there, before '37. I mean you understand me, now I'd investigate that pretty carefully, while we're on that point. It was said that he drank and he was drunk. There are people, and one of them is a lawyer in this town who saw him and was with him that night says that [unintelligible] he had taken the two drinks. I never saw Mr. Cherry drunk. I'll say that. And I never saw Mr. Garrett drunk. Now some people said he did and that he had rather questionable associations with some people. Now I never . . .

OW - What kind of associations, doctor?

AS - That would be ordinarily classed amoral. I don't want to say I know anything about that.

OW - Was it with women or men?

AS - With women particularly and associations with some men were questionable, you know. I don't know anything about that. I don't, I didn't believe it then, and I don't believe it now. I don't believe that Mr. Garrett was a whoremonger or anything of that sort. Now there were people who, you know, a man in a position like that, in fact, I've marveled that Mr. Cherry wasn't charged. I never heard of [unintelligible] of his being in with any women or anyone. He had a secretary who was a wonder, Miss McLean, you've heard of her. Well, she was with him so long. She was a graduate of the old Southern Normal School and she could practically run the school when he was away on a trip. Like he would be on a trip, maybe to down East to an education meeting of some kind for two weeks. School went right on. I haven't given you much of an answer but I do not, I do not mean that Mr. Garrett got drunk. I never saw him drunk in my life. Never saw Mr. Cherry drunk. Mr. Cherry did drink he didn't deny it, occasionally. And this man that I don't mind telling you, maybe you can get an interview with him. [unintelligible name], he's a [unintelligible] in this town, you've heard of him probably, he's from Ohio County. He has a brother or two that are lawyers down there and so on. He says, "He was no more drunk than I was," and that was all a lie.

OW - That was President Garrett now?

AS - He stepped off in that hole there. The house was locked, most anybody could do that whether they had a dose of quinine. Stepped off in a hole and cracked his skull.

Tape 1 1 00:27:27

OW - Let's come back to President Garrett's relationship to the faculty. You're admitting I believe, earlier, that probably Dr. Ford was a candidate for that office himself.

AS - I think so.

OW - You don't know of any other person on the campus . . .

AS - No I do not.

OW - As the years went along, how do you think the president was accepted by the faculty? Did he finally gain pretty wide acceptance or were there still reservations about him at the time of his death?

AS - Oh, I would say there were. And of course, you know he was partly paralyzed the last, I don't know how long. Do you know how long he was sick and partly paralyzed?

OW - For two, perhaps two years or so.

AS - Well, I know, and, but the faculty, the school in the large measure just ran itself on its old time momentum, because he couldn't. He just couldn't.

Tape 1 1 00:28:39

OW - You mentioned a moment ago that he seemed to be at points somewhat indecisive. This question I need to ask you. It's been said that he had considerable fears that some of his people within the college both faculty and staff were opposed to him to the extent that he was pretty much gripped with a fear that his regime might be overthrown during his tenure here and for that reason he was, he tended to be somewhat indecisive and lacking in force. Do you have any basis for this? Can you substantiate it?

AS - No sir, I do not know that there was any movement now, I'll put it this way, that even before he became incapacitated there, they were loyal to him. It was remarkable, I used to think now I didn't discuss it. A fellow that is busy hadn't any business interfering with the administration to the point that it would hurt the school. I worked on this theory, here's a job I've got to do and I'm going to do and I'll do it under the ordinary ways that people do these things and so on and if I can't, I'll quit. And I had plenty of chances to leave up until the last until age questions began to come in. And I got along, I got along with Mr. Garrett I mean. And as far as I know, no leading member of the faculty had any trouble with Mr. Garrett. And in those years, pity, if nothing else would let them keep still if they didn't agree with this that and the other, you know. And the school largely through Mr., largely through what Mr. Garrett's secretaries did, the school just went on until the end.

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Tape 1	1	00:31:05	<p>OW - Awhile ago you mentioned the fact that he never seemed to fire anybody, whereas President Cherry would do this. I call your attention to the incident in which some \$30,000 of institutional funds were reported as short in the Bursar's Office.</p> <p>AS - Yes.</p> <p>OW - And this was investigated for quite some time and there never was any announced resolution of this. Do you, it's also been said that he was told by somebody whether in the state Auditor's Office or Board of Regents, somebody told him to forget it. Just quit investigating it and let alone and let it drop. At least there was no announced solution of this and Miss Schneider went on as serving as Bursar and was actually commended. The Board of Regents adopted a resolution commending her.</p> <p>AS - Yes.</p> <p>OW - Now how do you figure this out as an incident in his career?</p> <p>AS - Well, I remember it very well, it came out and created some sensation. But nobody as far I know, ever accused Mr. Garrett of getting any of that money.</p>
Tape 2	1	00:00:28	<p>OW - When the first tape was off the reel we were talking, Dr. Stickles, we were talking about the incident in which there was a fund shortage at the institution. I believe you said to me that there was no question about President Garrett's involvement.</p> <p>AS - I don't think so. I don't think anyone ever blamed him.</p> <p>OW - No question about Miss Schneider's involvement.</p> <p>AS - No sir. No sir.</p> <p>OW - What do you think was the situation there?</p> <p>AS - Well I have, I have, they go on and on and people just quit talking about it. I never expressed any opinion as to who got it, but I know that a businessman, I've forgotten his name, had a whole lot of goodness, he didn't get it through Miss Schneider, he got it some other way, got it. But I couldn't prove it. That was the general opinion that that businessman got at least most of it. And he left town and as far as I know he's never been heard of and I can't tell you his name.</p>
Tape 2	1	00:01:47	<p>OW - During these times, Dr. Stickles, we hear a great deal about the prudence and the wisdom of an administrator selecting on a long range basis for back up people and for replacements for people who are about to retire who may retire over the years or who may become ill and have to retire from the service. How do you regard President Garrett in this respect? Did he seem to make long range planning for replacement personnel? Did he groom people to become Deans and heads of department? Did he have understudy people or did you notice any planning for that kind of an eventuality.</p> <p>AS - No sir, I do not know. My own notion is of course, probably. My admiration of [unintelligible] solid and bias me somewhat, but I know of nothing that Mr. Garrett did that would hold that theory. And he was planning this ahead and grooming certain people, if he was grooming anybody I never knew it.</p>
Tape 2	1	00:03:04	<p>OW - There are some who say even that he had a great reluctance to turn loose of the institution when he became very ill and incapacitated. He still tried to hold on to it and manage it even beyond the point when he was able to do so. Did you observe this?</p> <p>AS - I think that's true, that he hung on when he should've quit. I told you I think his secretaries, I don't even know who they were now. You see, Miss, Miss, not right away, but not very many years after Mr. Cherry quit, Miss [Mattie] McLean went home. She went home. Then he had different secretaries about whom I know nothing. Now ask your question again, will you.</p> <p>OW - Yes, did he seem to make long range planning in the selection of people? You and I both know that it's a natural course of events for men and women to become old and to retire and to die. Did he seem to look ahead and select people that might become heads of departments?</p> <p>AS - No sir. If he ever did he kept it very quiet. That didn't obtain.</p>
Tape 2	1	00:04:24	<p>OW - All right. We'll pass and go to the next question which has to do with the curriculum. Of course you as a lifelong teacher were most interested I'm sure in the curriculum. Did President Garrett seem to have a sense of valuation or appreciation of the tremendous changes that were taking place in the world, particularly after World War II? Were there radical changes in the curriculum to try to adapt Western's curriculum to changing situations in society?</p> <p>AS - I would say no.</p>



Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
			<p>OW - Was this ever discussed with, between President Garrett and the faculty?</p> <p>AS - No, he never gave evident. No, when for instance a new building was going he called the faculty together and so on, but we only had a few new buildings. And as far as courses of studies' concerned he had the advantage of Mr. Cherry. I told you Mr. Cherry, "I don't know anything about that, ask [unintelligible name]." Everybody laughed, but it was about so. He, Mr. Cherry wouldn't for a minute to consider whether A was doing his work right in the Bowling Green high school or in the Hazard high school or at Benton or any other town. He wouldn't express any opinion, he would just simply tell you, "Now I don't know about that." Now if it got into a problem of administration or something [unintelligible], he'd know in a hurry. I mean it was his business to know. I told you awhile ago if he didn't, if he thought it would hurt Western, he breathed and slept Western. If he believed that thing, suppose it turned up some town down East, if he thought it would hurt Western he'd be after it right away, in a quiet way and circumvent it. And when it got here to Western, why it's just an ordinary humdrum problem, you know. It didn't amount to anything during his day.</p> <p>OW - Yes.</p> <p>AS - Now Mr. Garrett just of course he was in a pitiful condition and for months he didn't come around the school at all. And it was pitiable. But I want to say this, the faculty in the main, and I say in the main because there was some, you know [unintelligible], there was some carping, but in the main the faculty was loyal to Mr. Garrett. That's what I mean to say, in his illness.</p>
Tape 2	1	00:07:33	<p>OW - What would you regard, Dr. Stickles, as being President Garrett's greatest achievement when he was here as president?</p> <p>AS - Say that again.</p> <p>OW - His greatest achievement. What would you point to, what could you point to as his outstanding achievement during the seventeen and a half years he served as president?</p> <p>AS - Oh I'd hate to, I'd never [unintelligible]. He finally, let's bring this up, one of Mr. Cherry's dreams, by the way, he made an educational trip to the far west and he went to Washington and Oregon. Now I don't which one, or whether them both. He got the idea there ought to be a Kentucky Building open to all sorts of things and some campus [unintelligible] all things that happen to Kentucky, or that pertained to Kentucky. Now what I wanted to say was, Mr. Cherry started that and got it nearly paid for. Mr. Garrett got the money out of the legislature as one of the first things he did to finish that building. So if you go down to the Kentucky Building today Mr. Garrett finished it up. But it was in operation, you understand for several years. It was in operation in the main, there were certain parts not complete, that's what I'm telling you about. Before Mr. Cherry died in '37, he died in '37, but now that's just one little, I call that a little thing, because if I remember rightly, his donation to finish it was from the legislature. You can verify this about \$60,000 somewhere. I'm remembering not as exact, but somewhere not a great big sum to finish it up, but something like \$40 to \$60,000, you can find out about that. I point out of course Mr. Cherry made this first agreement with the Ogden people and I think it was continued under Garrett wasn't it?</p> <p>OW - Yes.</p> <p>AS - So it renewed every year. So that wasn't anything new.</p> <p>OW - Well, let's . . .</p> <p>AS - I don't, I don't like to give an expression on that. I haven't thought about it. That's a great big question, you know.</p>
Tape 2	1	00:10:18	<p>OW - One person to whom I've talked recently said probably his greatest contribution was his wisdom and good judgment in trying to carry on the programs that President Cherry had put in motion when he was president.</p> <p>AS - Well, I endorse that. I endorse that. I mean by that he didn't make any radical changes. He just let them go. And he'd say this, "Now you know what your work demands," and so on. "If it demands this be doing it, if it doesn't then don't" and so on. And he was always courteous when you went to him with any problem and would discuss it with the best of his ability. And sometimes he showed he did, I told you, he had the advantage of insight on rural problems that Mr. Cherry never had. Never used [unintelligible], you know. He had to deal with other things from mamma's pet boy and pet girl the biggest problem you can think of in education. I wouldn't like, I wouldn't like to express an opinion on that, what the most important things were.</p>
Tape 2	1	00:11:38	<p>OW - All right, let's . . .</p> <p>AS - I would say in the main that the general policy outlined by Mr. Cherry carried throughout to his accident and to Mr. Garrett's crippled condition and gradually the faculty, the faculty was remarkable in its loyalty to him because, largely, if for no other reason don't hop on a man that's down, on a man that's sick. I think quite a little brain to do that for a fellow in a responsible job that just didn't happen. Didn't anybody come out and say this is all wrong and [unintelligible] shouldn't be doing this. It just went on.</p>

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Tape 2	1	00:12:24	<p>OW - How would you compare President Garrett's stature to that of his predecessor President Cherry?</p> <p>AS - Well outside of knowing more intimately what, I don't mean Mr. Cherry was asleep, if there was any trouble in the high school or grade schools somewhere, Mr. Cherry made a point to know. What's this about? And he'd just kept his mouth shut if he didn't concerned him or he didn't think it would ever come to Western he just kept his hands off of it. Now Mr. Garrett had this particular advantage over Mr. Cherry in knowing more intricacies of the school system . . .</p> <p>OW - Public education.</p> <p>AS - . . . related to general education. But, while I'm saying that, I'd say in his understanding and handling of what he had done, what he thought should be done, there was absolutely no comparison. I'd put it that way.</p>
Tape 2	1	00:13:40	<p>OW - Given the same set of circumstances under which President Garrett worked and I here refer to the last part of the depression in the late '30s, World War II, the Cold War which followed immediately after the great world war came to a close, the Korean War, the expanding college enrollment, suddenly the veterans were returning and we had an enrollment upsurge and interest in college, with an uneasy peace to have to live with at that time, would you have done differently, had you been president do you think with all these crises that confronted him during his tenure?</p> <p>AS - I wouldn't want, that's a great big question. That goes over a period of how long for?</p> <p>OW - Well, 17 ½ years he was president and there was some crisis of some sort, either a crisis in international affairs or in domestic affairs.</p> <p>AS - I understand. I understand what was happening in a general way, but I, say it again.</p> <p>OW - Given the same set of circumstances which confronted President Garrett, what way, in what way would you have acted differently had you been the president in any of these respects?</p> <p>AS - I wouldn't want to answer that. Without examining the immediate problem which was up and I don't believe anybody can give you a sensible answer to that. To begin with, what, I don't mean that Mr. Cherry was any saint morally or any other way or intellectually, I do mean to say he was a very uncommon man. Kentucky's had, I've been down here since 1908 this has been my home. We built this house here in '12 and '13. This was all country, cow pasture, everything was cow pasture across there and back in here. I would make this point that we're all human and something happened or he did something, the difference of the two men and the approach and their thinking was so different it would be very hard to give you an answer that had any sense in it. You see what I mean?</p> <p>OW - Yes.</p> <p>AS - Being used to Mr. Cherry and his ways of doing things and he worked out and thought out any important thing long before he ever called a faculty meeting. And then he made a speech and he'd say "Now look, would it be wise to do this? Do you all think so and so." Well the truth of the matter is everybody thought like he did and the thing was passed right there just as far as they could do anything about it.</p> <p>OW - Did President Cherry sometimes ask the faculty to vote its feelings on these matters or . . . ?</p> <p>AS - Yes, yes he did. Oh yes he did. He plowed the ground and harrowed it and all before he got to that.</p> <p>OW - But you're saying that President Garrett did not in these instances, he did not ask the faculty for consensus . . .</p> <p>AS - No . . .</p> <p>OW - . . . or [unintelligible]</p> <p>AS - . . . no, he did not have the grip. He did not have the grip on the faculty to initiate [unintelligible] Mr. Cherry had. I told you before, I told you Mr. Cherry hunted anything that [unintelligible] Western he began to get a hold of it so it wouldn't hurt it much, and so on. But we were, let me put it this way, the faculty, the faculty under Cherry was so used to his methods and ways, that almost at one of these faculty meetings was advocated or brought up, if Mr. Cherry like it that settled it. The faculty just said yes [unintelligible].</p> <p>OW - You're saying he was quite a persuasive man.</p> <p>AS - Yes, he never in all the time I was with him and I was with him from the beginning of the school, I told you, until he died and a good while under Garrett. I was, I quit in '54 and Garrett died in '55 I believe you said. But anyhow he was sick, he was a sick man a couple years there when he ought have been out, he ought to have been in a hospital somewhere or in a</p>

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			<p>sick ward someplace. But it's neither here nor there. Now the Garrett's they were good people. Mrs. Garrett lived a good while. She owned a home back in here after he died and she died. And their son in the army and one son married somebody in the Bluegrass and I guess lives over there. I don't know about that son. And wait a minute, I don't believe there were any daughters, do you? Did Mr. Garrett have any daughters?</p> <p>OW - I believe not.</p> <p>AS - I think . . .</p> <p>OW - Three sons I believe.</p> <p>AS - . . . yes, I think of those sons. And one of them died while he was president here, young, quite young, oh I don't mean a baby, but a young man. And the one in the army is alive of course, he's maybe a colonel by now, I don't know. I'm not up on that. And then one of them is married and lives in the Bluegrass. And I said there are people who would know, now Florence Schneider would know about that boy that married, I don't. I don't know what his name was, I just know he was, he married somebody in the Bluegrass and went to her town to live. And the last I heard of him he was still living. I haven't heard recently.</p>
Tape 2	1	00:20:19	<p>OW - Dr. Stickles, now that President Garrett is dead and we're some, we're some twelve years from his administration here, would you say that his stature has grown, expanded or has it diminished? Or does it remain about the way it was when he was president? Sometimes death has a way of helping us to see in perspective the service of a person. It may remain the same, it may increase or it may diminish. How do you regard President Garrett?</p> <p>AS - I would say certainly that it hasn't diminished. Now of course the current administration and new buildings and all that doesn't enter in. But, let's take it to the end of Garrett's administration. I've said enough already to indicate that Mr. in short Mr. Cherry still lives. And in the memory of those who really knew him, it's wonderful to this day what the man accomplished. He didn't have much more than 8th grade education, when it comes to it. Oh, he had a little more, oh he went to this same school, Cherry Brothers School, I think he went to it before it got under Cherry Brothers. But he didn't even graduate the school as small as it was. So you can see if he'd only done half of what he did do, it'd made him a great man. And I'll answer it in this way. It certainly hasn't diminished.</p>
Tape 2	1	00:22:28	<p>OW - All right. Would you, would you care to evaluate him in the light of President Thompson's administration? Now of course, you haven't served during President Thompson's administration, but as you having served under all three under Presidents Cherry, Garret and having served under them and being alive during Thompson's administration, what do you think about the present administration's operations? Any comment?</p> <p>AS - Well, no, I'd rather not comment on that. I'll just say this, Mr. Thompson is doing a great work. He's getting, he's getting thousands of dollars, where Mr. Cherry, from the legislature now and Mr. Cherry got ten cents. And that counts, it counted then and it counts now. I'd rather not go into that because that might start something.</p>
Tape 2	1	00:22:27	<p>OW - Has this institution with respect to its enormous growth, it's enormous development here, an institution that will soon be a 10,000 student institution with perhaps 500 or so faculty members, did you ever believe it would grow and it would become this kind of institution when you were a member?</p> <p>AS - No, not in this short time, no. Mr. Thompson's doing great work and I'm sure is getting [unintelligible]. My department the last person that worked with me was Miss [Urcell] Egbert and Dr. Poteet, gone. Isn't a soul up there in my department when I quit in '54. We had, there were five us did the work, of course we didn't have nearly as many, even half the student body you've got now. Oh no. But Mr. Thompson's doing a great work, but I don't want to comment on it, except that Mr. Thompson was a pupil of Mr. Cherry in a sense because Mr. Thompson, Mr. Cherry had him doing some things for him before he died. And . . .</p> <p>OW - And he also assisted President Garrett.</p> <p>AS - Yes.</p> <p>OW - So actually he had something of his training embrace something of the Cherry and the Garrett administrations.</p> <p>AS - Garrett, yes, yes. And just leave it at that. He's doing, I think he's doing great work. I have no way of knowing and I'm certainly not going to try to find out what the faculty that he is gathering together, he and Cravens, Cravens is a remarkable young man. Doing everything good or bad or whether exactly right acceptable standard I don't know, I don't want to go into all that. I don't want to discuss it.</p>
Tape 2	1	00:25:26	<p>OW - All right. You've been very, very generous with your time Dr. Stickles and I'd like to close by asking you one, just one question or it may be inviting you to comment in one further sense. Is there any final statement you'd like to make for the record? Is there anything you'd like to say looking back or looking forward as a final statement from you?</p>

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			<p>AS - Well, I'll partly give an answer to that. I knew of course, a lot of, I'd been blind and deaf, how Mr. Cherry stood during his career. He was so nearly always right when he got a thing in action. He's nearly always right, no human is always right, you know that. And . . . ask that question again, will you?</p> <p>OW - Yes, if there is any final statement here that you'd like to go into the record because these tapes no doubt will go into the archives of the university and while we hope and pray that you will be with us for many, many years it's just the inexorable course of human events that men and women who are mortals do pass. Is there, is there any final statement you'd like to have recorded here on this day?</p> <p>AS - No. I'll answer this way. I think the school, I'll put it this way, that the school after '37 did not, did not measure up to the school, that it did under Mr. Cherry, but that the enthusiasm and vigor and judgment so far of Mr. Thompson is very good and in that I think he himself would say it's the vision of H.H. Cherry. And that vision I hope will stay with Western as long as the university needs it.</p>
Tape 2	1	00:28:08	<p>OW - Thank you very much Dr. Stickles. It's been a real pleasure to meet you and to talk with you here in depth about your experiences at Western. And I invite you on behalf of the faculty and administration to come back to see us whenever you have an opportunity.</p> <p>AS - Well, thank you. And I want you to come to feel that you're no stranger here. And I want you to come out to see me and if I've misstated anything I'll give you my best thought on it. If I've misstated it, if I'm out of harmony with the best thought, we'll forget it. And I'm not, I have never been sore about quitting. They kept me too long, really.</p> <p>OW - Well, I'm . . .</p> <p>AS - But I'm in much better health. I was about 82 when I quit here.</p> <p>OW - Well, you gave distinguished service to the institution and you are remembered with a great deal of affection and a great deal of esteem and we hope this is a measure of comfort to you in your declining years.</p> <p>AS - It is in a good way. Now on my 95th birthday and the Christmas holiday I got over a 100 cards and letters from alumni from Boston to San Francisco, just scattered everywhere, some from abroad from former students. Now I mean that makes an old fellow feel good, maybe that he didn't live entirely in vain.</p> <p>OW - Yes, I'm sure of that. And I'm sure that as long as your students live they will be inspired and encouraged to deeds of lofty achievement and they will be very much indebted to you. So thank you very much doctor.</p> <p>AS - Not at all, not at all.</p>