

ORAL HISTORY: VICTOR CROWELL

Fred Pregger: We're going to talk with Dr. Victor Crowell, Professor Emeritus of Sciences and Physics of Trenton State College, and I'd like to talk with Dr. Crowell about some of his reminiscences and memories of the College from the days when he came here in 1928 to today. Dr. Crowell, what was your background before coming to Trenton State? Or the Normal School as it was called in those days.

Dr. Crowell: It was the Trenton Normal School in those days and I was teaching at that time in White Plains, New York, where I taught general science and mathematics. I taught in Odessa, New York, in high school where I was doing a little of everything. I taught general science, math, geometry, biology, chemistry, algebra, physics. I stood on a chair and led the singing in school. I couldn't take all of that and went to White Plains where they had a good junior high school system and I stayed there three years. And then one day when I was coming from lunch, a gentleman walked along with me. He'd gotten off the bus and asked me if I could direct him to the school and I told him I was going there so then I took him to the school and I heard him ask the principal whether he could see me, and he looked surprised and said "well, you just walked up the street with him." It seemed that was Dr. Bliss who was then principal of the Normal School and in those days the principal went around personally first to interview prospective faculty, quite different from what is done now. So he sat and watched me teach for an hour and then he asked me if I could come down for an interview at the college, the Normal School as it was then, and that was down in Trenton because the place we are now didn't exist. That's my background getting into Trenton Normal School. When I came here I asked him what I was going to teach, and he said that any college graduate ought to be able to teach almost anything that is required in Normal School in those days. I told him that I was mainly interested in science and he said that we could make sure that for the first year that's all I would be teaching. And at that time there were two teachers of biology and three of physics. I was going to be head of Biology, of the two people I was going to be head. It turned out that the lady I was introduced to be the director at that time--I found that she was my instructor at Cornell University, and she was offended to think that I was going to come down--a young upstart--and be chairman over her. So she went to

the hardware store and bought some bolts and put them on the door of the laboratory and said that I could do what I wanted on my side but not to bother her. Dr. Bliss told me to hold out for the year and things would be straightened out and at the end of the year she left. It was a very different situation than we have now but that's the beginning of that.

Dr. Pregger: It's kind of interesting, the philosophy that one can do anything, the all around person, the DaVinci that existed in those days, but we're beginning to get away from it.

Dr. Crowell: Fortunately, they did keep me in science and I never did have to teach anything else. The first job here, I think people would be interested in knowing--different from what it is today--the periods at that time were 35 minutes in length, and I taught 7 periods a day. We were interrupted in the morning for a 15-20 minute assembly period. In those days every faculty member had a home room, almost every faculty member, you had to go down to the home room and meet your class and walk with them up to the assembly and Bray would stand up there, and lead and the students would sing the Alma Mater, a humn, have a Bible reading and a few remarks, and then we would resume our 35 minute periods.

Dr. Pregger: Tell me a little bit more about the old school downtown in the middle of town. It was right in the middle of Trenton, wasn't it?

Dr. Crowell: It was down in a place called the Swamp Angel, that was a monument from the Civil War that existed then. At present there is a public school on that campus. The original school is now no longer in existence, but across the street from the school we had dormitories and down on Model Avenue we had a couple of tennis courts, and a girls' dormitory on Model Avenue, boys' on Clinton Avenue near Perry Street, and everything was in one building. And as I said the Science Dept. consisted of those two rooms on the first floor for biology and three rooms on the second floor for physics and chemistry. Nobody had offices in those days as I recall except the administrators, and you had a desk, the faculty members had a desk in the classroom. One of your jobs in teaching in those days too each month you had to distribute a new lead pencil to each student and some paper on which to write and books were also distributed to the students in those days, the textbooks, this was all given to them, and in fact the first laboratory here

on the campus was on the landing on Green Hall, two little offices on the first and second floors, and as you recall they are still there now, those offices were not offices, they were rooms in which to store textbooks for the students to be distributed. They were just getting ready to abandon the idea of distributing textbooks then. I looked in and asked Dr. Bliss if I couldn't have one for an office and he said he didn't think it was big enough, and it really wasn't. I made cardboard figures to represent chairs and desks, and he looked at it and said, well, if you can do that, that's fine if you can get them in there. So I was one of the first faculty members to have an office up here because I commuted back and forth from Trenton in summer school, and there were no permanent faculty on this campus for the first year.

Dr. Pregger: When you got here in 1928 this campus had not started yet.

Dr. Crowell: No. There was an old inn that served as a dining hall for the college for many years, a big brown building that stood there about where we're sitting now and the college had just purchased the land from C.V. Hill for whom Hillwood Lakes area is named, and it lay on paper in those days. Matter of fact when I was hired I was told that I was going to be, as I said before, Chairman of the Biology Dept. and possibly all the sciences which was quite a number of teachers. Then they decided I was too inexperienced when they got the idea of having the building out here. So they got Dr. Louis Ikenberry from Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, to be chairman. With the understanding with Mr. West that when he retired (he was an older man who had more experience) then I would become head and would succeed him. Therefore, Dr. Ikenberry and I were the primary ones to draw up the plans for the science rooms in Green Hall. You can still see where they were, those two gray rooms on the backside of Green Hall which were the two principal science rooms at that time. But it was all just an idea on paper in 1928. It wasn't until a couple of years later that we came out here.

Dr. Pregger: You mentioned that when you came out here people used to commute. Were there classes in the two locations or how did that work?

Crowell: Ywes. I'm not sure exactly, '31 or '32--we got students back to their buildings for the summer program that I told you about and some of their classes were there and some out here. There were buses at that time. The college had for a number of years owned buses called Miss Hillwood One

and Miss Hillwood Two. Our route and when he found out I was looking for a place to live out here he asked me if I would like to rent a place on the campus. There used to be a gray house down along the lake, and we lived there about 5 years I guess, and he said you can have this for the rest of your life if you want to. I paid \$50 a month at that time for the house, but unfortunately a few years later they came out, from 1932-367 I think it was, that house which is now gone, and he came around and said we're going to move the house across the lake. So I said, if you don't mind, I'll just stay 'til Christmas time. I'll get a place and move out then. We'll go to Trenton. That house never did get moved. The State changed their minds and it was then when I spoke at the dedication of the new science building many years later I reminded Mr. West that that building was still standing, and he looked at me and said "that's the way the State does things sometime."

Pregger: Well, Mr. West succeeded Dr. Bliss.

Crowell: Dr. Bliss retired in 1928 and Dr. West had been with the State Department of Education, and he was named President of the college. Dr. Bliss was called Principal in those days, but Mr. West was the first one to be called President, and he succeeded in 1929 or 1930.

Pregger: Would you like to comment on your impressions of Dr. Bliss and Mr. West? As people and administrators?

Crowell: Dr. Bliss was a gentleman of the old school. I said before he thought I could teach anything, but he was a perfect gentleman in every way. His son was about my age then, and he took particular interest in me, but he was a very fine person and he used to call me to see if my wife and I would like to go to Montclair or would we like to go to Valley Forge or somewhere--he didn't care about driving a car. He had a big car and he let me drive--I didn't have a car in those days. One day he came to me and said why don't you own a car. I said you know well enough why I don't have a car. I started at what was considered a high salary, a salary of \$2,800, and I said that wasn't adequate to support a family in Trenton those days, and have a car too. He said, well we're going to give some extension classes now--they're starting up that program, and we're very interested in having you teach some of them. But you need a car. He said if I get you some extension courses and we pay you 10¢ a mile mileage, would you be interested in getting a car? I said yes,

I would, so not only did he get me some extension classes to teach, but he had me get the car.

Oh, Bessie Clark was one. She was in the history department. I sometimes drove some people afternoons and evenings to their classes--and in that way I got my first car in New Jersey. He was a very fine gentleman as I say. Everybody liked him, he was a fatherly sort of person. I visited him in Vermont when he retired. Dr. West was quite a different type of person. He was very businesslike, very brisk, and he used to give very quick answers to things. You could always go in to see him. His office was open, but you wouldn't have any --he'd say "I feel I'm right about being right about 95% of the time," and therefore you'd just take his decision as final. He was very much the businessman--not quite easy-going and informal like Dr. Bliss was. But he was a very fine administrator, but he was dedicated primarily to the acquiring of teachers which was the objective of the institution in those days, but I think he would be very interested in the college as it is today.

Pregger: Yes, it's quite different. Do you recall any of the other administrators in those days and some of the faculty?

Crowell: Marianna Packer was Vice Principal in those days. She's the one for whom Packer Hall was named. My first contact with her was right in the fall of 1928. In those days there were sororities as there are now. I'll say something about that in a moment. I received invitations in the fall of 1928 from 3 different sororities to become a member, so I said yes. I sent acceptances to all the sororities. Mariana Packer called me up about it. I didn't know men belonged to sororities anyway, and she said yes, they're advisers sometimes, and she said would you like to choose one of them? I said I don't know anything about any of them, they all sound good to me, and she said in that case would you mind being sponsor to a Jewish sorority? We just started one this year and you could be their adviser, and I said sure. I don't care, so I joined a Jewish sorority, and I was initiated, and I advised them as to their behavior and so on. A woman named Hritz taught here a couple of years, she came on over from Israel, and while she was here she took over the Jewish sorority and then I became an adviser to Sigma Sigma sorority, and that was my first contact with Marianna Packer. She was a very austere looking sort of person, very tall and regal, but she got quite a bit of pleasure out of pumping me up about sororities. She was head of physical education department and of course Dr. Travers was an administrator for a

number of years, Dean of Men, and we had two fraternities which I advised for many years. In those days I took the advisership very seriously and I had meetings late at night many times while they were debating candidates. But he drew up the constitution for Sigma coming from Trenton Normal School, TNS, and then a year or two later Sigma Phi Chi came along and he again the wrote constitution, that was STC, State Teachers College, and they were truly the only fraternities on campus, but Dr. Travers was Dean of Men for a number of years, and then he became the head of the Physical Education Department. He was also a Justice of the Peace, people used to call him "Black Mike" because of the courts and also on campus with the students. Those were the few I remember, particularly.

Pregger: In fact, I recall even when I came here in 1955 there was almost a club on campus of people who'd gotten fined by Dr. Travers.

Crowell: Dr. Shuster was Chairman of the Math Department for many years and he is still living, he's in his nineties now, and still active.

Pregger: When did Bertha Lawrence come on the scene?

Crowell: I don't know the exact date of Bertha Lawrence. She must have been here around the forties somewhere. I'm not sure of her dates. I don't remember.

Pregger: I think you mentioned in your previous conversation that when we first moved onto the campus here at Hillwood Lakes that Green Hall was the first building to be opened and you mentioned that the dedication ceremonies were rather impressive?

Crowell: Well, Dr. Nicholas Noah Bettler who was President of Teachers College at Columbia University gave the dedication speech. We had something on Quimby's Prairie and Dr. Quimby after whom Quimby's Prairie was named got the blame for taking all the trees down in what is now the existing quadrangle in front of the library, Green Hall and Kendall Hall, and it was just mudpiles then and dirt. We had our folding chairs and sat outside and listened to the talk, and he gave a very fine speech that time, very impressive. He had quite an audience here. That was about 1930 I think or thereabouts.

Pregger: And then after Green Hall the other buildings were ••••

Crowell: They came gradually, Allan and Ely House came up. I have slides I took as these buildings were developed. The library came along and then Kendall Hall and of course Green Hall had in the beginning a couple of big main rooms, two biology labs and one chemistry lab and a physics lab and a museum room. And then later a couple of other rooms were modified. One was set aside for home economics at the end of the building, but was never used, that became a room for teaching geology and sociology possibly, and then a room, a spare room, leading to another classroom but that was very limited for many years and in 1964 the new building which is now the science building was dedicated in May of 1964 was occupied in February of 1964. In some papers that the faculty wrote about the future and in my notes that we put in there I said we certainly needed another addition, and that was true of course. And now there is another addition after that. For 26 years I was chairman of the science department which gradually grew until we had 15-20 people, when I left in 1968 I think we had 25 people.

Pregger: You left the chairmanship of the science department and I became chairman of biology and physics and Howard Nechamkin became chairman of chemistry.

Crowell: I taught astronomy for 4 years before that. But the present building was adequate for its purpose at that time, but as I say, it did not have the addition, but in 1968 the science department was broken up into the three departments, biology, chemistry and physics.

Pregger: That was about the time when the college went multi-purpose from straight teacher education.

Crowell: We had begun to go multipurpose from straight teacher education, and when I first came all the students who were versed in science were majors in science with a minor in math. They had to have both combinations at that time. Now it is to the point where they are majors in science only and now it's majors in divisions of science, quite different from the instruction in those days compared to the present time.

Pregger: As you look back from a standpoint of a teacher, particularly I think at the Junior School level, what do you think about that broad preparation compared to the way we do it now?

Crowell: I always felt that we lost a little when we broke up as we did but on the other hand I realize it probably had to come because now where teaching is a minor part of the science preparation. Everybody in those days went on to teaching science as I said before, math also, and I think in a way when somebody isn't seeing science as a whole.... It bothers me to think that people in the Physics Dept. have no interest in biology or chemistry--they don't see the unity of science, so I think you lose something there. Of course, there's always a squabble as to who's going to get the most money.

Pregger: Biology is about the only field where there are any numbers at all.

Crowell: In those days everyone went on to teaching science and math also. You have more friction whereas in those days not only the science dept. but the college as a whole--there's a unity, a spirit of working together, for the preparation of these teachers. We've lost that now that we've overspecialized, but it's a different situation, and we probably couldn't exist that way now.

Pregger: Yeah, people who want to get into graduate school need the specialization.

Crowell: In the early days going to Graduate school was not a consideration. A few did but not many. The whole situation is different, teaching is different.

My first week in teaching some of the students came up to me and handed me a lot of insects in boxes, and I said what's this for? He said the catalog says you have to have a collection of 40 insects before you come to college, and one girls came up to me and said could you please let me have two more days to get my insects? I said how can you get 40 insects in two days. She said my father works at the State Prison and he's got some prisoners out today collecting insects. I said what good is that going to do you, and she said the catalog said we had to have them and that's all there is to it. I went back to Miss Packer sand asked if I

couldn't be removed. I said I didn't want all those insects turned over to me... they were mounted poorly so they eliminated that as a requirement. With all the specialization--you know we have microbiology--the program then was very general, general biology--no specialization as there is now--we had microbiology. You gain and lose gain and lose.... I was always glad I worked in the period of time that I did work. It was quite a challenge in those days.

Pregger: What was the depression like here on campus? And then I'll get to the war years.

Crowell: The war years, they were quite--they affected the college in a number of ways--I remember we all---I mentioned I came in at \$3175, it was the maximum I think. I started at \$2800 and went up to \$3175, and then the depression came along and we stayed at whatever we were for many years, and I remember that was one thing. I remember we had a meeting over in Princeton--a dinner meeting--the end of the depression so-called, and we got our first increase--happy days are here again, and it was quite jovial for awhile to think we were.... Also, there were very few men on the campus. I mentioned before these fraternities. I remember one that I referred to had just 2 members. Men were at a premium on the campus in those days, it was almost entirely young girls. Those were the two main things I think otherwise our teaching went on more or less as usual. We had in those days a college bus which was used extensively for field trips in biology and geology and that was not affected by the depression, but we had and we might as well use it, and we were at an advantage there but otherwise there wasn't much effect.

Pregger: What happened during the war? What were things like here then?

Crowell: Well, as I said it was almost entirely a women's college; some said it was almost a seminary or Convent. They were very supervised, they didn't have the freedom that they have now, and they had lots of victory gardens for example, where the football field is now. Many students wanted to have victory gardens to raise vegetables for the war effort, and we had gardens of course for funds for Red Cross and things of that sort. But actually I don't have any recollection of changes that took place during the war.

Pregger: And now we're back to that pretty much. Let me jump ahead again to something that just occurred to me which I think may give a little insight to

some of the ways you operated when you were chairman. I can recall that when you moved to the new building which is now, as you know, named in your honor, Crowell Hall, but.... I can recall a couple of things about it. One is that we had some labs that were pretty well equipped and other labs that were completely bare. And the other is that every other window is a double hung window. Do you recall the circumstances of those two? I think they're kind of interesting.

Crowell: Are you thinking of Green Hall?

Pregger: No, I'm thinking of the present Crowell Hall.

Crowell: I'm thinking about the windows—I don't recall....

Pregger: I'll refresh your memory on that one. These windows that the people in the State Department of Education wanted to put in these little casement windows, and you had quite an argument with the person in charge of buildings. To get some ventilation in that building, they finally compromised and made every other window a double hung window.

Crowell: We had hoped to have air conditioning in there, but they said they didn't have the money. Physics in particular didn't have the apparatus that you have now.

Pregger: I don't think any of us did.

Crowell: None of us. It was indicative of the change that was taking place in the type of courses that were being offered, and we....

Pregger: We still need a lot of things but the other thing that I recall was that what they wanted to do was half do all the labs and as I recall you said, nothing doing. We're going to do half the labs right and leave the others blank.

Crowell: That seemed to be the better idea at the time.

Pregger: And it worked. I'll never forget when the people saw the bare rooms.

Crowell: Half the labs, all the labs, half filled with furniture and equipment--they would have remained that way for a long period of time. But they didn't want to see too many empty rooms, empty closets, so I think it was better to do it that way.

Pregger: I think you're right on that. I know you have been very active in professional societies over the years, and I think one in particular might be of interest. The starting of AETS. Do you want to talk a little bit about that?

Crowell: Yes, that was the Association for the Education of Teachers of Science. That came about originally from Columbia University. Dr. Samuel Powers was the chair of the science education program in Teachers College. This was about 1928-1929 and he invited several people to meet with him in New York to discuss the possibility of forming a regional association. And Dr. Ikenberry who as I said before was now (then) chairman of the science department, represented Trenton State College. And it was decided at that preliminary meeting that we would be formed a regional association taking in all of the New England states down as far as Washington, and I think out to Ohio possibly, I'm not sure how far West, Pennsylvania was included, and they started that Association at that informal meeting followed by a meeting on all Trenton State College campus. Somewhere around 1931-1932, I'm not exactly certain of the date of that. The records were lost unfortunately. I attended the first meeting of the group, there were around 18-20 people, from Columbia, N.Y.U. and the four state colleges, and several from Philadelphia area around there in Pennsylvania, Cornell University was represented, and we discussed the science education in the region and it seemed desirable that we have an association of this sort to improve instructional methods and the types of programs that we offered. We felt that by having an official organization we could influence the State Department of Education and so following that meeting and another meeting in the fall that year in New York and that pattern I think has been followed pretty much to the present. You and I went to New Hampshire and Massachusetts together I think years ago and one on the campus of Columbia University, and as we've grown we've tried to pull each other by our bootstraps I think because it gave us an idea of what should be taught and we'd try to get that to our institution and to me it was very worthwhile to get together and exchange ideas and we met for two days usually and then several years ago they came out with-

Pregger: It was somewhere in the mid-sixties.

Crowell: It was decided to meet with the national organization, and I can remember being in New York at the time and at a dinner meeting at Columbia and I spoke against that proposal. I guess I was a traditionalist who wanted things left the way they were but I felt that there was a loss in the context that we had if you went on a national basis and there was a regional basis. We got together more and it was somewhat the same on campus here. When we were a small campus the faculty and students all knew each other and as we've grown, now getting up to the thousands of students and 100 more teachers than there were in those days, that we lost something, but we gained something too. I remember the early days very well. Each meeting we would invite someone from the State Dept. of Education of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York. Those were to come and give us the administrator's point of view. Also, the superintendent of schools was involved. It's still going pretty well?

Pregger: Still going pretty well. The national is still going and we meet with the National Science Teachers Association, meeting for example this year in Chicago, but the regionals are still active. In fact, I think the regionals are getting more active again. New England has rejoined the Middle Atlantic States, so we're kinda back to where we were originally. That's a good way to have it.

Crowell: I lost contact with them though. I didn't feel I could attend all the meetings. I have retained my membership in the New Jersey Sciences Association for all these years. I enjoyed that when I first started, and I was President of it for one year. That was during the war days when there was quite a little activity, but now that has become a strong organization too. I was glad to have served as president for one year. I've kept my membership in that, although nowadays they don't seem to want to take my money, they told me they don't need it anymore.

Pregger: You can't lose on that one. One question, do you happen to recall, just changing the subject a little bit, anything about the mural in the library that deals with William Penn's treaty with the Indians?

Crowell: Just a little bit. That used to be hung down in the old building in the auditorium which was on the second floor and it was said that it was such a fine piece of work artistically that it should be brought out here and put in the library and when they went to install it they found it wasn't the right size to go in the space allotted and they would need to get the original artist to come and enlarge the mural and that was done when the library opened. It was much more effective in the early days of the library before the present addition was put on because everybody would come and the desk was in front and that was all they had in back of the desk and it was very appealing to the eye aesthetically (I think it is lost a little now with the arrangement of the library. People don't see it as much.) Speaking of the library by the way, let's go back. In the old days we had a lady named Lillian Dodgson who was librarian for many years here, and she limited the use of the library. Faculty members, to say nothing of the students, who wanted a book had to tell a librarian and the librarian would get it because she didn't want anyone messing with her stacks in those days, and you went and got permission rarely to go back yourself. She didn't like people going there in the library, bothering the books.

Pregger: Yes, the present (policy) is the more the merrier.

Crowell: Yes. On the other hand, it certainly is the function of the library.

Pregger: Right. We—the Science Department was broken into the departments of Chemistry, Physics, Biology, back in 1968 as you mentioned. Would you want to recall some of the people who were here as faculty members in the Science Department over the years, the long-term people?

Crowell: Yes. After I came, as I said before, the lady who taught biology and who put a bolt on her door to keep me out and retired--or resigned. She didn't retire. Her husband was a professor at Rutgers at the time so she resigned and I had to get a replacement and so I went back to White Plains where I taught for 3 years and I interviewed a Lois Meyer, and she was interested in coming with us, and I brought her down here in 1929. She taught biology and she had contacts with museums--we took a good many field trips in those days; I went to the Trenton State Museum a lot. She met a man down there who was curator at that time, Marty Shoemaker, and she married him and a couple years later he came and joined the faculty also. He's deceased now. Lois Shoemaker was the author of many books on biology and many magazine

articles, very active, she got a doctor's degree and went over to Germany for a year and got a degree in science education, and she lives by herself now, lives right on Ewingville Road now. Unfortunately, she's, -- can't get around like she used to and is a little hard of hearing, so we don't have the contact we used to. I taught with her in White Plains for the three years that I was there, and then Dr. Troxel, Shirley Troxel, has a room in the Science Building named after him. The Commissioner of Education at that time said we could name rooms after people if we wished, but we can't name buildings. It had to be approved by the State at that time, now it is the Board of Trustees I guess, and Shirley Troxel came in 1931. In fact, I interviewed him and hired him. Mr. Travers came in 1950. He was a student of mine at the University--I taught part-time at Rutgers University for a number of years--and he was a student in my class, and he came in 1950 and has been with us ever since. And also Mr. Lutz. Mr. Shoemaker left us in 1950 and Mr. Lutz came in 1950 and all of a sudden in would come new faculty members. I went over to Red Bank I think it was and interviewed Mr. Lutz--Mr. West was away. Miss Lawrence, Bertha Lawrence who was then vice president, wasn't here, and in fact nobody was on the campus much. So I took the liberty of interviewing the person, and I spoke to Mr. West afterwards and he said all right, hire him, so I---I just saw him, he just sold his house and moved to Florida in the last few months, and he taught until he was 70 and couldn't stand the climate, had to go South. I saw Charlie Harp a couple of weeks ago in his home in Lawrenceville. He was another one who came and taught geology primarily.

Pregger: He taught physiology too, didn't he?

Crowell: He taught physiology for many years, yes. It was rather an unusual combination, but he was interested in both. And he taught here for many years also. Married Dorothy Ferguson, who was one of the oldest in terms of service. She graduated from normal school in 1928, but she was out for a year or two so she didn't quite have the number of years of active service that I did. She and Charlie Harp married a few years ago and they still live in Lawrenceville Township in the wintertime, and have a home in Vermont in the summertime. Those are the ones I remember mostly, and I've kept in touch with.

Pregger: The Spring of 1955. I can remember you came and watched me teach in West Orange.

Crowell: Many of the faculty who are still here were hired on my recommendation. Most of the people were recommended to the president who had the final job of appointing them. A good move as far as I was concerned was when you came.

Pregger: Nice to hear. I think we got along very well over the years.

Crowell: I don't think we had too many serious difficulties.

Pregger: No, no, true. Do you want to comment on the succession of presidents that we have had since Mr. West retired back in 1957?

Crowell: I'm trying to see if I wrote anything about them. I wrote a few notes here. It's complicated because it doesn't stay quite in order, but they changed rather rapidly after Mr. West left. Let's see--I started out with Dr. Bliss, then Dr. West, then after that Ed Martin--he served for awhile, and at that time I was Grand Marshal for the commencements and I remember his inauguration, the procession at the time--- Then after Martin we had Heussler, Warren Hill and Virgil Gillinwater, and then Heussler, then Clayton Brower. I think there were seven which was rather unusual. There was a lot of change around the college in those days. It was a rather turbulent time, the students in those days all over the country---it was kinda hard on the presidents in those days.

Pregger: It was kinda hard on the faculty at times too.

Crowell: I remember seeing the students sitting in on the second floor of the science building on mattresses right on the floor. And taking over the building for awhile. I didn't like that at all. I was too conservative for that.

Pregger: But, as I recall, you say you're conservative about school and that sort of thing, but as I recall even those last days that you taught here the students and you got along very well.

Crowell: Yes, I used to enjoy working with them, and I don't know how successful I was at times, but you might be interested, this doesn't speak

well for the kind of education we give some of our students--- I have some notes here. I had a student in my course in astronomy, a student I taught in March of 1972, my last year. "The teacher, Dr. Kiolla was a hip dude. There should be more people like him. The entire course freaked me out. I really got into space course now that I had this really together course. I could speak quite fluent. I really dig this space scene. It takes me many light years to come back to my norm. It was almost like a groovin out class since some really wild." Very interesting. I didn't think much of the English that was used. I guess that's about the story of my life in a sense. life in a sense.

Pregger: Yes, I think it points out the very successful tenure of what, 34 years?

Crowell: 34 years.

Pregger: And I'm delighted to see that even today you're still on campus frequently riding your bike and walking around with Cynthia.

Crowell: I'm around but I'm not doing much. Anything that involves teaching and that sort of thing. I did conservation education workshops for 15 years in the summertime which was interesting. If things were the same, I'd still want to go back to teaching. I enjoyed it very much. Had pleasant moments. I'm not sure.

Pregger: Times have changed, but it's still fun.

Crowell: You seem to be thriving. You look well and happy so I guess that's the end.

Pregger: Okay--it's been a real pleasure.