

Interview with Jim Rapport in Marquette, Michigan on October 7, 1994.

RMM: Good afternoon Jim. I would like to begin with my usual question could we have the year and date of your birth?

JR: I was born in November 4, 1928 sometime ago. I was born and raised in New Philadelphia, Ohio my first claim to fame was Woody Haze, my seventh grade football coach. I went to Case Western Reserve University and got my A.B. not a B.A. an arts bacheloric and my master's degree there. I got my bachelor's in English Literature, my master's in Dramatic Arts and then I spent a little less then four years in the service in the army as a special agent in counter intelligence. I came back from overseas's and then went to Ohio State and got my Ph.D in theater; theater speech I think it was called with emphasis in dramatic literature, history, theory, criticism, and astetics. Then I was chief producer- director of WOSU FM-AM T.V. at Columbus at Ohio State and was director of theater in Autobahn College, which is about west of New Philadelphia about 15 miles away. And I accepted the position at Northern as a well I accepted a position as an instructor at \$5,800 a year in 1958 from Dr. Harden and Harold Sponberg, Harold was the vice-president he was the guy that theoretically found me. And I agreed to come up here for a maximum for two to three years this was hardly the place for a theater person to come too, I was the only theater person. And I agreed to come and design a building, a theater building and develop and cirriculum, and bring in a faculty and then I was going to be gone; maximum of three years probably two that was in 1958. I arrived September the 8th, 1958 and did not know... well I had been here for a couple day's interviewing with another guy from our faculty Sam Lutey who drove up from Nashville, picked me up in Columbus and we drove up here. It just occurred to me a couple years ago that the university still owes me money because they had a deal where if you didn't accept the job, if they offered you the job you didn't accept it they wouldn't pay you for your trip but if you.... but if they didn't offer you the job they would pay for the trip. The third option was if they offered you the job and you took it they would pay for half of the trip and they have never paid me for half of the trip. I should hit them with a big bill there. I think one of the things it says about this place is that it refused to tell me what the theater facilities were like in town till I got here. They kept saying "well you'll want to see it"and it was Kaye Hall auditorium which was kind of a monstroitivity but a place that I grew to love and miss a lot. It had terrible acoustics, it seated 1,452 seats none of which were very good; they were splintered. Terrible echo, hard walls, hard floors almost a flat floor in the auditorium so the sight lines were terrible the balcony that was almost unusable but with those kinds of challenge's the kids and I worked a lot harder and thought we did some of our best productions there. The first

evening I was here... I was saying before my wife and I at the time were the first resident's this is one of my glory statement's we were thee first resident's of the second floor of Spooner Hall. When we came to the campus Carey Hall was obviously been up for a few years, Lee Hall was up and that was the University Center and that had a ballroom, and conference room's. I was shown and taken inside the Hedgecock, the gym, basketball area the field house but it was not open yet. They had finished it mid-year but they didn't have enough money to pay for the utilities and the custodian's, and the toilet paper so they waited till I came maybe in my honor I'm not sure. It was locked but Harold Sonberg had a key and he took it and showed it to me, everybody would stand out and stare at it because they all wanted to go inside and use the lockers. The boys had to dress until the semester I came - fall that I came they had to dress in the little dorms we had or in their cars, and run through the snow to take their gym classes. The gyms; there were 3 gyms in the old complex, the old complex was the newest part, was Olson Library which was small they had a little auditorium like a 100 seat's, terrible. They were all tied together there was Peter White, and White was where the science's were it was all contiguous then, there was Kaye Hall which was the large structure, fortress type thing, and the there was Longyear and hooked into that around the corner was Pierce. And all of my books were in the moving van it took twenty-two days to find Marquette, the van so for the first nine day's I think it was we lived in Spooner Hall. Some members of the faculty gave us some sleeping bags and we slept in our little house that the Sponberg's found for us. Terrible place but it was the only place in Marquette county that was available I guess, very near Northern. I had nothing to read and that is my hobby I guess so I read the telephone directory and that took about 25 minutes and then I went out and bought a paper "The Mining Journal" and that was about 20 minutes, they were a lot smaller in those days. It was kind of an eye opener when you go through the phone book and you realize that there are many more Maki's then there are Brown's, Smith's, and Young I think it was combined, a lot of strange names. So I went for a walk there was nothing else to do I thought maybe I could find some place I could find a paper back book not certainly in Marquette, but I didn't know that. I was downtown and I learned a lot about Marquette from a man with a big set of keys who was going around rattling all the doors downtown, sort of like the guard to see that everything was locked up, very old man. As I walked by he said "your up by the normal" I had no idea what he was talking about Northern was a normal school, Northern State Normal School. The year before I came, I think it was the year before it was Northern Michigan College of Education and the year I came they dropped the education but we still had to use up the old stationary. So a lot of the stuff I sent out still said N.M.C.E. Very primitive, you had to go too Ishpeming to buy a pizza there were none in Marquette. My wife decided to buy a pair of white gloves because she had to pour as a faculty wife pour tea and

there were no white gloves in Marquette County we had to send away for them to Green Bay. You couldn't get Heinz Backed Beans, you couldn't get Smucker's Jams, you couldn't get Esquire Shoe Polish they told me that I was going to use Shineola and like it cause that's all we sell in this town, so we have come a long way. The facilities were as I said terribly primitive but there was kind of a comodarie, I think there were 75 faculty members then. Dr. Harden wanted to build a college and then a university and he did and brought a lot of us in ,tremendous turn over the first few years. this was sort of like a half way house people would finish their master degree and came to Northern and taught for two to three years and then when back to graduate school. People that were A.B.D.'s Alber Discertation would come here and they would finish their discertation and move on to a larger school, a big ten school or what ever. So the turn over was immense for the first I would guess even as much as fifteen years over ten certainly. So we were very unstable so you had to stop and look back over the year's the last three years, four years the fact we really were up grading all the way through. The quality of the faculty and the student body was primitive, Harold Sponberg said "we get them raw" and I said "the students?" he said "both", may he rest in peace. I am trying to think if there is anything else about the college we only had one vice-president and Harold Sponberg was the first one, we had a dean of students male and female I guess; Thompson and Wilbur West the dorm West Hall is named after him. We did not have a dean of instruction or anything like and we had sort of octapye departments, the worst ones were history , political science, sociology, economics, social work, and I left something out. But when the student's signed up for classes there was this immense line going to this multi-faceted department. Our's was simple, our's was just theater, speech correction, broadcasting I guess, and obviously speech communications.

RMM: When you got here or soon after you got here then was Vet Ville still standing?

JR: Yes, behind Kaye Hall. I was originally hired as an instructor and when I got the official letter I told them that \$5,800 hundred dollars wasn't enough since I had a wife and two children. They didn't give me a raise but they did promote me to an assistant professor, I had not asked for that but they thought I would feel better about things if I was an assistant professor at no more money. Behind Kaye there were a series of quanset huts that had big barrels on the side; oil barrels terribly primitive. I think it was called Vet Village at the time and I knew some of the names that have come back to me John Talirico, who was a student of mine who could never seem to be able to get his G.I. money. Lou Chapel and Lavern his first wife were there, that was our coffee shop we used to go over and Lavern used to make us coffee. We just run out the door of Kaye Hall into Lou and Lavern's quanset hut. Those were subsequently moved out to

Harvey and there still there apparently and there are still people living in them, and they were unlivable in 1958 when I got here. I am just trying to think, no there was nothing else up just the buildings I described were the only ones up at the time.

RMM: Then I think soon after they started constructing in 1960 or so they started constructing the university center.

JR: Yes, the university center was but up without counting this last immense 7.5 million dollar thing what ever it was which I think is a remarkable job. I am not sure about 7.5 million dollars but it is a remarkable facility now. I think that it was built, it was built intelligently. I was in au of it, because it was designed for expansion. And whenever they expanded it, and I think they expanded it two or three times, they what they called soft walls. They would pop through the wall, would take two or three hours to knock of that wall after they had built another addition on it, like the explorer room, that whole wing, they knew about in advance. The wild cat den was originally about half that size, and they just popped a wall, they finished the other side, they just popped a wall and plastered that area over a weekend and it was twice the size. And it's the first really well thought out, particularly at Northern, because we had every kind of a plan for the expansion of Northern you could imagine. There were two Doxie/Constantin/Doxie/Ottos plans, and several others that I don't remember the name of. I don't think any of which came to I think we just kind of grew to like Doxie. And I think in some respects that's one of the problems that we're making, trying to integrate a campus that was put up one piece at a time.

RMM: Maybe what we can do is talk a little about the speech department, the theater situation, when you first arrived. Now was Forest Roberts was here?

JR: Yes, Forest was in the English department and so was Martha Lorian, formerly Martha Beaman, and there was a guy Dan Jovanini who I've met subsequently, and the year before I came, Dale Lundine. And so when I came, Martha had semi-retired to have a child and was no longer a member of the faculty. She resigned; she did come back subsequently and taught quite a few years when I was department head. But the department was brand new. I was in the first year of the speech department, it was pulled out of English and Forest Roberts was named department head. And it was comprised of four people. Forest who was essentially speech, debate, forensics, and Department head. Myself, I was theater, and we all taught speech, and I taught a little broadcasting. Stan Moody who taught broadcasting and speech. And Dale Lundine who only taught speech correction, speech mythology and ideology. So we were sort of one person sub-areas. My first two years each year I had nine class preparations, and I taught 14 classes. All

the fundamental of speech classes were two hour classes of 27, 28 students wild. And I taught all of the theater classes which were all two or three hour classes. And I taught two broadcasting courses. So I taught I think one semester, the second semester, I taught 22 semester hours. I had four classes back to back each different and I would run into my last class which was directing it's a theater course and say what's the name of this class. They would tell me and I'd say, "I'll be right back with the correct notes." I would run back to the office. We had one office with a little divider in it. On one side of this glass enclosure was a Forest Roberts and Martha Lorian and a ten hour a week secretary, by the way, the first secretary who was hired by Forest Roberts for ten hours a week was a student and her name was Janet, became Janet Boden, who was secretary for the President for years and years and years, but the President prior to President Harden stole her from Forest Roberts and Janet is really one of the what we would call her, an icon, glorious tradition, was secretary to the President for many years on multiple presidents. And then on the other side of the wall was Stannly and I. They were tiny. We had little desks back to back; we had one closet for the four of us, and we also had supplies in there. And Dale had one room which was much smaller, and that was his speech clinic and his office and it also had a sink with running water so people would come in there, a slop sink, and get water to make coffee or something. We did have a pencil sharpener but not in our department. It was in the English department, so we went down there and sharpened our pencils and Jean in physiology had the only hole puncher on campus and if she didn't (she's a tough girl) and if she didn't like you, you couldn't use her hole puncher. And so if you were going to give true or false multiple choice where you have to punch little holes in a piece of paper, people would go down and beg Jean. That was her property and she made sure that you knew that. But we were obviously very short on equipment. The broadcasting course that I taught we had a pentron tape recorder I think new it was like \$60 but it didn't have any knobs on it, it had a pair of pliers on a wire tied to it so you could turn where the knobs were supposed to be. I used to come to class, three days a week I taught that course, with my own tape recorder, and that was big time. People came in and looked at it. And so we had two tape recorders in the class, it was really kind of exciting. And in television, we had card board boxes that we pretended were television. I didn't, Stanely did. But they were, you know, different lenses were on different plastics, and the smallest one was a smaller lens, and wider lens. So students walked around holding card board boxes up pretending that they were cameras. And so they could and track and pan. We didn't have any equipment obviously. My budget in theater for the year was \$750 and they took the curtains, I mean everybody used the auditorium it was the only big one in the area, and the sent the curtains to Milwaukee to be dry-cleaned, and it was \$300. So I had \$450 left for the year to

put on the place. So I immediately went to "Our Town" and changed my claims and changed my claims because "Our Town" doesn't require a set or costumes or anything, and the budget and the royalties are quite well. And we stole a lot of stuff, lumber, we'd find nails and straighten them out, if you were a bad boy or girl in my technical theater class you had to straighten nails, you had to put in an extra half hour, stay after school and straighten nails. They had a piece of railroad rail and a hammer. We didn't have a shop or anything, we did have a closet to put some hand tools in. And we had crews, people had to bring their own tools from home, because we had no power equipment at all and very few hand tools. Despite that I should point out that Forest Roberts, I remember Dale and I were complaining, Dale and Dean about our having to teach, it was like the third year we were here, and I was teaching 19 hours and Dale was teaching 18, and he had all clinical stuff and he had to certify all people around the UP, all of the student for state certification that they really had an articulation problem or studded or something. And I did all of the plays, this is in addition to all of the teaching, and we were sitting around crying about and complaining saying how hard we put on and we took out the little bulletin for the semester and figured out how much other people were doing because we wanted to make sure that we weren't the only people who were being taken advantage of. And we weren't of course. Some people had a better deal than us but not very many. We noticed that I was teaching 19 hours and Forest was teaching 22. He was department head and he was the debate/forensics coach. And over the years there are no division I NAIA or things like in the debate. You're a debate school or you're not. So Forest would have to take on NorthWestern and GeorgeTown and Yale and Harvard and Army. And his one loss record was I think the best in the country, from little Northern. They had 90% wins when was director of forensics, which is remarkable. Because of our limited library obviously at the time. Well that's charming, it was a women who has now gone to her maker, a strange sort of person, very hard worker in the library. And she had a bit of a speech problem. And she would sneak up to me because I was in the speech department, and whisper, "I caught three of them." And I'd say, "Oh really." Because what she was talking about is that she caught three students who she found studying in the library. And one did not do that, because the library was small. You went in and you asked for a book, you took it and you left. And there were some tables reference, in the reference section, and some students had the audacity to sit there and study. And she would catch them and make them go away, and I never quite new what to say because she'd been there for years and I was the new kid in town. I'd say, "You caught three of them today." She'd say, "Yes and they were studying in the library. Can you imagine that?" And I'd say, "No that's very hard to imagine." I don't want to say anything about intellectuality or the lack there of. She's a charming lady, she meant well I think. We used to register all

the kids in two days, on the second floor of the Olson Library. The first time I was assigned, the man who ran this was Lusian Hunt head of the chemistry department. And he was this wonderful, sweet, charming, wildly esentric man, wildly esentric man, but twice a year, he knew how to handle students and faculty and everybody else. And suddenly he got all of his poison out of his system in two days. I was origanally signed with an assistant proffessor, finishing my disertation. I was assigned to stand at the door with a counter, and every time a student went by, I would click. That was my job, I did a pretty good job on that, decently accurate. When a student walked in, we should go back to this routine by the way, the student walked in the door, I'd go click, and when they walked out the back door and went on down the fire-escape from the second floor, they were done. All done. When a student went in, they'd be there maybe an hour, hour and a half, if they had problems two hours. But when they went out the back door, they were done. We're told today that we can't do that now because we have so many students about 1500 students, but we have many more faculty and many more staff and we have computers which makes it much less efficient. Because we did it literally in two days. If a class was filled, you walked over to another desk and they'd say well we can fit you in here and took people on and off of rosters, wrote them on to rosters. We'd go over and bargain at some other table and say "Please let this student in Because..." But in two days all of the students went through. And they had good schedules. And I've never figured out why today we have six sections in the summer time that last three days a piece, we have a week of advisement and a week of registration, and the place is in a total turmoil. Because now we have computers which solve that problem. But without computers, we did a better job, I thought. I'm not opposed to computers, I just think the people who run them sometimes are questionable.

RMM: Could you comment on the, I recently did an interview with him and met him and saw him in action for the first time, And that was President Harden. Could you give us your impressions of the man and how he was trying to develop this place into a University?

JR: Well, I'm very prejudice, he's the guy who conned me to coming here. I didn't forgive him for a couple of years there. He called me Sir James. So we had a very close type relationship. We had lots of brawls, he won most of them. But the wonderful thing about him, you see, you could brawl. And you win some and you lose some. A couple times, I said, "Why? Why?" And he said, "You lose." And I said, "Why do I lose?" And he said, "Because I'm the President and you're not. That's why. And we had different educational philosophy. And I respect yours but I'm the guy who not you Sir James, and so you lose." Or sometimes he would take off his watch and put it on the desk and say, "I'm giving you five minutes by my watch." And then he

would flail my skin a lot for some supposed mal-practice of mine. I first met him, Harold Sponberg called me in Colubus at my office and invited me to come to Ann Arbor. And I drove up there, and it was a good year to come out on the market, 1958, where there were very short PHDs in every field. And I was a veterain which was a good selling item, they couldn't ?

me and I was done except I had a dissertation topic approved and I had a seven page outline and I could show up with all of my reserch in a brief-case. Meaning that I would never, until I was ready to defend my dissertation, never have to go back again or take time off. So I had a lot of offers obviously, included in them were Purdue, NYU, Cornell, Hawii, I had aready rejected Hawaii, I had no interest in going there. And a lot of little schools: Luther College in Iowa, Beaver college in Pennsilvania, Defines College in Ohio, and Tara Jr. College in Bonavista Colorado. And I really was interested in that place, but I went to see Dr. Harden, and we sat there Harold Sponberg and I in Dr. Harden's office in Kaye hall. And he "you have some other offers," And I said, "Yes." He said, "Could I see them?" And I showed him letters. He looked at all of them and he said, "Well we got them down to Perdue, Cornell, NYU, and Northern Michigan College. We got it down to those four." Then he pushed the other three away and said, "I see you're going to Norhtern." Now this guy was a salesman. And I said, "Why is that?" And he sat there for a long time, looked up and said, "Because we need you and they don't." And he was right. Everybody wanted to go to Cornell or NYU, particularly theater at NYU, New York University was gold. Or Perdue was a big ten school, it wasn't great theater school, they had a theater department part of speech. And he just said, "We need you and you want to come and if help build a college into University and dodge bulldosers, come here." And I wanted to come, the only problem was there wasn't much money involved, it was origanally 5400 and he boosted it all the way up to 5800. Now that's not take home, that's total. And we had almost no fringe benefits at the time. But other than the dollar thing, it was a very exciting oppertunity. Dr. Harden, I'm sure everybody should be aware of this if they're not, is the man who invented the pharse, "The right to try." That's his phrase, and you can look it up in vital speeches in the library. And that's one of the reasons that I wanted to come here. With the understanding that the right to try is also the right to fail. And so we had some discussions about that, Dr. Harden and I and some other people Dutch ? . But we worked very hard at trying to salvage and we have a darn good record. You can't save everybody, and we didn't. But if you had a diploma in hand, of any kind, But I was and still am a firm believer in that policy as long as you don't have to pass people. But to give them an opportunity, the right to try, and Dr. Harden never at any time suggested that we pass students or give them better marks or things like that. ? person I found, still do. We had dinner at an alumni thing in Lansing about two years, and I saw him last



year on campus. And from that I think it would be 85 or 86. He gave an speech to the class of 62 I think it was, and my wife and I were there for dinner. Still just a remarkable 30 minutes just a totally unprepared, marvelously structured,

. He pushed us all hard and thing that you couldn't complain about was that he worked harder than we did, and put in more hours. When we finally got the first part of the University Center up, the charcoal room was a place for breakfast, and Dr. Harden reigned supreme. Starting at I think it was 6:30 in the morning. And he would call me, and I'd have to be there, for a theater person it's death at 7:30 in the morning. And he'd say, "Sit down, and I want you to be on some type of comity." And I'd say, "I'm already on nine committees, don't make me be on anymore committees." He's say, "Quick, give me three reasons why you can't be on that comity and you don't think than well." And finally one time I said, "well, why do you always pick on the same people to be on the committees?" And he said, "Should I pick from people who don't do their job? Of course I pick on you, because you get things done." But he put in, he was there and functioning wide open at 6:30 in the morning and I know in rehearsals, I would leave at 11, some times 11:30 at night or 12:00, you know, shortly before the show open building sets and stuff and the lights were still on in his office. And he was there seven days a week. One charming thing that I just remembered, he stopped me in the hall way one time, and said, "Sir James, I name of, I'm only going to have time for one show, I have to go to New York for this conference," and he and Betty, his wife, were going. So I just said, "Go see the hotty show right then was "Hello Dolly". And I arranged it so he could get some tickets. They cost a bit more, but he really wanted to go. And that was the kind of show he needed, a tighter, butternignag from the mid-west. And he worked seven days a week. I'm serious, I'm sure eighteen hours a day, without a break for months and months and months, maybe for a year. And he finally, came rushing out of one of these meetings and picked up Betty and they took a cab over and they were watching "Hello Dolly" with Carol Channeng. And it was the first break he had in years, and at intermission he was walking up the ails and ? he happened to be in the house was sitting and he said, "Whose's up in Marquette watching the store?" Dr. Harden said, "I felt guilty, I wanted to tell him, 'no, no, normally'," but he said, "of all people who had to be there, my governor." He came back and he said, "You told me to go to see 'Hello Dolly'." I said, "Well was it a good show?" He said, "Yea, I really enjoyed the first half." But anyway, he was a good President. He was wide open. I disagreed with a lot of things, but you could disagree with him. A friend of mine was very upset with him and a lot of people were. They didn't like the way he wheeled and dealed. And he was pretty good of a steam roller. But he wanted to do things, he wanted to get things done, and did it. And you have to weigh somebody like that on a scale and I think he won immensely. But he stopped Kevin in the hall when the two of us

were talking, and he said, "I understand you're unhappy about (whatever, I forgot) and you're going around complaining. You never complain behind my back. You can come into my office and complain, and if you don't I'll take your resignation. One of the two." So Kevin didn't have anything to lose, and he went in there and screamed all over the President, when it was done, the President said, "Well do you feel better yet?" And he gave his side of the story and Kevin stayed on. He would have dumped him. He just would not put up with that sort of thing, and that's one of the most and daring things about him. No sneaking around corners or things like that. I questioned some of his priorities. I know why he did it; we talked about it. He was very jock oriented. We went down and played the Quanicke Marines, I think were beaten 66 to 6 or something like that and I said why, why did you do that, why did you set up! Well he said we made all the papers all over the United States because Quanicke is going to be covered so and you know he was right. Like two days later my brother called me and he said oh I read about the in your college, he called me from California, and said I read about that. He read about me when about my college when to Kansas City we were NAIA before we were NCAA. And we were in a tournament and we did well and that was the way to get the word out. One of the reasons he liked me so much, and was good to me, very good to me, was I was selling the university through theater and particularly in the U.P. he was president of Michigan and Washington D.C. and Harold was President of the Upper Peninsula. I mean that was their, they split it up. knew every principal every superintendent and sent me out, not alone there were other people doing this many other people, to do selling, giving free speeches. We were out in the middle of blizzards trying to convince everyone that we had a real school and Harold Wright and I did the first musical in the U.P., we did South Pacific, he had all the big wheels, he had this big senator that we had met, he had the state representative, the U.S. representative, he had all the big mayors from Marquette, Neganuee, Ishpeming and Gwinn with their spouses they all had dinner and came over and saw the play, the musical, and it was a fine production. The first musical, we just unbelievably lucked out with talent with people who had never been on stage before, only two people had ever seen a musical in both the orchestra pit and off stage, and it was a fine production, there had been better I am sure somewhere in the world but he just glowed and the place was packed there were 1,500 people 1,441 seats and there were people standing in the aisles and they were tearing at the end and that was his college and so it was pretty obvious that my budget went up quickly just like football budget and Stan basketball budget and with that kind of success we got finally got of a large building and he said that was primarily due to the fine practical arts complex, the theater, and the musical department and above with the five building complex was, above that was fine art and industry and

technology was down at the far end, building a . And we got that he said as a result of the word getting out that we had a fine music department and we had a fine theater department it was not a subarea. For the first 7 years I think I said I was everything, the whole theater area. On the eighth year when we moved into the theater, I got a tech man and then a designer and that sort of thing that could take a lot of the responsibilities. There were other things about him that I didn't, his educational philosophy was different from mine. Mine was much more ivyleagy because I went to an ivyleagy western , the daughter or the son of Yale, it was founded by the Yale faculty and we had to take philosophy and logic and foriegn languages and a lot of classical stuff and Northern was very different type you know concept and it took a little getting used to. I was partly getting used to it because of my experience at Ohio State, intellectually a bit of a come down from my undergraduate school but it didn't take long to get into that saddle, see what our students were doing and when they got out where they were going and the contributions they were making. I thought he was great, we did have a for me a terribly painful divorce for quite a few years as I got by the end of the McClelan affair but I was a member of one of the nine angry old men on the old faculty senate and we went against him and I tried as hard as I could to tell people you know what a wonderful job he did. In this particular case we felt strongly that he was wrong, I think history proves us right, or did, I don't think so I know so but for quite a long time we were astranged and when we finally got back together after quite a few years one of my happier moments or memories because I really did love the man, and I still think he did a great job, just why some people may think.

RMM: Is there any presidents since that are similar to him, that you can see some similarity to, Jamrich, Appleberry

JR: You forgot Johnson, we had Johnson

RMM: Johnson

JR: Well I am a big fan of Dr. Vandament, I got along very well with Dr. Jamrich and very well with Dr. Appleberry and both of them had their good points, a lot of people didn't think so for one or the other, but they did, but I am a big Harden fan and I am a big Vandament fan. And Dr. Vandament does some things that I don't agree with too, but there is an openness about it and a warmth and an external caring that I am very impressed with and don't you can edit this part out but at that dinner that science building the signing of the Seaborg Center , he was there and he gave a speech, he was wonderful, and at this dinner for the class of '62, which is one of our big classes, lots of jocks, famous jocks, and a lot of cracker jack students, it was just a very good year and Dr. Harden was there and Dr. Vandament just

announced maybe an hour before the dinner that Dr. Vandament was going to stay on, that was his interim year, and he finally agreed to stay on which meant that all of us who knew him were very, very happy and Jerry Grandville was there, he was a student of mine many, many years ago and at the time he was head coach of the Atlanta Falcons, and so he gave a speech and he was marvelous, and charming and then he said at the end I would like to get serious I mean he was very funny, remembering the old days when he was a student here and then he said if I could get serious for a minute I just spent 45 minutes talking with Dr. Vandament and I am sure if you don't know you will be pleased to know that he is staying on for at least one more year and hopefully longer and he said his head is screwed on in the right direction and he is a fine educator and I am just so proud that he is president of our college and he is a good man and everything else and besides he is the first president since Dr. Harden who is over five foot five inches tall, the place just came apart. I don't think you can use that but I just thought I would throw it in because Carl and I just remembered it and we just screamed and it was true.

RMM: I would like to get your, you kind of mentioned it, and it is something that has come up now because it has been opened for a while, and that is the university center, do you feel, now you were here when the pre renovated university.

JR: I was here before there was any university center, when the university center was in Lee Hall.

RMM: have you noticed that today, what has been renovated, what is there today is more of an attractor and is bringing people together?

JR: Well I think there is some very, as I say, I keep hearing first I heard 5. some million, then 6. some million and the last thing I heard was 7.5 million and having survived the whole dome experience I worry about the expense although that is a self liquidated expense but from what I have seen and I have gone through there with some care I am delighted with the facility, I think the bookstore is magnificent. In the old days you never could look at the books the only thing you could look at was the toothpaste and the sweatshirts and the candybars and now you go look at all the books, I remember in the old bookstore they used to be in the back room and you had to know someone to get back there and usually you couldn't and now it is huge and it is open and there is a lot of nonsense stuff and a lot of wonderful stuff. I just bought a couple, they had a big sale on t shirts and they were so wonderful that I bought them and I don't normally do that. They have much more room now for books sales and stuff and it is just a very pleasant place to go and the art gallery for the student gallery is marvelous, absolutely just a stunning facility, the lounge that used to be the bookstore had

the alumni homecoming was held there instead of the Holiday Inn and it absolutely marvelous, it was convenient, it was plenty large enough, it was a delightful place to be and the food corp, I think was the best thing about it, we used to be split up at the wildcat den and the charcoal room and the fourth floor of cohodas and the double cafeteria and now, today you if we were at lunch the board of control met, they all came in and they didn't sit together, they just went through the food line, they all seemed to be very impressed and you can get all different kinds of foods, you can get pizzas, fast foods, you can get the well prepared foods, I am the salad bar person, the soups, just everything and it just a and to be able to sit I sat down with a member of the faculty that I really like a lot, but don't get to see very often, he has a group, his groupings that met on Fridays at lunch and they talk, they were talking about science and religion. We never did that, and in years and I was just so impressed with that I really had an enjoyable time, and that is when you came over here.

RMM; So is this kind of a facility that you would come back to and use.

JR: well if you go into it it is, the first thing you have to say is boy is this, compared to the other place the student oriented, there are, I am not happy that Michigan State isn't there anymore, there is licenses bureaus and things like that, but there is a whole area for individual offices, for student organizations and activities and such they are beautiful and they spent money on the kids, on their needs and I was just walking back there, if you ever go back there, walk back there, the student radio station is just lovely, I mean we had this garbage before you know, any old room well go if you have an outlet plug it into a wall and do something. Now they got production rooms and things like that and I am just so impressed. The thing that blew me my mind, I don't know if we need this or not, a convenient store is in there where you can buy different things that you wouldn't buy at the book store, I hope they had enough room that they said what are we going to do with this room why don't we make a convenience store out of it, but I think it is a much better facility for students, I think it is a better facility for townspeople to come to and I think it is a much better facility for the mix: the town, kids, the faculty, I mean I sit and have, I used to go over and I've missed that but this has helped solve that, I used to go over when I was department head for 27 years, I tried to force myself once a week to go over to Cohodas after it opened, fourth floor, and have lunch because the whole administrators were there and they never came to our side of the campus, to learning resource center and stuff like that and they didn't know each other and it was sort of like in theater when performance people and technical people, and except at Northern they never talked to each other and they are the enemy over there and we are the enemy on the other side

of the campus. So I used to go over there and sit and they would say and sometimes they would applaud and particularly say look here, a member of the faculty, my goodness, I thought all you people were sleeping in or going bowling or fishing or something like that, but I know those people over there and I did it for liason purposes obviously, but also enjoyable there is a lot of nice people over there, there are a lot of people I don't like but there are people on this side of campus I don't like either. And now when I go over there I can sit with kids, which I do, and I go there much more often than I used to, partly because it is a good salad bar but partly because sometimes I sit with kids, there is one group of them wild, nutty what are they called the create of imagination group or whatever it is, and they convinced me to be their advisor. I don't know what my responsibilities are. They're flaky kids, but they're fun. And they want somebody to talk to. I sit with people from the middle management group, with deans. About five or six times now, I've had lunch with Dr. Vanderman, because he came up and sat at my table; I didn't go over and sit at his table. I don't know if I can still do that. I'm probably the only person that calls him Dr. Vanderment, everybody else calls him Bill. But also Jim Appleberry, I never called him Jim. It was Dr. Harden, Dr. Jamrich, maybe it's my army days, but you didn't call your commanding officer by his first name. I mean, Vice Presidents, that's fair game. I think, it has not just great potential, I think your already seeing a lot of things. And I'm so pleased with it, mostly because it's much more student oriented than it was, and it's a student center. Any time that the top house people can use it, wonderful. And if Kiwanas or whoever it is wants to have their lunch there, great. But you can see from the way that it is set up, and the offices, and the way in which the food court is set up and stuff like that, that first it's student oriented. I like that, and if the kids are paying for it, for the most part, why not? I think it is a much better facility than it was. I don't know if it is worth seven and a half million dollars.

RMM: Do you think it's, from what you've seen and it hasn't been open that long, that it's going to be a, you know, it's going to kind of pull the campus together?

JR: It has. There is, I was over there once, the fourth floor Cohodas, they have a few machines there where you can get a coke or you can get coffee, I guess there is a sandwich machine. But very few people are still over there now. They are required, it is a magnet. They want to have a decent lunch, so they have to come over there. If anybody on the faculty, in learning resources, I spent a lot of time in book binders because it's there, but book binders is going to be gone in a couple of years. And then you're going to go over to the University Center whether you like it or not, or leave campus. And you can already see the difference, you can already see that mix going on. You know,

when you can see David Hanes who invented the Democratic party in Michigan and Gill Zigler who invented the Republican party sitting together at a table and talking, that's very impressive. Surrounded by students, tables all around them not knowing who those two people are. I don't think it's going to happen, I think it already has. And it can get better of course, and it probably will. I've probably gone overboard on that but then I switched my allegiance to the dome so I guess I can switch allegiance to the University Center.

RMM: We are getting towards the end here so I'd just like to maybe concentrate on a topic since we're talking about buildings, What are your comments about the dome, having been for years when we didn't have one and then now that we do have one and then there are some plans for even some future development of it, well I guess the plans are in motion right now. How do you view that structure?

JR: Well historically, I'm one of the people who talked out against it very strongly. 21.6 million for phase one, that is more painful to see for phase one. And I'm one of the people, I'm embarrassed to admit to say I will never go in there. I will never go in there. What a waste, in addition to the needs that we have on campus, the maintenance scared the heck out of me. And I'm also a tax payer. A big tax payer in the state of Michigan. And it was being built, from my perspective, for five home games. And of those five home games, at least two and maybe three of them are good weather games anyhow. Like homecoming, it was beautiful, it should have been outside. And you don't spend 21.6 million for phase one of a football facility at a school the size of Northern. Even though for inclimate weather and stuff, it's a nice facility. I was very upset until, this was a very important part of my life, I was on one of my walks; I was walking by this unfinished dome, the spokes were up, but it was homecoming several years ago, the year before it was officially open. And there were three couples from either Iron Mountain, Iron River, Iron Wood, one of the Irons. Two of the couples were Northern grads husbands and wives, and I had one from each family as former students. Oh hello Dr. Rapport, we were chatting and they just sat there and glowed. And the one was just here for the bon-fire and the drinking and the parade and the game. They were not Northern students. And they said with great pride, "What do you think of it Dr. Rapport?" And I said, "I think it's the biggest moon-doggle in the history of Michigan." And I really felt that, and they were shocked. I mean it's their alma mater and this is the tallest wooden dome in America or the world or what ever it is. And I said "not for 21.6" and I kept saying it is the biggest boon dog in the history of Michigan "trust me"!! And this other guy who is not an under-graduate said "Doctor, your wrong" and I said "really"? I said I am not going to go in there, I had my pride. I may not be John Wattman, as strong as John was but I'm.... everybody knew. President at one time, Dr.

Appleberry chewed me out in front of everybody. I think we all know how you feel about the dome, this is vice-president: dean's department. And I said "Well maybe a couple of people here don't realize what a rip off the dome is". Well John wasn't there to say anything after it was my turn so he said "Your wrong", and I said "What do you mean I'm wrong"? "It's not the biggest rip off in the history of; the boon doggle in the history of Michigan". I said "no"? he said "the people mover in Detroit is"; a 180 million dollars and nobody uses it. So I said "Yeah, alright so it is the second biggest" he said "No it's not the second biggest boon- doggle in the history of Michigan is the Pontiac Silverdome; and all the money that cost the state and the tax payers". "Alright it is third", "no it is not third" he said. "Have you ever been to the Zelwaki Bridge"? And I am sure you know what the Zelwaki Bridge, that fiasco that they didn't need in the first place. That fell over twice you know and I said "fourth"? He said "Maybe, maybe the fourth" he said. But by the time their done with the restoration of the state capital it will be the fourth biggest boon-doggle. So I said "Will you buy fifth"? he said "Probably". He said "Now let's carry it on from there" he said "there are always going to be boon-doggle's, always. I mean history proves that out there are always going to be boon-doggle's and we never get any up here. Why can't we have a boon-doggle, he said "This boon-doggle is going to exist, it is either going to be in Ann Arbor, or Saginaw, or Flint, or Midland or someplace. Why can't it be in Marquette, why can't we have one of the boon-doggle's"? Well I said "Well you admit it is a boon-doggle", he said "Oh sure" and I said "okay". I said "I am going to go there" and I do I walk there in the winter time. I walk around, I go inside and I'll walk and I go to some of the games. It doesn't mean that it's not a boon-doggle but it does mean it's got to be some place, he's right. Number two it cost about a third to maintain then they thought it would and it's sucking off a lot less then we thought it would. And I am so relieved about that aspect of it. The heating is a fourth of what they figured; they figured it cost over \$900,000 a year to maintain it (close to a million) , and it's about a quarter of a million. It is much cheaper, and the revenue it produces ends up getting bigger every year until now (theoretically) it is self liquidating. Whether it is really self liquidating or not I think there are a lot of hidden cost; staff and that sort of thing that you don't comment about. I don't know that so I shouldn't say that I suppose. I am still upset but it is something I can live with. It is here and it is only the fifth biggest boon- doggle. And I think it has done a lot, the towns people love it and I think that is awfully important. When I go over there and walk in the morning after class there are women pushing babies around in carts, and awful lot of heart people go there and then they go to Hardee's and have breakfast. And there is a lot of commradery and the people really appreciate that facility. If it just to walk.. 21.6 million just to walk around in a circle three and a third times comes to a mile. But it is a



nice facility and I am almost pleased, at least I can live with it let's put it that way. And live with it almost comfortably but not quite.

RMM: I guesst the other thing with it is, it has potential to be more then just the structure for the five football teams.

JR: Yes, I mean for conference's for town's people use. And when you walk around there is this very noisy sign that tells you what is coming up on the calendar. It is amazing the things that are going on in there! Some of them are private organization's are going to have a conference in there, like that food group what ever it is; Rhineheart I think it is. They took it over for a while. There are softball tournaments there all sort's off track meet's and stuff. On one weekend there were five football games not this season, last season. There were five, one on Friday night, and three on Saturday, and one on Sunday. High school's , I mean Tech came and played one of their games against Alprazo a few years ago. So from that perspective it's being used a lot more then what I would have guessed. So I am not thrilled but it is liveable.

RMM: Interview Number Two with Jim Rapport. October 10, 1994 Marquette, Michigan.

RMM: Okay Jim we are going to continue where we left off last Friday. What I would like to do is to focus our attention on your years as department head and some of the developments that took place under your tenure as department head.

JR: Okay, for the first seven years I was not department head. The first seven years Forrest Roberts was department head and so he was my first boss when I came here. I think we had indicated before that Forrest was a splinter out of the english department. Because we had the sort of octopus type arrangement history, sociology, economics, social work etc. were all bundled into one. English, forgein languages, speech, theater etc.. was all packaged under one roof under Russell Thomas. Subsequently became a very good friend of mine, after who the fine arts building is named. For the first seven years I was director of theater which was a self-designated title because I was the only person in theater. And I did direct so I gave myself that title so I could get free books from publisher's and try to convince people of my importance I guess. Subsequent to that when Forrest Roberts wanted to retire he wanted to just teach for one year and not be department head. So after saying no eight times Dr. Harden convinced me to take for at least one year until we could find a replacement for Professor Roberts. So I finally agreed to do that and at the end of the year we had interviewed several people; and the president, vice\president ,and the dean and the members of our department more then anything else decided I was going to be department head. So for the next 27 years I was a 12

month employee. And continued to teach obviously and taught extra courses free at no recapsense. Because it is a way to get out of the office and go play with the kids, and the administration can't touch you. During that period we had a significant growth as a matter of fact at one time the department was considerably larger then it is now. Because of the.. we installed a four course plan which is another topic. But as part of that four course plan we had a large humanities offering. We had four courses or 16 hours of humanities and humanities one is similar to toady, like En 111 the freshman writing course. And humanities two was called Man search for meaning in the modern world , and humanities three was Judao-Christian classical areas, and humanities four was Medieval and Renaissance I think, through the Reformation. And I was one of the people that helped develop that program which died there still is some vestigial elements left. But as a result of that people particularly in theater are very well equipped to teach that area because they have to have backgrounds in music, and philosophy, and literature, and drama, and other areas that architecture, fine art that part of the training for theater person. So we had a lot of theater people that we brought in to teach the humanities which meant nobody taught full time in theater. Everybody had one course in theater and two course's in humanities. But we had a immense and very talented theater faculty so to speak and taught that for quite a few years. During this growth period and I can't really take credit for this because Northern grew like topsy during the period I was department head and that first seven years. When I came there was like 14,050 students faculty was like 70 maybe as much as 75. And it expanded into separate areas ( sub-areas) and so presently we have the sub-area of prodcasting and another off shot of that a program we developed called mass communications. Which is a theoretical prodcasting type of curriculum but it is orientated toward graduate school, future graduate school work. And we developed a much stronger program in speech cothology and audiology which is now speech communication disorders. And eventually we got a master's degree in that field and then I happily gave it away. It brought us a lot of glory it was a remarkable department we had a sub- area and we had a couple nicely promonet people like particularly Lany Emrick etc... who were absoultly outstanding. The problem with it was that it was terribly expensive and it was a moral buster because by acreditdation standards the American ABESBA (The American Board of Exameners of Speech Pathology and Audiology) ABESPA, I remebered it. Required faculty to only teach eight hours and the rest of the faculty teach twelve. And they required equipment if we wanted to be acredited which meant the equipment that we neede in prodcasting and theater had to take a backseat because we had to spend the money in speech path. Not that it wasn't important it's just that they got top priority on back issues of journal's on new texts on mirco film, micro fische, and we had to hire more faculty. And so when you said we need another theater or another speech person or another

prodcasting person the administration would say we just bought you two new faculty and spent \$200,060 on equipment what more do you want? So at first chance I got, although a remarkably talented group of people and a wonderful program I gave them to school of Nursing and Allied Medical programs to salvage the rest of the department I guess. But as the sub- areas grew we developed a good strength there were now three people full time in pordcasting we need at least one more. There are the equivalency of two full time people in a new major (relatively new program) public relations. There is an area in speech communications, there was an area in communication education or speech education but there are so few job opportunities and little by little it sort of and we finally eliminated that secondary ed program. And then of course we have theater, a theater major and you can take emphasis in either performance, acting, directing and that sort of thing or in technical theater; design, lighting, props. Presently there are we came from when I came in there were four of us and there are now about fifteen faculty which is down from twenty two but that is because the humanity program has shrunk considerably and as our young faculty left to go onto I don't know better but certainly bigger things, back to graduate school for their docorites or to larger institutions and/or professional theater we were not permitted to replace them because the humanity program was shrinking, or implotting I guess. But it is cracker jack department I am very proud of the department and I finally was aloud to step down every year we had a retreat where we would look over where we have been and where we were going and I would say would you think about getting yourself a new boy as department head and they would all laugh historically and they would say were and they were they were an outstanding faculty, they are so intelligent none of them wanted to be department head they just wanted to be teachers like we were paying them to do. And finally after 27 years they let me step down and so I have gone back to full-time teaching the last couple years and its marvelous, I should say this because then the administrator will hear it but full-time teaching is semi-retirement, all you have to do is go play with the kids and they send you a check every two weeks, just wonderful. And I have done more at my age, and after this is my 37th year here at Northern, I am doing more research and more class prep than I ever did, of course I have more time to do it now , I was my own director of theater and I when I was department head those priorities came early, budgets and hiring and firing and all that stuff so I am doing more prep, I used to do prep but I am doing more indepth prep now, for example: in history of theater I assigned three greek classic plays and two roman plays and I went back and read three translations of each of them, I had already read them and at some time or another had taught some of them and it is amazing the difference in translators the plots vary, Madious has every kind of ending that you can imagine and it is all supposedly written by Euripodies and the translators are

either very incompetent, all but one of them I would assume, and I don't know which one is the competent one, but it has been just a wonderful experience just going back to full time teaching. To sort of just come and go as you please and I find myself coming earlier and staying later, it is ridiculous but the stuff that I am doing is more fun, to have the leisure to do that sort of thing is marvelous. I don't know if that's, I am trying to think about the department, one thing, one of the problems we have always had at Northern is that we are essentially, it is a problem but it is also a blessing from my point of view, one of the reasons that I am still here is that essentially it is a teaching institution, an undergraduate teaching institution, there are some graduate programs. I have never permitted one in our department and I don't think we ever will, department head has good taste, I hired him originally many years ago, Don agrees that we don't want a graduate program, there are lots of good graduate programs already in the state, certainly in the state supported, there is eastern, western, central, Michigan, Michigan State, Wayne State and then there is University of Detroit and some graduate programs obviously at Tech, Grand Valley, and Saginaw Valley and just everywhere. So we worked real hard and still continue to work real hard to be a cracker jack undergraduate and we don't have enough descent funding, you never have enough obviously there is always an infinite number of needs and finite number of dollars, but to have enough money to offer the kind of undergraduate program that you would like to offer, we really need three full-time faculty that we don't have now really for undergraduate we turn away a lot of students in our department in public address courses, interpersonal communication, intro to theater, the basic acting course, the directing course in theater, the small groups course, public relations is just terrify you have to beat people away with a stick for the number of people we had, if we had three more full-time faculty one in broadcasting, one in theater, and one in speech public relations we could offer a program that would go down in history. We need more state of the art equipment, particularly in broadcasting that we don't have right now, we have sources of income for theater. Kim our director of theater has been with us 17 or 18 years now I think, through his first nighters club has raised thousands of dollars and so we just blew \$16,000 on equipment because the university didn't have it, they don't have the money, Jim does such a remarkable job with his first nighters group that we just pulled out, got permission from the board, we pulled out \$16,000 and bought some state of the art sound equipment, remarkable stuff, which we had asked the university for several times, and not they hate us they have been very good to us, it is just as I say there is finite number of dollars and particularly in budgetary crunch years. We are not mad at them it is just that they can't solve our problems, so we have to go about solving our own. Now that is not true in other areas, the impact of public relations is shocking and we didn't realize how it would impinge other areas,

we just said can we offer this many courses, we refused to offer too many courses of public relations, there are really only four courses, sixteen hours, and that is what national public relations organizations want but people try to build an empire and say well we will have fifteen courses in public relations, there are just too many good courses across the board at the university that people in public relations should be taking, statistics, methods of social research, we require them to take the american economy, I mean how can you be in public relations without some of the base things that are going on in your field. But the impact in our department has been terrifying because there are two critical courses that they should take that we offer, there are alot of others that would be good for them that we offer but the intro to mass communication for a public relations major is absolutely critical and mass communication law unless they want to go to jail for slander or liable or whatever it is, I mean they have to know the rules and regulations of that in the supreme court decisions. Well we never thought about it, those are the two courses that are required in broadcasting, now suddenly you have 100 students in public relations major who are dumping into those courses and it is radically changed what we are doing. To be get in public relations you pretty much have to be a first semester sophomore to get the first course because the back log is so immense. But other than that I think its a cracker jack department, we've got some awfully good people and we've turned out some remarkable, some remarkably successful people. One of them I can't think of his name now, a speech major, Starback, the coffee empire that is all over the country, he is one of our majors. Last December we had two our theater gals, wonderfully talented people and people would say how would you know they are talented, well last December simultaneously had two of our alumni with leads on broadway at the same time, and I don't know if there is another college in the country that could make that statement. And in the spring a major broadway show opened to rave reviews produced by one of our former students and that is the third broadway, I'm not talking off broadway now there is alot of that, but this is the third broadway production that has come from a Northern, former Northern student who has produced those plays, and raised, this last one raised, personally, \$800,000 and that was only part of he cost, but he raised the major chunk of it. So our students have done, are doing quite well out there, in all fields, our record of getting students in graduate schools has been phenomenal. We have never lost a communications major who wanted to go to graduate school, never in our history. We are placing 89% of our theater graduates into one area of a theater or another, that is the highest percentage we know of in the country. So it has been a very successful thing, program, with the understanding that nobody is perfect and we are no better than we think we are, and I think that that is one of the reasons I am still at Northern because we know that. We're good, a lot better than we were when I came let me tell you. But at least we know who we are and

other schools don't, they think they are better than they really are and we know who we are and we do alot of wonderful things and were also have a lot of scratchy surfaces and as long as we continue with that attitude, can self critique and keep pushing to improve, and we have, and if you have been here as long as I have all you have to do is look back, just check back five years, ten years, fifteen years, twenty twenty five, in my case thirty five plus and figure out who, what kind of a faculty we had and every five years the faculty has improved. You don't notice it because it is like a creeping paralysis of some kind, but the faculty now is enormously competitive and has been for quite a few years. And our faculty graduated from some of the best schools in the country and the remarkable thing about our faculty I think, and I am not just talking about the department is that the amount of publication and research that we do, and that we are not a research or public institution. Our research money and release time for research is shockingly limited because it is not our mission, our mission is to teach the institution. And despite that the number of publications, the number of research projects and things that come out of Northern is beyond rewarding, but when I would hire people it was easy to separate out a lot of them because they would say how much release time to I get to write my book and we would say nadaa, nothing, you will write it on nights, weekends, and on the summer time, during vacations, we are hiring you to be a class room teacher that is all the money we have. And if there is any way we can be helpful, giving you some typing help or maybe xerox some of your material, and we have some limited summer research grants and stuff but compared to other schools, the percentage of money we spend, we can't we spend too much money on our darn kids. I mean we have the highest percentage of scholarship money which comes out of my pocket and any other faculty member and administrators pockets, but our percentage of support of students of our total budget is the highest we know of, certainly in the state of Michigan. So we are a different kind of school, despite that, despite the fact, the faculty are really producing, we have some outstanding scores on this campus, some outstanding, talented people in the arts and that sort of thing, we are opening a world premier in November, a musical by a faculty member and with the cooperation of a member of the music department, Sally Parks play Haywire is, from what I have seen of it it is a very, very exciting work, where else does that happen. There is something in the air up here that is I don't know infectious or maybe it is just so cold we just hide out and do research, I don't know.

RMM: OK, now you had mentioned earlier the four course program and then you mentioned it when you were talking about the department, could you go back to that and tell us a little about what it was, your involvement with it, and the results?

JR: Well, There was a person here who will remain for ethical

purposes, nameless. Milton B. Berg who was our first academic vice-president so to speak. Before that we had a vice-president Harlod Sponburg, but he was kind of like a all-purpose vice-president ( a wonderful man). And Milton and I were good friends, we fought terribly; Milton Berg. He had to much of a Ivy League concept for the Mid-West and land grant school's. He was a graduate of Boston Latin Grammar School and his graduate degree was from Harvard , and his doctor's is in Literature from Madison. And he felt, and rightfully. That we needed more of a liberal arts program. We had a very lib type of thing were you could take so many hours of humanities. You could take stage craft and learn how to build sets. Now that is a god course, I am not knocking the course it is a critical course for somebody paticulary someone in technical theater. But why anybody would get Humanities credit for acting courses. I mean there are certain course's that are still in the program like; Intro to Theater, History of Theater, and Modern Drama. Those are the only three courses that are in the Fine-Performing Arts because we read literature, we study certain philosophical aspects athletics and that sort of thing and it makes sense. And people say well I don't know I took make-up, I don't know why I can't get credit for that. In the old days you could do that. That was Division 1 you could either take Shakespeare or make-up, and he was right it did need a big push. So we went into a thing, and we ended up with eight hours, actually sixteen hours in Humanities and what we would now call language studies. Humanities 1,2,3,4. We did not have freshman english or composition or something like that. It was built into the program that everybody would write and that all the faculty would require good writing and sufficient writing and really nail people on syntax and grammar ,and spelling. It did not work obviously but the concept was fine. And to try to integrate the Humanities so that we had expertise in music, art, and drama, literature, art in arthecture, you know all of the things that went into it. Well I don't have to tell you about history. History is schiophrenic, there it has Humanities, some courses has Social Studies. If you take U.S. history or in Social Studies or you take Western Civ. your in Humanities. But both of those areas are important, but what happened was. Like the History Department, some of the people taught in the Humanities. People like Steve Barnwel, people who could teach Greek and Roman Civilization. People who could teach the Roman Judaio Traditions and that sort of thing. And we found that our American History people were more comfortable in the Social Sciences. And so you had to take eight hours in the Social Sciences but they were integrated courses. Theoretic, this is only theoretical that is where we fell apart. The difference between what we really did unfortunately and what the concept was. An example is in the social science I and II Math and ? I and II, Humanities I, II, III, and IV and it was kind of silly, everything was four hours so if you took PY-ED you weren't going to get credit for taking volley-ball. So you got one quarter of four. So you got a quarter a course, and if you took something

that was equivalent to two hours, you had a half of a course. The music department was wild because they had half credit courses. They usually have half credit courses, that would be one eighth of a four course unit for marching band and that sort of thing. If you took two of those, you got one credit which, so one of them was worth and eighth of a course so to speak. So it was overly ? . Second, A student came up to me and said (in the social sciences we've got some mostly were in humanities but we've got sociology and economics, political science etc. anthropology) came up to me and said at the bookstore said, "I can't find my books. I'm taking Social Science I, and they don't have any Social Science I." And the gal who worked there was standing right next to me and said, "Oh, that's the same as Econ 101." And the person who was an economic professor taught social science I out of his econ text. He used the same text for econ 101 as he did for humanities. And the person in sociology taught intro to sociology used the same text for his intro soc. course and his humanities I course, because people said "that's my area of expertise." A friend of mine who really will remain nameless because I love him dearly, I said "You have to hire two additional people this year for the humanities program." And he said "good, I need a flutist, and I need a second violin." And I said, "No, No, No, you're supposed to hire people who teach music and art and drama." He said, "I have a string quartette the old string quartette and I need a second violin." And he hired a guy to teach humanities who had a bachelors degree not a masters degree, a bachelors degree from Art School of Music and which of his 124 hours, 92 hours were in violin, and we had to prep that guy every night before class, and he'd say, "These are terrific stories. who's this guy, you say his name is Hemmingway? Is he a good writer?" I said, "Yey, read him, I think you'll enjoy him." If you have to go in and teach Hemmingway tomorrow, but the department needed a second violin and he was an awfully good violinist. He really was. Well if he graduated from he should. Course he couldn't read and write which was a minor thing. I hired a tech man, and then we went to the four course plan and my tech man Paul was one of the finest tech people you'll ever know in your life, but he had flunked freshmen English three times at the University of South Dakota. And they told him, "if you promise never to take a course at the English, we'll pass you with a 'D'." So they did. He was just, as a hands on artist, he was marvelous, and suddenly because of four course plan came in to effect, which was obviously why he went away. He was asked to teach Ernest Hemmingway, and to read and grade essay examinations and things like that, and he was totally incapable of it. As much as I loved him and didn't want him to go away, his wife and my wife were very close, his child was the same age as my youngest child and we were like family. When said, "I think I should leave." I said "OK", you know I was his department head and I loved Paul and he was a marvelously talented person but he was not right and that was wrong with the



four course plan. Steve taught Greek Civilization, I mean he wasn't about to teach theater or ancient music or anything of that sort. So everybody stuck to their own areas and that is destructive for a program that is supposed to integrate, in other words on paper it was a wonderful idea, and our leader was Dutch Barnert, Elderswerth Banert, from the English Department, who was this magnificent person and came in screaming to me, he says in humanities II he had this wonderful voice, in Humanities II, its a remarkable man there are students who are not writing anything, and this is the equivalent of EN211, have not written anything in the entire semester and the semester is over, not one thing did they turn in in writing. Well I was horrified I assumed it was theater gang that I brought in because they had philosophy and literature background, thats , and I checked them out I had to go back to him saying no no no it's three people your right, but they are all from the english department, they didn't offer, my fac, you are supposed to write 4000 words minimum, every one of my faculty got the minimum words and usually we went way over. I went over 6000 every semester in the humanities courses I taught. I'm not saying I'm the greatest teacher in the world in humanities but we did what we were supposed to do and there were three people who were in the department who I think were nuts, or something, but in an English department they would've been teaching EN211, but as long as it was Humanities II they just, I don't know if they told jokes or what they did class but they didn't do any writing. And so the program crumbled, there as I say is some vizual of it left, I think there are a couple that are sitting in history as a matter of fact, the classical

RMM:

JR: and the Search for Meaning in the Modern World, isn't that still around

RM: in some department, some place in the Bible

JR: Christian thing, yeah well those are vizual elements of the program that we had.

RMM: I think when they do offer them, if they ever offer them they are team taught.