

MEMO

Biblical Theological Seminary Library

TO: Dr. MacRae (cc: Steve Hague)
FROM: Jim Pakala, Librarian
DATE: April 14, 1989
RE: Oral history interviewing

Here (attached) are some suggestions and questions, as requested. I hope they are helpful, Dr. MacRae, in getting your recollective juices flowing and in launching the three of us forward in this reborn project. In preparing to draw up this list I listened to most of the fourth and final cassette which you and I made a few years ago, Dr. MacRae. We had ended with the summer or fall of 1919 and the beginning of your sophomore year at Occidental College.

General observation: It took both sides of four cassettes to cover the period from 1902-1919, none of which involved Princeton, Westminster, Faith, or Biblical. I think we should "speed up the tempo"--but I do not want to move so fast that we neglect the fascinating asides (e.g. regarding "ROTC" in 1918/19, or your observation that "flu" seemed to enter common vocabulary and replace "grip" following the epidemic of 1918). The extensive comments about your pal Stone probably were the type of thing we should have cut back on some, but now as we get into material related to your time at Princeton, Westminster, Faith, and Biblical, such extensive comments about associates may be extremely important. If we keep at the job almost every week for months to come, we probably can manage both "rich" narrative and the completion of the chronology up to the present.

By the way, your chapel sermon today (4-13-89) was very helpful to me, Dr. MacRae. It greatly encouraged me spiritually and dovetailed with some things the Lord seems to be doing in my life, partly through my interim pastoral work at the Locktown (NJ) PCA congregation. The sermon also warmed me inside because here and there I felt I was back in your church history classes again, and I enjoyed them so much and, even though more than six years had elapsed, they stood me in good stead for ordination in 1974-75 (church history was the only area I did not cram-study for, but I had no problem, and a "theological examiner" for the denomination happened to be on my examining committee for licensure and 6 months later for ordination).