

**Transcription of Oral History Interview with
HOMER D. CHAPMAN**

April 17, 1998

This oral history interview is being conducted on Friday, April 17, 1998, at Regents Point in Irvine, CA with Professor Emeritus Homer D. Chapman who came to the Citrus Experiment Station in 1927. He stayed at UC Riverside until his retirement in 1966.

My name is Jan Erickson. I work in Chancellor Raymond L. Orbach's office. He is the eighth chief administrative officer of the Riverside campus.

Erickson: Dr. Chapman, would you tell us where you were born and a little about your mother and father?

Chapman: Yes, I was born in a small town in southern Wisconsin called Darlington. It was in the southwest corner of the state. I was born October 4, 1898, and I was the youngest of six children. My father and mother were both born in the area not very far from there. My father's father was from London and came over about 1845 with a wife and a small baby. They settled and he built a log cabin. He was in the California Gold Rush. He went out with a group, a caravan, starting from St. Louis. They spent two years in California, and came back alive, (chuckle) with about \$2,000.00 in gold dust, bought a farm and raised the rest of his family. My father, and his brother and two sisters were part of that family. My mother's father, on the other hand, was born in Connecticut and moved to Wisconsin, bought a farm, and she was born there. Their background is Welsh, so she thinks, and my father's background was English. Well, that's all I need to tell you about my family. That's about all I know.

Erickson: That's fine. Tell us where you went to school.

Chapman: Yes. I went to the Darlington High School and then worked a year and then went to the University of Wisconsin. The next oldest child was a brother who was eight years older than me, and he preceded me to the University. It was through him, probably, that I went to the University of Wisconsin. I finished my four years there in the field of agriculture taking all the preliminary things that you have to take—you know, English and Chemistry, etc. etc. And then I decided to go for a Ph.D. degree and finished that up in 1927. So, that was my career at the University, and I have given a fairly complete account of, as complete as I can think of, in my autobiography.

Erickson: Which you have just recently completed, is that correct?

Chapman: Yes.

Erickson: It's a very nice book, very interesting to read. You met Daisy when you were in college, is that correct?

Chapman: Yes. Daisy and I met at the University of Wisconsin. She had come up from her hometown in Madison, Indiana, which is on the banks of the Ohio River. She wanted to go to Purdue, but her folks said there are too many boys there! (laughter) So, she came on to Wisconsin, and that's where I got lucky.

Erickson: That's nice.

Chapman: I had the usual number of girls, I guess, but we finally got together. We were not married until I got my job out here at the University of California, Citrus Experiment Station.

Erickson: But you were married in a wonderful place, weren't you?

Chapman: Mission Inn.

Erickson: Mission Inn. (laughter in the background from Daisy Chapman) Almost what, it's just over seventy years ago now, isn't it?

Chapman: Yes. We just finished our 70th anniversary on March 10th.

Erickson: That's wonderful. Did you have a nice celebration that day?

Chapman: Yes. I had a number of relatives come. Daisy had her cousin. She is the only one out here in California, Dorothy Herwig, and lives in Newport Beach, and she came for the occasion. They simply set up a table for six or eight people, not too many, and had balloons and so forth, and a birthday cake, and that was it.

Erickson: How nice. Oh, but that's a wonderful day.

Chapman: A reporter recently came from a magazine that is issued once a week in Irvine and interrogated me about my life and our married life and had quite a nice article. I think I gave you a copy of that.

Erickson: Yes.

Chapman: Previous to that, the marketing agency—the girl who is one of the marketing gals on the staff here—wrote a resume of my autobiography, and she did a beautiful job. I will give you a copy of that.

Erickson: Oh, please.

Chapman: I intended to put it here in my walker and bring it. But she did a wonderful job of putting in the highlights and a small picture of me, and I was very appreciative. So, we got an undue amount of publicity all at the same time.

Erickson: I think it was well deserved. Tell us, Dr. Chapman, how it was, how it came about that you ended up in California at the Citrus Experiment Station.

Chapman: When I finished my Ph.D. in Wisconsin, I went to my home in Darlington for the summer, and I got a letter from a man in Washington, D.C. who was there on some occasion from Riverside. And he wrote to me a longhand letter and said that I had been recommended by one of my professors at Wisconsin because I had had a lot of chemistry. So, he asked me if I wanted to come out and join his staff, which was in a department called Agricultural Chemistry as part of the Citrus Experiment Station. I didn't know all this, I merely jumped at the chance to come to California. I had two other offers: one to stay in Wisconsin and the other with United Fruit Company in Honduras. Some of my graduate colleagues had gone with United Fruit Company down there and wanted me to come. But I turned it all down to come out here. So that was my start at the University of California, Citrus Experiment Station—CES as we call it.

Erickson: Um. Was it always called that?

Chapman: Yes. It was always called the—the proper name for it is University of California Citrus Experiment Station. It was set up originally as the plantings in citrus began to accumulate and get larger and larger, so did problems. So, it was finally decided that we needed people in the field of plant pathology and pest control, entomology, soils and a few other areas. That is how the Citrus Experiment Station came into being.

Erickson: In 1907.

Chapman: When I joined, it was just one of about four or five departments. Webber, who had been appointed as director, had searched the whole country for the best people he could find, people who were knowledgeable and trained in plant pathology, another one trained in genetics, Dr. Frost. The one in plant pathology was Dr. Fawcett. The horticulturist was Leon Batchelor. And, let's see... another one was Howard Reed, who was a plant physiologist. So, we had all those departments already set up as of the time I joined the Department of Agricultural Chemistry. There were just four or five of us in Ag Chemistry at the time. It eventually grew to quite a big

Chapman: number, but I was appointed Chairman of the department in 1937, or 1938, I guess it was, because Dr. Kelley, who was my boss, was asked to go to Berkeley and consolidate some of the soils work at both Davis and Berkeley. They formed a department there called Soils and Plant Nutrition, and this was the one I joined—Agricultural Chemistry at first and then it became Soils and Plant Nutrition. I am getting ahead of your questions.

Erickson: No, that's OK. You were Chairman for a number of years, weren't you.

Chapman: I was Chairman for twenty three years, and in those days, they didn't have the rule that after five years they would rotate the chairmanship of departments, which was a good ruling.

Erickson: I think they knew they had a good man, and they wanted to keep you. (laughter) In those early days with CES, there was a group called the Synapsis Club. Would you talk about that?

Chapman: Yes, this was formed by Dr. Webber. It came out of Cornell University. I think he was a graduate of Cornell, and they had had this same thing there to bring together once a month people in the various departments to hear what they were working on, what kind of research they were doing. This was a very good thing because it acquainted all of us, including me, so that we met not only the heads of those departments, but the staff in those departments and learned what they were doing in research. So, we became a little broader in our perspective than we would have otherwise. That society lasted for many, many years. Finally, after WWII, some of the departments became so big—Entomology was one of them—that there was just too much to report, and for one reason or another the Synapsis Club was dropped.

Erickson: When you first came to Riverside, you and Daisy, tell us what the surroundings looked like.

Chapman: I was impressed. I had grown up in Wisconsin and never had been out of the state other than Chicago. I joined a band at the

Chapman: University of Wisconsin, and the band went to the big football games. I got to go to Chicago, Urbana, Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio. Anyway, (pause) I have lost the thread of what I was about to say.

Erickson: The surroundings.

Chapman: Oh, yes, the surroundings in Riverside. I was overwhelmed. I saw palm trees for the first time and citrus orchards all over and also quite a lot of English Walnut plantings. And, of course, the whole countryside with the desert on one side and Los Angeles on another; the mountains and the ocean. Riverside was a perfect place to live because we were about an hour's drive to any of those places. We were immediately impressed with Riverside. It was small, about 25,000 or 27,000 at that time.

Erickson: Could you talk a little about the early leaders at UCR who made agriculture so vibrant?

Chapman: Yes, the various people were: Dr. Batchelor; Dr. Fawcett, who was head of Plant Pathology; Howard Reed, who was Chairman of Plant Physiology; Howard Frost, who was head of Genetics; and Dr. Kelley, who was my boss and head of Agricultural Chemistry; and Dr. Quayle, Entomology. Those were the key people. A little later a man by the name of Harry Smith came in to head up a subsection of Entomology. It was called Biological Control. It had to do with trying to find predators that would get after and kill off red scale, black scale and other pests. These were the people, who through their publications and travels, got the Citrus Experiment Station known around the world. The citrus growers marketing organization published a monthly magazine known as the Citrograph, and that Citrograph began to be circulated to a lot of citrus areas, in other parts of the world—South Africa, Australia, Italy, etc. I was amazed when I visited South Africa in 1957, and one of the citrus growers hauled out his copies of the Citrograph to show me articles that I had written, but other staff of CES had written, too. It was the research on citrus that gained us the reputation around the world. Citrus is grown in a belt about

thirty degrees north and south of the equator. Citrus, according to some, is the third most important fruit crop in the world. Apples are first and bananas are second.

Erickson: That's interesting.

Chapman: Of course, by citrus I mean oranges, lemons, grapefruit, mandarins and some others.

Erickson: What were some of the problems that were plaguing the citrus industry at that time?

Chapman: Diseases, pests, soil, irrigation and other problems were numerous. There was a disorder called "Mottle leaf." "Mottle leaf" was widespread. It was worse on some soils than others, but it was present almost everywhere in the citrus industry. The work preceding (and there hadn't been much at the beginning) did not discover the cause. The discovery of what it was came out of research by a horticulturist from Berkeley. His name was William Chandler, Dr. William Chandler, a graduate of Cornell. He was working on a disease called "little leaf" and dieback of peaches in the San Joaquin Valley. He put on massive doses of iron sulfate in soils and noticed that with different batches, the iron sulfate had a curative effect on the peach disorder. So, he had an analyst at Berkeley analyze the two, and the man found that the one doing the job had zinc contamination. Immediately, he grabbed hold of that and our farm advisors began putting zinc on citrus trees, and lo and behold, it cured "Mottle leaf." So, we had a whole series of experiments using different kinds of zinc and so forth, and that was put into the hands, primarily, of the horticulturist.

In both pest control and disease control and the control of "Mottle leaf," the Citrus Experiment Station here became well known throughout the world.

Erickson: Dr. Chapman, what was the reaction of the CES faculty when you learned that there was to be a four year liberal arts college established in Riverside?

Chapman: I can say it was mixed. Al Boyce and I, who was head of Entomology, were all for it. We thought it would be a good thing. I thought it would be good because it would bring in departments of chemistry, physics, mathematics, geology, and all the sciences. I didn't pay too much attention in those days to humanities, but they were the ones who were going to be started, too. But there were others here who were a little lukewarm, I would say. Dr. Batchelor said OK, but he thought it would take away from the major interests of the people who were already here working on citrus disorders and walnut disorders, too.

Erickson: Now, were you consulted at all about this?

Chapman: Well, I wasn't. I was glad, of course, and as you well know, Dr. Watkins came out from UCLA and was appointed Provost. He not only recruited very capable people to head the various departments but was well liked because of his sense of humor and his knowledge, and his overall personality was wonderful. So, that gave the whole place a good start, and it was soon learned after the first year or so that what was intended to be just a high class liberal arts college restricted to 1500 just couldn't be held at that point. So, eventually, it became a general campus of the University of California. That's the background. Al Boyce and I were the two that were chosen to be with a committee consisting of two people from Davis, and I think two people from Berkeley, and one or two from UCLA to be a committee to sort of get things started. This was the work of Bob Sproul who was President at the time. He was the one that appointed the committee, and I think it was Watkins that got the names together.

Erickson: Do you remember what kind of charge he gave to the committee?

Chapman: We, of course, were both strong for the development of a full fledged University at Riverside.

Erickson: Well, Dr. Watkins was here for about two years then, I think, as the Provost.

Chapman: He was appointed. It grew out of our committee and the buildings got started, and it seems to me he was appointed some time around 1952 or '53.

Erickson: You know, you are exactly right.

Chapman: I am not sure.

Erickson: You are right, you are.

Chapman: He reached mandatory retirement age in, I think it was 1955 or 1956.

Erickson: You were a part of the search committee then to name his replacement, is that correct?

Chapman: Yes. I was appointed by President Sproul to search for someone to follow Dr. Watkins. I worked very hard on this, all one summer looking up names and consulting everybody I knew on possible names. Dr. Watkins was very partial to Bob Nisbet, who was sort of the Vice Provost at the time. Bob was very knowledgeable and liked very well by the staff, I felt. We named him as our first priority. I think we had a group of about five names we submitted to President Sproul. Well, Sproul turned it down, and he said that there was some murmuring among some in town (and I don't know who and why or anything about it—I never have) against Bob Nisbet. So, Sproul sent us back to get more names (chuckle).

Erickson: To start over again.

Chapman: So, I got to work on it and submitted another list, but Watkins insisted that we put Bob Nisbet at the head. Sproul turned us down again. I went in to see him at UCLA when he was visiting down there, and he gave me the same story. About that time, I had gotten a bid to go to Chile for a year with a group. I took off for Chile in, I think it was April. And they turned the committee chairmanship, I think to Boyce. He became impressed with Spieth. Spieth had been named as head of what

was called, I think, Plant Physiology and eventually became Biochemistry. The upshot of it all was that Spieth was appointed. So, as you know in the history now, he served for about ten years, and then Ivan Hinderaker replaced him. And then we had a Mexican by the name of Rivera. Then Rivera died of a heart attack, and then we had Hullar. Hullar was such a good man that Davis wanted him, (chuckle) so he went to Davis.

Erickson: They took him from us. (chuckle)

Chapman: We ended up, I have forgotten, there may have been one other, but Schraer came in, Lady Schraer. She was wonderful. Everybody liked her, like Watkins. The townspeople liked her and so did the staff. And, as you well know, you were here at the time. I don't know when you came, James?

James

Erickson: We came the end of 1985 and started in 1986.

Chapman: Oh, you started here in 1986. Well, where did you go?

James

Erickson: No, 1986, so we have been here over twelve years now.

Chapman: Yes, not 1996.

James

Erickson: No, '86. Dr. Hullar was here then.

Chapman: Yes. Time has gone so fast for me that ...

Erickson: It really does!

Chapman: I forget these figures. Yes. Right. Because I retired in 1966, so that was a long time ago.

Erickson: Which of those Chancellors you were talking about—which of those have been supportive of agriculture. Have there been some more supportive of agriculture?

Chapman: Yes. We thought that Spieth, because of his background in plants, that he was one of the ones ... Well, I never felt a lack of support, actually, from any of them, although I was not in any way close to most of them until Schraer came along, and I got a little closer to her. I had quite a bit of contact with Spieth, because he appointed me head of a budget committee. But I never felt there was any antagonism although I have heard that there was a certain amount of antagonism between the agricultural group and the humanities and other parts of the group. I never thought it was very serious, but apparently, Hinderaker did, and he consolidated some of the departments then in an effort to bring the agriculture people in closer contact with the L&S and other scientific groups. And I think it has been successful. I don't know what the situation is now, but I suppose it's the same. We are all one great big organization, a very wonderful organization.

Erickson: One university. Yes.

Chapman: One wonderful organization, owing to Jim (James Erickson) here and all the rest of the people who have spent so much time in the administrative end of things.

Erickson: Well, you are very kind. I read that you were responsible for the International Citrus Symposium in 1968. Would you talk about that.

Chapman: Yes. It was Hinderaker that appointed me Chairman of that group. The reason for it, he had asked Bob Metcalf who was in Entomology and me in Soils to be a committee to suggest something. At that time it was 1876, maybe before then. That the University of California was going to celebrate its hundredth anniversary, and all the campuses were asked to set up some special occasion to commemorate the founding of the University of California. So, Bob Metcalf and I met and we thought, well, the oldest and perhaps the most notorious well-known group on the campus here is citrus. So, we decided to have a citrus symposium. I was appointed by Hinderaker as Chairman of that group. Of course, through my previous

travels, I had met a lot of leading citrus people in various parts of the world, so we contacted them, and they, in turn, contacted a number of people, each one. So, all in all, we had a pretty good turn out from about fifty different countries, as I remember it. Forty or fifty, I am not sure.

Erickson: That's amazing. How long a time did it take for that organization?

Chapman: Well, we were a year in advance, so it must have been about 1967 when we got started on it.

Erickson: How long were they here?

Chapman: We met about a week for meetings, I think, maybe a little more, and then we had tours as a lot of organizations do. We had tours to various different citrus areas in California. The farm advisors were very helpful in all of that, and all the leading agricultural people. So, it turned out to be a very good start, and out of that quite a number of people said, "I think we ought to form an international society." And it fell my lot to fall in with the ideas and the rest of my colleagues did the same. We eventually formed an International Society of Citriculture. That was organized in Israel. There was an international meeting of the horticulturists there in 1970, and Walt Reuther, who was head of Horticulture here, went to it. He took over my place and was instrumental in getting the organizing started. I had already written up a list of members and a sort of outline, and they adopted most of what I did there. I offered to be Secretary/Treasurer, and they accepted, so I kept on the job for fifteen years. We had the first international citrus group meeting in Spain, and then we came to Florida, and then from Florida to Australia, and four years later to Japan, and then Japan to Brazil, then Brazil to Israel. We were supposed to have a joint meeting between Israel and Egypt, but that fell apart due primarily to Egypt. And then they went to Italy and last year they met in South Africa. It is a full-grown organization. At one point along the way, they made me an honorary member and now an honorary president. I don't have anything to do with it, it's just a name.

Erickson: But you have traveled extensively then?

Chapman: Yes, I had quite a bit to do for fifteen years.

Erickson: Did Daisy accompany you on most of these trips?

Chapman: Yes. Daisy went on all our trips. We started out on our first trip around the world. It didn't start to be around the world, but it ended up to be a five-month journey.

Erickson: My goodness.

Chapman: This was due to an invitation from an international horticulture group meeting in London to give a paper on citrus nutrition. They had a citrus symposium there as part of that horticulture group and I was asked to join. Batchelor OK'd it and Claude Hutchinson, who was Dean OK'd it and gave me a little bit of money and wanted me to go around to all the citrus areas in the Mediterranean and work on a problem called "little size problem" of citrus, which they didn't have in the Mediterranean countries and we did have here.

Erickson: That's a wonderful experience.

Chapman: Nice trip.

Erickson: Uh huh. Let's talk about the interaction among the campuses. There was Berkeley and Davis and Riverside all involved in agriculture.

Chapman: Yes. From time to time, there was some duplication that worried Dean Hutchinson and the other people in charge of all the Experiment Stations. I remember Dean Hutchinson formed committees from Berkeley, Davis, UCLA and Riverside to see if we couldn't iron out some of the duplication, and we had a certain amount of success. But I never felt it was terribly serious and the duplication wasn't over some specific problem like "Mottle leaf" or all the other problems. Citrus remained pretty much in Riverside as the major work. The walnut

industry gradually moved out of Southern California (due to urbanization) to Central California. Much of the early work on walnuts went to people in Davis. I think by and large, the duplication wasn't too serious. At one stage at UCLA when Bob Hodgson, who was appointed as head of agriculture there, wanted to form a group comparable with UCR as part of a big operation in agriculture; it began to be contested by staff here and by Dr. Batchelor, who was still head of the work here. Hodgson recruited Al Boyce to come in there for a while. He asked me to come, but I did not go. I had too much going on here, but there was some duplication of work in entomology and plant diseases and irrigation and soils, but I didn't think it was too serious. Eventually, Hutchinson decided that there was no point in having a big operation here in Riverside and another one in UCLA. Moreover, at UCLA, space began to be a problem, and I remember one of the Regents (I have forgotten his name) is quoted as having said, "When are we going to get rid of that God damned gold-plated citrus orchard at UCLA?" (laughter) Because the land, you know the history there, the land became so expensive. (more laughter) Anyway, the upshot of it all was that agriculture gradually faded out at UCLA. Some of the staff came to Riverside, some of them went to Davis and some of them went to Berkeley. And agriculture as such became pretty much a non entity at UCLA.

Erickson: Could you describe how it works when an external agriculture person has a problem and needs help from the University? How is that contact made?

(telephone interruption)

Chapman: It was often due to the farm advisors. What was that question again?

Erickson: We were talking about the process for the external person to get help from the University.

Chapman: Oh, yes. It came in large measure from farm advisors in the various counties. Even when I first came here, there were farm advisors and a University Extension service. There was one is

San Bernardino County, one in Riverside County, one in Orange County, one in San Diego County, one in Ventura County. These people, of course, were all very conversant with all the problems of the citrus growers, so they would bring their specific problems in to us if they thought it was a research problem and give it to us, no matter if it was in entomology or plant physiology or soils or whatever, and we would get to work on it. Conversely, they would ask us from time to time, the heads of our various departments, to come to their what they called citrus institutes. These were usually in each county, usually annual or even semi-annual occurrences where they brought together growers who wanted to come, and they would have us as speakers to talk on our particular subject. So, it worked both ways. They helped us and we helped them. It was a good relationship.

Erickson: Could you describe a typical day when you were...as a professor... how your day went as a scientist.

Chapman: A particular what?

Erickson: A day as a scientist.

Chapman: Well, in my early days, I spent a lot of time in the laboratory doing analytical work. I had started a twenty year lysimeter experiment. These were big tanks that had been set up before I came here to study the question of nitrogen gains and losses and transformations. Dr. Kelley, my boss, put me to work to develop a series of treatments and a series of things on twelve lysimeters, so I developed a program to determine the leaching losses of nitrogen from soil, because they were filled with soil uniformly and they were four feet deep. I set it up with a helper, and I did all the analytical work which involved making total nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, ammonia nitrogen, organic nitrogen studies on the soil to determine how much total nitrogen we had in any one lysimeter. I developed a method of finding out how accurate an estimate of total nitrogen was in these tanks. Then we measured all the nitrogen that fell in rain water, all the nitrogen that came in seed for the crops we planted, all the nitrogen that came in fertilizer treatments, and

we measured all the nitrogen that came off in the harvesting of our crops, and all the nitrogen that leached through the soil lysimeters. And I did all that analytical work. I finally got assistance, of course, but I can remember setting up what they called the Kjeldahl measures for total nitrogen in anything, soils or waters or plants or whatever. I spent a lot of time that ran into years running those analyses in my laboratory. Not running other analyses, not only by the Kjeldahl method but other methods as well. Eventually, I got help, and the last ten years, I got somebody else, because I was too busy with other matters and got some help to take over. We finally finished the twenty year experiment, and I published that in my autobiography, because we had spent a lot of money and a lot of time on it. I spent a great deal of time in reporting the first ten or fifteen years of results. We learned what happened to the nitrogen; and how much nitrogen was fixed by the leguminous crops, non leguminous crops, how much nitrogen was lost to the air through what we call non accounted-for nitrogen losses. It was a valuable piece of research that Kelley wanted started. It was the first time that anything like it had been done in California. Then I got started on citrus nutrition; learning all the effects of deficiencies and excesses on leaf symptoms; on growth and on the yield and on quality of citrus fruit. We got outdoor water culture experiments started on that subject. I compiled finally an 800 page book on that project, not just on citrus alone but on other things on the use of soil and plant analysis for determining the fertilizer requirements of a wide range of crops. That's all outlined in my autobiography. I had much assistance from colleagues.

Erickson: When you decided to retire, Dr. Chapman, was that a difficult decision?

Chapman: I was ready for it. I knew that I was going to come up for mandatory retirement in 1966 and was allowed to continue some of my water culture experiments at that time. My work was mostly desk work, and I wasn't too sad to give it up.

Erickson: Because you knew somebody else was going to carry on.

Chapman: That's right, they were going to carry on. And they did to some degree.

Erickson: Would you describe your reaction when you learned that there was to be a building on the campus named in your honor?

Chapman: Yes, I was surprised. I just couldn't believe it. I was, of course, very happy.

Erickson: How did you learn of it?

Chapman: I think I must have had something, either from one of the chancellors or from whoever was head of the agriculture work at that time. Maybe it was, no I don't think it was Sproul because he was retired. I don't know if it was from one of the presidents or who, I have forgotten.

Erickson: Wasn't Rosemary Schraer the Chancellor at that time?

Chapman: Yes, and she may have been the one. I think probably she was the leading person in getting that set up. And I think that Al Boyce was involved in getting it set up. I think to some degree I had a little help. I gave Al Boyce a little help.

Erickson: Did you ever conduct research together with Dr. Boyce?

Chapman: No. We were widely separated. He was all in the control of insects and that sort of thing, and I was all in the field of soil, so there was no crossover in our work. One of our men at one time—he was a Russian—by the name of Vladimir Sokolov. I had inherited him from Dr. Kelley's reign as head. I got him started on nitrogen problems, and he discovered that a soil organism was lethal on red scale. Red scale was a very serious problem with citrus and here was a new predator. It was not chemical, it wasn't one of the other pests that we tried to find that would feed on the red scale, but here it was, a soil organism. I said to Sokolov, "This is not in our department. This research belongs in bio entomology." Eventually, we turned the project over to that department, and it resulted in the development of a new area of research.

Erickson: You were also very involved in the community, weren't you, Dr. Chapman?

Chapman: Yes, I don't know how I had time.

Erickson: I don't either.

Brief interruption

Chapman: (referring to a visitor who just entered) Here's Judy. She's our helper. This is Judy Loftian. This is Dr. and Mrs. Erickson. She helps Daisy and me and takes care of our walkers when we get up to lunch and helps us get our food. It's a long table with salads on one end and hot foods on the other and she helps both that way.

Erickson: Oh, that's very nice.

Chapman: We have her and her sister and another person, a cousin who comes, and we have twelve hour help at night. We don't need it much, but we do need it sometimes.

Erickson: It's nice to know it is there.

Chapman: And we have some help in the daytime from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., you see.

Erickson: We were talking about your involvement in the Riverside community.

Chapman: Yes. Well, I was in Kiwanis and President in 1955 and before that, I was President of Present Day Club of Riverside. I had a lot of friends and acquaintances in Riverside.

Erickson: What was the Present Day Club? What kind of a group was that?

Chapman: This was a mixed group of men from all walks of life: doctors, lawyers, clergymen, people from industry, from different departments, merchants, agricultural, education, etc. We would meet once a month for programs, and the program was often some local person. Other times it was some noteworthy person high up in politics or other areas. I remember once we had an explorer who tried to make it to the North Pole. So, we had notable people all the way around in so far as we could get them. It was a group of these 800 men who came together to hear these talks. That was primarily it. It was patterned in a sense after the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco.

Erickson: In your book, I noted that you gave us all some tips on a long-lasting successful marriage. Could you also share some secrets on living a long, wonderful, productive life?

Chapman: Living a what?

Erickson: A long, productive life.

Chapman: Well, I just went from day to day, really and did my projects and what was required. I had normal vacations and a leisurely enough life so that I was busy throughout the week and on Saturdays. We went to church on Sundays to their evening meetings from time to time. And we went to the symphony a lot when it was on and occasionally to other things. Daisy was involved in bridge clubs. So between us, we kept busy all the time, but not too busy. So we had a pleasurable life as I would call it—one that was well balanced.

Erickson: And very productive, too.

Chapman: And I think it was. I would like to think that anyway.
(chuckle)

Erickson: Absolutely. Dr. Chapman, ...would you consider ... you mentioned that you played the piano for a number of years, is that right?

Chapman: Yes. My family was very musical. I started playing the piano early on. My brother, who was eight years older, and was in the University, wrote to my mother and said, “Make Homer take piano lessons.” (laughter) She did. And I took piano lessons...

Daisy

Chapman: Not many!

(laughter)

Chapman: And I played nothing but pieces by note at first. Then I entered the University in 1918; the war was on, and the fellows were playing by ear, war songs. You know, “Over There” and “Tipperary” and all the current songs. And that fired me up, and I saw an ad in the paper for someone to give jazz piano lessons. I went to him, and he said, “Play for me.” Well, I had started in already trying to imitate those guys that played by ear. He said, “Well, you are doing pretty good. A few more lessons and you will be alright, and I will recommend you to join the Thompson Orchestras. The Thompson Orchestras were a group of orchestras consisting of about fifty or seventy five men who played different instruments, and this man, Al Thompson, would put them together in groups of three, five, seven, ten together informally. We all played together at fraternities and sororities on the weekends in the dance halls, etc. I became a part of that group and that’s where my piano playing came into being.

Erickson: I see.

Chapman: I continued and played for Kiwanis and so forth.

Erickson: Would you consider playing for us today?

Chapman: Yes. I would rather play the one in the main building if it’s not too busy. (Editor’s note: Dr. Chapman was referring to a piano in the lounge of in the main building common to all residents). Maybe I can play the one here.

Erickson: Alright.

Short break. We walked into another room where Dr. Chapman had a baby grand piano.

Chapman: Whenever you want me to start, I will.

Erickson: You go right ahead.

Dr. Chapman played “Can’t Help Loving That Man of Mine.”

Daisy

Chapman: It’s all in his head.

Dr. Chapman continued with “Stardust.”

Applause.

James

Erickson: That was wonderful.

Erickson: Oh, thank you so much.

Chapman: I haven’t practiced enough to avoid hitting the wrong notes. I have to apologize for it.

Erickson: No, please don’t. That was wonderful.

Break for lunch. Then we returned to the Chapman’s home.

Daisy

Chapman: Would you want to sit in this chair?

Erickson: No, I am just fine. Thank you.
Daisy Chapman has consented to talk a little bit about her experiences in Riverside. Daisy, do you remember what it was like when you first came to Riverside?

Daisy

Chapman: What year would that have been, Homer?

Pause. (Dr. Chapman had not heard the question).

Daisy

Chapman Tell him.

Erickson: What year did Daisy come to Riverside?

Chapman: Oh, 1928.

Erickson: 1928. That was the year you were married.

Daisy

Chapman: At the Inn. The Mission Inn.

Chapman: She and her aunt came out on the train and stayed with her aunt and uncle and daughter who lived in Los Angeles.

Daisy

Chapman: Dorothy Herwig.

Chapman: She stayed there overnight, a couple of nights. The day had been set for March 10. They brought her out. So we had just a small group for our wedding. There were a couple of very close friends of her family.

Daisy

Chapman: From Louisville.

Chapman: No one from my family was here at the time.

Erickson: So it was a small wedding. Were you married in the chapel?

Chapman: It was in the chapel.

Daisy

Chapman: In the small chapel. Yes. And where did we have our feast?

Chapman: What?

Erickson: Where was the dinner, Homer?

Chapman: As I recall, we were married at 10:00 o'clock in the morning. We finished the service, we got in my old Model T Ford...

Daisy

Chapman: chuckle

Chapman: Then Daisy and I drove to Palm Springs.

(collective sighs of approval)

Erickson: Oh, that is nice.

Daisy

Chapman: Boy, Palm Springs looked at us!

Chapman: I made a reservation at then-leading hotel, The Miramar Hotel. We drove up between all the Packards and Pierce Arrows and Cadillacs in this old run-down Ford. But we were oblivious.

(chuckle)

Daisy

Chapman: We didn't know.

Chapman: to everything else. We registered and stayed there over the weekend. I didn't have any vacation coming because I had only been on my job six months. So, we enjoyed our stay there.

Erickson: You made some really wonderful friends, didn't you?

Daisy

Chapman: Oh, yes. And then I played bridge. You know how that is.

Chapman: She belonged to two or three bridge clubs.

Erickson: Oh, so you played often.

Daisy

Chapman: Weekly. We also were good in the church, Presbyterian Church. And he was busy with his things. Kiwanis and all of that.

Erickson: Had the Campus Club started up by then?

Daisy

Chapman: Yes. It was.

Erickson: So you were a member of that.

Daisy

Chapman: Yes. I joined everything.

Erickson: Did you join Affiliates, too?

Daisy

Chapman: No, the Affiliates were just getting started. Who's the head now?

Erickson: Right now Diane Elton is the Chair. She is in International Studies. Do you remember her?

Daisy

Chapman: No.

Erickson: She's very good.

Daisy

Chapman: But I still get Affiliates literature. So I am in good standing, I guess. (chuckle)

Erickson: I'll say. Forever and ever.

James

Erickson: Daisy, do you remember when the University was started...when the general campus came? How did you feel?

Daisy

Chapman: Yes. We thought that was wonderful. We were getting grown up. (chuckle) But we missed some good years.

Chapman: What do you mean? By vacation?

Daisy

Chapman: No, not being in Riverside.

Chapman: Yes. Well, it has been... We have missed a great deal our association in Riverside. This is one of the hard parts of coming down here. Granted, we have met and have many wonderful friends. Unfortunately, this place is essentially filled with retired people usually over sixty. And I would say the average age is seventy five or seventy eight, in there. There is a group of about thirty of us who are over ninety, and we meet once a year, the over nineties group and usually have something to eat and some entertainment of one kind or another. But the thing I was about to say is that you no more than meet some people that are fairly old, and they drop away, they pass away, and you have lost some friends. And you have to face that. That's exactly why we are here. It was to come here as a last spot. The atmosphere here is cheerful. People are very friendly and they have cultivated that sense of friendship. The first meal we sat down to, a man got up from a nearby table and came up and introduced himself and asked who we were and where we were, where we had come from and if we had come to stay. And we said hopefully. So that is the way it is by and large with the people here. We have met lots and lots of people from all walks of life—men who have been in business of all kinds, bankers, a few clergy, a few lawyers and a lot of businessmen, a lot of people were with big companies like CPAs with one of the big airplane companies. And he is a very popular well-met person. There are a few more women than there are men, but

you would expect that with life being what it is. But there is a fairly good sized group of men who meet monthly... they meet weekly, don't they?

Daisy

Chapman: Weekly.

Chapman: I don't belong.

Daisy

Chapman: You should. (chuckle)

Chapman: Well, I could belong if I wanted to. And they meet every Thursday, one of them will talk about his career or some other subject. They have a couple of women's groups, PEO that is a national women's group, and Panhellenic, a group for sorority women. And Daisy goes with me to the VIP, Visual Impaired People meeting once a month. And, of course, they have all kinds of activities.

Daisy

Chapman: Every Wednesday night they have a good meeting. It is just one hour, and if there is something special, we go up for that, and you can go to dinner. It starts at 4:30 p.m. and then you can get in any time you wish. So, it works out real good.

Erickson: It works out nicely.

Chapman: The streets are pretty well lighted at night. All are cement walks that we came down.

James

Erickson: I was going to ask you another question, Daisy. You traveled throughout the world. Do you have a favorite country other than the United States that you enjoyed the most?

Daisy

Chapman: Well, he spoke at Chile. I loved Chile. We were there the year and we got to know people. And I think that's one of my favorites. What's your favorite?

Chapman: It's hard to say. I liked Chile, too, very much. We met a lot of nice people and saw life as it was there. But I liked India, also. In fact, I have liked every place.

(laughter)

Chapman: I liked India because it is such a different atmosphere.

Daisy

Chapman: Yes.

Chapman: Women dressed in their native costumes, which was sari, beautiful saris. We met a lot of very nice Indian people in my line of research. We knew a number of the embassy people. So, all tolled, I think we enjoyed seeing the palaces and the remnants of long period of development. And, of course, I did a lot of seeing of poverty that was there, and yet, it was of educational interest. We'd see on the busy street corners, we'd see men sitting down with their basket with a cobra, and they'd be singing or doing something to the cobra to get it to rise up so tourists like us would take their pictures. (chuckle)
And they would beg us for a few coins or something else, and then they had many special holidays. We happened to be there the year that the world congress of churches met. This was interesting because we saw people from all parts of the world there dressed in different costumes. I remember some of the costumes of the African Blacks who were there and very colored gowns and dress. We were lucky to be there at that particular time. We were in India on four different occasions. On two occasions, we were there during the time they were celebrating their independence. They had a whole week of activities. One of the most interesting activities was dancing on a platform from groups that had come from all parts of India. And they were there in their colorful costumes with their strange and colorful music.

Daisy

Chapman: Yes.

Chapman: And I regret it very much that I did not have a camera ... At that time, color cameras were in use. You know, you can make videotapes.

Erickson Umm hmm.

Chapman: I have bushels or many yards of colored movies and still pictures, too. I enjoyed India very much, and we got to travel in South India and in mountainous areas to the west a little bit and see the trees that produce spices and coffee bushes, of course. We saw lots coffee growing in Brazil when we were there. We have had a tremendous experience in our travels.

James

Erickson: You really have. The other thing, when you were talking to Jan before about the different Chancellors, there is one you didn't get to whom you had an impact on. And that's Dan Aldrich. Would you comment on Dan Aldrich?

Daisy

Chapman: I didn't get the question.

James

Erickson: On Dan Aldrich as Chancellor. You knew Dan very well, and I was going to ask you both to comment on Dan.

Daisy

Chapman: He brought Dan.

James

Erickson: That's right. You recruited Dan, didn't you Homer?

Chapman: Yes, I recruited Dan.

Daisy

Chapman: Tell about your...

Chapman: He was a member of our department.

Daisy

Chapman: Tell about your finding him, Homer.

Chapman: I may have told this story in my autobiography, I don't know. I was at meetings in Chicago at the American Society of Agronomy, and I went up to Madison to visit my old colleagues there and my old professors. I was chair of our department and we had a vacancy. So, I asked Professor Truog, who was my favorite professor if he had any graduate students about ready to finish. And, he said yes, he had several. He said come on down to the University Club and we'll have lunch. He brought three or four and among them was Dan. Well, they were all excellent fellows and all ready to get their Ph.Ds in a few months. But Dan, being tall and good looking and with a good sense of humor and good personality, stood out from the rest of them. So when I got home, I wrote to him and asked if he would be interested in a job in our department and he replied he certainly was. And that was it. So, he came out in March, I guess it was March; married to Jean. At that time the war was on, WWII, and places to stay and rent were just practically impossible to get. They stayed with us a night or two in our home, and then I got them a place with a friend of ours. And then Dan, being the kind of hustler that he is, was able to find an apartment. Then eventually they got to rent a place right across the street from us.

Daisy

Chapman: Yes.

Chapman: And that's where they were when the Army took Dan. They sent him to the Philippines. And Jean was pregnant at the time. The pregnancy matured and she had her first son in Riverside, and Dan was far away in the Philippines. Jean told me that she wept a little bit when she had to say goodbye to Dan—and no wonder.

James

Erickson: Well, he had quite an impact on the University. And Homer, you made all that possible.

Chapman: It was in him. I have often said that no matter where he went, he was going to land a big job. I asked him one time, “Dan, what do you want to do eventually?” “I would like to be President of a University.” So, he got his wish.

James

Erickson: He sure did, three campuses.

Chapman: Irvine was...there was nothing here but sagebrush when he came down to the land the Irvine Company had given to the University. And he started right from scratch getting buildings, recruiting staff, getting everything set up for a new University. So, he really did a job, and he was well liked in the community. And they had article after article in the *Los Angeles Times* about him. I am sure the same thing in the local Register, which is our leading paper in Irvine. No, he made a wonderful impression. And no wonder, because he had the qualities that he inherited from his family. We met his father and mother. His father had been head of some institution in Rhode Island.

Daisy

Chapman: Tell how many in the family.

Chapman: I don't remember how many there were.

Daisy

Chapman: About ten kids.

Erickson: Oh.

Daisy

Chapman: Big family.

Chapman: I don't know that you're right about that. That's your story, Daisy. They were an outstanding family.

Erickson: Well, thank you very much for consenting to this interview. It has just been a pleasure to be here with both of you. Thank you very much.

Daisy

Chapman: (warm smile and laughter)

Chapman: Well, you are certainly welcome, and it has been a pleasure to have you here.

Daisy

Chapman: I wish you lived around the corner.

Short break while we moved to the living room.

Daisy

Chapman: I am wanting you to open the drapes so you can see what we are nestled in with.

(The outside patio was filled with colorful plantings).

James

Erickson: Oh, this is a wonderful organ.

Chapman: It is a nice organ.

Chapman: This is a piece Daisy likes.

Dr. Chapman played “76 Trombones” and “Misty.”

Daisy

Chapman: Would you sign our guestbook?

Dr. Chapman ended by playing “Chinatown, My Chinatown.”

Erickson: (We both signed)

Applause by everyone.

Chapman: That will give you a little idea what the organ is like. I miss a lot of notes.

James

Erickson: Oh, I don't know, that was beautiful.

Erickson: Wonderful.

James

Erickson: Thank you, Homer.

Daisy

Chapman: You see, that ended my career.

Erickson: Now, how did that end your career?

Daisy

Chapman: (chuckle)

Erickson: Tell us.

Daisy

Chapman: No, but I played the piano, and I played for Irene Dunn, the actress, in a chorus.

Erickson: Oh.

Daisy

Chapman: (jokingly) But he (Homer) came along and said I'd hit the wrong note for two years! Well, that finished me!

Chapman: You should have shut me up and pushed me off the piano stool and showed me that you could still play.

Daisy

Chapman: (laughing) No, I couldn't compete.

Erickson: Well, he's hard to compete with, I am sure.

End of Interview.