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Interview no. 672

Emily T. Zillich

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Emily T. Zillich
INTERVIEWER: Rebecca Crauer
PROJECT: History of the University
DATE OF INTERVIEW: November 28, 1983
TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted
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BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Former College of Mines student, 1930-33;
received a B.A. and M.A. in History; taught at
Courchesne and Jones School and in the
Ysleta District.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Activities, course work, buildings, professors and
other reminiscences of the College of Mines in
the 1930s.

Length of interview: 1 hour Length of transcript: 21 pages

Emily T. Zillich
by Rebecca Craver
November 28, 1983

Z: These were Depression years that I attended.

C: What years did you attend?

Z: I went '30 through '33. I finished in three years and two summers because I was determined to have an education and wanted to teach school. So I went as fast as I could and no frills at all, because I was out there to get my degree and also to get a certificate, teaching certificate, which I could use, hoping I could get a job. And I'll tell you, I almost didn't get a job, because of Depression.

C: Where did you get a job?

Z: I got it in the county, not in the city but in the county, and I taught at Courchesne School, which is not existent now. It was up the valley. Then later I taught at Jones School, which was in Smelertown, and it no longer exists.

C: What grade did you teach?

Z: At first I taught junior high and then when I went to Jones School I taught third grade, because you took anything they'd give you.

C: What years did you teach at Smelertown?

Z: I went to the Ysleta District in 1942. I left the county and went into the Ysleta District. And I taught during the war for a brief period, and then when my husband was to be transferred to New York and Florida and places like that, I would follow him. Then after the war was over we moved to Chicago and stayed there for three years, and I came back and taught in Ysleta again. I taught in the high school at first and then later in junior high, and finally I taught again in freshman science. That was my fetish. (laughter) I had taught so many different things.

C: Well, what was your major?

Z: My major was History.

C: Oh, is that right?

Z: Yes. I got a Master's in History and I wrote a thesis for Dr. Waller because at the time that's what he wanted, but this of course was later. And it was published because at the time my husband had rejoined the National Guard--of course during the war he was in the service--and he wanted a history of the National Guard of El Paso. So, I wrote my thesis on that because Dr. Waller was interested in different phases of history in El Paso, so he was having the students write histories of churches, of schools, of anything that was of interest in El Paso.

When I told him, "How about the National Guard?" he was quite thrilled because he said that he had been in the division when Texas and Oklahoma were joined together in World War I. Dr. Waller was not real young. So, he thought that would be great to have me write that, and I did. And it was published later in the Military History of Texas that they publish every few months, I guess, and so they gave me the honor of having it published in there.

C: Well, that's wonderful!

Z: Which was nice. (Chuckles)

C: Now when was that, that you went back for your Master's? In the late forties, after the war?

Z: No. I'd have to go and look that up for you (chuckles) because off hand right now I don't remember. It must have been in the fifties that I got my Master's. One thing, I guess the school systems began to urge their teachers to go back and get Master's degrees. Now, you were fine with a B.A., but there was a period of time there that when they began to urge you to go back. They did give you a

little increase in your pay so it was worthwhile, I guess, to go back and get a Master's. And that was one reason why I decided to go back and I just took it again in History, which was simple enough, although I had my certificates from the state of Texas to teach also. So, I really am part Education and part History. Then later I wanted a counsellor's certificate and I went back and earned that, and that was in the sixties, but I never went into counselling other than just counselling in the classroom.

C: Well, let's go back to the thirties. Now, you took a lot of History courses. Was there a School of Education at the time you had to take Education classes?

Z: Yes, you could take Education classes also. But the first degree was given, as I was reading in this 1932 annual... This was our president, this was when we got a president. In 1932 was when Dr. Barry came to be our president. Prior to that, you know, we only had deans. And he said in his little discussion here that, "The conferring of the B.A. degree for the first time, an enlarged faculty which has worked unceasingly for the success of the college, and new courses," and on and on, was on the credit side, and of course they did have [a] debit side too. But it's true that this was the first year they gave a B.A. degree, and you could take it in History and I believe Languages, if I'm correct. I don't recall. You'd have to get an old catalogue to know exactly what it was.

Then the rest of the time, naturally, we would take Education courses so that we could earn a certificate from the state of Texas, and you had to have certain courses in order to get that certificate. And the certificate was only for one year and you would teach on that

before they would renew it. See, they would renew it and then they would give a three-year certificate and you would teach on that, and finally you could get what they called a permanent certificate.

Then eventually they reorganized all of that and of course they went into professional certificates, but they certification is different now than it was back there. But you earned one-year certificates and then you had to teach and pass, I guess, their judgment on you.

C: Prove yourself.

Z: Yes. So I guess my class was the second time they offered a B.A. Of course they offered in Mining and Metallurgy...that was really the main purpose of the school to start with. But my brothers attended what they called a junior college because they did want an academic degree. Well, they didn't give a degree but they did want some academic work here in El Paso, and it was organized and they used the top floor of the El Paso High School back in the twenties. Eventually they outgrew that and they wanted to go out to the College of Mines. Well, I think there was quite a discussion about that and of course I wasn't in on that, but I'm sure there was a lot of... Well, they didn't want it. I'll tell you, the ones that had the mining school probably didn't want it, but they did put it out there. And our first courses, if you were strictly academic, all right, like an Education course or even an English course. But you were required to take Mathematics and then you were in the engineer classes, and you were required to take Science and you were in the engineer classes, which made it very difficult because they had high standards. And if you didn't meet their standards you didn't pass the course.

C: Do you remember any teachers you considered extremely strict, tough?

Z: Oh, yes. Well, I thought Miss Liles was. She was there, she was very strict.

C: What did she teach?

Z: She taught Math. Well, she taught Algebra and Trigonometry, and I don't recall that she taught Calculus. I don't believe she did.

C: And she's Mrs. Patterson?

Z: Yes.

C: I've talked to her.

Z: Yes, she was very strict.

C: She told me about making the students go to the blackboard.

Z: Oh, yes. (Chuckles) And another thing, they were very formal in class. You were always Miss Tessier, which was my name, and you would say, "Dr. Waller," for your teacher. Now, I thought he was very strict. He was my History teacher and he was very strict, too. I don't believe he's alive, I don't think he's alive. But he was very strict and, oh, he required so much outside reading. You just hardly knew where to stop in order to pass one of his tests because he would give you about four questions and you would have to elaborate and elaborate and elaborate, and it all came from your outside reading.

C: Did you take tests in blue books?

Z: Yes, in blue books, that's right. And, well, there were only four buildings at the time and the sidewalks were nothing to brag on, so one really ruined your shoes in a hurry. There weren't very many outside activities, either. We did have a tennis court and of course we had the football and the baseball and the basketball for the men, and the men lived over in what they called Keno Hall. That

was where the football players lived, the few that boarded. Other than that there were no places for women to board. Most of us were just hometown girls, and really hometown fellows, too. But we did have a bus that made the trip from the Plaza downtown out to the college I guess on the hour. Other than that you had to walk or get a ride with somebody, and I walked many a mile back and forth because I lived up by the El Paso High School, which is a pretty good walk from the college.

C: And uphill.

Z: Yes. I did join the Glee Club, which I guess was about my only outlet, and enjoyed the different things that we did in the Glee Club.

C: Who was the director of the Glee Club?

Z: Mrs. Durkee. Mrs. Durkee was the director and she had boys and girls in the Glee Club. She had little operettas.

C: Where would you perform?

Z: Well, one time we put on a nice number at the Women's Club and another time we put one on at the Scottish Rite. I guess we just had to find auditoriums that were available because there was no auditorium on the campus. In fact, if we wanted to have an assembly we went over to the football field and that's where our assemblies were held and our pep rallies and so forth like that.

C: Well, Kidd Field was fairly new at the time.

Z: Yes, it was. We thought it was pretty good at the time for a football field. In fact, I guess prior to that they'd had to play the games at El Paso High School because the stadium there was fairly large. But when they got Kidd Field, why, they were real proud of that.

But as I say, I think the vast majority of us who went out

there were strictly to get an education. They did have some sororities and fraternities, but I wasn't interested in that at all.

C: Did they have the sorority and fraternity houses on campus at that time?

Z: No they didn't.

C: It was just those four buildings?

Z: That's right. Well, let's see, there were four buildings that we used for classes, and then Keno Hall where they did board the football players. But Main building had a little co-op in the basement and that's where we used to sign up to buy second-hand books. Everybody bought second-hand books because they really didn't change the courses that fast like I think they do now, and so you could sell your book after you used it and maybe it was about third- and fourth-hand before it finally wore out. But it was a lot of fun to go through those books and see all the notes that were written in them (laughter), and then you would add to it. Then the next year you'd stick your little note up there and say, "For sale, such and such a book," and somebody would buy it. And you'd sell it for a very small amount of money, because none of us had much money, I'll tell you that.

But we did have, well, we had a nice little library, not very large, on the second floor of Main, and then we had to use the Public Library, too, quite a bit. And the Geology Department was on the top floor of Main. I took Geology in the summertime and thoroughly enjoyed it because I had Speedy Nelson as my teacher, and he took us on field trips all the time and we had a great time.

C: Where did you go? Tell me about that.

Z: Oh, we went out to the Hueco Mountains and hunted fossils. We went up to the mountain across the river over there where Mount Cristo Rey is and hunted fossils. And we would drive up and down the highways to look at cuts that had been made to build a road so you could see layers of earth and study that sort of thing, and several places like that around El Paso. We ran out to Hueco Tanks, that sort of thing, to make it interesting, and also it was a learning experience.

C: Did you ever have Cap Kidd?

Z: No. He was a dean of the Engineering Department. I don't recall what he taught, but I don't believe he had many classes because he was the dean.

C: What kind of a man was he?

Z: Welllll, kind of an interesting character. He lived in a house right there on the campus. The house isn't there now, pretty sure it isn't there.

C: Where was it located about?

Z: Well, it was right in front of ... See, Main faced I guess South. And then you walked over to Kelly Hall, like this. Now Kelly Hall kind of faced east and on this side of Kelly Hall was his house, right here. I do remember that he smoked a pipe, but I'll tell you, they were very strict about us smoking on the campus. If you smoked at all, you went out and got in a car and smoked. You wouldn't dare smoke in the restrooms or around the campus itself. You'd get in trouble if you did.

C: Were there any dress codes?

Z: Well, not really, because it was during Depression and they couldn't very well require that you wear certain clothes, you know, but we just

wore what we had. I do recall that when I was taking Chemistry that I had wash dresses, thank goodness. And there was one girl in our class who would set up all of her tubes and bottles and what have you and light the Bunsen burner and it would explode. (Laughter) And my mother said to me (I was living at home), "Why in the world do you have holes in the back of your dresses?" And it finally dawned on me what was happening, because my back was to her table and the acid, I guess, or whatever she was cooking up would fly over enough to eat the material. So, it got so that whenever Irene would set hers up we all scampered (laughter), because we knew what was going to happen. Invariably hers would blow up. I don't know why but she never was able to control her experiments.

And we had classes Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning. The the labs were in the afternoon like on Tuesdays and Thursdays, no classes on Saturday afternoons.

C: But you went to school six days a week?

Z: Yes, we surely did. And course they were just hour classes, but the labs would last four hours, like the Chemistry lab. And I took the Chemistry. I didn't take Biology because I had heard that the teacher was very strict and he made them memorize all the genus and what have you of everything right down to the fine point. All the girls would take his course because he was a bachelor and a very handsome one, but they didn't get anywhere after they took the course. (Laughs) Anyway he was very popular because he was a bachelor and because he was nice looking, but frankly, he was very hard. He was a hard one. Dr. Berkman is who it is.

I did have a Professor Seamon for my Chemistry class. He was, of course, in the Metallurgy and the Mines Department.

C: They named a building after him.

Z: Oh, yes. There were two brothers, I think, out there. I want you to see Dr. Waller, who later became the dean of the graduate school of history when I took my Master's degree under him. hows picture in an annual. I'll find Dr. Berkman in a minute here. Here he is, right up at the top. That isn't such a wonderfull picture but he was nice looking and, as I say, a bachelor. So many of the girls took courses under him and then they suffered intensely. Because I can remember that we sat in the lounge in Kelly Hall and we discussed everything, you know, like students do, and they would sit there and agonize over the fact that they had to memorize so much. (Chuckles)

But it wasn't easy at all and especially the courses that we took under the professors that taught in the Engineering Department or the Mining Department.

C: Well, did you have any classes under Doc Sonnichsen?

Z: I had a part of a course under him when Dr. Drake, who was the English teacher--I was to take a course under him--he became ill and so Dr. Sonnichsen took the class for six weeks, I think, until Dr. Drake could come back, and that was all the course I ever took under him. Now, he came from Harvard, I guess, I think the summer that I was taking the Geology because I remember that he used to come up to our lab upstairs on the top floor of Main building and come in there and tease us a lot because, well, he was friendly and I presume he was lonely, too. He didn't know very many people. But he was really an institution on that campus, after all.

We did have a coed association and I belonged to that. And some of the girls, we did a few activities, not too much. We had an initiation ceremony along the lines of the St. Pat's, you know,

like the engineers had, and they probably backed the programs of the school and that sort of thing. But as I say, there was not too much of a social life.

[PAUSE]

Z: ... Downtown for the dances and most student [activities].

C: What would you wear?

Z: Oh, long dresses. Oh, yes, formals.

C: Do you remember one dress in particular?

Z: Not really. I think I have one on in this picture of the Glee Club.

We had school beauties, too, you know, that we voted on, which was fun. Didn't have much of a football team, but then that's understandable.

C: But you had the pep rallies?

Z: Oh, yes. I'm not real sure if we had nightshirt parades Downtown or if that was a high school thing.

C: Well, what was that?

Z: Well, we went down at night and we formed lines and just paraded Downtown in a chain of yelling and screaming for the team, you know. (Laughs) It was so silly.

C: And singing? Singing Songs?

Z: Oh yes, oh yes. There's a picture of Cap Kidd's house. I'm not real sure if that's still there or not.

C: I don't believe it is, no. Were the students ever invited to his house?

Z: I guess the engineers were. Now, I do remember that when I graduated that Dr. Barry had a very nice function for the graduates in his home on Federal Street. He lived on Federal Street and he invited us to to come. It was like a reception and we all went and enjoyed

it very much. That was one of the nice things. And then Norma Egg and Gladys Gregory were teachers and they entertained the women, the year I graduated, in their home. They had a kind of party for us, which was nice, because, as I say, there were not too many social affairs.

Here's the Glee Club with the long dresses. That was probably one of our programs and we were dressed up for it, and so they took our picture.

C: Can you remember any particular number that you sang?

Z: Well, not off hand. I'm not real sure if I ever kept any programs or not. But Mrs. Durkee was quite strict with her music. She wanted a finished product. There was one program that I recall that we sang in Liberty Hall along with a number of the high school choruses. Our particular number was about a miller. I think it was a sort of a crusade thing, I wish I could remember exactly. But anyway, we had little bloomer-like pants on and we came out in our little group, and Miss Durkee was standing down below. I guess she thought we showed too much of our legs so she was saying, "Pull them down, pull them down," and of course we pulled them down a little bit. But she was so good in control when she trained us that our music was just a finished product when we sang it, and I guess we got the biggest hand for our number. But then after all we were college Glee Club and we should have, you know. But we had a good time putting that on. That was held in Liberty Hall, so we used the various auditoriums, I guess, around town.

I did tell you up there at the luncheon that one of the silly things these kids used to do, we would sit on the steps in front of Main--that was the congregating place--and sometimes if one of them

happened to be upstairs they'd fill a bag with water and drop it down on us, which was kind of crazy. But other than that, there wasn't much foolishness that went on.

As I say, we were all pretty serious about getting our education because it was during the Depression and money was scarce. Now my father still had his job but I know that a lot of them were hard pressed when they went to school. In fact, there were very few cars on the campus, but they were very generous about giving you a ride. We didn't have a car the first year that I was up there but when my sister went later, why, my dad let us use the car to go back and forth some. She didn't go, though, until the last year I was up there so we used the car then, but prior to that I did the walking or riding with somebody else, sharing a ride or riding the bus. Now that bus was kind of unique because, see, El Paso still had streetcars in those days and so the bus was an exception. Well, they had to have a bus 'cause there was no streetcar line that went up to the campus.

C: So the bus was just for the students or faculty?

Z: Yes, it was strictly from the Plaza up to the campus. And L.D. Liles, Miss Liles' nephew, was one of the bus drivers, and then there was another driver, they alternated. And you would ride, say, from your house maybe you'd ride the streetcar Downtown and then you could catch the bus. A lot of them would do that so that they could get up there, the connections there in the Plaza.

C: You mentioned the St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Z: Well, we went up to paint the "M", I guess, on the mountain. It is not there anymore.

C: Where was it?

Z: It was right above Scenic Drive at the end of the mountain, where the mountain ends.

C: About where they put the star at Christmas now?

Z: Yes, that was where they had the "M". But El Paso finally got tired of these kids going up there on the mountain and painting their school letters and they tried to stop them. I think they pretty well stopped most of them. Maybe Austin still has an "A" up there, but the other schools had to quit eventually. Then of course there is an "M" out there on one of the little mountains by the Sun Bowl, so I guess that took the place of the one up on the mountain.

C: Well, besides painting the "M", what did they do for Saint Patrick's Day?

Z: Well, they sort of made the freshmen do the work (chuckles), that was the main thing, you know. Now, I never went on the Saint Patrick's for the men and I'm sure that they did some very cruel things to them because they would come back and laugh and talk about what happened. They had burros, you know; we had a burro for our mascot and they had burros and all sorts of things like that, maybe they'd have to hide them. And a number of things. They didn't haze them too much, though.

C: But this was out at Oro Grande?

Z: Yes.

C: What went on on campus? Were they painting the green line then that separated the engineering and science part of the the school from the academic and liberal arts? Do you remember that at all?

Z: Well, if I remember right, they made the freshmen wear little green caps, and that was about it at that time. Course, also they surveyed that campus a thousand times, the surveyors. But really there wasn't

too much animosity between the academics and the other, because they finally accepted us and we got along all right. In fact, I guess these fellows kind of enjoyed having the girls on the campus for a change.

But I do recall that before they did have an academic department they used to smoke in class all the time, the engineers were allowed to. But a friend of mine said, this was before my time, he said that he wrote some things on a package of...oh, they had Bull Durham, and they rolled their own. And he wrote some things on there, I don't know what it was--Math answers or what. And he wrote it on his tobacco and he would pull it out, you know, it was during the test. And finally, if I remember right, it was Captain Kidd, he said, "Let me have some of your tobacco," and he caught him with some of the answers all along the package.
(Chuckles)

C: What happened to him?

Z: Oh, I don't know, I don't think he got in trouble. (Laughter) If he did, he might have had one grade lowered or something like that, because he couldn't possibly put much on the package of tobacco, but maybe they were the crucial ones that he couldn't remember. But that was before we came on the campus and when we had a dean of women who made the rules, and then you didn't smoke on the campus.

C: Who was the dean of women?

Z: Miss Eldridge, I believe, was, if I remember right.

C: Would she chaperone the dances?

Z: Well, yes, and she kind of took care of the... And this Mrs. Fino was another one. She was the French teacher and the Spanish teacher,

a very lovely person. I enjoyed courses under her very much. In fact, I don't recall that I ever had a teacher that I didn't like. I can remember that we had one named Null and he would kind of put you to sleep a little bit--bless his heart, he's dead and gone now--but he was a very good professor, taught History. And of course Norma Egg and Gladys Gregory were both great. We loved both of them. They were excellent teachers. In fact they were in junior college and had gone out to teach out there on the campus. I never did have Miss Ponsford, although later I did know her, and she's still alive but I don't think is able to be out, she's probably a shut-in. And Mrs. Ball was the Public Speaking and the Drama [teacher], but I didn't take any of that. Her husband was the Chemistry instructor for the lab, and I had Dr. Seamon for lecture and I had Ball for the lab. But I thought that Seamon was excellent. He was a very fine teacher. Course, after all, they had been there quite a while. And Mrs. Durkee's husband was a professor, too, out there on the campus, and she was the Music teacher. She taught Public School Music and had the glee club, and he always came, took her around. Wherever we went, why professor Durkee was there, too.

As I say, we were very formal, we never called them by their first names, not like it was when I was taking some of these counselling courses. One young doctor out there now on the campus, everybody is called by their first name, and at night I took the course and he was very informal and used a few a four-letter words. One night he asked if any of that shocked any of us, and I raised my hand. I wasn't the only one. Afterwards, I thought to myself, "Here he has a doctorate, and he surely could use language that would express what he thought without resorting to that," but that's

neither here nor there. (Laughs) But I've seen the campus grow and it's been great to see it progress as much as it has. In fact, I think the fact that we finally got a Student Union building was one of the nicest assets, and the library out there must be great. I haven't been in the new part, but...

C: Well, when they open that new library it's going to be nice.

Z: Yes. And then they've added on, fortunately they've been able to add on because of the Cotton money, I guess. That has really provided quite a bit for them. It's still hard to get around out there, though, because the courses that you take will be in one part and then by the time you have to get to the next building, why, you're late. I found that in the summertime especially, it was very difficult to get from one building to another without being late.

C: Well, back in the thirties you could just drive right up to the building and park?

Z: Yes. Well, you could park right there in front of Kelly, and there was a paved street in front of Main so you could park some along in there. Then of course there was a lot of unpaved parts where you would park, too. There was a house down there on the ditch and it was the Ware home, but that's where the Administration building is, I think, now. But we managed to get back and forth. As I say, you were allowed so many cuts, you know, but we didn't take them unless we just didn't care because it was important for us to attend classes. I do recall that they had what they called a walk. If the teacher didn't show up for fifteen minutes, I think, why, you were allowed to [leave].

One time, Dr. Waller, who never gave a walk to any of his

classes, was standing over in front of Main building talking, and the bell rang and we all went to Kelly Hall. We were on the top floor and there is a fire escape, you know, out of [the] top floor. So we sat there and we sat there and sat there, and everybody said, "Well, we know he's here. He's over there in front of Main." And fifteen minutes passed. Finally, some of them took off and went down the fire escape and all of a sudden they came running back up the fire escape and said, "He's comming!" He was a tall, thin man, and his legs were really flying, and he got there and he fussed at us for walking, you know, because we just shouldn't have that kind of an attitude, which I guess was really true. It was important to have every lecture. As far as he was concerned it was. (Chuckles)

C: Well, besides that you mentioned dropping the balloons out of the top floor of Old Main, can you remember any other pranks that were played?

Z: Oh, well, of course, all the silly jokes that they put in The Flow-sheet on the kids, which are in the back here. I guess you could read some of them. There was always that and they would match up that sort of thing. Really, I guess the engineers pulled more pranks than the academics did because they sort of felt like they owned the campus, maybe. And Seamon Hall was kind of like off limits almost to the academics because they didn't have many classes down there for them, and that was their private domain so to speak--and the Chemistry building, too, of course.

C: You said there was no girls' dormitory. Was there a girls' gym?

Z: I'm trying to think. I think they just used the Kidd Field, you know, for some exercises and that sort of thing. Later they did build a girls' gymnasium, but the first years I was there there was

none and they didn't require it at first either. Naturally they couldn't since they didn't have the facilities, but later on I think they required that you had to take one year of P.E. But as far as I remember I think any P.E. work was done up there in the football field. That was the only place.

They did have a little dressing room up there for the football players, that one little building up there next to Kidd Field that they used, but I don't believe the girls [used it]. Now they may have shared that with the men, but not at the same time, I'm sure, when they would go out and do their exercises out there in the field, 'cause that was the only place to exercise, I guess. And tennis I guess was one thing that girls could take, and the men, too, could take tennis, but not too much.

C: When you went to summer school, I'll bet it was hot in those buildings?

Z: Oh, yes. But you know they opened the windows and they were high ceilings, and air conditioning was unheard of. And really, people that lived in El Paso were accustomed to the heat anyway. If you had a fan you were pretty well off, but outside of that you just endured the heat and I guess you were more or less used to it.

I remember that in my home we had high ceilings, and we used to open up the windows on both sides of the house and the front doors and the back door, and if we got cross-wind, a breeze, why, it made the house fairly comfortable. Most of the time you sat on the front porch anyway, you know. In that way you kept cool. But air conditioning really didn't come in until after World War II even, that it was so popular. But there was no air conditioning. I think that was why I said to you about Professor Null, that he, I had a course in the summertime under him and he would kind of put

you to sleep (laughs), because it was hot.

C: You mentioned a lounge in Kelly Hall. Would you eat your lunch in there?

Z: Yes. There were no facilities, really, for eating. I guess you could eat [there], but most of the time my classes were mostly in the morning and by noon I would be home so I really didn't have to eat up there. They did have a little cafeteria over in the Keno Hall where the football players were because they had to, and you could go over there and eat if you wanted to, but not very often. I guess we could eat snacks in this little lounge. Over there in the first floor of Kelly is where we'd sit and have snacks, but mostly it was gossip or studying, and I mean real studying.

And I know that in those days, too, when you went in the library you treated it like a library, too, you didn't talk in there. None of that, you had to be quiet in there if you went in the library, and in that way you could really study. But nowadays they don't pay that much attention to the library.

C: Well, do you think the students, when you were working on your bachelor's, were a lot more serious then?

Z: Well I think that parents in those days, during the Depression, they did offer this in El Paso and it was because maybe you didn't have the money to go out of town, they couldn't afford to send you out of town. And therefore if they were going to give you that kind of an education out there, they expected you to work and really do what you should in the way of getting an education. There were kids that dropped out. There are kids that will anyway, invariably, but not too many. They were pretty serious about getting that education because every dollar meant something, I think, to the families in

those days.

And like I say, there were a few sororities and fraternities, but they were not large by any means and their activities were limited, too, because of the lack of money, really. They'd have a party once in a while in one of the homes and invite you, the girls to go to that and that sort of thing, but I wasn't interested in that anyway. Some of them were, but not particularly _____.

C: Well, it seemed like when I met the '33 graduating class that it was a very congenial, happy group.

Z: Yes. I guess we knew each other. Well, there were not that many of us, to tell you the truth. And the few activities that we had together, why, we enjoyed it, and the classes that we were in were never too large, and so we got to know each other pretty well. We had fun too; I mean it wasn't all work, and we were a pretty happy bunch.

C: Fifty years. My goodness.

Z: Yes. It was a long time. [Pause]

C: Tell me about it.

Z: When I was given my degree, my Bachelor's degree, I had to take an oral examination, and in front of professors. And, boy, I was scared. (Laughs) Because they could ask me questions on my major, is what they did. They asked me questions on my major.

C: And your major was History?

Z: History, yes.

C: So, Dr. Waller was in there, and who else?

Z: Well, Dr. Berkman. There were several in there, you know, the doctors.