

Drea, Dr. William F., 1885-1981
Colorado Foundation for Research in Tuberculosis
Lecturer in X-ray, 1922-1952

CASSETTE ONE - SIDE ONE

FINLEY:

This is tape recording number 11 of the Colorado College Archives Oral History Project. I am Judy Finley, interviewing Dr. William Francis Drea at Tutt Library. The date is February 23, 1977. Dr. Drea was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on September 5, 1885. He is a retired dentist and radiologist. From 1922 through 1960, he was a lecturer on X-ray in the physics department at Colorado College. He was also associated, from 1928 through 1952 with the Colorado Foundation for Research in Tuberculosis, as Associate Research Director. At the age of 91, he is still a frequent visitor to Tutt Library, for his lively conversation and keen sense of humor have made him a favorite with the staff. He always wears a fresh cut flower in his coat lapel.

Good morning, Dr. Drea. I'm delighted that you could be here for this interview.

DREA:

I'm pleased also to be here.

FINLEY:

I want to ask you first, since you are a very long-term resident of Colorado Springs, if you would confess to me how old you are?

DREA:

Ohhhhh, that! Yes, with much pleasure! Yep! I feel very good about that--I'm 91 plus years!

FINLEY:

Ninety-one-plus years!

DREA:

Yes.

FINLEY:

And you've been in Colorado Springs since when? Since

what year? You came here--

DREA:

That is really one of the things I don't remember.

FINLEY:

Yeah. But you came here in the early twenties, wasn't it?

DREA:

Oh, I came here when the first World War was on--

FINLEY:

1917, was that it?

DREA:

It was probably 1917.

FINLEY:

Right. Can you tell us about your first memories of your arrival in Colorado Springs?

DREA:

Yes, I can tell you. I landed--I came down on the train from Denver, and I was seeking renewed health. I had tuberculosis, and plans had been made for me, as to where I should go in Colorado Springs, and so forth. I came down on the Santa Fe railroad, and got off at the Santa Fe railroad station at the east part of town. Since Colorado Springs then had two active railroads running, one west and one east of town, and I walked up Pikes Peak Avenue towards the center of town. I was very much pleased by what I saw, mainly it was the hotel, the old Antlers Hotel. And the peak--Pikes Peak behind it, to the west.

FINLEY:

Beautiful, uh-hum.

DREA:

It was a beautiful scene! I have never forgotten it, and never will! And it's unfortunate that we no longer have that. So that was about all I remember about Sunday afternoon. I went to the house where I was to live at 632 North Nevada Avenue, which was a rooming house. I was the only tuberculosis patient there. All the others were hard-working, respectable people, school teachers and such.

FINLEY:

I see.

DREA:

And I got along quite well with them all. I remember a Mrs. Bartlett--she lived over on Wood Avenue. She was a lady

of some consequence, one of the old back-East, near Boston, considered of some importance. She had a family. Her husband was a dentist, as I was, but he gave up. He didn't practice dentistry, he went in for raising sheep, or something or other. I don't know what.

FINLEY:

Now, you had gone to dental school at Harvard, right?

DREA:

At Harvard.

FINLEY:

Now when you came out here, and you said you had tuberculosis, did you immediately begin to practice dentistry, though you were quite ill?

DREA:

Oh, no. I wasn't too ill, but I wasn't able to practice, didn't practice--it wasn't wise to practice, until I made sure that I was well again, so that I would not relapse. I had been on the faculty at the Harvard Dental School for about five years when this happened.

FINLEY:

I see. Now, your career, as I read in some old newspaper clippings about you--you immediately got involved with studies of the causes of tuberculosis, didn't you? Weren't you--

DREA:

Naturally, but I tell you, before that, I got tied in with Professor Tileston, at Colorado College. The first thing I did was to go over to the library, which was in--well, where Armstrong Hall is now.

FINLEY:

Coburn, uh-hum.

DREA:

Coburn Library, good old Coburn. And Mr. Ormes, senior was the head of the library. [can't understand] my whereabouts at that time. And he was for several years the head of the library and Miss Kampf was his assistant--she was a wonderful woman--just remarkable! And--well, I always was in touch with libraries and librarians! [chuckles] Back in Boston, I did the same thing at the Boston Public Library--beautiful building. It's [can't understand] of murals.

FINLEY:

Did Mr. Ormes put you in touch with Mr. Tileston?

DREA:

No, no. This is an interesting point I'm going to make. Big men are that way! For some time, as a student, I began to worry about what was the [can't understand] What were facts about a material world? How did things work? And so forth and so on. Why did silver nitrate do the thing it did when it touched animal tissue, or any kind of organic tissue?

And that was back in Boston. I had only one explanation back there for the man, and he did understand me and my question, and he was a pharmacist of a different order than the usual pharmacist. He dealt with homeopathic drugs and so forth. And he very nearly gave me the answer. He had been to a lecture just previously by a noted chemist, and was tremendously impressed by it, and it impressed me, too.

But just about that time, unfortunately, I began to get busy with my practice, and therefore had not so much time for thought and the like. It was really going along very well, and the thing dropped from my mind.

Well, when I came out here, I had leisure again, and the old question came back. And I came back here--came over to this building alongside--what's the name of it?

FINLEY:

Perkins Hall?

DREA:

No, this one.

FINLEY:

Oh, Palmer Hall.

DREA:

Came over to Palmer Hall to find somebody who would be able to tell me. That was about 5:15 on a beautiful afternoon. It was warm, 5:15 p.m. and everybody had gone, but this man who turned out to be Professor [Roland Ray] Tileston. He was working, looking over papers, examination papers, I presume. And he looked up at me with a gentle smile. Could he do something for me--was there anything he could do for me, and I went into my song and dance about this thing, in my lame, halting way, because I didn't know enough physics, I didn't know enough chemistry at the time--and nobody else did. I mean, there was a transition stage at that time, discovering what the electron was, and the nature of the atom, and the X-ray.

FINLEY:

Yes.

DREA:

And all that, from a physics standpoint. And he looked at me, and then he lighted up again, and said solemnly, "Just what you need." He said, "Just go over to the library here, Coburn Library, and you'll find these books on the shelves."

He gave me the names of four books and authors--I wish I could recall the name of one of them. And, needless to say, I walked over at once and got the books! And that started it.

FINLEY:

So he was helpful--

DREA:

Ohhhhh, as a result of that interview, I'm here talking to you!

FINLEY:

Now how did you happen to hook up as a lecturer in X-ray--

DREA:

Why, he saw that I was very much in earnest, and kept in touch with him--I wasn't seeking anything from him, except advice--

FINLEY:

Knowledge.

DREA:

Knowledge. It was on that basis, and by George, it was whole-heartedly--in those days, they did things like that--good teachers did things that way. You better ask me another question! [chuckles]

FINLEY:

Well, you came in as a regular lecturer in the physics department--

DREA:

Oh, the result of that was--

FINLEY:

--department in X-ray, right?

DREA:

--finally he asked me if I wouldn't talk to the students, give a lecture.

FINLEY:

I see.

DREA:

And--oh, I gave six lectures to begin with--which I finally did, although I took it very seriously. I thought, "Well, this year I've done it, got my lectures in order and so forth. Next year, it'll be easy."

But it wasn't. It was just as hard to line up those lectures again, and present them properly to the student body. They were mostly boys, of course; once or twice we had some girls as students, and they were good students, and--that was glad--then he saw that I was really in earnest.

I was headed for--well, [can't understand] research. He said I should take some courses in mathematics. Now this is interesting. Dr. [Florian] Cajori was one--head of the department--one of the great teachers I've had. I've had some really great teachers; some back at the Harvard Medical School, and here at CC.

FINLEY:

But you did take a course in math, then, from Dr. Cajori?

DREA:

I certainly did--took one--took two from him. Well, anyway, I took one, and he was, as I said, one of the ablest teachers anybody could have.

FINLEY:

Hadn't he done some pioneering work in X-ray himself?

DREA:

Cajori?

FINLEY:

Yeah.

DREA:

No, no. He was a pure mathematician, so far as I know. But he was in touch with everybody of any consequence in the world. He was that type of man. He was a European to begin with, I'm sure--came from, maybe around Switzerland.

FINLEY:

What was his manner in the classroom?

DREA:

Perfect! Perfect! Nobody could go to his lectures two times in lectures and if they were not working, he'd know it. It was timed that way. He kept a little notebook in which he kept marks of students. And if you flunked--I don't

whether I ever did or not! But [can't understand] one boy.
And he was gentle with the girls--thorough, but gentle. A
gentleman.

FINLEY:

Great!

DREA:

If you flunked a question, why, you knew it! You knew it! And he'd call on you the next meeting, the next session, and he was right on your tail!

FINLEY:

You had to think it through and figure it out.

DREA:

You had to be ready, and--in other words, you were not loafing on the course. That was the point. It was perfect. I never saw anything like that from any of my teachers, at any time, the way he conducted that class. And yet, it was not a jail keeper or prison keeper at all; it wasn't that type of thing. It was fair play all along.

I saw, one time, a boy flunked who was a freshman. A nice-looking chap. He was not spoiled in any way--he was still as nice as he was the day he came into school, or graduated from high school. And he asked the boy; he didn't know the answer. And Dr. Cajori asked him if he'd studied. I think the boy misunderstood him, but he said, "No, no, sir."

And at once he said, "Take your coat and hat and leave this room, now!" [pounds cane on floor for emphasis] And he did! "I will have nobody in my class who does not study." Those are not the words, of course, but that was the intent, the purpose.

The next time we had a lecture, probably two days later--I happened to come along, it was an 8:00 lecture, and Dr. Cajori was just ahead of me, and I caught up with him, and we went into class together.

Now, he knew I was a special student--I wasn't working for credits--not that he marked for credits, and he knew all that, and yet he was just as severe and strict with me as he was with any of them, any of the regular students working for credits.

We went into the classroom together--no hail-fellow-well-met at all, no effort on his part to cultivate friendship, but no distance between us, either. And the boy who had flunked just previously was seated. Cajori took one look at him, and he came forth with one of the most wonderful chuckles and laugh I've ever heard from one man. Good nature!

FINLEY:

Yes.

DREA:

There the boy was. Evidently he had been studying, and caught up. He was all alone in the classroom when we arrived, before 8:00. I think that throws light on the man. He had me working; there's no doubt about it, working because I desired to work. I was encouraged by the atmosphere of the place, of the classroom.

FINLEY:

Were those math courses the only courses you took as a special student, or did you also--

DREA:

No, I did a--oh, Professor Tileston was advising me now on these things.

FINLEY:

Yes.

DREA:

Caesar Davis--did you know Caesar Davis? You missed something. Excuse me for saying this [chuckles]--perhaps the brightest of the [can't understand] of CC.

FINLEY:

He was there at that time, Caesar Davis?

DREA:

Yeah, he was a student.

FINLEY:

Of Tileston's?

DREA:

Yeah--I don't know whether he was actually a student of Tileston's or not, because he was a major in mathematics, but Tileston knew him, knew of him very well. Caesar Davis was--you didn't know him, or any of his family? He was a--Caesar was a sort of a genius in many ways. He could get into any kind of society and take an active part in conversation. He knew enough about physics--he really had an astounding mind, this fellow. I think he was born in Canon City, and the family moved down there.

Tileston knew him and his brother--his brother graduated from here, too. And he had quite a mind. He became professor of mathematics, the head of the department at Northwestern, which is something! I'm sure that that was

correct. Of course, you can check on all these statements I have made. I'm quite certain that is correct. I visited with him in his home in Evanston, Illinois, close by the university, and I think I went through the college buildings with him. But he became, I'm sure, became head of the department. [pounds cane] He was aggressive.

FINLEY:

Yes.

DREA:

Oh, gosh! He was ahead of me on good ground, sure ground to argue with him, get into confrontation.

FINLEY:

Right.

DREA:

Or you'd get licked.

FINLEY:

Well, now, these people that you were working with and got to know well at CC certainly must have encouraged you in your research interests. How many years did you continue to be a lecturer in the physics department on X-rays? Quite a number of years?

DREA:

Oh, until the war.

FINLEY:

Until World War II? Uh-hum.

DREA:

Yeah, World War II broke, and something happened, and I was never asked to lecture. [chuckles] I mean [can't understand] terribly busy anyway, and I don't--I never seek advancement. I let nature take its course.

FINLEY:

Well, in 1924, I understand a foundation for research in tuberculosis was organized at Colorado College by Dr. Gerald Webb, and I know you were closely associated with this for a number of years. I'm wondering if you could enlighten me on the historical background, and this whole foundation--how it worked, where it operated, and who the people involved were, and what you did with it.

DREA:

Well, actually, I don't know too much about the machinery.

FINLEY:

But it was in Palmer Hall, wasn't it? It was associated with the college in terms--

DREA:

Yes, that's right. In Palmer Hall, in the chemistry department, a quite large room had been donated to the foundation for its research work. Who is the man in charge-- I'll recognize his name. He was an old gentleman, a very strict man who did not tolerate people who smoked or drank, and--

FINLEY:

At CC? Not Parsons--

DREA:

No. No, this man was teaching chemistry.

FINLEY:

Oh, Dr. [Frank William] Douglas?

DREA:

Yes! He was a very competent teacher. He knew chemistry, but he was a very severe disciplinarian. One time I got out of the car, one morning, and I had a cigar in my mouth--I smoked cigars in those days--and he was looking out the window, and I know darn well he didn't approve! [laughter] He was very, very [can't understand] "Lips that touch liquor will never touch mine!" Haven't you ever heard that expression? [can't understand]

FINLEY:

Now, say that again?

DREA:

"Lips that touch liquor will never touch mine!"

FINLEY:

Oh, yes, I've heard that.

DREA:

I thought you must have.

FINLEY:

I'm sure he felt that way. [both talking at once; can't understand]

DREA:

--young guy. [can't understand] I mean that everybody hooted a bit, and that was--

FINLEY:

Well, now, he cooperated--Dr. [can't understand] must have cooperated with the foundation--the use of the space in Palmer Hall over the years. What kind of work did you do down there, and who are the people you worked with?

DREA:

Well, we grew tubercule bacilli, and worked with animals, guinea pigs--guinea pigs. I didn't work so much then with guinea pigs as I did later. Oh, I ran an X-ray to excite florescence--that was a part of my physics training with Tileston advising.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. Was there a large staff working, or was it just individuals, very small kind of--

DREA:

Just the two of us. And Dr. [can't understand] and myself. I was just a part-time worker now, because I had to earn my living downtown.

FINLEY:

I see. So you were practicing dentistry?

DREA:

Oh, before that, I was in charge of the X-ray laboratory at Glockner.

FINLEY:

Oh, you were?

DREA:

I was the first X-ray man they had at Glockner, using--you might put that in--a bedside unit.

FINLEY:

Hmmmmm.

DREA:

A little bedside unit, and doing some very serious work, and work only I could have done with that particular unit, as a result of my studies in the physics of X-ray and [can't understand] electronics. Well, that was that. One thing I want to bring in: Dr. Tileston wanted me to give a full-time course--see, as I told you before, only six lectures.

FINLEY:

Yeah.

DREA:

Which was done--no, they were lectures in the physics department, but for their practical work, they came downtown to my X-ray laboratory.

FINLEY:

And he wanted you to--

DREA:

Used that one because they didn't have X-ray equipment there at CC. Those were the good old days! [can't understand] But he came to me and stated he'd like to have me give a full-time course.

FINLEY:

He did? In the physics department?

DREA:

Yes.

FINLEY:

And--

DREA:

We don't have to do it all over, do we? Yes, a full-time course with credits to the students, for those who took it and passed. They'd take examinations and such. Well, in order partly to prepare myself for that, I took a trip. One of the first places I went was St. Louis. I had very interesting experiences there. I'll just confine myself to the teaching--my Colorado College connection. I had befriended a man who had been a physician, who was deathly sick with trenchmouth. Did you ever hear of that?

FINLEY:

Yes.

DREA:

Trenchmouth. Those were the very early days of trenchmouth. See, we were at war, and the soldiers in France, in the trenches, were coming out of the trenches with trenchmouth, a disease of the gums.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

DREA:

And then a physician, a young capable Jew from Washington University Medical School, although I think he had a private practice as well, was summering for some weeks in Manitou--the Grand Hotel. Do you remember the Grand Hotel?

FINLEY:

I've heard of it, in Manitou.

DREA:

Yeah. I think that was the name of it.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

DREA:

And--I could point it out to you any time you want-- why, he was scared to death, just frightened. Of course, he snapped out of it very promptly, when I got in to care for him. And--yes! I looked him up.

FINLEY:

In St. Louis, huh?

DREA:

Yeah. Oh, they can be generous people. Generous, he and his wife, and made me acquainted with their intimate friends [can't understand] and so instead of spending two days there, I spent almost two weeks! And I said to myself, "I'm going up to the Mayo Clinic," which was notable in those days, still is, but very notable then. And I was going to spend nearly two weeks up there, but I'm getting so much here, why go there? So I stayed on. I got acquainted with the registrar of the university.

FINLEY:

Washington University, St. Louis?

DREA:

Yes, St. Louis. I was his dinner guest, and he had friends in. Seemed to have a lot of young people in there. Made their marks--I can't recall their names.

FINLEY:

You--

DREA:

Oh, the registrar of the university, I met him. "Oh," he said, when he found out what I was after, really, my teaching physics in the physics department and so forth, or going to teach the full-time course. He said, "You ought to meet Dr. Compton. Do you know him?"

FINLEY:

Was he at St. Louis at the time?

DREA:

He was, at Washington University, St. Louis. He said, "St. Louis, Washington University, and he's into X-rays." His brother, he said, was president of MIT. He says, "and he's in Who's Who--the brother." He said, "I think it's probably reversed." [chuckles]

FINLEY:

Ahhhh.

DREA:

Arthur Compton.

FINLEY:

So you got a chance to meet him?

DREA:

Yes, went around to his laboratory with the registrar of the university, a wonderful-looking man--one of the best-looking men, most attractive men I've ever seen. Broad-shouldered, tall, in good physical shape. [can't understand]

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

DREA:

Right on the button. Attractive, but not in any sissy-type way at all, not--it doesn't mean smartly dressed. He was smartly dressed, well-groomed and all that kind of thing.

Why, they got talking about a phenomenon and one thing stuck in my mind, and it influenced me, I'm quite certain, subconsciously, ever after. It was about some effect. He said he was trying to explain it by any other method, by any other reason, than the one that he had given, among others, and hadn't been able to do so. He had to come back to it.

FINLEY:

Did this have to do with X-ray?

DREA:

It was with X-rays, and it is known as the Compton Effect. You might get that in. For which, afterward, he received the Nobel Prize.

FINLEY:

Ah-ha.

DREA:

Yeah. It was really--wasn't that dramatic?

FINLEY:

Yes, indeed!

DREA:

That should be in on the ground floor.

FINLEY:

Fascinating!

DREA:

This man who was, himself, not spoiled--I have no reason to think he was spoiled at any time.

FINLEY:

And he afterwards received the Nobel Prize for this study.

DREA:

Yes. Incidentally, there was a man who took an opposite view, that got beaten, of course, at Harvard, his opponent--not in any bitter way--

FINLEY:

No, but a scientific argument.

DREA:

Yes. And who had been--Harvard had taken him from Boulder, the University of Colorado, because he was. Duane was the man's name, D-u-a-n-e. He was notable for what he had done, but he had the wrong explanation, and Compton . . .

Incidentally, I met somebody in that family--very smart, quite a young woman; not too young. I don't know, maybe 48, 50--recently, who is in my wife's family in some way--I never paid much attention to family, but she was rather conspicuous there. We were back for a memorial service, back in the Catskills, where the family had some property. And she was smart, and the rest of the family never forgot they had these two prominent young men--one a Nobel laureate, and the other a president of MIT! They had [can't understand] [pounds cane on floor] They were fortunate!

FINLEY:

That's great.

DREA:

And they were graduates of, I'm pretty sure, of midwest colleges.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. And you said that this subconsciously influenced you. Now, you were talking about how you were going to come back and teach physics full-time at CC. When you came back from St. Louis, did you, in fact, teach full-time or not?

DREA:

Full-time, when I say full-time, not full-time all day!

FINLEY:

But just in the physics department?

DREA:

Just that course, just that one course.

FINLEY:

I see.

DREA:

I didn't--you see, they only had two teachers in the physics department then. Tileston was one, and oh, Boucher was the other.

FINLEY:

Boucher came in, yes.

DREA:

And Boucher was the other. And I didn't do nearly as much teaching as either one of those men did.

FINLEY:

No, right. Did you get to know the college administration at all? Did you ever know Dr. Duniway, or Dr. Mierow?

DREA:

Yes, Dr. Duniway, I lived in a little house right alongside of Dr. Duniway--what was the president's home at that time. It's been torn down--that is, my house was.

FINLEY:

On College Place?

DREA:

Yes.

FINLEY:

Where Boettcher Health Center now stands, or right next to where it is?

DREA:

Next to where the clinic building is.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. And you had a house there?

DREA:

My home was there, for many years.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. So you must have gotten to know the--

DREA:

Duniways, yes.

FINLEY:

--people very well.

DREA:

I'll tell you a little incident about--you like to hear incidents?

FINLEY:

Oh, particularly about Colorado College.

DREA:

The reason why I went to live later on the campus was that--oh, yes, my wife decided she was going to give me a baby. We were then living out at Cragmor. We had the first house that was built at Cragmor, outside of the Sanitorium buildings.

FINLEY:

Hmmmmmm.

DREA:

Right on the ridge, and I could look down toward Templeton Gap, and over towards Pikes Peak, and it was very--it had its disadvantages, of course, getting up to the top! Because they wouldn't build a decent road for me. Why, we decided we'd better come in town when she decided she was going to have a baby. Have you met Charlotte?

FINLEY:

That's your daughter?

DREA:

Yes.

FINLEY:

Never met her.

DREA:

I'll see that you do, if she's ever around here--she's quite a girl--a girl like you.

FINLEY:

She grew up, then, in that house on College Place?

DREA:

Yes! We went downtown, Rhoda and I, and took a suite in the Gladstone Building. Do you know the Gladstone Building--gray apartment house, quite a bit--some circle, down around the 300-400 block--and then we got the child. Of course, we wouldn't want to stay there indefinitely, because of that, and we were just looking around. Finally had an opportunity to buy this house through Mr. Donaldson--do you know his daughter?

FINLEY:

Yes, I do. Agnes Donaldson?

DREA:

Yeah, she's quite a girl. I like her very much!

FINLEY:

She's a special person, right.

DREA:

And the father was a gentleman of the old school, nice. He made it possible for me to buy that house, 12 College Place. I remember that number--12 College Place.

FINLEY:

You were there for a number of years. Now, did the college--did you donate that house to the college?

DREA:

I did not. No, I sold it.

FINLEY:

So you sold it to them. And they tore it down!

DREA:

They tore it down. It was an old New England type of house. I heard about the house from Mrs. Peabody [?] who lived in a bigger house closer to Cascade Avenue, right on the corner. [can't understand] her companion, and six months back in the Berkshires in Massachusetts. She told me that house was--she knew was a very well-built house. Tell you about this house [can't understand] because she knew the lady who had it built--a maiden lady, I think, who was old New England herself. And it was that kind of a [can't understand]

FINLEY:

Do you remember the name of the person who had it built originally?

DREA:

No .

FINLEY:

No?

DREA:

I can't recall that.

FINLEY:

Well, I remember the house. It was a nice old house.

DREA:

Oh, it was! We loved it. It had several little inconveniences, but it was good.

FINLEY:

And you got to know the president?

DREA:

Yes, Duniway! [laughter] I'll tell you this little thing to show you I did know him! We knew him well! There are some people to whom I do not cotton up. And--but Rhoda told me this. Charlotte was a babe, almost in swaddling clothes, but getting around a little bit, as evidenced by the fact that she was out on the lawn one day, with nothing on! [chuckles] Her mother believed in solar energy! Have you ever heard of solar energy! And she had that kind of bringing-up, as a babe. You see, her mother was allergic to different things, had allergies, and she was conscious of the fact that I had had tuberculosis, and we had to take extra-good care of this babe.

FINLEY:

So she was out on the lawn with nothing on, and what happened?

DREA:

Just her bare skin! Why, [laughter] I have to tell on this--I wasn't present.

FINLEY:

Dr. Duniway, huh?

DREA:

Dr. Duniway--he stopped, looked, and before he listened--[laughter] he said, "Aren't you--aren't you afraid that she'll catch some terrible disease?" Just like that! [laughter] And that was it! That was about--I didn't have much--any association with Duniway.

FINLEY:

[chuckles] Huh! Well, now, after he left, did President Mierow live in the president's house then?

DREA:

Did he succeed Duniway?

FINLEY:

Yes.

DREA:

Yes, he did, because Charlotte and his daughter Dorothy--you probably have met her?

FINLEY:

Yes.

DREA:

Played together, as they were growing up. And Dorothy had quite a good influence upon Charlotte, because she was more daring. She'd walk the top of a rail fence, for example--Dorothy did. And of course, [laughter] Charlotte was very competitive. "If she can do it, I could do it," see, and--did you get that into your notes, too?

FINLEY:

[chuckles]

DREA:

And it was a very wholesome relationship between Dorothy and Charlotte, as children. Dorothy was a daring girl. Charlotte had courage, as was shown later--she took up horseback riding, and went into these little horse shows for children out at--going out to Cragmor; there was a school out that way, on Austin Bluffs.

FINLEY:

The San Luis School?

DREA:

The San Luis School, right, she was in there, and that was before she went East.

FINLEY:

Well, that's interesting.

DREA:

And they had this little horse show. Well, I think San Luis had it out at the Broadmoor [?] because there was a ring out there.

FINLEY:

That was a private school, wasn't it, the San Luis School?

DREA:

Yes, yes. The reason why she was in the private school at that time was because she--oh, she had entered a public school somewhere and she came--oh, [can't understand] the kids sat in pairs, you know, one chair next to the other, and the desk, in those days at least, and Elmsly--not Elmsly, who was it that took over--am I taking up too much time there?

FINLEY:

No, but I want to make sure we have enough time left on the tape--I'm just looking at it.

DREA:

Oh! You tell me when to cease.

FINLEY:

I will. I want to ask you some further questions about the Colorado Foundation for Research and Tuberculosis, and your memories of Dr. Boissevain and Dr. Webb, so perhaps when you--

DREA:

I don't want to say too much.

FINLEY:

You don't want to say too much about that--no?

DREA:

There are certain things that I was disappointed in life. [can't understand] and I declined it. I didn't decline it, I just didn't answer the letter, that's all. And Mrs. Gallagher--a darling woman, John Gallagher's mother--she's a wonderful person. The one person to whom I could look back with admiration for and she and another lady wrote me a letter requesting me to, but they put it on the basis of the Colorado Foundation, and Dr. Webb, and so forth.

FINLEY:

And you didn't particularly want to discuss that?

DREA:

I didn't want to discuss it.

FINLEY:

I see. Well, then, I won't ask you any further questions about--

DREA:

It might be better to not do so.

FINLEY:

All right.

DREA:

I don't want to seem like a heartless brute, now, I'm not. But things--most times, things are not--I was riding in with this young Swede--

FINLEY:

This morning?

DREA:

And he told me something--oh, yes, he said [laughter] he said, "I've got over \$1000 of checks that are no good!" And he accepted them in return for his work.

FINLEY:

Well, perhaps if you aren't interested in talking about this foundation, I presume anybody that wants to know further information about it can find it out by reading the annual reports of the foundation, certainly!

DREA:

Good girl! I knew you'd do the right thing! Yes!

FINLEY:

Okay. If you don't want to discuss it, that's fine.

DREA:

There are just so many things--we had a young graduate here--yeah, it was--he married a sister of Miss Kampf--Dr.--it'll come to me. A first-class man, he graduated from CC, this young man, and he went back to the Harvard Medical School to study medicine.

FINLEY:

Not Waring--it wasn't Waring?

DREA:

No, but he was an associate of Waring's. No, Waring--I think Waring probably came from a third-class medical school. That was--grievous part of the whole thing. But they set up relationships with some of these other--Miss Kampf, the librarian, told me that he had not been nice--Dr. Waring had not been nice, and I'm sorry to say that I never interviewed--I'm not that kind of a man, but I never asked even Miss Kampf--Louise Kampf or her sister Cora--I never got around to asking what was the trouble. But I'm sure that their relations were severed, and I'm sure that this young man was an honorable person.

FINLEY:

But you can't--

DREA:

He was that type of man.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

DREA:

But the Kampfs were good people.

FINLEY:

I see.

DREA:

I tell you Mrs. Kampf, the old lady, the mother, had cancer of the breast, and after she'd been operated on for awhile, and I knew the type of woman she was just from that kind of association, doctor and patient. And Louise Kampf was a remarkable person, and very good head of the library as it was in the old building.

FINLEY:

Now the--you just can't remember this young man's name, though, that he was an associate of Dr. Waring's?

DREA:

It'll come to me. Yeah, he was one of the good students here, a first-class person. Maybe before the interview is over--

FINLEY:

You'll think of it, right. Well, perhaps you'd rather talk about some of the other people around Colorado College, that you knew--

DREA:

I knew Mierow.

FINLEY:

Yes.

DREA:

In contrast with Duniway!

FINLEY:

Whom you didn't know well. Tell me something about Dr. Mierow. He was quite a scholar, wasn't he?

DREA:

Mierow was a great scholar, I'm sure. In the old traditions--what do they call that--say, in Greek? I don't know about Latin, but I think he was a great Greek scholar,

and so forth, a very earnest man, very modest man. I don't think he sought the presidency. I was over at the graduation exercise in the old building--what was the name of it, the old--

FINLEY:

Perkins Hall?

DREA:

Perkins Hall. These were the graduation exercises, and I was in the procession and all that, and on the stage, where the faculty sat, you know. And during the exercises, I remember Dr.--a physician who was also a graduate of CC--getting up as a trustee of the college, announcing that Dr. Mierow had just been elected president. That was the first announcement of the commencement exercises. And poor Mierow! He inherited a bunch of trouble.

FINLEY:

He did.

DREA:

And I knew something about the trouble. I, unfortunately, was not able to do anything about it. [whispers] It was terrible!

FINLEY:

There was some controversy over Dr. Duniway, who had alienated the student body, as I understand it.

DREA:

He probably had. I didn't know much about that. But I knew about the other. In one way, what was behind it. There was this issue: one man, who wanted to bring a woman into this country, and marry her, got himself appointed to the faculty, as some special--I don't know what his position was to be. It wasn't to do any active teaching. Boissevain [can't understand]

FINLEY:

All right.

DREA:

But I think it was terrible. I suppose it was done, probably, through Stewart.

FINLEY:

P. B. Stewart?

DREA:

Yeah. He was a close friend of Dr. Webb's, a very

close friend of Dr. Webb's, and Mrs. Boissevain had decided that this was to be her man, husband. But he was under obligation to marry this woman, who, by the way, was well-connected socially in Europe--the head of some tuberculosis resort, recuperating place.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

DREA:

And--

FINLEY:

But he was a friend of P. B. Stewart's, and was going to come to Colorado College, was this the root of the problem?

DREA:

No. Let me see. This man wanted to do research--that was all he could do. And he was a Dutchman . . . decided to settle in Colorado Springs, and because he needed a job and he thought he could do research. So--but I think his father insisted that he go through with this engagement, and marry the girl. She was a Roman Catholic, however, and he had no use for Catholics. [can't understand] But he did get married to her at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City!

FINLEY:

New York City.

DREA:

Wasn't that something?

FINLEY:

Hmmm.

DREA:

[can't understand] And he lived with her about three weeks, and gave it up, moved out on her. And she went back to Europe to rejoin her family. I think he may have been in love with [can't understand] then--I don't know. But anyway, he married her, and that relationship led actually, I think, to the start of the Colorado Foundation for Research in Tuberculosis. I mean, she put some money into it.

FINLEY:

This was his second wife you're talking about?

DREA:

Yes.

FINLEY:
Yeah, I see.

DREA:

She put some money into it, and started the campaign to get monies.

FINLEY:

And was she a local Colorado Springs person?

DREA:

She was living here, but from Illinois. She was a big shot in social circles.

FINLEY:

What was her maiden name, or what was her name?

DREA:

Yeah, Dangler, D-a-n-g-l-e-r.

FINLEY:

Dangler--never heard of her.

DREA:

And she was a [can't understand] woman of some influence, standing. Dr. Webb said her grandfather was the first man, who was a physician, one of the first to organize the American Medical Association. Anyway, they got that going, [can't understand] he was able to get the divorce--she had deserted him or something. Now what were--

FINLEY:

Well, you were talking about the problems that Dr. Mierow had had--

DREA:

Yes! This cockeyed world! You don't know it yet!

FINLEY:

Oh, I know it! [laughter] I'm learning!

DREA:

[can't understand] You don't know from personal experience. But there are always ways, apparently, of getting around, and getting what you want, if you know how to do it. This woman couldn't come into the country as an immigrant--the quota was up or something or other--except she got married this way. And they were married in St. Patrick's Cathedral--do you have that?

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

DREA:

That's correct. And he left her in three weeks, resumed his relationship with his companion here, with the woman who was to be his wife, Mrs. [can't understand]

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

DREA:

[can't understand] --I'm not sure. And then together, they started the idea of this Colorado Foundation for Research in Tuberculosis. She put some money into it, perhaps \$10,000. And Dr. Webb, many of his patients were wealthy.

FINLEY:

And they subscribed to it?

DREA:

Yeah, [can't understand] different parts of the country, and they organized a writing campaign to get them to subscribe, and that's how they-- But--it had to be done through Dr. Mierow--

FINLEY:

Oh, I see.

DREA:

--To get him appointed. He was the appointing agent in that case, Boissevain was a member of the faculty. Now, I don't know what happened, but Boissevain became a bitter enemy of Mierow. I think that perhaps--Mierow was a very sensitive man. When I say sensitive, he knew what was right, and what was not right, and if anybody did anything that seemed a little bit shady, he'd let them know--by the expression on his face, if nothing else.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

DREA:

He couldn't help it; it was in his nature to do so.

FINLEY:

Sure.

DREA:

And undoubtedly, that happened. I don't know that it happened.

FINLEY:

But there was some friction between them.

DREA:

Oh, dear! Boissevain got to hate him!

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

DREA:

Well, that was step number one. Really hated him--
despised him. It was hatred, prompted by hatred, because
Mierow was a scholar. There no doubt about it--he was a
scholar!

FINLEY:

Yes.

DREA:

Too bad they ever made him president! He was a
scholar.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

DREA:

He was not a fighting man.

FINLEY:

No.

DREA:

A gentleman.

FINLEY:

Well, if there was such hatred between them, how did
the rest of the faculty tolerate this foundation in the
basement of Palmer Hall, or was that all--never known about--
all this public--

DREA:

I suppose the only one that knew about that was
Douglas, probably, and the president of the college.

FINLEY:

I see.

DREA:

Just at the foundation. But Gilmore hated Mierow.

FINLEY:

Hmmmmmm.

DREA:

Did you know that?

FINLEY:

No, I didn't know that!

DREA:

Actually hated him just as much as Boissevain did.

FINLEY:

Really? I didn't know that.

DREA:

I think probably Gilmore would have preferred it himself, and Gilmore was a very spiteful kind of man. He was not a good person--he was not what you expect of a good teacher, in his personal relations.

FINLEY:

Hmmmm. He was the mayor of Colorado Springs at one time, wasn't he--Gilmore?

DREA:

Oh, he was certainly on the City Council. He was that type.

FINLEY:

I see.

DREA:

And then there's another man. I've forgotten what he taught, maybe philosophy or psychology--Hein, Heim [?]. His daughter--you must know about it. His daughter got killed down here--about 18, 19 years old. It was on a little bridge out in Ivywild. She was there with some boys and girls, just chewing the rag, talking, you know, and she fell off the bridge into the little brook below and got killed.

FINLEY:

I don't know.

DREA:

Well, that son of a gun waited until his permanent tenure was assured, and he joined up with the other two, and they made it inevitable that Mierow resign.

FINLEY:

That Mierow resign?

DREA:

They got the students stirred up, and the students did funny things, that they shouldn't have done, principal--they came from good families, and they just made it as tough as they possibly could, and finally, the poor man--and I think

the trustees agreed with him, that he should resign.

FINLEY:

Hmmmm. Of course, I'm sure the college was in some financial difficulty at that time, due to the Depression and so forth.

DREA:

Yes, that's probably right.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

DREA:

Yeah. Oh, yes, Mierow came up to the office [can't understand] I mean, I don't think that Dr. Webb could have forced--but maybe [can't understand] First National Bank--he'd better go over and get that check! [can't understand] I gave a little money--took me five years to pay it off--it was \$100. It was the Depression!

FINLEY:

That was a lot in those days.

DREA:

Took me five years to pay that thing off.

FINLEY:

Yeah. Well, so Mierow was a scholar and had difficulty as an administrator, I guess is a good summary of what you're trying to say.

DREA:

Yes. And Mierow was a good man!

FINLEY:

Oh, I know.

DREA:

If he had been--he'd have fitted in with a New England college perfectly, or some of the Midwest colleges, perfectly.

FINLEY:

Yes.

DREA:

Here, if he didn't have that kind of opposition, he'd have been ideal, too.

FINLEY:

Yes. Well, tell me just a little bit about Dr. Webb as a person. I have heard many stories about Dr. Webb riding

around in his little old-fashioned automobile, and his popularity with his patients. Was he still quite active in his medical practice all these years that he was associated with this foundation?

DREA:

Yes. His association with the foundation was as president. He very seldom came around--

FINLEY:

Oh, so he wasn't actually involved in the day-to-day work?

DREA:

I don't remember. Dr. Boissevain didn't think he knew anything about research, which made Dr. Webb very angry, you know. [can't understand] and it finally got back to Dr. Webb, and he was rather serious about it, he certainly was. But I think Boissevain was right!

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. So Boissevain was really the day-to-day manager, and Webb was just a kind of president in name, and, I presume, fund-raiser?

DREA:

Yes, he was a fund-raiser. Because he did have these contacts with--

FINLEY:

In the community.

DREA:

But I spoke to A. E. Carlton--do you know of him around here?

FINLEY:

I've heard many stories about him--tell me another one!
[laughter] He must have been quite a--

DREA:

I had him as a patient.

FINLEY:

You did?

DREA:

Oh, I had some of the greats as patients! I happened to say something about Dr. Webb to Carlton. Carlton was connected with him through Cragmor [can't understand] [extraneous noise] It was remarkable Dr. Webb [can't

understand] attracted people from the East--wealthy people. He could get [can't understand] when they came to Colorado Springs [can't understand] care of some member of their family [can't understand] associated with the Broadmoor Hotel so he could take care of some of these people. [can't understand] find out later. Carlton didn't have especially good feelings for Webb. A number of people didn't.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

DREA:

Have you heard that?

FINLEY:

No.

DREA:

[can't understand] since you're not quoting me on some of this stuff. Why, I was told by a man who listened in on this. Dr. Forster, who was the head of the Cragmor Sanitorium assailed Webb [can't understand] to him directly. Told the things that he had told Webb were unbelievable, in condemning him. And Dr. Webb--[laughter] [can't understand] told to do certain things by Dr. Webb, and I generally went along with him. I revered him in the beginning. Just did.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

DREA:

And always good conduct. I think he was a graduate of a dental school, you know, himself, back in London. And back at Harvard we didn't think much of the English dentistry taught. But Webb didn't want that generally known, that he was a graduate of a dental school.

FINLEY:

Of a dental school.

DREA:

And I think he graduated from a third-class medical school in Denver. Now you're not putting that into your--

FINLEY:

Just saying that he was a dentist.

DREA:

But he didn't want that known. His family don't want it known.

FINLEY:

Oh! Well, then I won't mention it!

DREA:

I'm sure they don't.

FINLEY:

But he was also a doctor.

DREA:

Doctor of Medicine-- [can't understand] graduated
[can't understand] Waring.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

DREA:

That's what makes me furious about Waring. Waring, I think, graduated from the same school. I happened to be around then, I think I was probably working for the foundation, when this man came in from the East, Dr. --oh, I almost have it. One, I think, was the head of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. The other--Abe was [can't understand] Anyway, the purpose was when we visited this man was to--the medical school in Denver had been a private medical school, owned by some individuals. It was not a part of the university, in the early days.

FINLEY:

I see.

DREA:

And this man, Abe, had come here to--and successfully did it--transfer--made good arrangements so there wasn't any fighting over it. Made it a part of the University of Colorado.

FINLEY:

Hmmm.

DREA:

And I think that both Webb and Waring were graduates--

FINLEY:

Of that medical school.

DREA:

And the man in Denver was a graduate of that school before--and it did reorganization, there's no doubt about that, because it took far more money and far more prestige to have a good faculty, and laboratories and one thing and another for teaching medicine--physiology and such things.

FINLEY:

Well, we're just about--we've been talking almost an hour here, and I don't want to tire you--

DREA:

You don't want to--

END