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Dr. Henn, you went to the University of Nebraska?

Henn: Yes, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and to the University of Nebraska College of Medicine.

Hetzner: But according to the information I have, after you got your degree from the University of Nebraska, you went to the University of Minnesota. Was that before you entered Medical School?

Henn: Yes. I was going to carry on a career in Microbiology. So, I went to the University of Minnesota and indeed did receive my Master's Degree. Now, I can't give you the exact year.

Hetzner: I think I have it on your biographical sketch.

Henn: All right. But it was war time.

Hetzner: Oh, it was.

Henn: It was back.

Hetzner: Was it some kind of an accelerated program or was this the regular program?

Henn: No, regular program and I was going to start my Ph.D., but it was
wartime and they needed, they were drafting men all over the place and they needed someone out at the University of West Virginia, Morgantown, West Virginia, and reluctantly they decided to give me that opportunity. So I went thinking, well I can work in the Microbiology Department there and still work on my Ph.D. on my own time. And so I left Minnesota, right after receiving my Master's and went to Morgantown, West Virginia landing there (laughter), I won't describe the weather, and

HETZNER: Worse than Nebraska?
HENN: Oh, ever been in a coal mining town with rain coming down (laughter) and nothing but soot in your face. That's what I ...

HETZNER: Never been in a place like that.
HENN: It was, it was a holiday season. I left home right after Christmas. So I went to Morgantown.

HETZNER: May I ask you, you said they reluctantly gave you this. Why did you use the word reluctantly?
HENN: I think women were not that popular.

HETZNER: It was because of your being a woman?
HENN: I had the credentials but I won't get into any ERA, but ...

HETZNER: It was a sign of the times, though, wasn't it?
HENN: Yes. And the Chief there, I might say at this time that West Virginia was a two year, with the Basic Science. It was not a full four year medical school. And so, I came as the Assistant to a very, you look back in history, been a famous man, Rob Spaulding Spray for whom the spray dish was named which is anaerobic culture dish.

HETZNER: And Rob, was his middle name?
Spray. And he did not exactly appreciate a woman either, and so the man that had to go to the army who had been his assistant was named, I don't even know his school name, but it was Charlie. He never called me anything but Charlie. (Laughter). I was Charlie.

I'm afraid...that name didn't follow you, though, did it?

No, not from there. For awhile, well so we'd been there for awhile and he was not too well and he got ill himself (he had bronchiectasis --I don't know if that makes any difference or not but it did there) and he had to quit. And there I was. I was the Department of Microbiology.

How many students did you have?

Forty. And so I lectured to them in Microbiology. I also decided they needed something else so I started a school of medical technology because in my past I had been a medical technologist, and earned at Nebraska I might add, and I started a school of medical technology there and finally we got help in the form of a man whose name was John Slack. He came from Nebraska, who used to work with me and Dr. Millard Gunderson.

Oh yes. Well, you worked then as a med tech in Omaha before you went to West Virginia, because Millard Gunderson was here?

Yea, I worked for him as a med tech. Excuse my voice.

That's all right.

So John took over and one day the Dean out there called me in and said, Mary,"what are you doing here." I told him. He said,"But you really want to go to medical school?" I said, "Well, I know more microbiology than they are ever going to know, but I want to
know what they're learning." True. He said, "Well, you can stay 
here, teach half time, and go to medical school here." "Well," I 
said, "Gee whiz, it takes me four years to do the first two years. 
Then I got to go some place to finish."

HETZNER: Finish up, yea.
HENN: And he said, "Well, you think about it." So I said, "Well, I'm 
going to take a vacation and I'm going back to Omaha." And I 
came back here and the Dean was Dr. Poynter.

HETZNER: Oh, way back then. Well, it was still war time, wasn't it?
HENN: And I went into Dr. Poynter and told him about this and he just 
laughed and said, "We wondered why you never did this. We knew 
you probably should and would." He sent me down to interview 

Dr. Perry Tollman, who said, "Well, I see you finally made 
up your mind." I went back upstairs and I was in medical school. 
(laughter). Just like that. You needn't go through all this 
admissions application. You talked to Dr. Poynter.

HETZNER: MCAT Test. This is exactly what Holyoke said. That Dr. Poynter 
ran the school and if he said you were in, you were in.
HENN: You were in and you didn't talk to anybody else. You didn't take 
any MCAT Test, Medical College Admissions Test. You didn't do 
anything like that, like they do now and then apply to 
fifteen schools and have Admissions Committees working on you and 
all that business of being interviewed. If Dr. Poynter said, 
"You're in, you're in."

HETZNER: And he didn't make many mistakes either, did he?
HENN: Well, now that sounds like I'm bragging but I don't think so. 
(Laughter) Sorry.

HETZNER: Well, but from all I hear, though, he ran the school that way.
HENN: He did.

HETZNER: He picked the students that way and these were the students that turned out to be pretty darn good physicians.

HENN: Yes, mam, they did.

HETZNER: And they all come back and say nice things about him.

HENN: He was a very straight forward, honest, and you didn't need to worry. Whatever he said, you could take as this is the way it is and it's fact and it's true. I admire him tremendously.

HETZNER: This is what everyone that I've talked to has said, and it's his, you see, when I knew him it was just after he'd retired.

HENN: And there are many people who tried to be Dean (laughter). Maybe I should not...

HETZNER: That's all right. This is the kind of information that...

HENN: Well, Dr. Rudy Schenken wanted badly to be Dean but he was not chosen. I don't know whether the Board of Regents did that or how it was done, and he had a very able and fine assistant. There was Dr. Benjamin. Remember Dr. Benjamin?

HETZNER: Oh yes.

HENN: He was a fine man. And then about that time the war was either over or he got out or he done his term, J. Perry Tollman was out of the service and came back and became Dean.

HETZNER: Now, wait a minute.

HENN: Isn't that right?

HETZNER: J. Perry Tollman didn't come until after Dr. Lueth left.

HENN: Oh, that's right. We had Dr. Lueth, Dr. Harold Lueth.

HETZNER: We had Dr. Harold Lueth taking over the Deanship after Poynter retired.

HENN: That's right and he was from Evanston.
Yes. And when he left, Perry was still in Service because he didn't go with the rest of them. He was the Assistant Dean and he went off to the Air Force sometime along about 1950, because he was frozen in his job, I believe.

That could have been. But when I graduated, I thought, I guess Lueth was still Dean then.

When did you graduate?

1950.

Yes. It was Lueth. But then as I understand that Lueth apparently antagonized some people.

Well, he was very much medically and capability wise, I am sure he was very fine but he had that sort of "now hear this."

Too much army.

Too much army, and in fact the Seniors at their annual banquet were not very kind to him.

I was there. The one with the big eagles.

Yes, and the brown shoes with the dark blue suit and they gave him a white shirt because he was always wearing his old, brown army shirts. (Laughter.)

Yes. I remember that. That was up at the Blackstone.

Yes, yes indeed.

Well, then you see, after Lueth left, you must have been, you did your internship in Illinois.

Then I went to Chicago Research and Education Hospitals in Chicago, University of Illinois for my year's internship.

And when you came back Perry Tollman was Dean.

Well, you see I went from there to the Mayo Clinic.

To Mayo's, yes.
HENN: Because I had decided to specialize, in internal medicine, and I had the opportunity and was accepted.

HETZNER: Oh, that was grand.

HENN: It's tremendous. Of course it was nothing like it is today. I went, did most of my services and things in the old building that still has the bell and so on that ring.

HETZNER: The Plummer Building.

HENN: (Laughter.) That's right, the old Plummer Building. And then they started building the new and I got to be in there, they got it finished, so I got to do two or three services in there and that was about it. But they went out of the Plummer Building and sort of moved across the street.

HETZNER: Yes. This is kind of across the street.

HENN: Kind of across the street from the Plummer Building. And that hotel, Kahler.

HETZNER: Was that a four year residency? Three?

HENN: Three years. That was what was required but I stayed on because I got interested in endocrinology and did some extra work in metabolic disease under Edward Rynearson, and I think, Bernice, but I'm not sure, but I want to say Howard but there's a big man in rheumatism.

HETZNER: The one that first indicated cortisone?

HENN: Right.

HETZNER: Begins with "f". Isn't it Fink?

HENN: No. That's not it. I can't remember.

HETZNER: I can look it up.

HENN: Yea. I can't say it now. I want to say Howard Polly but there was
HETZNER: There were two fellows that wrote about it. Somebody and somebody that. I can remember the library articles; everybody wanted to read them.

HENN: Yea. Why can't I say his name?

HETZNER: Well, I'll look it up.

HENN: But it had to do with the use of cortisone and ACTH. We didn't know what we were doing with it either.

HETZNER: We got sort of strange tales about the side effects.

HENN: Yes, there was. I'm very upset that I can't remember the doctor's name. He was so well known. But I can't.

HETZNER: It's like we were watching television this morning and this face came on. They were celebrating some kind of an anniversary for the Today Show and kept saying, "Who is that, who is that." Dave Garroway. (Laughter.) Couldn't think until they told us who that was.

HENN: You want to know something. I had Dave Garroway once for a patient.

HETZNER: Oh, you did! Up at Mayo's?

HENN: Yes. (Laughter.) He was having an emotional problem.

HETZNER: Oh, really.

HENN: Yes, and that's quite a few year's ago.

HETZNER: That's probably when he was in his hey day and the stress was getting to him.

HENN: Yes. Well, then, they offered me the opportunity to stay at Mayo and I decided that I had been living with a silver spoon in my mouth. I had it made! And I wondered what I could do on my own. So, I was invited down here to give a speech because they were
looking. They had a head of the Department of Medicine but
nothing else. They were just beginning to have Departments of
Medicine and Surgery and they were...

HETZNER: You don't mean Moody. It was Grissom.

HENN: Yes. Well, he was the chief and I was the first person he hired.
I created all of the...they had a degree but not a degree but a
rank that they don't have any more. I came down as instructor
in Internal Medicine thinking what better place could I be than
at a teaching institution to get ready to take my Boards. So
then they hired me and I was advanced to what they called Associate
which they don't even have that rank any more. And then from there
then they hired Fred Paustian and I became Assistant Professor.

HETZNER: Did Paustian start out as an instructor?
HENN: Yes.

HETZNER: Well sure, he'd just finished his residency right there, hadn't he?
HENN: That's right. And then we hired Cal Davis and he became Associate
Professor so now we had all the ranks from Instructor to Professor.
And then later after -- those were the popular -- they had to
publish or perish.

HETZNER: We sure have to publish. We can't just get it handed to you. We
have to do something.
HENN: I had to get busy and write some papers.

HETZNER: You passed your Boards way back.
HENN: I passed my Boards.
HENN: The first time you took them.
HENN: And I said, "Well, I'll guess I'll leave." Famous last words. I
ever left. (Laughter.) I stayed. I enjoy teaching.
HETZNER: I'm sure the students all enjoyed having you teach. Wasn't that one of the great rewards: that these students seem to respond.

HENN: Yes, they did. And I did get some of the "baddies" at the banquets. In fact they invented some that I tried to bury. I have one of them.

HETZNER: Which one is that?
HENN: It's the finger.

HETZNER: Oh. (Laughter.)
HENN: It's at home, because it really hurts the people's feelings. It wasn't funny.

HETZNER: I didn't like that either. No. I don't know whether they still do it or not. I haven't gone to a banquet for sometime.

HENN: They do some of those. I haven't either, but they do some things. But it isn't all that bad any more. That finger really hurt people.

HETZNER: It seems to me that they went too far at one time and then they kind of decided to stop.

HENN: You know, maybe, I don't think I'll tell this. The cast of that hand -- Do you know whose hand that is?

HETZNER: No.
HENN: Should I tell?
HETZNER: Sure. You can tell me anyway.
HENN: Cal Davis.

HETZNER: Oh really, well...
HENN: He posed for it. He was in the Class of '67 and that was the first year they had it, and of course it kept on for years. And many times, they kept on wanting to give it to people, I mean a couple of years I asked them to give it to me. I didn't care. I mean, you know, instead of giving it to me by name, they gave it to me
by the gift to national boards while I was in charge of their
taking national boards, so they gave it to national boards, and
I hope, they also, well they wanted to give it to some of our
Regents sometimes but it never got done.

HETZNER: It's probably just as well.
HENN: Yes, it's just as well. (Laughter)
HETZNER: I remember the year that Bob Stratbucker put on the movie. Do you
remember the movie?
HENN: Oh my goodness.
HETZNER: Wasn't that fun.
HENN: Oh, yes.
HETZNER: That kind of broke the spell of this hazing. He put on this --
it included a lot of funny things with the faculty but it was a
fun thing rather than...
HENN: Yea, they'd come up and you'd do something. I don't know. I think
I was in a couple of them. I don't know.
HETZNER: They kept having Samani come by and dropping down a manhole or
something. You remember Samani?
HENN: Vaguely.
HETZNER: He was from one of the near east countries, and I remember they
had McWhorter and some of those guys dressed up like, you know,
like on Guys and Dolls.
HENN: Yes, they picked on McWhorter, they picked on various people. They
picked on Dr. Gibbs. They picked on, you know. I don't like some
of that. I just don't like that. But you know all these memories
of things, we had an awfully lot of fun.
HETZNER: Didn't we though.
HENN: While we were building.

HETZNER: Yes, yes. It was at a time when almost everybody knew everybody else.

HENN: Everybody knew everybody else. That old dumb parking lot out in back and the old building Wards A and B and C and D, and then in the back there was Ward H which was women's medicine and across the way was a good friend of mine. Her name was Bernice Hetzner (laughter) at the library.

HETZNER: We didn't have any air conditioning and we had the windows open and dust from all that construction for Children's Hospital. They'd come in you know. They graded that bank down.

HENN: Were they doing anything about Eppley?

HETZNER: No.

HENN: Clarkson was across.

HETZNER: Clarkson was going up in the middle '50's.

HENN: Yea, and moving from downtown.

HETZNER: Yes. Didn't that building open about 1954 or 5?

HENN: Somewhere in there, yes.

HETZNER: That's about the same time that NPI opened.

HENN: Right.

HETZNER: And Cecil Wittson came to town.

HENN: And Cecil Wittson came and there is a great man.

HETZNER: Isn't he wonderful.

HENN: Let me tell you something. If anybody could get blood out of a turnip, Cecil Wittson did it and can do it, I think, to this day. He's a very fine man.

HETZNER: Oh, we just wouldn't have the library we have if it wasn't or if it hadn't been for Dr. Wittson.
HENN: Well, he was always being recognized for something by the community and the one thing I remember is being that he couldn't sit still. He would come in my office to talk and I was right across the hall, and he'd come into the office to talk and he was sort of a chain smoker and when he left, he'd pace back and forth and back and forth, and I felt like I'd been watching a tennis game. And every ashtray in my office was full of cigarettes.

HETZNER: He stopped smoking, did you know that?

HENN: Oh, I'm sure he has or did.

HETZNER: He did a year or so ago.

HENN: Well, he was ill, quite ill.

HETZNER: Yes, and I guess that's when.

HENN: He had some cardiac disease and he just had to quit.

HETZNER: I've been telling the people on about getting in touch with Cecil Wittson and seeing if I can interview him. I'm practicing on some of you people, before I get to Cecil. (Laughter.)

HENN: But, we would never, I don't think, have had the expansion at the University without him.

HETZNER: No. He was apparently in touch with everything that was going on because he would say to me, "I'm going to give you some more money for the library." And fine, you know we were always poor. And then a year or two years later we'd find out that there was Federal money on a matching basis, depending on what you'd spent over the last couple years and he knew this was coming. How he knew all these things I don't know.

HENN: I don't know either, but like I said he had his ear into everything and his eye on everything.

HETZNER: Oh yes.
HENN: If there was any money to be had, he could get it.

HETZNER: This is what Rena Boyle said he would always say, "Well, tell me what you want. I'm not sure I can get it for you but tell me what you want. You plan your program." And she said almost everytime he came up with whatever it took to do it.

HENN: Well that's when you knew he'd been to HDR and we had money.

HETZNER: That's right.

HENN: He himself was a tremendous psychiatrist and he had given it up and given himself to the development of the University and the College of Medicine.

HETZNER: Well, don't you think his background in psychiatry

(End of Side 1, Tape 1)

HENN: What I think was sort of a small time operation grew, developed, and became, I'm very proud, sincerely, to be a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine; and I think I'm, I mean, so I'm glad the famous last words came. I could stay at Mayo but I came here and stayed here and I'M NOT SORRY!

HETZNER: Well, that's great and you know we have graduates all around the world, up and down the country and they're well thought of.

HENN: Oh, indeed.

HETZNER: People like Tupper and some of those fellows.

HENN: See Tupper became Dean of Irvine, the University of California.

HETZNER: Or was it Davis?

HENN: Davis, you may be right, University of California, Davis. I was thinking of Irvine. And gee I can't -- we've got some other old --

HETZNER: Bob Volz is just going great guns in Orthopedics down in Arizona.

HENN: Yes.
HETZNER: V O L Z.
HENN: Yea, I believe that's right.
HETZNER: Yea.
HENN: And we've got, well...
HETZNER: We've got nice people like DeRoin and Weeks, DeRoin and Weeks but I was trying to think of some of these; people like Frank Land who went around to develop, back to Washington and develop areas back there, and who I thought was a tremendous man, is a tremendous man.
HETZNER: Yes.
HENN: Although he himself is not too well right now.
HETZNER: Cecil Wittson was able to bring that research man to Lincoln, the one who was in charge of the grants office. I'm like you, the name. He had worked in HEW, NIH in the grants program and then he brought him back to Lincoln, and he had...
HENN: All I can think of is the woman that was with him.
HETZNER: Oh, you're thinking of Sally Chapple.
HENN: Yes, well her husband was a famous pediatrician.
HETZNER: Well, he wanted to come here for the Veteran's Administration so Sally had worked in various public health areas.
HENN: Cause I know she worked right in the office area where I worked, was her office, but she wasn't working for me.
HETZNER: And then there was Kugel.
HENN: Yes, there was Dr. Kugel, who was a very fine pediatrician.
HETZNER: Kugel was ...
HENN: A bit controversial as a Dean, but who doesn't become controversial?
HETZNER: Everybody gets into controversies, now and then, but he was the advocate of this three year program. Right?
HENN: Yes, I think he was very much part of the three year program. Which, by the way, I'm glad to see went out of the.

HETZNER: It's out now, isn't it?

HENN: Yea, because I don't think these young men and young women were having to make up their minds about what they wanted to specialize in before they hardly knew what the basic sciences were all about, and they didn't know what when matching time came around and applying for residencies, they weren't ready. Really, Bernice, it was bad.

HETZNER: Well, I was in a...

HENN: In some ways, maybe I'm sure there was some good in it, too.

HETZNER: But I had occasion to look at a record of a student, he was a very good student up until the last year and then, boom. You know dropped from say third, fourth, fifth in the class down to way below the middle and I thought what happened to this person. And then I realized he graduated in three years and I bet you it was just too much of a push.

HENN: Yes. He had to make up his mind about things. He didn't have time to really sit down and ponder now, do I want to be in pediatrics; do I want to be in medicine; do I want to be a surgeon; do I want to be a generalist. By the way there is no such thing as a GP any more in that sense. It in its self, family practice, is a specialty and they must take the training for it.

HETZNER: Well, what you said, you see, just bears it out in this particular instance. He didn't go into his specialty until about ten years after he graduated. It took him all that time to, you know, kind of get himself oriented again.

HENN: Yes. True. And then we did a thing that we were interested in because I had a visit from a young man the other day that I couldn't
believe my eyes. At the time of the Bay of Pigs and this man and his brother escaped from Cuba when Castro took over and they got to this country, Florida, and then somehow up to Nebraska and got their parents out and they went to the University in Lincoln and he appeared on the scene the other day, Carlos -- No, not Carlos, that's the brother -- Jose Prendes and he's going to be associated. At the present time they just decided to associate him with our Department of Neurology at the Medical Center.

HETZNER: Great.

HENN: All the way around the clock.

HETZNER: Yea.

HENN: And I think that people thought we were crazy but these were fine young people and why should they be denied. But they were not going to stay in Cuba with Castro.

HETZNER: I think that...

HENN: You know there's so many things that go on in this world that have been going on. It goes so that you wonder sometimes who, that old joke, who's on first. (Laughter.) But we really, just to see it develop, to see the school develop, other universities that were nothing have picked up. It's just like little two year West Virginia is a well known four year school now, with some very fine people. The University of South Dakota was two year, now it's a full four year school, and their former Dean was with us.

HETZNER: Yes, but he is still working. He told me where he is working, just as kind of a part time. He's working in a lab out on Pacific Street, some biological.

HENN: Dr. Hard?

HETZNER: Yes, Dr. Hard.
HENN: Really!

HETZNER: Yea, he's retired you know, but he just does this for fun, you know. Just having a ball. (Laughter.)

Dr. Latta, he comes down to the library three days a week.

HENN: Can I tell you the story about him?

HETZNER: Sure.

HENN: We were so frightened as medical students, when we were in embryology and after an exam we'd wait for him and when he'd come to the door and start walking through there, wait for that hand on the shoulder. And if he said, "Miss Henn, would you come down to my office." Your heart would just go -- blank -- but when you got down there he might tell you could flunk, he might say, you know, that was one of the best exams. You never knew what was going to happen. You'd either come back on the clouds or you came back with your tail between your legs.

HETZNER: But he was never mean about it?

HENN: Never.

HETZNER: No, that's what I understand.

HENN: A perfect gentlemen, just absolutely perfect gentlemen.

Then there was A. Ross McIntyre who earned his own kind of fame, in his own way. Some favorable and some not so favorable.

HETZNER: He was a very interesting person.

HENN: Very interesting person.

HETZNER: He tells stories from here to there.

HENN: Oh, my yes. My yes. And Dr. Bennett.

HETZNER: Dr. Bennett, I read a letter from him today. Dr. Grissom is going to go out to Colorado to visit him and Dr. Grissom is going to take some tapes along.
Oh great.

And he's going to talk to Lawrence Bennett.

Lawrence Bennett. Well I hadn't even thought of him in years but he was a nice man, delightful man.

They spend their winters in Arizona and their summers in Colorado.

We haven't forgotten Gundy now.

No, let's talk about Gundy.

Oh boy. Millard Fillmore and Millard F. Gunderson. He was quite a man. He came from Minnesota. No, he came from up in the corner right near there. His wife, Doris, was a nurse from Minnesota. He came from right up in the northeast corner...

Of South Dakota?

No, our state. I can't think of the name of the darn town.

Up around Sioux Falls and that way, er Sioux City?

Oh darn, just can't say it.

I'll look it up.

Well, anyhow, when I first came up here to Medical School, I didn't have any place to stay and because I'd worked for him as a medical tech they gave me a room and their son was in medical school and I lived at the Gundersons.

Was that when they lived there at 42nd Street?

Well, he made that all into apartments. For awhile, yes, they lived upstairs and he built an apartment in the basement with two sets of bunkbeds and a bunch of us, either sometimes two of us, sometimes four of us, lived down there. I was one of them. We looked out, our windows were right on his lawn. We were not way in the basement, you know what I mean. We were sort of half down.

Did it look out towards the Phi Rho House?
HENN: No, we looked out on 42nd Street. Well, it looked right out on the Phi Rho House, too, and we used to watch the shenanigans at the Phi Rho House sometimes, their parties. (Laughter.)

HETZNER: Well, when was it that you did the research that went into Dial soap?

HENN: While I was working for Gundy.

HETZNER: You worked for Gundy before you went to Medical School.

HENN: I was trying to finance myself.

HETZNER: While you were in medical school? You and Bob Rosenlof worked on this. You remember him?

HENN: Bob Rosenlof?

HETZNER: You all, everybody went around with some kind of a culture.

HENN: What I did was called G-11 and they didn't have a name for the soap then, Armour and Company, and then hexachlorophene, and then what we did was go around to the wards and we would scrub somebody's tummy, half of it with Dial soap and the other half with an ordinary green soap that they scrubbed with, and then we would apply these little tiny blood agar plates and then culture them and then count the bacteria and found out the hexachlorophene was much better. We scrubbed a shorter length of time. Then we went up to surgery and we had the surgeons scrub three minutes with our hexachlorophene and the other scrub the usual (I forget the length of time) people are going into surgery, and then we would have one of these blood agar plates underneath his gloves. And then when they'd take their gloves off we'd rescue the plates and do the same thing; count the bacteria colonies, and we found out that they could cut the scrub way down and so Armour liked that and the next thing you know Dial soap came out.

HETZNER: And they've used it ever since.
HENN: I guess so. I don't know.

HETZNER: I have.

HENN: Well I have. (Laughter.)

HETZNER: Dr. McQuiddy was mixed up with that, wasn't he?

HENN: I can't remember.

HETZNER: You had a publication on it and cited some of the books.

HENN: Yes, I did do a publication on it, because I wanted people to know about it. And then people got unhappy with hexachlorophene and they started taking it out of things. You know, this day and age, Bernice, something that is supposed to be perfectly fine, I myself have a problem which is neither here nor there, but requires that I cannot eat regular sugar so I use sugar substitutes. Those dummies, now, decide because some lonely rat someplace (laughter)... I think the worst one was when they came out this week and said that there was something in scotch whiskey.

HENN: Well, I didn't hear that.

HETZNER: Yes, this weekend. They named the brands. Chivas Regal and Cutty Sark and J. and B. and Ballentine.

HENN: My gracious. Why, Chivas Regal is...

HETZNER: And it's got the nitrosamines, minute amounts of it, and this is a cancer causing agent. And the guys from the Edinburgh Association of Scotch distilleries researchers are just up in arms about it.

HENN: I thought I was giving somebody a really marvelous Christmas present if I gave them some Chivas Regal.

HETZNER: Sure, sure. They said Johnny Walker Black and White also was named. But it was in the paper, I believe, yesterday or the day before.

HENN: Pretty soon we won't be able to eat anything or drink anything. If they take saccharin off I'm going to have a living fit.
HETZNER: Someplace along the line somebody's going to have to drop off of that.

HENN: Well, we've got a new HEW Secretary. Maybe that'll be it.

HETZNER: We've still got the same Undersecretary of Health, Julie Richmond.

HENN: Yes, true, but Califano was never one of my favorites and I don't know this woman but give it a try. Why not.

HETZNER: It looks like you're going to get some attention here.

HENN: I hope so.

HETZNER: Don't you think it would be a good idea if I came back?

HENN: Is it going the way you want it to go?

HETZNER: Sure. It's just great.

(New tape)

HETZNER: Tell me what you remember most about Cecil Wittson.

HENN: There's an awful lot to say. As I may have mentioned earlier in the tape, if there was a man who could get blood out of a turnip, he was it, and if a decision was made and everybody said it was impossible, he could make it come true, and he was a very, very, very smart man. I mean to say he had a lot of foresight and some of his thoughts and ideas for the future have come true. I am sure a lot more would. I just thought he was one of the finest men I ever had the privilege of being associated with, really. He's not only to me, but to the college in general and its growth. I think he's a key figure in its growth.

HETZNER: Oh I'm sure of that.

HENN: A lot of people thought he was crazy and some of the things he did, but it always worked out right.

HETZNER: It always worked out, didn't it.

HENN: Yea, it always worked out.
HENTZNER: He sometimes pushed you.

HENN: Well, we needed it I think.

HENTZNER: I know I did, but it always worked out that he knew what he was doing. His relationship with the people in the community was good, too.

HENN: Very good. He was highly respected. All the time we were going out to lunch I remember because he was being honored by the Lion's Club or the Kiwanis Club or the Chamber of Commerce, and so forth. I remember a couple of luncheons and I might have said this earlier on this talking that we're doing, but I remember at the one, he said "Well, you know I used to be a psychiatrist and a doctor, but" and then he stopped and wiggled his mustache, which he had a habit of doing, "come to think of it, I guess I'm still a psychiatrist. All my people have white coats on and are chairmen of departments. (Laughter.)"

HENTZNER: True, very true.

HENN: I have even adopted that, at times, as a cop out, I guess. I said "Well I used to be, before coming up here to the Dean's Office, I used to be an internist but I'm not anymore because, well, maybe I still am only mine have little tags on saying M-1, M-2, M-3, M-4," (Laughter.) making use of Cecil's wittiness, so I don't make any claim to fame. But, I just, this is real hard to put him in any single perspective. He was into everything. He not only did his administrative work but he might just turn up in the clinics, strolling through the clinics seeing how things were running.

HENTZNER: I understand he used to go down on Sunday mornings, sometimes, and stroll around through the hospital. You might be interested in this story. He was in the hospital, you know for sometime. According to Dr. Records (he told me the story) that Dr. Wittson called Dean
Vanselow, I guess it was. He said with a southern accent, "I built this hospital. I want you to keep it clean. It's not clean like it was when I was running it."

HENN: Really, I can believe it, I can believe it.

HETZNER: Didn't you feel that his relationship with the people in Lincoln was tremendous? Did you feel that?

HENN: Yes. Again this man had a way about him that he knew how to. Again, they respected him and he respected them but he got his way, as usual. (Laughter.)

HETZNER: And he was always right.

HENN: Always right. You'd be foolish to turn down his ideas because of the foresight that was always behind it. I wish I knew how his mind worked. He had a tremendously brilliant mind.

HETZNER: The thing that I remember was that so often he would just tell you a little story and make a suggestion of what was going to happen; perhaps it would be in your area and you'd just better listen and you know, work on it, (Laughter) because he knew what was going to happen.

HENN: True.

HETZNER: Like when the nursing program expanded.

HENN: Yes. Instead of the School of Nursing being a sort of a step child in the College of Medicine, it was going to become a College of Nursing with its own Dean and faculty and so on, which I think is a wonderful thing.

HETZNER: Oh, yes, and they've tremendous talent.

HENN: You bet, but then things could not have happened because it took a whole new building, and we couldn't...

HETZNER: Well, and you know, just a whole new program and new ideas that he knew how to do.
HENN: Well the thing like this -- I can't remember right now -- what they call, not stairsteps...

HETZNER: The ladder.

HENN: The ladder. Yes, a young lady can go in and get an associate degree and take her Board examination and become an RN and go practice so she can go ahead and get a baccalaureate degree and still be in nursing but now, and then do something else the graduate program offering the Masters. I don't know if they offer the Ph.D.

HETZNER: Not yet, but this will be the next step.

HENN: And I suppose this will end up being more of a faculty teaching type.

HETZNER: Yes. So I asked Dr. Boyle about that, the people who are being chosen as faculty, new Masters, some of them are going out and working in hospital nursing training programs. She was aiming for the Ph.D level for faculty.

HENN: I suspect that her follow upers will probably continue then.

HETZNER: I'm sure that they will.

HENN: If they have her strength and foresight, they'll get it. She's another very strong and well...as I said foresight--kind of a Cecil type person.

HETZNER: Yes. What about Perry Rigby?

HENN: Perry Rigby was one of the finest men I ever knew. You know he was a superb physician in hematology, but in the midst of all of that he still served in the interim there as Dean as a very fine, understanding Dean, working out the problems, the many problems, that hit the Dean's office.

HETZNER: That he inherited.

HENN: That he inherited, that's right; and truly I thought Perry was essentially kind but he was or he knew what was going on and I think
his general relationship with the faculty was good and he was respected by practically everybody.

HETZNER: He had that background of work with the Curriculum Committee before he became Dean.

HENN: Yes, but there's more than that when you start handling departments.

HETZNER: It's personality.

HENN: Personality. He listened and he, too, had good suggestions but he was a very kind person, and if you had problems, you didn't mind talking to him about it. You knew that you could talk to him and get an answer maybe or a suggestion, "Well, think about this and see if that won't help." He'd direct you in the right direction.

A little Wittsonish. (Laughter.)

HETZNER: Can you think of some of the people that were outstanding students?

HENN: We've had a lot of them along the way. Do you want specific?

HETZNER: That'd be nice. Tell me, who, in your judgment, are the outstanding ones because it's been suggested that I talk to some of the outstanding students.

HENN: Well, how about Donald Arkfeld?

HETZNER: Yes.

HENN: I'm serious. I don't know if Phil Hofschire is still there but if he is.

HETZNER: I think so.

HENN: He's not a student any more. He's graduated and so has Arkfeld.

HETZNER: It seems to me I've seen the name around.

HENN: He's in Peds, I think.


HENN: I don't remember.

HETZNER: Well, I talked to him because his folks live in Lincoln. Received
the outstanding alumni award or something like that last spring. I don't know where he fits into the student area but Rosenquist is back in Pediatrics.

HENN: Was he here before. I thought we got him just completely from the outside.

HETZNER: Oh no, he was a student that graduated here.

HENN: So is the man down in Practice. Young, he'd been a student here and went away and came back.

HETZNER: Where did Aronson fit into all this.

HENN: Well, Mr. Aronson used to, this is kind of interesting, what do you call it, principal or something at Benson High School.

HETZNER: Some counselor wasn't he?

HENN: No, of a high school here in town.

HETZNER: Oh I mean the Benson High School counselor, wasn't he because he talked about Howard Swanson is principal out there; his wife worked for the library.

HENN: And then he went down to Lincoln.

HETZNER: Yea.

HENN: And he became part of the University's. I don't know exactly, Student Affairs or Registrar, I don't know; and then he was in contact at any rate with our office up here. I know they used to have, every year they would have a night when we would invite interested students who thought they might want to be in medicine. We'd have a big dinner over at Conkling Hall and they'd come up in buses and Mr. Aronson was always in charge showing people around. And then he came up here permanently and I don't know exactly what he did alone but now he's very closely associated with the Registrar's Office and Mrs. Coon; in fact she calls him her boss. I don't know if that's exactly the
word but at any rate he's been very helpful developing programs.

HETZNER: Well, he was at Benson High School when Tom Tollman was there, because he talked about it the other day. Did I tell you Tom is at the University of Omaha now, Tom Tollman.

HENN: Oh yes you did, but not in medicine.

HETZNER: No, he's a librarian.

HENN: Librarian, yea.

HETZNER: Well, let's see, who else can we...what do you think about Shubik, or shall we talk about it.

HENN: Well, I don't think we ought to. I have a funny feeling that Dr. Shubik has got his problems, but I don't know how true it is. He denies things and HEW says other things and I really don't know what's true.

HETZNER: Well, I don't either. Cromwell is on campus now most of the time. Acting Director.

HENN: Director of the Institute.

HETZNER: And people have suggested that he ought to help me with an interview with him. He's been around so long.

HENN: Yes, I took chemistry from him, Norman Cromwell, when I was in college, a student in Lincoln, many years ago.

HETZNER: Well, he was down there in the area of Dean of Faculties or something like that. Assistant Chancellor for Academic Affairs or something. Do you remember Lawrence Bennett? Physiology.

HENN: I certainly do.

HETZNER: Grissom is going to interview him and he has asked me to give him a list of topics to talk to Bennett about and I'm having a rather difficult time.
HENN: Well, you might talk some about how physiology and pharmacology were at one time one department and then how they separated and he became chairman of the one and Dr. McIntyre became chairman of the other. They ran separate departments.

HETZNER: Speaking of splitting up the departments, were you around when they split up Bacteriology and Pathology? At one time that was one department.

HENN: Yes, I believe I was. That was a long time ago. I don't remember too much about it.

HETZNER: Well, you must have been a student then.

HENN: Probably.

HETZNER: And I was pretty new on the job.

HENN: Yes, I probably was. That's awfully hazy with me.

HETZNER: It seems to me that Bennett was involved in some of this muscle testing bit, you know, research in the field of muscle activity.

HENN: That I can't verify either. I don't know what his real big...

Bennett

HETZNER: And A. E. / was before your time wasn't he?

HENN: Well, just.

HETZNER: Just before my time, too. I've been in correspondence with him lately.

HENN: Oh have you.

HETZNER: He sent back all of his films that he took a lot of movies that had to do with shock treatment, fever therapy, and so on. I thought of something else.

HENN: Was it McIntyre who did some work with Curare?

HETZNER: Yes, I think that Bennett helped him, you know, with that. I don't know how to spell Curare.

HENN: CURARE.
HETZNER: That's the way I was spelling it. (Laughter.) How about that.
HENN: Great.
HETZNER: How about Bob Wigton?
HENN: Well, when I went to school his father was teaching Neurology and so I had him as a Neurology, one of my Neurology teachers, and then Bob came to Medical School. He took a long time to decide but then he came and was and stayed in Medicine. Also got involved in administrative work, too, and now, as things have changed I don't know, but...
HETZNER: We did very well the other day but I wanted to come back and particularly talk about the development of the Assistant Deanship.
HENN: We didn't really talk about that, did we.
HETZNER: Yes, we did.
HENN: Oh, we did?
HETZNER: We did. We started out with that. Now if I have in some way ruined the tape I'll probably come back (laughter).
HENN: Oh no.
HETZNER: But everybody is going to be very grateful to you for giving us this tape so we can have it in the archives.
HENN: I am glad if I have contributed anything, why fine, and what's useful, use and what isn't, isn't. I know this. I am proud to have been a graduate and a member of the faculty.
HETZNER: Well, I think that is just great and it's on tape. It will go into the archives and everybody will know it from now on in.
HENN: Okay.
HETZNER: Thank you, Mary Jo.
HENN: You're very welcome, Bernice.
FOR THE RECORD:

It should be noted that this tape was made when Dr. Mary Jo Henn was in the hospital, Nebraska Methodist Hospital, and in traction, but graciously consented to talk with me. Also, for the record, I would like to append this biographical sketch on Dr. Mary Jo Henn.