Miller: (0:00) Welcome to this interview in the oral history project of the Liberty University Archives. This interview is being conducted on December 17, 2013. Today we are interviewing Chuck Hagerty. Chuck Hagerty was born August 15, 1956. My name is Randy Miller and I’ll be conducting the interview today along with Kenny Rowlette. Good to have you, Kenny.

Rowlette: (0:24) Thank you.

Miller: (0:25) And it’s good to have both of you here today. Greetings, Chuck.

Hagerty: (0:31) Thank you, good to be here.

Miller: (0:32) So Chuck, as we begin today. Could you just tell us some general biographical information about yourself? Tell us where you were born and where you kinda grew up?

Hagerty: (0:43) I was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania and like you already said on 8-15-56 and my parents are still living up in that part of the country. I have two brothers. I’m the oldest of the three and we were brought up in a Christian family, my earliest memories were Sunday school and church at a Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, way back when and most of the beginning education was all up there, up until high school and then we headed south.
Miller: (1:15) Okay, what brought you down south?

Hagerty: (1:16) Looking for a college. I had first year of college was when I was a senior in high school I was able to get into this program and finish the freshmen year of college at Penn State and then we were looking at some Christian schools, a friend of mine, myself and I and we drove down to Toccoa Falls, Georgia, looked at a school there and also stopped here at Lynchburg on the way back and looked at what meager facilities Lynchburg Baptist College had at the time.

Miller: (1:47) So what year would that have been about?

Hagerty: (1:48) That was ’74.

Miller: (1:49) Okay.

Hagerty: (1:50) ’74. He ended up going to Moody Bible Institute and I ended up coming to Liberty.

Miller: (1:57) And so… what was it then that made you choose Liberty for your college education?

Hagerty: (2:01) Well the only way I even heard about Liberty was Jerry Falwell on the television. It certainly wasn’t the… the… buildings, and the programs, and so on like that because they had nothing, literally back then. They were doing everything piecemeal, we used an old elementary school called [Ruffner] Elementary School for classes back then. This is a funny story this time of the year because during the winter the building, I think, probably had already been condemned whenever we had gotten permission to use it and there was no central heat so I remember there being these construction torpedo heaters out in the hallways and it’s a wonder we all didn’t pass out from lack of oxygen, now I know why it was so hard to stay awake in those classes.
Miller: (2:43) And um… so, are their some particular individuals, administrators, or faculty that stand out in your mind here in those mid-70s?

Hagerty: (2:52) Well the names that everybody recognizes: Harold Willmington, Elmer Towns, Sumner Wemp, Ron Godwin was here. Ron interviewed me whenever I came back as faculty later. Russ Fitzgerald, I don’t think Russ was here when I was a student but he was here soon after whenever I was working for the school. Then I had a fella as a college advisor, Jim Pickering and I haven’t seen Jim in years, I’m not sure if he’s still here or not.

Rowlette: (3:23) Jim retired a few years ago, went back to Florida to be with his mother.

Hagerty: (2:28) Ahh, good for him, Jim was a great guy. Got to know him a little bit better later on when I came back to work for the school and I always like talking with him.

Rowlette: (3:37) May I ask a question? Chuck, when you were looking at Liberty and Toccoa Falls College and other Christian colleges, many of them did not have academic accreditation. For instant, Liberty did not get SACS accreditation until 1980. Did that play any role, one way or other in your choice of Liberty or other schools?

Hagerty: (3:59) A little bit and I’ll tell ya, Kenny whenever I graduated from Liberty and applied for graduate school, I applied to two different schools up in Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh and Drexel University. They both had good library science programs and was accepted at both of the schools. So it worked out well that way, but there was just a different atmosphere here, it was good spiritually, it was a pioneering sort of effort and I think that whole thing was appealing.

Rowlette: (4:27) Good.

Miller: (4:28) So talk us through if you would, a typical week here while you were a student then.
Hagerty: (4:34) Well you did a bit of traveling more so, everything wasn’t centralized. They had, they were spread out even worse than what they are now. So we had to be on buses and you’d be downtown, in fact I was in this dormitory they used an old hotel downtown. I was there for a semester and they would have some events, some activities over on Treasure Island. Funny thing, you’ve already probably heard about that is how rickety the bridge was and when the bus would pull up to the bridge it unloaded, the driver drove the bus across, all the students walked across and then reload. So we had events over there. Of course you had events going to Thomas Road and then that [Ruffner] Elementary School, like I’d said where they had some classes.

Miller: (5:17) And so now, where was your dormitory, where did you sleep at night?

Hagerty: (5:21) In that old hotel downtown. I think it was called the Cavalier? I think.

Rowlette: (5:26) Wasn’t it called the Virginian?

Hagerty: (5:27) The Virginian. It was right there on Church Street.

Rowlette: (5:29) Right.

Hagerty: (5:30) And I can’t think of the corner, but Church and something. Still there today and that place was so crowded. This is, uh, another interesting story. We had six guys in one room; now it was a fairly big room. Uh… well fairly big? Not big by any means, but six beds in there. They had three sets of bunk beds and we arranged them with two bunk beds here, two bunk beds here and the third set of bunk beds was in the middle. So you had a walkway underneath. Guess who they put on the very top of that?

Rowlette: (6:03) Who’s that? You-you were way up on the top?

Hagerty: (6:05) The smallest one, me.

Rowlette: (6:06) Okay.
Hagerty:  (6:06) Yeah, the good thing about it was if you rolled out, you fell on somebody and didn’t go the whole way to the floor anyway.

Rowlette:  (6:11) And, and, and so our listeners couldn’t really see your hands there but you’ve got two sets of bunk beds with kinda making a U-shape then.

Hagerty:  (6:19) That’s it. That’s it.

Miller:  (6:20) May I ask you? When you were in the hotel, and, and I, of course, the ladies were in another place too or in the same place. How much interaction did you have with the locals, the Lynchburgers?

Hagerty:  (6:32) Not a whole lot that I remember. I mean, you can be downtown and there were people that were busy downtown but as a, you know, as an 18-year-old kid, you know, you were just busy trying to catch the bus to get to somewhere else to go to class. So I don’t remember a whole lot of interaction downtown. My wife had more interaction with downtown, because she did something interesting as a student. She worked at a barber shop downtown and a little four chair shop and she would go down there and cut men’s hair and she got to meet business people and judges and lawyers. So she had some interesting interactions.

Miller:  (7:06) And so now… the buses that they used, were these the same buses that they were using on Sunday for taking the kids to Sunday school or did they have some dedicated buses?

Hagerty:  (7:15) Yeah… no, same buses, same big old… sometimes painted… sometimes not yellow school buses.

Miller:  (7:22) M’kay. And… so what did you major in as an undergraduate?

Hagerty:  (7:28) It was Religion with Theology and Greek minors, so Religion major.

Miller:  (7:36) And what were you kinda of thinking of doing with your life? Did you have a plan for after you graduated? I would like to be a…
Hagerty: (7:42) No, it was more or less a personal thing, like I said, I had one year of general studies at another school and then just for personal benefit I might of thought of the ministry at one time but I was single, I finished pretty young. I was 19 whenever I got out of college and wasn’t married, didn’t have any prospects for marriage, thought this is not a good situation to be, you know, a pastor in and I’ve always had a love for books. I’d always been an avid reader. I’m pretty organized kinda guy and thought that library science would be interesting field, keep me around education and books.

Miller: (8:19) Well now before we leave those college days here at Lynchburg Baptist College, was it always Lynchburg Baptist College as long as you attended it there?

Hagerty: (8:27) As long as I attended, I was here from ’74 until December of ’76, I finished college and then just because I was hanging around for graduation I worked and took some seminary classes for second semester and graduated in May.

Miller: (8:44) And… so now, did many of the students have cars in those days?

Hagerty: (8:49) You know, I don’t know that a lot of them did. I was on campus, Randy for one semester. I told you how crowded it was. It wasn’t good for study. It wasn’t conducive to a lot of things. So the second semester, I’m going to admit something now because I don’t think they can punish me at all for doing this…

Miller: (9:07) The statute of limitation is over.

Hagerty: (9:08) Yeah, its long past… is long past. I went home to visit with a cold, bad cold, back up to visit my folks over a break, talked to a family doctor and he wrote a piece of paper that said, “I am unusually susceptible to upper respiratory infections. And I’ll just take his word for it.” That got me off campus.

Rowlette: (9:26) Okay.
Hagerty: (9:27) The second semester I went to live with a fella in the seminary, a graduate student, a fella named Dave Schwartz and Dave was from my same hometown. He was 10 years older than I am and he’d graduated undergrad from Penn State and he was down here getting a M.Div. and he needed a roommate and I needed a place to stay so we were roommates for a couple years.

Miller: (9:48) And you got to study a little bit better and not be quite so crowded.

Hagerty: (9:51) We lived off campus in an old house downtown and it worked out a lot better.

Miller: (10:56) Now in those days, were you required to attend Thomas Road Baptist Church? Did all Liberty’s students attend TRBC?

Hagerty: (10:03) Oh yeah, yeah we were required.

Miller: (10:05) And… so, by the way you had mentioned the elementary school that you had some classes in that didn’t have a great heating system in those days.

Hagerty: (10:17) I think they had running water, but I’m not sure.

Miller and Rowlette: (10:19) (Chuckles)

Miller: (10:20) And were there some in the old what they called Carter building… or was that where Lynchburg Christian Academy was?

Hagerty: (10:29) I don’t remember classes in the Carter building, so I don’t think so.

Miller: (10:32) And did they have any classes out at Treasure Island?

Hagerty: (10:34) They did some of the Athletic and, or rather Physical Education type classes were held out there.

Miller: (10:42) M’kay.
Rowlette: (10:42) Could I ask a question about the library? Did you ever find the need or was this fairly common for students to go to other libraries in town? Maybe the Lynchburg College library… the… I guess CVCC was here at the time?

Hagerty: (10:57) It was, yes.

Rowlette: (10:58) And maybe the public library? Did you ever…?

Hagerty: (11:00) Oh yeah, that was common. We had very minimal collections. You know they was just… it was just pastors retiring and donating their collection of books, those types of things. It was a pretty minimal collection.

Rowlette: (11:12) When you went to these other places, did they… how did they treat you? What kind of stipulations did you have to adhere to if you use their resources?

Hagerty: (11:21) I don’t remember real well, Kenny. I don’t remember if we were able to get cards and check-out or if we just had to use their materials there. I’m not sure about that, but I don’t remember any particular problems of getting in and using the material.

Rowlette: (11:35) How did they treat you?

Hagerty: (11:37) Well, as far as I can remember.

Rowlette: (11:38) Good. Good.

Miller: (11:41) So was there… one thing that we’ve heard often in these oral history interviews is that there was really kind of pioneering spirit and so… you didn’t come here because of the beautiful facilities or the vine-covered ivy halls or that. But can you talk a little bit about that pioneer spirit in those days?

Hagerty: (12:01) Oh that was exactly it. Jerry Falwell Sr. was just the, the epitome of enthusiasm and a pioneering can-do spirit and that was exciting. You know, just to be around the
ministry then, to be around him, was exciting and yeah it wasn’t anything about the facilities or the library or buildings or anything at all like that. It was all about the spirit of the place.

**Miller:** (12:26) And so, as a student you’re going to the services at TRBC, at Thomas Road Baptist Church here. Did they have a special section where the students sat? Or did you just mingle with the regular folks? What were services like at that time? They were televised of course, that was the basis for the Old Time Gospel Hour. So can you talk about those Thomas Road services in those days?

**Hagerty:** (12:50) I don’t remember there being special places for us to sit. Kind of like anything else, you look for a friend and sit with them so you probably did kind of end up with students gathering together, but we were pretty much free to be around the building and they did want you there you know, Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night, kind of thing.

**Rowlette:** (13:10) What about your family and maybe your friends back up in Pennsylvania, people who saw you coming to the small school as opposed to Penn State or, you know, Kutztown or any of those other schools? Did you ever get any comments or feedback from them about coming to this small school?

**Hagerty:** (13:28) Oh yeah. You’d get some negativity there, them not thinking you’re making a good decision, but they weren’t looking at any of the spiritual things about the school at all. It was just all pragmatic, you know graduate degree, job kind of thing. So yeah, you had some negativity that way. Your Christian friends, you know, understood but other people didn’t.

**Miller:** (13:51) And… so now, things have loosened up a little bit as far as the rules for all of the students. Tell us about, especially when you lived in the dormitory there, what were the student rules like in those days?

**Hagerty:** (14:05) Strict.
Miller: (14:06) (Chuckles)

Hagerty: (14:07) Pretty strict, the dress codes and hair codes. And…

Miller: (14:10) And so for class you had to wear…?

Hagerty: (14:13) Ties.

Miller: (14:14) The students wore ties and the faculty all had to wear suit coats, right?

Hagerty: (14:18) Oh I believe they did, yeah.

Miller: (14:19) And the young ladies had to wear…?

Hagerty: (14:21) I believe it was dresses. I don’t believe they were in slacks except for informal sorts for things.

Miller: (14:26) For activities and that… and… so did they have a demerit system or a fine system? Or how did that work if you broke the rules?

Hagerty: (14:34) Yeah. I was such a good student, Randy. I don’t remember that well.

Miller: (14:37) (Chuckles)

Hagerty: (14:39) And plus I got off-campus second semester, like I said, they had a demerit system and I don’t know what the punishment would be, whether it be a financial fine or whatever I don’t know.

Rowlette: (14:49) And… so one interview that we said, said that, one interview that we conducted, the person that we interviewed said, “In many ways Liberty was a little bit more open than some of the home churches that they had come from and all that… some of the students just fit right in and the rules weren’t a problem or a bother to them at all.” And so I guess it kind of depended on which background that you came from.
**Hagerty:** (15:16) Oh yeah. And you still had the… we all might of looked a bit more similar back then, but you still had the wide disparity of students. You know, those that came from stricter churches and those that didn’t come from much of a church background. Sure.

**Miller:** (15:29) Well then talking about the rules, did you, did you meet your wife before you graduated from college?

**Hagerty:** (15:35) We knew each other. We didn’t do any dating back then, but we knew each other. I told you she did the haircutting thing and she was cutting my hair since way back in college and I would change the oil in her car on certain times. So we had a reciprocal agreement there, but we really didn’t really date, we were just friends. Her sister, she had a sister here at the same time, both of them sang in different things and… I knew them that way.

**Miller:** (15:59) And so when did you two actually start dating then?

**Hagerty:** (16:02) Whenever I came back to work for the school, she, we both graduated at the same time. I went up to Pennsylvania, to go to graduate school. She stayed down here and was working whenever I came back and was hired by the school, then we started seeing each other.

**Miller:** (16:18) ‘Kay, so your wife was the former Gail…

**Hagerty:** (16:21) Foster.

**Miller:** (16:22) Foster and… how many children do you have?

**Hagerty:** (16:25) Two sons, 31, age 31 and 32. Nathan is the youngest; he’s married for the last four years, no children, living down in Raleigh and then my older son C.J. lives here in town and not married yet.

**Miller:** (16:42) ‘Kay.

**Rowlette:** (16:43) Randy, when you were… I’m sorry not Randy, forgive me. Chuck, when you were at Liberty and dating, what kinds of rules did the university have about dating that stick out
or was it kind of an environment where they encourage interaction but really didn’t encourage couples pairing off and that sort of thing… what was the school’s approach to this?

**Hagerty:** (17:10) I wish I had better memories about having done that, Kenny. I remember two things about going to school at the time and that was going to school and working because I had to work full-time whenever I was doing that. I could probably count in two and half years that I was here on one hand the number of young ladies that I took out for coffee or something. They had some pretty strict rules, I guess, but I don’t remember them real well.

**Rowlette:** (17:35) Could I ask you about speakers? One of the things that Dr. Falwell has always, always did over the years was bring people into Lynchburg…

**Hagerty:** (17:42) Oh yeah.

**Rowlette:** (17:43) Jesse Jackson, Ted Kennedy, President Bush, etc. Do you remember any, any notable speakers or figures that he brought in to the school while you were here?

**Hagerty:** (17:54) Oh yeah, just the some you mentioned there. Some of the presidents that we got to see, now this was whenever I was working for the school and not as a student and I’m trying to think, back then he wasn’t, Dr. Falwell was not as big politically. He was starting to be, but he wasn’t as big. I’m trying to think if there were any of the bigger political figures back then. We had a lot of all the big name religious figures…

**Miller:** (18:18) …Warren Wiersbe, John MacArthur in those days?

**Hagerty:** (18:21) Well even back further, there were some guys before them. Whose names I’m not even thinking of, but…

**Miller:** (18:27) B. R. Lakin.

**Hagerty:** (18:28) Oh yeah, of course him.

**Rowlette:** (18:29) John R. Rice.
Hagerty: (18:30) John R. Rice was here. He was another big name back then.

Rowlette: (18:33) Curtis Hutson?

Hagerty: (18:35) Maybe. But all those guys it would be common names in the ‘70s. He was familiar with all them and we would see them regularly. He didn’t get, start to get the political people in as much until a bit later.

Rowlette: (18:46) Did he ever bring Billy Graham on to the campus in the ‘70s?

Hagerty: (18:49) Oh that’s a good question. I don’t remember. I don’t think so. Yeah, I don’t think Billy Graham was here whenever I was a student.

Miller: (18:56) And so, how often did you have a required chapel service?

Hagerty: (19:04) Three times a week.

Miller: (19:05) Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

Hagerty: (19:06) Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Yeah.

Miller: (19:08) And where were those chapel services held in?

Hagerty: (19:11) They were… held at Thomas Road, at the church.

Miller: (19:14) In the auditorium there?

Hagerty: (19:15) Yeah, yeah

Rowlette: (19:17) How did they take attendance? Back in the early ‘80s they set up these little, they called them the Beast. These little machines were you kind of punched your ticket, if you will, when you went in, but they ran into a lot of problems with them and kind of did away with it. But how did they know that you were in church or you were in chapel? Did someone take roll? How did that work?

Hagerty: (19:36) That’s a good question, that was a long time ago now so...

Hagerty and Rowlette: (19:38) (Chuckles)
Hagerty: (19:40) I don’t know, if we had to sign in and give our name to somebody and show I.D. We may have, I’m not positive though.

Miller: (19:48) At my little college we had to fill out a weekly Christian Service report and they asked you, “How many tracks you passed out”…

Hagerty: (19:54) Oh boy.

Miller: (19:55) …and things like that. And so, I didn’t know if maybe they had done that here?

Hagerty: (19:59) I don’t think they did that one, but I’m pretty sure there were some form or some way of taking attendance for chapels and church services.

Miller: (20:04) And when did the super-conferences started? Did they have those on an annual basis or was that later?

Hagerty: (20:10) That was later. Yeah, that wasn’t in the ‘70s. Early ’70s, it was then. I can’t remember when later but it was later.

Rowlette: (20:18) Could you tell us about your graduation? Where was it held… and what were some of the circumstances of it?

Hagerty: (20:26) That was at the church also. The church was the nicest facility we had. Really like I said, we were… we didn’t start much the building and I don’t remember the years as well but I know we didn’t have any of the buildings. When did they even buy the property and make the first building up here? You guys... do you know that?

Rowlette: (20:42) ’77.

Hagerty: (20:43) ’77. Okay. I don’t think we had graduation up here. I thought that was at the church.

Miller: (20:50) And… now even in talking about the church there was what would later became the Pate Chapel, that at one time was the main…
Hagerty: (20:58) The main church.

Miller: (20:59) …Was the main church and then, when did they build the octagonal church that was the main church for the longest time?

Rowlette: (21:07) I believe that was around ‘72.

Miller: (21:09) Okay so, that was here when you were…

Hagerty: (21:10) It was… yeah, That was here when I came in 1974. That was here, yeah.

Miller: (21:16) Okay let’s switch gears a little bit here. You told me that you were the first graduate of our Aviation Program?

Hagerty: (21:22) I think, I think I am. It really wasn’t an Aviation Program. It was two different companies in town and the school was just toying with the idea of having an Aviation Program back then and two different companies, I think the one that actually won the bid was called Cisco or Ciaco or something like that. But two different companies made bids to the school and if I’m remembering correctly, the price was just so extremely low even back then. They provided… they gave you 40 hours of ground school and then 40 hours of in-flight time with an instructor in a plane and that combination was under a thousand dollars, just unbelievable even back then. So it was just an interest I had and I scraped together the money and got into it. And there were probably five of us, maybe six in the program. A couple of the guys didn’t finish and get their license and a few of us did and I think I was the first one. Had a young fella, Jeff Robinson, was the instructor at the time back then and then the program faltered after that. There wasn’t a whole lot going on and they did that thing for maybe just a short time and it wasn’t… nothing like it today.
Miller: (22:35) This had nothing to do with the academics of Liberty, it was just kind of an external thing that you could go to in town here and they cooperated with the university, or with the college at that time, but it didn’t officially, it wasn’t on you transcript or anything like that.

Hagerty: (22:49) Exactly, exactly.

Miller: (22:51) And so what did you use for a facility?

Hagerty: (22:54) The main Lynchburg airport. It was where they kept the plane over there and they had a little room over there. No the room wasn’t there, the room was at this Cisco business, where we would have the instruction part.

Miller: (23:06) And now, was this just a general aviation program? Was there any emphasis on missionary flight pilots at that time?

Hagerty: (23:14) No it was just general aviation.

Miller: (23:16) And so what were your requirements to earn a pilot’s license?

Hagerty: (23:20) You had to go and have at least 40 hours of ground school and 40 hours in the air. Most people usually take a little bit more than 40 hours in the air. I think I had 44 or something like that. And you pass both a written and a flying exam and that’s how you get your license.

Miller: (23:37) You’ve got a license. And then how often do you have to renew them?

Hagerty: (23:40) Every two years. You have to do a biannual review.

Miller: (23:43) And so, have you used your pilot’s license since then?

Hagerty: (23:49) Yes. I didn’t fly for years. I got the license and the first thing you learn about planes is what makes them fly. You know what that is? Money, yes, forget the Bernoulli principle. It’s money. So after getting out of graduate school, and then getting married soon after, and all the rest, I didn’t have the money to fly. It was just an interest; it wasn’t anything I did
professionally of course. So I didn’t do it for years, and then recently got back into it several years ago, learned about the Experimental Aviation Association and how people can actually, you know, build planes. This was amazing to me and I’m a pretty hands-on kind of guy and this kinda fascinated me. So I got into that and ended up building a plane and have been flying that for well, several months up until June.

**Miller:** (24:40) And you had a little accident in June?

**Hagerty:** (24:41) Had a big accident in June.

**Miller and Hagerty:** (24:42) (Chuckles)

**Hagerty:** (24:43) My wife and I were flying up to Pennsylvania and had a bad landing. The wind was gusty, and just as we were touching down, I had wind under my wings lifted us back up, dropped us down hard, bent the front wheel, pulled the plane off the runway and we flipped. So, we were both hurt. My wife didn’t have to have any surgeries or anything, but I had to have a couple on my neck.

**Miller:** (25:05) And so, you and I go to church together, so it’s good to see that just yesterday you got the halo off that you were wearing.

**Hagerty:** (25:11) That’s right, you’re looking at me without that hard collar on.

**Rowlette:** (25:14) What kind of plane were you flying when you had the accident?

**Hagerty:** (25:16) It was called an RV-7A and it’s a two seat side-by-side, all aluminum plane. 180 horse-engine, fully aerobatic, it’s a nice little sport plane. And the planes we used back, that I learned in, way back in the ‘70s were Piper Cherokee 140, which is a low-wing. Called a four seater, but it’s hard to get four people in it. It’s a low-wing, all metal plane also. So I like those better.
Rowlette: (25:44) When you were taking your flight lessons, where would you fly? Do you remember like for instance, flying over the Peaks?

Hagerty: (25:53) Oh yeah, yeah.

Rowlette: (25:54) You would go down over…

Hagerty: (25:55) They would designate, just like they do today in flying school, they have designated areas, once you take off from the airport, you’ll tell the control tower that you’re going to a certain area to do your practice out there and same places.

Miller: (26:07) Now this is a question you might not have an answer to but do you know when… did Liberty have their own aircraft or when did Dr. Falwell start having a private plane or did they rent a plane? Do you know anything about that?

Hagerty: (26:19) Oh Dr. Falwell had a big ole DC-3. Way back… pretty early, I’m trying to think if he had that when I was a student, I’m pretty sure that he did. My wife’s sister sang on one of the teams. What was the America team called? Something he was doing and had a group of students that sang and he spoke…

Rowlette: (26:41) Spirit of Liberty.

Hagerty: (26:42) No…

Miller: (26:42) Was it for the bicentennial?

Hagerty: (26:43) Yeah…

Miller: (26:44) The God Save America? Or something, something like that…

Hagerty: (26:46) Yeah and it was something America, the team was called?

Sattler: (26:47) I Love America.

Miller: (26:49) I Love America.
Hagerty: (26:51) That’s it, it was I Love America and she travelled with him, got to fly in that plane a number of times, but I can’t think of who the pilot was, I know him and I can’t think of his name.

Rowlette: (27:01) Granville Graham

Hagerty: (27:04) Well, Granville Graham was a pilot back then and then another fella, who’s name I can’t think of right of hand. But yeah, Jerry flew around; Dr. Falwell flew around that DC-3 quite a bit.

Miller: (27:13) How many would that seat about?

Hagerty: (27:15) That’s a big plane. That’s a twin… big plane. I don’t know how many it seats, but it’s 20 I’m sure, or more. Yeah.

Miller: (27:24) Well let’s switch gears once again. We’ve talked about aviation and your student days here. So let’s talk about becoming a librarian at Liberty. You said that you were kind of interested in books, you went for a graduate program… why did you choose the graduate school that you did and then how did you hear about the position here at Liberty?

Hagerty: (27:44) Well like I said, I was graduating and really kind of floundered that second semester because I graduated in December ’76 and didn’t actually walk until May’77. So I just stayed here worked and took some classes in the seminary as I was trying to decide what I was going to do, decided on libraries and went back to Pennsylvania because that’s where I was from. So like I said, I applied at both University of Pittsburgh and Drexel, was accepted at both. Chose Pittsburgh, I don’t remember exactly why I did choose University of Pittsburgh. I think because they had Tony Dorsett as their running back the year before, but went to University of Pittsburgh and graduated from there in May of ‘78.

Miller: (28:31) And so you have a Master in Library and Information Science.
Hagerty: (28:32) Um huh, yes.

Miller: (28:33) And so then how did you hear about the position here at Liberty?

Hagerty: (28:38) Well looking for a job after… in fact I almost went out to Kansas. And to… what’s the name of the school, Quaker… is it Quaker University? I mean it was a school of Quakers and they had a position open. I was looking at some religious schools anyway and applied out there and applied to Liberty and the school out in Kansas said, “Well, we’ve chosen this other person” and then two weeks later they said, “That person has changed their mind you’re our second choice. Will you come?” And I said no I’ve already been offered something at Liberty. So I came down here in August…

Rowlette and Miller: (29:13) August of…

Hagerty: (29:14) 1978 and I was 20-years-old when they hired me. My birthday was on the first day of faculty orientation. So I turned 21 whenever they got me down here officially.

Rowlette: (29:26) You said earlier that Dr. Godwin had interviewed you…

Hagerty: (29:27) He did.

Rowlette: (29:28) Now he’d interviewed you for the job?

Hagerty: (29:31) He interviewed me for the job, I’m pretty sure, I know we had a talk whenever I was already here. I think I was already here, but Garth Runion was Dean of Education and I remember that the two of them and there was somebody else that I can’t remember.

Rowlette: (29:51) Dr. Henry?

Hagerty: (29:52) It might have been Dr. Henry. He was here whenever I was a student. I think he was still here in ‘78. Wasn’t he? Pretty sure.

Rowlette: (29:59) He taught me in high school.

Hagerty: (30:01) Oh did he?
Rowlette: (30:02) Two years, he was, it was like taking college classes as a freshman and sophomore in high school; quite an excellent teacher.

Hagerty: (30:10) I’m sure he would have been and quite a stickler also. Yes, yes.

Miller: (30:14) What was Ron Godwin’s position at the university at that time?

Hagerty: (30:19) I tried to think of that whenever I was thinking about this part before and I don’t know what they called Ron back then.

Miller: (30:25) And so, where was the library facility then at that point?

Hagerty: (30:32) It was still downtown. Yeah, they had an old building downtown that they used for seminary classes and also had a library down there.

Miller: (30:41) Now there was a separate… was there a separate seminary library and the university, or the college library or did they…

Hagerty: (30:50) I don’t think back then…

Miller: (30:51) Did they leave the seminary library and then have a separate? Was there a time when they had a split collection there?

Hagerty: (31:00) They had a combined collection at first, I believe, then when it spit, I believe, the seminary library stayed downtown for a bit longer and then they moved when they started building up here, eventually they used one of the… I don’t even know if the building is still here or not. Do you know Kenny? The building when they first brought the library up and when they put it up here.

Rowlette: (31:18) Seems like they put it over here in the, part of the Ed. building, seems I could be wrong.

Hagerty: (31:25) Maybe so… then it split. First it was together and then it split whenever they started building up here.
Miller: (31:34) So as you came in what was your first job title?

Hagerty: (31:38) Well, they told me that I would be responsible for the curriculum library and the audio-visual library and I said great, where are they? And they said, “It doesn’t exist, that’s why we’re hiring you.” So I got to design and organize both of those systems. The audio-visual library was completely non-existent. In fact, at the time all the little, all the departments had their own little collection of materials. Everything was scattered around. You would buy your own cassette player and your own film strip projector and your own overhead projectors for your department and your department’s the only one that used them and they realized that system wasn’t efficient. So that was kind of interesting because the department heads and so on, deans, didn’t want to give up their equipment.

Miller: (32:25) They had brought it with their department funds.

Hagerty: (32:26) They had brought it with their department money and they wanted to keep it…

Miller: (32:29) And they wanted to make sure they always could use it.

Hagerty: (32:31) …Exactly. And so I had to get… I guess, you know the president, I think Guillermin, Dr. Guillermin may have signed something, which gave me permission to take their equipment and so that’s what I did. I started a labeling, stenciling system and we put numbers and assigned… started organizing the whole system.

Miller: (32:52) And I still see on some of the things that are really old or I’ve seen them since I’ve been here, finally bit the dust on an overhead projector with the LBC and a number…

Hagerty: (33:01) And yellow paint, yes.

Miller: (33:02) Yellow paint and like an AV-3, or you know…

Hagerty: (33:04) Yeah.
Miller: (33:05) There was a code that you had…

Hagerty: (33:06) Yeah…

Miller: (33:07) …keeping track of those things.

Hagerty: (33:07) We had to set up a system to organize the equipment and then we setup a system to start organizing materials. Again, certain departments would have their own certain collections and the school said, “This is better idea if we pull it all together”. So the software then had to deal with that and film strips, 16mm films, slides, audio cassettes, records. All that stuff, we were given a central local eventually and one time the central location was over in the small one-floor metal dorms that they’ve torn a bunch of them down I guess now, maybe all of them.

Rowlette: (33:44) Dorm 13.

Hagerty: (33:46) May have been 13, I can’t remember the number.

Rowlette: (33:49) Seems like it was, yeah.

Hagerty: (33:51) We were over in one of the dorms with the audio-visual software and hardware for a while.

Miller: (33:55) How many other librarians, professionals were here when you started then?

Hagerty: (34:01) There was lady named Barbara and I cannot remember Barbara’s last name. But whenever I was, first year I was hired, Dick Elmer was the Dean of the Library. And then there was this lady named Barbara whose last name I cannot remember… and that’s all I can think of.

Miller: (34:21) As far as professional…

Hagerty: (34:22) As far as professionals right then I think I was the third, fourth, if I’m forgetting somebody, and then later on I don’t believe Kawaguchi, Miss Kawaguchi was a
technical services librarian and she was a cataloger and so I don’t think she was here when I first came but she might have been. We were both right around the same time and she may have been the fourth one. And then Russ File came later on, a few years after I was here, Harold Agee came a little bit later on, Dave Esbenshade came later on, Dave Barnett came after I did. A tall girl named Kay Compton was a professional librarian and Kay was here for a while back in the beginning.

Miller: (35:05) Any idea the size of the collection in those early days?

Hagerty: (35:12) I really don’t know because I didn’t do a lot with the main collection. Along with the audio-visual library, like I was telling you, they said I would develop the curriculum library and that was simply a matter of three bookcases in the education department with books on them and I had to organize that also.

Miller: (35:31) And so now was there ever a time when Liberty was solely looking for Christian schools, like many of the other Christian colleges were, that they only had the curriculum from the Christian publishers or did they always teach both from the Christian publishers, but also the secular publishers as well?

Hagerty: (35:48) I think, you know, a big part of the collection may have been Christian publishers back then, but we weren’t restrictive back then, at least not for in that curriculum library. They wanted to be able to see other materials if, for whatever reasons, I don’t know, but I believe we, from the beginning whenever I started, it always had both.

Rowlette: (36:05) In the early days, Liberty used to have a disclaimer… sticker!

Hagerty: (36:08) Oh a disclaimer sticker on all the books, oh yeah.
Rowlette: (36:11) So when you were ordering audio-visual materials did you ever have guidelines that you had to go by or was that something that was placed in the hands of the department chairs?

Hagerty: (36:23) It may have been in the hands of the department chairs. I didn’t order a whole lot of that stuff. The department chairs order what they needed and then it just all came to me and we kept it organized, made it available that way.

Miller: (36:35) And so as far as your budget and everything goes, did you actually have a budget for buying...?

Hagerty: (36:41) Oh yeah. We had a budget for the curriculum library, specifically. We had a budget for the audio-visual library specifically. A couple of other thing you were saying about the reason I don’t know, maybe some of the specifics, or a lot of the specifics on the main library was because I really didn’t spend that much time with it. I had to do reference duty a little bit later on. I was here for 15 years from ’78 to ’93 and later on I would do reference duty in an evening. We all had to rotate on that so as needed you had a little bit of reference time, reference desk time and then I got to teach one class undergraduate through the education department on library resources and methods and then there was another time that Dr. Towns, I believe, wanted Dr. Little, the Director of the Library, to teach a graduate class on research methods to students who were having to do dissertations and he didn’t feel like he wanted to do that, he didn’t have the time to do it and because I was already teaching the one undergraduate class they asked me to do that one, so I got to teach that for a couple years.

Miller: (37:45) And so now the undergraduate course was that a required course?

Hagerty: (37:51) No, no. It was an elective.

Miller: (37:53) It was an elective.
Hagerty: (37:54) Yeah. I don’t think the graduate course was even a required course. I don’t think so.

Rowlette: (38:00) To what degree did the faculty, the undergrad faculty use the library staff and faculty to help… you know give students an introduction to research?

Hagerty: (38:14) Yeah, we would be invited in to talk to different classes whenever they were starting particular projects, if they had big papers coming up or something like that and they thought it would be beneficial to have a librarian come in. I remember doing those on an as-needed-basis and I don’t remember which departments may have used us the most. Some you became more familiar with than others but we got to be spread around pretty good around the school for that.

Rowlette: (38:39) When the students were here and they were… the library was other places, what kinds of issues, if any did you see with that, you know disparity in the location, until the early ‘80s?

Hagerty: (38:54) Yeah, just the difficulty of accessing it and like you were talking about, like we were talking about having to use other school’s libraries just because they were more convenient or whatever. They may have had some specific, other specific problems in the main library but both of mine, the audio-visual library and the curriculum library, were always up here and so I didn’t have those problems.

Miller: (39:16) So in addition to being in charge of like the audio-visual materials, the actual film strips themselves, were you having to deliver projectors to rooms or change overhead bulbs or did you have…?

Hagerty: (39:28) All, all that…

Miller: (39:29) All of the above.
Hagerty: (39:30) Yeah, yeah. We had to keep, store all the bulbs and be able to service the equipment. Eventually they hired a fella, full-time, as the school got bigger. I don’t know what year this was but Fred Spearin was hired later on and Fred would do repair on equipment and some more technical things. But yeah we had to go and have somebody to deliver equipment, setup equipment, make a room operable when they needed something. One of a, an interesting thing I got to do one time was… Calvin… now what was his… the guy is a writer. He’s very well-known and his name just jumped out of my head, but he had an astronaut come to school to speak at chapel meeting. Oh, I can’t think of his name now and I can picture him, but anyway, he and I got to go to the airport to pick up this astronaut so I got to meet him and he wanted to show at chapel meeting a portion of a 16 millimeter film from something he had done in space and I got to set that up and make sure everything went smoothly for chapel that day. That was interesting.

Miller: (40:38) And… in those days chapel was at the old TRBC.

Hagerty: (40:43) It was way back then whenever I was a student. Now when I was hired and came back in ‘78 they were starting to do things up here and build so we started having some…

Miller: (40:52) Did they have some in the tent?

Hagerty: (40:53) They had a tent; yeah before they had the big domed building that was an interesting building to watch them build that. I had one office for the curriculum library was right around in this area that we are today and I could look across the courtyard, I think it was on this side, maybe it was on that side closer, but anyway I could look across and watch them building the domed building and they put those pieces in place with a helicopter and that was always pretty interesting.
Miller: (41:20) So you started off as the audio-visual and curriculum librarian. Did you have another job title as you moved along?

Hagerty: (41:28) No that was pretty much it, like I said between those, and those two things just kept getting bigger, bigger, bigger; so I forget what the staff was like but we had full-time people under that working those areas and number of college students working in both of the areas. I don’t remember exactly how many people I did have at any one time. Probably about three or four full-time and maybe, who knows, ten or fifteen students.

Miller: (41:54) In anticipation of the new Jerry Falwell Library, that we can just kind of see over here to the side, that’s going to be opening up next month here, could you quickly take us through from when you began of the Directors of the Library who they were?

Hagerty: (42:12) Okay.

Miller: (42:13) So you said it was…

Hagerty: (42:14) Dick Elmer is the first one that I can think of, I believe he was the first and then after him came Dr. Little. He was here for quite a long time. He was still here whenever I left, I don’t know exactly what year he did retired but he was here whenever I left. Who took over after Little? Was it Barnett then?

Miller: (42:37) David Barnett.

Hagerty: (42:38) David Barnett moved in the position then and after Dave left. I am not as up with it now… because I’ve been gone for 20 years.

Miller: (42:45) But … then it was Greg Smith for a while.

Hagerty: (42:48) See I didn’t know Greg Smith, yeah.

Miller: (42:49) And so that was in the early 2000s. I think around 2003, so while you were here then it was?
**Hagerty**: (42:56) Dick Elmer...

**Miller**: (42:57) Dick Elmer…

**Hagerty and Miller**: (42:58) …and then Dr. Little.

**Rowlette**: (42:59) …for most of the time.

**Rowlette**: (43:00) What can you say about Elmer? He obvious was dealing with a very early situation. You talked about the pioneer spirit and he also had a physical handicap…

**Hagerty**: (43:11) He did.

**Rowlette**: (43:12) …that he had to deal with as far as I can…. but he never let, as far as I can tell, he never let that hold him back; but what kind of person was he? What did he accomplish in your opinion? (43:16)

**Hagerty**: (43:21) He was a very diligent person. I believe his malady was polio, I believe, so he’d had it for a long time. He was completely used to getting around with his crutches and so on. It was just part of him and he was fluid with it, so that didn’t bother him at all. Yeah, he was a hardworking kind of guy. He was very easy to get along with. His directions, you know, laissez-faire, his directions were minimal. Ah… easy to please, if you did what you were supposed to do, what he told you to do, there wasn’t a whole lot of instruction.

**Miller**: (43:58) And so then when did Dr. Little, about when did he become the director?

**Hagerty**: (44:04) Shortly after I was hired. I believe he was probably just a couple years later. I was ’78, I’m thinking ’80, ’81, somewhere around there.

**Miller**: (44:14) And tell us a little bit about him.

**Hagerty**: (44:19) He liked to walk an awful lot and we, and on that video, that DVD I had given you, he’s walking all around the campus and we put some interesting music behind his walking because he was a big exerciser, always walking. His wife was very diligent on their diet and we
would have get-togethers or library parties and his wife was always the one to bring the vegetables and he wasn’t allowed to eat the cookies, so that’s why he, they both were so nice and thin. He was a bit more directive. He would stay on top of things a bit better. He just wouldn’t turn you loose and let you go; he was always asking questions and checking up on things and so on. Um… fairly easy to get along with though and I thought he was a good director. He certainly was well qualified as a director; his educational background, and so on, were a good point for the school to say that they had him.

**Miller:** (45:15) Did Mr. Elmer leave and then Dr. Little became or…?

**Hagerty:** (45:19) Oh no he stayed on, he stayed on for quite a few years afterward.

**Miller:** (45:23) Okay, but he stepped down from that position.

**Hagerty:** (45:24) He stepped down, took another position, and was glad to let, he didn’t have his doctorate, Dick Elmer didn’t and so, Dr. Little was just a good person for that.

**Rowlette:** (45:34) Dr. Little also did some writing, I noticed a couple of articles that he put in the Liber- the Fundamentalist Journal and one of those was about the Baptist view of slavery. Did he, um, how did he strike you as being more than a, as a literary man?

**Hagerty:** (45:53) Well, we never had those sorts of conversations. One time we had a conversation that was kind of interesting with him about the, he was Irish, he was very Irish and the Orangemen from Ireland, his father was involved as an Orangeman and there was a lot of strife, you know, of course as we all know between the Protestants and Catholics in Ireland for quite a long time and his father was heavily involved in that strife. So we had some interesting talks on history that way, but on this area of history I don’t remember having any talks with him on that, Kenny.
**Miller:** (46:30) So as far as the organization of the collection, were we always Library of Congress and was your area with the curriculum library Library of Congress or did we ever do Dewey?

**Hagerty:** (46:42) No, we did Dewey for a while, then went and changed to Library of Congress. I don’t know exactly when, it may have been when they moved the library up to the mountain, I’m not sure. But it was Dewey, if I recall correctly, initially.

**Miller:** (46:57) And so, then they would have started with a card catalog and did they switch to the electronic catalog while you were here and what kind of a project was that?

**Hagerty:** (47:09) I don’t think so, a ’93 I don’t believe we were. We might have just been beginning it then. Do you remember Kenny?

**Rowlette:** (47:17) From what I saw on the timeline, around ’93, ’94.

**Hagerty:** (47:21) Is when that started electronically? That’s what…

**Rowlette:** (47:22) Yeah, yeah the DINEX system.

**Hagerty:** (47:24) The what now?

**Rowlette:** (47:25) The DINEX system, the CDs. Remember you went to the CDs?

**Hagerty:** (47:27) Yes, yes, but I didn’t remember the computer system well at all. So I think I had just phased out whenever that was coming online. In fact I remember whenever we first got a fax machine in the library and we thought that was just the coolest thing ever. So…

**Miller:** (47:42) And so… kind of walk us through a verbal tour of the library when you walk into the library was there reference here, was there a reference desk, circulation, could you just…?

**Hagerty:** (47:58) Yeah, you walk in the front door and to your left…

**Rowlette:** (48:02) But now that would depend on which library you’re talking about, right?
Hagerty: (48:04) Yeah, I’m trying to remember here, because where the library is presently, it had been in that area I think for a good long time and when it moved over to DeMoss building, now of course there weren’t floors on DeMoss, DeMoss was just one floor, but when they moved into DeMoss, and this isn’t the old downtown library, but when they moved into DeMoss, you come in the main doors the circulation desk would be on your left. On your right would be director’s offices, secretary’s offices, a couple other offices, and reference desk over on the right and then the rest, it was pretty straightforward. There was a small collection of creation science back in a corner somewhere. There were all the stacks. The audio-visual library was in a separate place, so if you wanted to listen to something or view something, you went outside the main library, different location and then you went to the education department and the education building for the, where we kept the curriculum library.

Miller: (49:02) So is that where your office was? Did you not spend most of your day in the main library, you were over…

Hagerty: (49:08) Oh I, yeah, my main office was in the audio-visual library and then I had a full-time person running the curriculum library and my office, yeah, was in audio-visual. So I wasn’t in the main, except for doing reference duty every now and then.

Miller: (49:24) This is kind of a minor point, but I remember seeing some pictures with carpet on the floor in the library was there tile then carpet then back to tile or what do you recall about that?

Hagerty: (49:33) I just remember til-, I mean carpet.

Rowlette: (49:36) It was all carpet.

Hagerty: (49:37) Yeah, I just remember carpet back then.

Rowlette: (49:38) The whole building was carpeted.
Miller: (49:41) And probably was easier to maintain with the tile and so they took... so where the old Barnes and Noble bookstore was on the first floor, what was that when you were here?

Hagerty: (49:50) I don’t remember, that might have been a bit after my time, I think. What year did you come, Kenny?

Rowlette: (49:56) ’80.

Hagerty: (49:57) ’80. M’kay. Yeah, I don’t remember the Barnes and Noble—well no, I do remember the Barnes and Noble bookstore, outside the library in the hallway there...

Miller: (50:04) Right to the left.

Hagerty: (50:05) …right across the hallway, yes.

Miller: (50:06) Okay, so what was there before they put that bookstore there?

Rowlette: (50:08) That was always there.

Miller: (50:09) Oh, that was always there.

Rowlette: (50:10) …until ‘85.


Rowlette: (50:11) Yeah, it was always there, because remember the bookstore had been around as you walk toward Schilling it was in a separate building. Remember?

Hagerty: (50:22) Okay, yeah, I’m not remembering that.

Rowlette: (50:23) It was in a separate building which later became a doctor’s office...

Hagerty: (50:27) Okay...

Rowlette: (50:28) …but that was the bookstore...

Hagerty: (50:28) …okay...

Rowlette: (50:29) …back in the early days.
Hagerty: (50:30) I remember they did something with the library, and again, I wasn’t involved with this much because it was the main library, but they would use the main library for selling books or something. Also whenever semesters would start, they would…

Miller: (50:41) So at each semester they would use you as a kind of a staging ground type of a…

Hagerty: (50:45) Something like that. I remember it would get pretty chaotic there for a few weeks.

Rowlette: (50:49) That little bookstore was there until ’85 and then that’s when they moved the bookstore into DeMoss.

Hagerty: (50:55) Okay, okay.

Miller: (50:58) And so now do you recall them purchasing any collections while you were a librarian where they would go to another school and buy up thirty thousand volumes or anything?

Hagerty: (51:06) They did, but I can’t think of who it was, what it was, whose it was. I do remember something that was purchased in a pretty big bulk, a small library somewhere that we purchased, but I can’t remember what the name of it was.

Miller: (51:17) Now when you would do your weekly reference duties here, were you using all print based stuff? Did they start to bring in the CD-ROMs or was that after you left in ’93? When you would actually have articles on CD-ROMs? Do you recall?

Hagerty: (51:33) We may have just been starting to use some things like that back around ’90, early ’90.

Miller: (51:40) Okay. So… just to make sure that I’ve got this correctly here is that originally there was a combined library with seminary library downtown. You come up here to campus and where was the first place that the library was up here on the mountain?
Hagerty: (52:03) I think it was in DeMoss. Yeah, I think it was in DeMoss, whenever we came up here.

Rowlette: (52:07) No, I thought it was before DeMoss.

Hagerty: (52:11) Where...?

Rowlette: (52:11) They moved over into part of this building or education, because in early ’80, ’81, they still had, and all throughout ’80, they had the library downstairs- er, downtown. It seems like they moved the library up here in ’81...

Hagerty: (52:26) M’kay...

Rowlette: (52:26) ...according to my recollection.

Hagerty: (52:27) M’kay.

Rowlette: (52:28) And then they had it over...

Hagerty: (52:30) Whenever they came up here it was a building...

Rowlette: (52:33) Yeah.

Hagerty: (52:34) …that I thought was just an education building like beside where DeMoss is presently...

Rowlette: (52:38) No, no, it was...

Hagerty: (52:38) …and then when they built DeMoss they moved over it.

Rowlette: (52:40) …do you remember they added space; remember there was spacing between what was called the general ed. building, the science building? This was the, this right here was not here, this, the building we’re sitting in. So what they did, they later took this area and this is where the first library was...

Hagerty: (52:56) Um-hm. M’kay.
Rowlette: (52:57) …Because it was between what we would call fine arts hall and the education. This whole space was the library.

Hagerty: (53:04) Gotcha. And then after, then from here, it went over when they built the first floor of DeMoss…

Rowlette: (53:08) Right…

Hagerty: (53:08) …then it went over to DeMoss then. Okay, I wasn’t remembering this clearly.

Rowlette: (53:11) …And the Archives, when they opened up B.R. Lakin in the spring of ’83; the Archives were over in the part of the library was a seminary library it was over there in the religion hall.

Hagerty: (53:22) Yeah, I remember that.

Rowlette: (53:23) At least through the summer of ’83, at least. I remember going in, talking with Mr. Agee about some, looking at some of Liberty’s handbooks in the summer of ’83. Beyond that, I can’t tell you when they moved it over.

Hagerty: (53:35) Okay.

Miller: (53:36) And so then you moved to DeMoss. Did you have to move out of DeMoss when they added the second, third, and fourth floors?

Hagerty: (53:41) No, it stayed in place for that...

Miller: (53:43) Stayed in place for that.

Hagerty: (53:44) …yeah.

Miller: (53:46) And… so… there was a distinction between the audio-visual collection of filmstrips and movies and phonograph records and things and then media services that provided the projectors and the phonographs and that to run them, but both of those were under your area then.
Hagerty: (54:10) Right, right. It was just audio-visual library hardware and software. We didn’t get involved with computers. That was a separate group whenever that came into effect later, but audio-visual hardware and software.

Rowlette: (54:24) What kind of audio-visual equipment did you have?

Hagerty: (54:27) Oh, all the standard old stuff back then. You know all the overhead projectors, the slide projectors, filmstrip projectors, record players, cassette players, video equipment, and of course back then even you had the debate between VHS and beta, hadn’t been decided yet, so we had to have both pieces of equipment. We had even a three quarter inch videocassette player, sixteen millimeter projectors, you know, all that old stuff.

Miller: (54:53) Were there ever things where students could produce their own recordings and was there like a student broadcast studio or anything?

Hagerty: (55:02) They had television or whatever their department was called back then because you know Thomas Road and the video projection and the television ministry and all the rest, they would utilize the church’s equipment initially whenever they, for that part of the school and so producing stuff and making stuff was pretty much outside the library and in that department.

Rowlette: (55:22) Remember it went in the early days the building that was right across from us that way was called the general ed. building, that’s where they had the radio station like this. It held that, it also held—that’s where they did their communications classes and they had another, they had a duplicating lab over there.

Hagerty: (55:39) Okay.

Rowlette: (55:39) Then when DeMoss opened all that moved over here.

Hagerty: (55:43) Okay, okay.
Miller: (55:45) So… talk a little bit, if you would, didn’t they have kind of a deep financial crisis in the early nineties?

Hagerty: (55:53) That’s putting it mildly.

Hagerty and Miller: (55:54) (Chuckle)

Hagerty: (55:56) Deep financial crisis; you could have a budget of a hundred thousand dollars and request a one thousand dollar item and if cash flow wasn’t up that week, it wasn’t approved and you did not get your one thousand dollar item, which do I, I do remember a couple things about the main library collection, as you know periodicals and such are put out on a regular basis and you need to get them sequentially and get them on a regular basis and we did have some difficulty keeping up with our collections, our periodical collections cause on certain times we just didn’t have the money to pay for it.

Miller: (56:31) And to this day you can go in for certain titles, now things have really switched around since the days that you were here, right now I estimate that ninety-nine percent of our journals are online and we’ve gotten rid of a lot of those print periodicals that had been duplicated in electronic collections, right now we probably have eight or nine hundred periodical titles, I’m guessing, that are in print, but for some of those old classic ones that were in print, you can actually see gaps in there that we have it from 1958 to 1990 and then around ’91, ’92 and then it starts up again ’92 to present or…

Hagerty: (57:09) And that’s the exact reason there are gaps…

Miller and Hagerty: (57:11) (Chuckle)

Hagerty: (57:12) …because there wasn’t money.

Miller: (57:14) And so now, did you ever miss a paycheck?
Hagerty: (57:17) Did not, did not miss a paycheck. I was telling Kenny earlier, before we started talking, about my leaving in ’93 those were some very difficult years also and a lot of people were getting laid off so that the ministry wouldn’t have to miss paychecks, you know, they had to be ruthless just to be able to meet that and so people got laid off pretty regularly. Whenever I left in ’93, it was my own, of my own choice, but most people thought— when I told them I wasn’t coming back that I was one of those folks.

Miller: (57:48) That had been laid off…

Hagerty: (57:49) Had been laid off.

Miller: (57:50) But you kind of saw the handwriting on the wall? You wanted, you know…

Hagerty: (57:55) Well, and they had different interests, you know. Having off in the summers, I was always doing something more along the lines of construction and real-estate and so on like that and started a part-time business in ’88 that I was able to leave for full-time in ‘93.

Miller: (58:14) And so now you mentioned something, but I want to actually get this on the record here; is that right now all of our librarians are 12-month employees…

Hagerty: (58:25) Oh…

Miller: (58:25) …Especially with the online students that we have and we have…

Hagerty: (58:29) Yeah…

Miller: (58:30) …semester… and we have students. They are calling up for research assistance and all and we have intensives during the summer. So for all of the time that you were here were librarians like regular faculty; that they basically were employed during the school year? And did all of you have summers off?

Hagerty: (58:47) No, no we were all regular faculty. They, I guess, they still have four positions what is an instructor, assistant, associate and full professor…
Rowlette: (58:55) Right.

Hagerty: (58:56) ...I assume you still use that same system but we were hired as faculty and would come in at one of those levels and so we had the option. Some of us had the option of having 10 month contracts but the majority of us had 12 month.

Miller: (59:13) So did you go with the 10 or the 12 month?

Hagerty: (59:15) I fluctuated. I was here for 15 years and when the opportunity arose to have a 10-month, I did that several years.

Miller: (59:25) So as a faculty member in the ‘70s and ‘80s, what was that like being a Liberty faculty member?

Hagerty: (59:37) Boy, that’s a good question. Are you thinking of anything specifically?

Miller: (59:41) Well I...

Hagerty: (59:42) I mean looking at the community—how you were you viewed from the community—what was it like... uh? You know there were all, the school is much more accepted now in the community. Dr. Falwell always had his joke about whenever you knocked on a door or met somebody for the first time it was either pucker or duck; you know they either loved you or hated you, kind of thing. I think the school is pretty well accepted now... we were pretty well accepted back then, for the most part, but it’s always been a bit contentious in the community.

Miller: (1:00:15) And... well, I just even think when I first came there was the guardhouse, there was one way to get onto campus and almost a little bit of an isolationist type of a thing and so...

Hagerty: (1:00:26) Good point.

Miller: (1:00:27) ...I guess I, I guess I see it going both ways. Is that we’re trying to reach out into the community even more than those days and you know, there’s a great acceptance, I
remember when Dr. Falwell passed away just, I was relatively new here and just seeing all of the billboards and just the appreciation that he was really…

**Hagerty:** (1:00:47) Yeah.

**Miller:** (1:00:47) …loved and appreciated here in this town.

**Hagerty:** (1:00:49) Yeah, he was, he was, but that’s a good way to put it the guard shack could of have been a very good symbol of how a lot of people viewed us up here, as trying to be…with all the rules and so on like that, yeah, we were a bit more isolated.

**Rowlette:** (1:01:05) As a faculty member, when I came, if I can kind of ask you to bounce this off you if I may. You know the ‘80s were exciting. It was a time where you had all these people coming onto campus, national figures as well…

**Hagerty:** (1:01:18) Um huh.

**Rowlette:** (1:01:18) …as religious figures. There was growth, there was excitement and then about ’91 when you started seeing the impact of the financial crisis.

**Hagerty:** (1:01:28) Um huh.

**Rowlette:** (1:01:28) It changed things but wouldn’t you say that up until about that time that… either we were not aware of any impending dark clouds or whatever, but it was a very positive attitude.

**Hagerty:** (1:01:43) Oh yeah, very.

**Rowlette:** (1:01:45) People were excited to be here…

**Hagerty:** (1:01:46) Very, very positive, very exciting… Dr. Falwell, you know, had always had enthusiasm, he always had projects going on, you were always looking forward to what new thing was going on. He promoted hard and, yeah. It was a very exciting place in the ‘80s.
Rowlette: (1:02:06) And the students caught that too. The impact of the financial crisis may have been that it, it took that away for some time, which was sad.

Hagerty: (1:02:17) It was sad, it took a lot of the luster off of the glowing project that we had going on here, yes.

Rowlette: (1:02:24) We should have been able to stay for a few more years when we turned the corner and we got that feeling back. You know?

Hagerty: (1:02:30) Mm-hm.

Rowlette: (1:02:30) That was, that was wonderful, to go through that valley and then…

Hagerty: (1:02:34) Oh, yeah.

Rowlette: (1:02:35) And then have, you see it around the school here?

Hagerty: (1:02:36) Oh, yeah. What’s going on today…

Rowlette: (1:02:37) Fantastic, yeah.

Hagerty: (1:02:38) …is just completely reminiscent of back then, the enthusiasm and all the projects and the excitement. I would imagine it’s quite a bit the same as it was back in the ‘80s.

Miller: (1:02:45) Well, you and I have talked through the years and it is kind of interesting because you’re like a snapshot that was taken back then and you haven’t kept up as much with things, so it’s just… (Chuckles)

Hagerty: (1:02:55) No.

Miller: (1:02:56) …So you have good memories of how it was in those days. What was the, what was the impact that was felt on campus with the Moral Majority and the whole political thing and the Reagan revolution and all?

Hagerty: (1:03:07) The school was very much behind all that, you know. Again, Dr. Falwell was a good promoter and he sold it well. You’ll have people discuss it and was this a good idea,
was that a good idea, etc. but at the time, I think the majority of people here on campus thought it was a good idea and what we were trying to do in getting Ronald Reagan in office and all the rest was pretty exciting.

**Miller:** (1:03:31) So do you happen to remember the Baptist fundamentalism 1984 meeting there at all? When the…

**Hagerty:** (1:03:37) No, no, I’m not…

**Miller:** (1:03:38) I think they brought everyone up to Washington D.C. or something.

**Rowlette:** (1:03:41) You, did you go?

**Hagerty:** (1:03:42) I didn’t. What did we do then? I don’t seem to remember that at all.

**Rowlette:** (1:03:45) Well, we went up there on a Wednesday evening and there was Thursday and Friday and we came back on a Saturday. It was very exciting; Reagan was there, of course, all the big time preachers, all the political, conservative political speakers. It was exciting.

**Hagerty:** (1:04:02) Yeah.

**Rowlette:** (1:04:03) Harold Agee and I, kind of, kind of, I think we roomed together. We had a good time. It was…

**Hagerty:** (1:04:09) No, I didn’t go…

**Rowlette:** (1:04:10) It was a…

**Hagerty:** (1:04:11) …I don’t know why I didn’t go, but I didn’t go to that.

**Rowlette:** (1:04:11) …very positive, very positive experience and we got to stay, we actually stayed at the hotel, where, was it the Hilton? Where Reagan was shot?

**Hagerty:** (1:04:18) Oh!

**Rowlette:** (1:04:19) So we got to see right where Reagan had been, and he cleaned all that stuff…
Hagerty: (1:04:22) Huh!

Rowlette: (1:04:23) But it was an exciting time. Now the students, I heard, had a somewhat different experience because they were kind of packed into motels, but it was a “who’s who,” pardon the expression, it was kind of a Woodstock of conservatism.

Hagerty: (1:04:35) Yeah, huh! Now I don’t remember the reason why, but I didn’t go.

Rowlette: (1:04:40) Very positive experience.

Hagerty: (1:04:40) Have you, have you talked with some of the other librarians that we talked about earlier? For example, Miss Kawaguchi, do you know anything about her?

Miller: (1:04:47) Don’t know what she’s doing.

Hagerty: (1:04:48) What she’s doing? If she’s living or dead? You don’t know?

Miller: (1:04:50) Nope, don’t know.

Hagerty: (1:04:51) Okay, and of course, what about Harold Agee? I mean, I haven’t talked with him for years.

Rowlette: (1:04:55) He’s, he’s passed on.

Hagerty: (1:04:57) See, I didn’t know that, alright. Of course, I know Russ and Dave, Dave Barnett, Kay Compton, you didn’t even know Kay, I’m sure, alright.

Miller: (1:05:07) And Dave Esbenshade lives here in town still.

Hagerty: (1:05:10) Right, I saw Dave not too long ago, he was having some health problems, with his back I believe.

Miller: (1:05:15) Right.

Hagerty: (1:05:16) And saw him not too long ago, but Dick Elmer was older; I wouldn’t be surprised if Dick has passed also. I feel certain probably.

Miller: (1:05:21) And I think Dr. Little has passed.
Hagerty: (1:05:23) Yeah, I know Dr. Little has passed, yes.

Rowlette: (1:05:25) His wife still lives in town.

Hagerty: (1:05:26) Oh she’s…

Rowlette: (1:05:27) I did make a contact with her through her nephew, his nephew and all I know is she is still alive.

Hagerty: (1:05:34) Well, they had a son in town also who was an engineer at B&W or one of the places here in town. Okay, alright. I was just curious about a few of those folks.

Rowlette: (1:05:46) The upcoming newsletter, January, we hope to get some of the old-timers to come back and take a tour of the library and we’re going to try to interview, hope you would be one too, just you know, a part of your general thoughts about what you see.

Hagerty: (1:05:57) Well, can I wear a badge that says “Old-Timer” if I come?

Rowlette: (1:06:00) We’ll make one up for you.

Hagerty: (1:06:01) Okay, as long as I get an “Old-Timer” badge.

Miller: (1:06:04) Well, let’s go back. We still have a few questions we haven’t discussed here. So, do you recall when faculty members were allowed to attend a church other than Thomas Road Baptist Church and what precipitated that?

Hagerty: (1:06:17) No, I don’t remember any years. I was attending another church whenever I was working here. I’ll tell you something else interesting that you’ll appreciate Randy. They did—all the men had to be clean shaven up until a certain time and I was one of the first ones to not be. So you and I are bearded now and you can thank me later for that if you want.

Miller: (1:06:42) (Chuckles)
Hagerty: (1:06:42) So… (Chuckles)… there were a couple of us who wanted to do that and we were eventually allowed. I know I had it when I did that in ’89… when I did that video that I gave you to copy. I have a beard on in that.

Rowlette: (1:06:55) I had a beard in ’88.

Hagerty: (1:06:56) Did you have it back then also?

Rowlette: (1:06:57) Marshall Samuelson had a beard in ’83.

Hagerty: (1:07:01) I remember Marshall Samuelson.

Rowlette: (1:07:02) He had a beard in ’83.

Hagerty: (1:07:04) Yeah.

Rowlette: (1:07:05) And some of us… who had facial hair? Not too many.

Hagerty: (1:07:11) Not too many.

Rowlette: (1:07:11) I just grew a beard over the summer, never thought about it, didn’t shave it off…

Hagerty: (1:07:16) That’s what I did.

Rowlette: (1:07:16) …No one ever said anything to me.

Hagerty: (1:07:18) That’s how we got away with it, I guess. Did it over the summer, came back and nobody said anything about it and so it kind of went silently away. (Chuckles)

Miller: (1:07:24) Well it doesn’t really have to do with Liberty’s history, but in my little institution they first allowed mustaches before they went to beards and so it was very interesting the first year they allowed it that if you look at faculty pages in the yearbook every single person, you know, took advantage of their new found liberty and were wearing mustaches.

Hagerty: (1:07:41) (Chuckles) There you go.

Miller: (1:07:43) And then things died down and now it’s a blend of…
**Hagerty**: (1:07:47) Yeah.

**Rowlette**: (1:07:48) You and I might have the honor…

**Hagerty**: (1:07:49) We were some of the first ones, I know it. Yeah, and I forgot about Marshall Samuelson…

**Rowlette**: (1:07:53) Oh yeah.

**Hagerty**: (1:07:54) …I haven’t seen him for a long, long time.

**Miller**: (1:07:56) Well now, speaking of other churches. You’ve been a long time member of Heritage. When you stopped going to Thomas… so you went to Thomas Road as a student, did you… were you going to another church as soon as you came back that second time to begin working…

**Hagerty**: (1:08:09) No.

**Miller**: (1:08:10) …in the library?

**Hagerty**: (1:08:11) No, went to Thomas Road when I first came back for a few years. Let’s see, I came back in ’78. I was married in ’80 and by the time I was married we were over at a different church. So probably just in Thomas Road for a year when I first came back, when my wife and I started dating we chose another church then.

**Miller**: (1:08:30) And so was that Heritage or was that another church besides that?

**Hagerty**: (1:08:33) It was Heritage.

**Miller**: (1:08:34) It was Heritage. Well and so we…

**Hagerty**: (1:08:35) No, no. It was Old Forest Road Baptist Church, at first.

**Miller**: (1:08:37) Okay.

**Hagerty**: (1:08:38) Because she taught over there for a little while. Yes. Yeah, they had a Christian school for just a short time and the first year they started it and she had an education
degree from Liberty and she taught in that first year, but they had a rocky road with that project and it never succeeded. So were over at Old Forest Road for a little while and then Heritage.

**Miller:** (1:08:57) So what do you recall about the formation of Heritage Baptist Church?

**Hagerty:** (1:09:00) A bit. Heritage was formed by a fella name Rob Kidd, who was a seminary student here and I worked in an Awana program with Rob whenever I was college student even, so knew him, didn’t know him well but we worked together. He headed up the project as a graduate student. I was an undergrad working with this Awana thing… Awana project over at Thomas Road. So I met him before and then he started Heritage in the basement of a home, which is just down the street where Heritage is presently located and whenever we started to attend there, oh we went to Heritage and Rob only about a month after we started attending announced that he was going to the mission field in Germany and that they were going to be needing to find another pastor and they did. They hired a fella named Mike Arnett and Mike was the pastor then for not a real long time. There were some disagreements there and he wasn’t a good fit, he wasn’t the same type of person that Rod was and so there was just some unhappiness on both parts and so Mike started another church in town and probably, I’m just guessing, but thirty percent of the church, at the time, followed Mike and then Heritage had to find another pastor and we got Jerry Kroll and Ron Hawkins. Dr. Crowell and Dr. Hawkins came over, both of them were teaching here on the faculty and I had mentioned to them that we were looking for an interim pastor over there and they didn’t know if they could do it on their own, but as a team they came in and did it for a while; a year, two years, I can’t remember.

**Miller:** (1:10:46) So now were you on the deacon board at that time?

**Hagerty:** (1:10:47) I want to think I was on the deacon board but I knew everybody and it was small and I knew these guys over here and so I ended up mentioning it to Dr. Kroll and so he
gets Ron involved and they were interim together and then of course Ron faded out and Jerry ended up being an excellent pastor over there for years.

**Miller:** (1:11:06) So you’ve been in the community for a long, long time. Could you talk just real briefly about all of the churches… the changes in the number of churches? A lot of folks have said Jerry Falwell’s responsible for, I think the number was 60 or 80 churches within a 25-30 mile radius here of the area, have you noticed quite an increase in the number of gospel preaching churches with Liberty grads going out and all?

**Hagerty:** (1:11:31) Oh yeah the increase of everything in the whole town since 1980 and so on, from churches to restaurants, you know. The whole town has just grown tremendously in the last 30-35 years. Yeah.

**Miller:** (1:11:45) Talk a little bit about Wards Road and what you recall happening there?

**Hagerty:** (1:11:49) An explosion; there just wasn’t much there.

**Rowlette:** (1:11:52) Well there… remember down about where Dickey’s is and the… place where the buffet, there was a car junkyard there.

**Hagerty:** (1:12:03) Um huh.

**Rowlette:** (1:12:04) And then down about where… oh, is it Panera Bread? Right through there was Bad Landers.

**Hagerty:** (1:12:10) Yes.

**Rowlette:** (1:12:10) That was a biker bar, a honky-tonk bar.

**Hagerty:** (1:12:12) Yes.

**Rowlette:** (1:12:13) There were shootings there, stabbings. The only- there were the gas stations and the RV place, the RV place.

**Hagerty:** (1:12:20) Taylor’s RV has been there for a long time.
Rowlette: (1:12:21) That was the only decent place there. Some of it came out of the armpit of Lynchburg...

Hagerty: (1:12:25) Um huh.

Rowlette: (1:12:26) And all that changed when Liberty… the ministry sold the land to Walmart.

Hagerty: (1:12:31) Um huh.

Rowlette: (1:12:32) Remember Walmart about went… the guy who was doing the excavation about went bust because there was a lot of…

Hagerty: (1:12:37) The rock was terrible.

Rowlette: (1:12:38) …Rock was horrible.

Hagerty: (1:12:39) Yeah.

Rowlette: (1:12:40) But they did that was… the thing that changed everything around…

Hagerty: (1:12:43) And brought all the other smaller businesses into it.

Rowlette: (1:12:44) Oh yeah.

Hagerty: (1:12:45) Yeah, but Lynchburg was a small town in ’74. I mean you could count on one hand the number of restaurants and maybe only two that were of any size and then a couple little mom and pop things. Yeah, it was a very different town that long ago.

Miller: (1:13:02) So right now your primary business is as an appraiser, right?

Hagerty: (1:13:06) I have real estate and construction related businesses. We do… I’m a class-A contractor. I build houses, have built houses. I’ve property development. I have a subdivision in town. In fact, if you need to buy a good lot I have sixteen of them left.

Miller: (1:13:24) (Chuckles)
Hagerty: (1:13:25) I’d be glad to sell both of you one. So we have some lots over there. I bought a home inspection business back in ’96 from a friend of mind and have been doing home inspections not appraisals for the last 16 or 17 years.

Miller: (1:13:40) When I moved to town, I think you did our house.

Hagerty: (1:13:42) Um-hmm and your son’s house. Who was the son who had the problems with the pole in the basement that they had removed?

Miller: (1:13:49) Oh uh, that was Adam.

Hagerty: (1:13:50) Adam’s. That’s right; Adam found a nice home but somebody got in there who didn’t know what he was doing and removed structural components from the basement girder, not a good thing. (Chuckles)

Miller: (1:14:01) And so, that leads me to the question, to just say you’ve been gone from being an employee here for a while.

Hagerty: (1:14:09) 20 years.

Miller: (1:14:10) For 20 years.

Hagerty: (1:14:11) 20 years.

Miller: (1:14:12) What’s the word on the street here as far as Liberty University and the community? What are you hearing when you’re out there?

Hagerty: (1:14:18) I think the word is good for the most part. I think everybody appreciates the school, not everybody. I think the majority of people appreciate this school, what they’re doing, how the school or the town has changed dramatically because of the school. There are always going to be somebody who’s going to complain about traffic and who wouldn’t complain about college kids, you know, eventually. No offence, Abigail. Are you still a student? …Okay.

Miller: (1:14:44) No, she’s one of- she’s a librarian; she’s our Archivist.
Hagerty: (1:14:47) Oh, are you? I didn’t know that. Well, we should get you in here so we can talk to you.

Miller: (1:14:51) (Chuckles)

Rowlette: (1:14:52) Wouldn’t you say that the town has finally accepted the school as having made it?

Hagerty: (1:14:58) I think they have, yeah.

Rowlette: (1:14:59) Don’t you think that in the early days…

Hagerty: (1:15:01) And we are more open than we were before. We don’t have the shack, we don’t have as many of the rules and this, that, and the other. So I think we are more accepting.

Rowlette: (1:15:08) We’re more, for lack of a better term, legitimate. This is a legitimate institution as opposed to one trying to be.

Hagerty: (1:15:15) Oh yeah. As compared to a fly by night, we don’t think they’re going to make it, skin-of-your-teeth sort of venture, exactly.

Miller: (1:15:25) And in the early ‘90s, they had some cause for concern.

Hagerty: (1:15:27) We were just what I said. Exactly, way back in the ‘70s we were definitely that.

Miller: (1:15:33) So when did you move out to Goode, where you are now?


Miller: (1:15:45) It’s a beautiful home by the way.

Hagerty: (1:15:46) Thank you, thank you.

Miller: (1:15:47) Enjoy coming out to visit you.

Hagerty: (1:15:48) You’ve been out there several times.
Miller: (1:15:51) And... so now you have a neighbor that has something to do with Liberty University.

Hagerty: (1:15:56) Oh, just a little bit. Yeah, Jerry Jr. lives out beside me, just an eighth of a mile down the road and if you could talk to him and get him not to have those senior get-togethers in May, so that we can avoid the traffic problems, I’d sure appreciate it.

Miller: (1:16:10) So I was going to ask you about that... so...

Hagerty: (1:16:12) He did a good thing this year. The year before was horrible because it was rainy, the kids had nowhere to park; they were getting stuck in the fields. He brings them in- he’s on a big farm out there- and he brings them in and he parks them in this field and it’s muddy and they can’t get out and they’re stuck and so they’re parking up on the streets. It was a fiasco, but this last year I think he bussed them in more, so we didn’t have the traffic problems.

Rowlette: (1:16:35) How close are you to Kevin [Schworer]?

Hagerty: (1:16:37) Who now?

Rowlette: (1:16:38) Kevin [Schworer]. Kevin lives in that brick house, just as you go down the road to Jerry Jr.’s house.

Hagerty: (1:16:44) Okay now when you come up to the stop sign and you make a left and...

Rowlette: (1:16:47) Yeah.

Hagerty: (1:16:47) ...you go down, its Hard Surface Road.

Rowlette: (1:16:49) Yes.

Hagerty: (1:16:50) And you come down in the forks and you bear to your right.

Rowlette: (1:16:52) But he’s before...

Hagerty: (1:16:53) Before you bear to your right, Kevin’s house is on the left?

Rowlette: (1:16:56) It’s on the right. It’s kind of a... Williamsburg brick.
Hagerty: (1:17:00) Kevin’s house is on the right? Does it have a detached garage?

Rowlette: (1:17:04) Yeah.

Hagerty: (1:17:05) With a swimming pool at the back?

Rowlette: (1:17:06) Yeah.

Hagerty: (1:17:07) Yeah, I know just which house it is. That’s a- that’s a half a mile from my place.

Rowlette: (1:17:09) Okay.

Hagerty: (1:17:10) Yeah, if you keep going straight, Jerry Jr.’s place is on the right, the farmhouse, and I’m just past Jerry on the left.

Rowlette: (1:17:16) Oh, okay, okay.

Miller: (1:17:18) And um, so any thoughts on what you’ve read about the new library building?

Hagerty: (1:17:24) I- Randy, I haven’t read too much, to be honest with you. You’ve told me some of the things about it and the conveyors- the conveyance system is going to be fascinating. I’ll be interested in seeing that.

Miller: (1:17:34) That robot system.

Hagerty: (1:17:35) Yeah, I did not know that we were getting that, you were going to do that. That’ll be interesting to see, because it’s-

Miller: (1:17:40) You’ve always been kind of a techy guy from what-

Hagerty: (1:17:42) Well, it’s a mechanical thing. You know, I want to see how it whirs and buzzes and what pulleys do what and how it works.

Miller: (1:17:47) And they’ve even have a window on it and you can push a button, even if someone doesn’t need a book, that they can make the equipment kind of do the dance, so to speak, to-
Hagerty: (1:17:55) There you go.

Miller: (1:17:56) To be able to see that here.

Hagerty: (1:17:57) Yep, that…

Miller: (1:17:58) So, what do you foresee as far as the future of the university?

Hagerty: (1:18:01) Oh goodness. The future looks good because the, I would think the future looks good, certainly financially we’re in a good position from everything I’ve heard or, you know, talked about with different folks on. The spirit around the school, the enthusiasm again, this and that, the place that we have in Christian education I think is unique. I’m sure if we tried hard enough, anybody or anything can do something to harm themself, but unless we do something like that, I would think the future is going to be pretty good.

Rowlette: (1:18:36) If you were asked by someone to define your role in the overall progress of the university, how- what would it be? And when I say your role, maybe your, the group of people that you worked with back in the late ‘70s and ‘80s. What part did you play, because we wouldn’t be here today if it weren’t for you and others.

Hagerty: (1:18:58) Well then the word would have to be pivotal, wouldn’t it?

Rowlette: (1:19:00) Right.

Hagerty: (1:19:01) Yes, pivotal. (Chuckles)

Miller: (1:19:03) And also the word legacy. So what would you say would be your legacy?

Hagerty: (1:19:06) The fact that I had some firsts. You know, whenever you get involved in something at the beginning, whether you do it well or not, I won’t say I did it particularly well, but I did a few things diligently and I got involved at an early stage. So… you know the flying thing is interesting. The starting, whenever people say, “What did you do?” I said, “Well, I’m in charge of this and this.” And then I’d tell them, “They didn’t have them, so I got to take and
build both of, both of those libraries and organize the equipment and do some of the classes.” So it’s far beyond anything I did, right now, but I, you know, had the...

Miller: (1:19:45) The embryonic-

Hagerty: (1:19:45) …honor…

Miller: (1:19:46) The seed that-

Hagerty: (1:19:46) Yeah, had the honor of starting it.

Rowlette: (1:19:48) If you could say something to this current generation of students and future students about the university, you’ve been a student here, you’ve been a librarian, what would it be?

Hagerty: (1:19:59) Try to have a vision in whatever you’re going to do, you know. Hope, vision, whatever you want to call it, carry some excitement through life where you try to do a bit more than what you might first think capable, because we saw some amazing things happen here that, you know, here we are today, this is amazing from where we started and so that’s the best advice I could- I gave my sons, you know, go a step beyond, be diligent, be determined and try to do something that maybe you think you can’t do, but don’t be afraid to try it.

Miller: (1:20:36) Well, one other thought here then is, about how many faculty members were at the university would you say, you were here when only three or four librarians when you first started here and now we have over twenty professional librarians on our staff here. About how big was the overall university faculty?

Hagerty: (1:20:59) Oh, goodness. How many people do you think we had, Kenny, two-hundred back then in late, around ‘80? We still had around two-hundred? I wouldn’t have even known that; I was so overwhelmed at the time, getting out of graduate school, being twenty years old,
my first professional position, take this from nothing and start it. So I was pretty well focused on-

**Miller:** (1:21:17) And-and not too long in-

**Hagerty:** (1:21:17) –my little, my little part of the world.

**Miller:** (1:21:19) -a newlywed and you know trying to have a family and you know everything like that –

**Hagerty:** (1:21:23) Yeah, throw all that together, it was an exciting time of life.

**Miller:** (1:21:25) Well, so here’s what I was going to ask you though, is that by the time that I came, there were over five-hundred faculty members. I got to shake Dr. Falwell’s hand at a Christmas party one time, but I didn’t really have a close connection. Did, did you, would he know you by name? Did you have much interaction with him?

**Hagerty:** (1:21:50) Didn’t have a lot of interaction with him. I think he would know me by name, just because he was so good at it, but don’t think he would-

**Miller:** (1:22:00) But did you have any story or incident or something memorable about Dr. Jerry Falwell that you’d like to share?

**Hagerty:** (1:22:06) Oh, I wasn’t around him that much, Randy. My wife and her sister would have personal stories, because, like I said, they were on one of the singing teams, they were around him more often, they travelled with him, those sorts of things. I didn’t have any of those things going on, so other than the fact that we’d see each other at meetings every now and then, he’d know my face from being a faculty person, but that was probably the extent of it.

**Miller:** (1:22:31) Okay, any other parting thoughts you’d like to share?
Hagerty: (1:22:34) No, this place is, just that this place is very impressive and I’m, you know, just excited with what you’re doing with it. Don’t try to get me back to help with anything because I’d be totally lost and don’t have a clue what I’m doing right now in your field.

Miller: (1:22:47) Well, we’re glad that you were able to join us today and with that we’ll conclude today’s interview with Chuck Hagerty. This interview has been conducted as part of the oral history project of the Liberty University Archive.

[End of Interview]