

**Oral History – Interview of Marion E. Rapp by Dr. Hanlon –  
June 4, 2002**

MR:           There are a few things that probably I didn't cover. The first of which is the College's Christmas parties (Dr. H.: Yes), which were so different in the early days than they are today. In the mansion, it was an old-fashioned Christmas party. I think that building was built for Christmas parties, it was so beautiful. And in those days, the College used to invite executives of the different surgical organizations, and the legal counsel, and such people to the parties. And this was more or less a treat for the little people on the staff, because for the most part, they never met these people. They were just people they knew existed through what they had in the typewriter. (Dr. H.: Yes) So the parties were really beautiful. We had a grab bag, of course, for everyone, and that was great fun. Sometimes people received gifts that – it was kind of a secret between the giver and the taker. And, I knew Dr. Hawley's great love for tools. For the whole ten years he was at the College, he received another tool (laughter) (Dr. H.: laughter), and wrapped very fancy. When it came to having a Santa Claus, the rule was that the executive staff member, the M.D. with the least service, automatically became Santa Claus. And some accepted this very gracefully. Others, I can remember Dr. Hawley said to me, "Did you tell him he's Santa Claus?" And I said, "No. I thought you would do that." He said, "No. You call him." (Dr. H.: laughter) And I said, "Well, what if he gives me a hard time, or refuses?" It so happened this

individual had been a “BG” under Dr. Hawley’s direction during World War II. And Dr. Hawley said – he was a Major General by that time – he said, “Well, just remind him, I still outrank him.” (Dr. H.: laughter) So, I called. This was Jim Mason, who would do anything for the College. And I called him, and, of course, he rustled a little bit about it. I think he thought it was a little bit beneath a Brigadier General to be Santa Claus. (laughter) But I did not have to resort to the final rule, and tell him that the Director outranked him because I think he already read this in the unwritten script. (laughter) (Dr. H.: laughter) And he was a great Santa Claus because, as he stood at attention in the Ebony Room (Dr. H.: Yes) in the College, where all the gifts were on the table, he shouted out the names as if he were taking the troops over the hill for the last time (laughter). And everybody really knew how he felt about this. But it made a great deal of fun out of the party. Bigg’s Catering Service did the catering. And they did every party. And, of course, they knew what everybody liked. And somewhere along the line – I don’t know how I got involved in this – but I suspect it was Loyal Davis who appointed Mrs. Davis and me as the official menu committee for the College. And from that day forward, we were in charge of all food that was served in the College at any committee meetings or any parties. And it was kept more in a simple style. It had gotten quite out of line. Mr. Sandrok was in charge of the physical part of the meetings. And Mrs. Davis and I had the menus – that was a lot of fun. And then, the President’s Dinners were great occasions

in those days. I think more emphasis was put on protocol, the seating of the guests at U- or E-shaped tables. And of course, we were very careful that someone like Dr. Ochsner was never seated next to someone who would light up a cigar or a cigarette (laughter). And someone else who couldn't hear out of his left ear was put at the end of the table. This was a thing that lasted all summer – it took me all summer to set the tables. The greatest President's Dinner I think was the fiftieth anniversary of the ACS. And that so happened to be Dr. Davis' dinner. He was President at that time. It actually took one full year to plan his dinner because he had some definite ideas to keep the menus simple. There was nothing imported served at the table, even down to the wines. Everything was California-style. And he wanted no flaming desserts up and down the aisle. We had fresh California fruit, California wine. And the guest list was probably the smallest in the history of the College because he wanted it a smaller dinner. I do think there were a few feelings hurt, that they were not invited to that dinner. But this was his choice. And he gave to each male guest a key chain with the College insignia. And each of the ladies had the College insignia, which they could put on a chain or a bracelet. And there were darling little boxes. I think there were a hundred and twenty of them, if I'm not mistaken. It was my job to wrap a hundred and twenty of these in gold paper, with gold ribbon, and with their names on them. And I disciplined myself to do "x" number a week, so that I would – no matter how busy I was – I did so many a week. And then of course, the tables at

that time were round tables. We did the seating. And of course, Nancy, Nancy Reagan, was there. And our honored guest, of course, was the future President of the United States, Ronnie, Ronald Reagan. And I still remember saying, "Where will we seat Nancy?" And he must have expected that I would ask that question. "Oh," he said, "Seat her next to Zollie." So Dr. Zollinger, I still remember, was Nancy Reagan's dinner partner for the evening. And I didn't seat myself, I let him do the arrangement. And I was very pleased – and of course, with his watchful eye, he knew where to seat me. I was seated at the table with Walter MacKenzie and Howard Patterson. And I said to Dr. Patterson, "This is the first time I've ever had dinner with you." Because Dr. Patterson was an early riser, and he and I were always the first customers in every coffee shop from New York to San Francisco. We always had breakfast together, but that was the only dinner I ever had with Dr. Patterson. Dr. Walter Carroll – did you know Dr. Carroll?

Dr. H.: Yes, I did.

MR: He was in charge of the entertainment. And, the Gold Room in the Fairmont, they had, Dr. Carroll had tapes run from the Gold Room, supposedly with the voices of the members of the Board of Regents from the first President's Dinner, looking down at the table and saying such things as: "Look at so-and-so. Look at that lavish dinner he had. And at

our dinner we had hot dogs and potato salad.” Which they did. We gave each member the menu from the first President’s Dinner. And then they did some taping of music, and they had the voices of the Mayo Brothers, supposedly commenting, criticizing this lavish dinner. It was great fun. And after the dinner, after the Congress was completed, we went home. I received a call from one of the women at the College. She said, “Dr. Davis is very upset.” And I said, “What did I do, or not do?” And she said, “No, it’s not you. Nobody can find the tapes of that entertainment.” And I said, “I’ll call him immediately.” I wanted to be sure the tapes weren’t lost, so I never packed them in the College’s trunk. I took them home with me, with the intention of bringing them back when I came back from my R&R, which I did. And of course, that made Dr. Davis very happy. But it was a very interesting evening. And I thought it was very thoughtful. After we set the table, Dr. Davis and I personally set these packages at the table, and the menus at the table. We locked ourselves in the Gold Room. And then he wanted the room locked while we went up and dressed. And Hilding Sylvander of the College’s house staff was asked to come in and just sit there, to be sure that nothing was touched on the table. And Hilding did that. And I think Hilding’s happiest day in his life was that Dr. Davis remembered Hilding with a gift for his wife and for himself, the gift that everybody at the dinner had received.

Dr. H.: That was nice.

MR: But it was a great occasion. And before the dinner – when we went to – well that morning, I think it was, Dr. Davis said to me, “I’m going to be very busy.” So he said, “This is your problem.” (laughter) He said, “Whatever decisions have to be made, you make them. And I will back you up on it.” And I did have one very delicate decision to make. Somebody wanted to bring a guest. And I simply said that the table had been set, and I was sorry but he had accepted as a single. And at that time, the invitations never read, “You and your guest.” (Dr. H.: No.) So I wanted to tell Dr. Davis this ahead of time. But I didn’t want the staff to know about it. So, I went out and used a public phone. And I called him. Actually, he was in my room, doing some work for the Regents’ meeting. (laughter) And I called up in my room. And he said, “That’s fine. If he gives you any problem, just tell him to call me.” And that’s what I did. But it all worked out very nicely. It was a nice dinner. And, so much for the President’s Dinner.

The Advisory Council to the Board of Regents – I always took a special interest in that group because the group itself. I got to know many of the Past Presidents – they were Presidents before I came to the College. And of course, this was very interesting. And then as I stayed on through the years, I took a special interest in those who joined that particular Council. And I think the Council, if I may presume to say this, always took a

special interest in being asked by the staff of the College for advice or to do something. And I became aware of this through the years. At one Convocation, where I always robed these people, one of the Past Presidents came to me and he said, "Where do the has-beens go?" (laughter) I think he meant it jokingly. But it struck me as something more than that. And I quickly said to him, "I don't know where the has-beens go, because I've never met any of them in the College. But, as a member of the Advisory Council to the Board of Regents, you go over there and all you have to do is stand there where your name is on the floor, and I will get your robe and your cap and take care of you for the evening." And that, I think, assured me of what I had thought many years ago. These people like to be asked to do things. (Dr. H.: Mmm hmm) And so much for those people.

And then we have the International Federation of Surgical Colleges. The Federation was an idea of Dr. Hawley's and Dr. Ravdin's. And I think every meeting that I attended, the two of them would sit quietly in a room and throw their ideas across the table to each other about the organization of such a Federation. And I don't know that I ever thought it would come to pass, and perhaps they didn't think so either. But at one Regents' meeting, they did present it. And the next thing I knew, they were going to Europe to meet with a group of representatives of the larger European colleges to present this idea to them. And this is how the IFSC was born.

(Dr. H.: Mmm hmm) It was in July, I remember, because I had to come down to the College on the Fourth of July to put the final touches on the proposal that they were going to take with them to Europe. And they came back two very happy doctors, and it was very interesting to me to see the Federation grow through the years. And to see the many smaller organizations join the group. Because I think at the beginning, it was our College and the Royal Colleges that were really the foundation of this. And then from there, it grew.

I always regretted that, through the years, as my position changed in the College, I didn't actually have more to do with the Federation. But the people on the Federation, our representatives, were always so kind. They sent me the minutes of every meeting. And they would always send me the results the minute that new elections were made, and I think our College was – you notice I say “our College” - (laughter) (Dr. H.: Of course) was adequately represented on the Federation.

The International Relations Committee – I worked on that almost from the day that I came to the College. But in the beginning, to be truthful, I never really understood exactly what these people did except meet at a Congress, have a nice dinner, and I think it was social. They did things overseas, but I was never involved in that. Then the IRC was passed, you might say, like from Tinkers to Evers to Chance. Everybody on the staff, at one time



or another, seemed to be responsible as a staff member for the IRC. But when Dr. Davis was Chairman of the Board of Regents, it was decided to dissolve the committee because there was no rule as to the length of time that these people stayed on. Some of them had been on for twenty years. And so he decided the only fair way to do it was to dissolve the committee completely. And that was done in Boca Raton at a meeting. And the committee would be reconstituted. And Ben Eiseman was the first chairman of the reconstituted committee. And I remember Ben Eiseman saying, and I don't think he'd object to my saying this, "No committee should be more than eight people. It gets out of hand." So I think we had about eight people on the committee at that time. And he was a great chairman. He was a great everything. I had him tucked in my file, if there was ever any assignment where I couldn't find anybody to accept, or who was qualified to accept, I could always call Ben Eiseman. And he never even asked anything about it. If the College wanted him to do it, he was available (laughter) and he did it. He was on my list, I think, from that Boca Raton meeting to the day I left the College. And I have a beautiful letter from him (laughter) that I received the day I left the College.

The members of the IRC were a great group. When I took over the staff assignment of the committee with Dr. Padberg it was fairly strictly organized. And I think the committee appreciated Dr. Padberg's efforts in that respect. And I did my best to keep the line on it. But I remember the

first meeting that I attended. And I looked across the table - and of course, this was many, many years after I came to the College, and the member sitting across from me was John Ochsner. And I said, "Dr. Ochsner, I came into the College with your dear father. (laughter) And it looks like I'm going to go out of the College with you at the table." (laughter) (Dr. H.: laughter) But I said, "If you have a son and he comes, I'm not going to go three generations." The only one I went three generations with was Dr. Merrill Davis of Marion, Indiana, whose sons Joe and Dick became Fellows of the College - and Joe's son, Chad, became a Fellow. (Dr. H.: Yes) And I robed all these people at Convocation. But anyhow, I thought it was very interesting that I would see John Ochsner, who was as I said, just a lad, when I came to the College. (Dr. H.: Yes)

Along with the IRC, came the International Guest Scholarship Program. And I remember Mr. Happ, whom I very greatly admired, of course, controlled the legacy that Dr. Hawley left with no specifications as to where the money was to be spent. Mr. Happ called me and said, "What would you think Dr. Hawley would think of this?" And I said, "I think he would be overjoyed," because he had an absolute passion for young men. And I think that goes back to his military days, where he championed the cause of the foot soldier. And he was chairman of the General Council of his fraternity, Phi Delta Theta, which had, I think, one hundred and twenty-five chapters. (Dr. H.: Mmm hmm) And these young people were

on the doorstep. A week didn't pass at the College that some young Phi Delt didn't come in with a problem. And no matter how busy he was, he always took care of them. So, I told Mr. Happ, I said, "Well, I think that he would be overjoyed at the prospects of the money being used to bring young people here, as a learning process." And so there went the legacy of Dr. Hawley. And I was pleased that, at that point, I was designated to take care of that program. And because I always felt he was looking over my shoulder and giving me a nudge about what to do and what not to do. But first we needed requirements, stringent requirements, and it was Dr. Paul Jordan, who was chairman of the committee, of the IRC at that time. And Dr. Fred Ackroyd (Dr. H.: Yes) was the IGS chairman. And they were going to the ASA meeting in Boston, and Dr. Padberg was to go to that meeting. And they were to write some firm requirements. Well, toward the last minute, Dr. Padberg couldn't go. So I went. And, the three of us sat down and we wrote the requirements, and brought them back. And I had them typed.

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(Side 2 of Tape 1)

MR: They were approved by the College's Director. And from there they went to the IRC to be passed. There were no major changes made. And from

there to the, I believe it was the adjourned meeting of the Board of Regents that saw those requirements for the last time. And those requirements, with very, very few minor changes, still maintain through the years. When I receive the ACS *Bulletin* that has these published, the first thing I look for is the requirements. And I read them word for word. And that program is a great program. It was interesting for me because I had always worked with the surgeons who were much higher up on the scale in the surgical world, and who were obviously much older. And I used to say, "They were the cream of the crop."

In July 1972, at the invitation of the Rio de Janeiro Chapter of the College, Dr. Fernando Paulino, an Honorary Fellow of the College, now deceased, extended the invitation to attend the Chapter's meeting during which I was to be honored for my service to the surgeons of Brazil. I was to be given a Diploma of Gratitude. With Dr. Hanlon's approval, I attended the meeting, business and social. Marita (Mrs. Paulino) guided me through the entire time. I stayed at the Palace Hotel and the business meetings were held at the Gloria Hotel. I sometimes think that I must have met every surgeon in Brazil. One evening, Dr. Paulino and Marita had me as their only guest in their beautiful home. As I entered the living room, he said, "Marion, please be seated." I selected a huge comfortable chair and he burst into laughter. He said, "I knew you'd sit there because that's where Alton Ochsner always sits when he visits us." So, once again, I felt

the presence of Dr. Ochsner. On the following evening, the Paulinos hosted a huge gathering in their home. Marita said that she never knew how many guests her husband invited until they arrived. I attended all of the business meetings and I was escorted in the daytime on many tours. I wasn't left alone for a moment. Reluctantly, all good things must come to an end and I had to leave for home. Through the years, my Diploma of Gratitude is somewhat faded but my memories will never fade. I carried with me Dr. Hawley's Army Book of important words in many languages but the word that I used most was "Obregado" (Thank you).

And then suddenly I was also working with these youngsters. And when they would come in to a Congress for the first time, most of them had never been out of their country – some of them had never seen an airport – and they'd walk in the room and the fact that a female was going to tell them what they had to do during the week, did not set very well with them. (Dr. H.: laughter) Because that wasn't the case in their country. But I made it clear to them, "You either follow the rule book for the week, or you're going to be lost." Some of them thought the Clinical Congress was a meeting held in one room. (Dr. H.: laughter) So I had them about Tuesday of the Congress week – they were marching goose steps – and I did hear years later, when all the former scholars were polled as to what they thought the scholarship had meant to them in their later career, one of them referred to me as "that strong-willed Marion." (Dr. H.: laughter)

Well, I said, "That strong-willed Marion was just an extension of the Director and Dr. Padberg, the IRC, and then finally myself." But he meant it in good will (laughter) because he and I were very good friends. And he learned the hard way that he had to do what he was told. And I enjoyed that program. I've always enjoyed young people myself. And I've always wondered what's going to happen with these young men and women twenty-five years from now? Will the College suddenly be purging the files and looking for a picture of Dr. So-and-So, who has become the President of some large surgical organization, when he really got his start back here, at the College?

Dr. H.: Well, of course, Marion, many of these young scholars did become distinguished surgeons in their countries. (MR: Yes) That is certainly the case, as could be easily demonstrated.

MR: Well, although there were mountains of paperwork, it was also a fun job. And I might add that, in my years at the College, with the exception of the day I walked into the Director's office for the first time, no one ever asked me if I wanted to do this or that, or something else. No one said, "Would you be comfortable doing this?" as they say today. But, it was just announced that as of such and such a date, Ms. Rapp was going to take on this, that, and something else. But I must admit, I never had an

assignment that I didn't like. (laughter) (Dr. H.: Yes) So that was interesting.

The early days of the library were interesting. Believe it or not, we had ten staff members in the library when I came to the College, with Ms. L. Marguerite Prime at the helm. And I used to look at Ms. Prime and think, "Oh, some day I hope I look like her, and I hope I can act like Ms. Prime acts." Because she really had control of the library. And it was a sad day when the library had to be dismantled. But it was necessary. Everyone — Ms. Prime and all the ladies accepted it. Some of them stayed with the College. Some retired. One went with SG&O. And, I don't think there were any hard feelings about it. The package library, I think, went down to the Texas Medical Association or some such place, a Texas association. And, when Ms. Prime retired, she was succeeded by Kathleen Wurst, who was a hundred percent a lady. And then Dorothy Burt and Jeri Ryan. Then Barbara Hone, of course, assumed her position in the library. And, all I can say, for Barbara, if she didn't know the answer, she found the answer. (laughter) (Dr. H.: laughter) I enjoyed working with her. And I still enjoy my association with Barbara.

But getting back to my first day at the College, I learned that this lady was being talked about. I thought she was someplace up in heaven, everyone spoke so well of her. And it turned out it was Ms. Eleanor K. Grimm.

(Dr. H.: Mmm hmm) And she had wanted to retire, but Dr. Hawley coaxed her to stay an extra year, so as he said, "So I can learn something."

Well, Eleanor came in to the College periodically, the first time, to meet me. And she sat down with me. And I think that was my first learning session in the College. She said, "I have a feeling you're going to be here a long time." (Dr. H.: laughter) And she said, "The first thing I'm going to tell you is, always listen. And through the years, you will build up a storehouse of the people that you know you can rely on, depend upon, and that you will feel free to ask any type of question in strictest confidence." And Eleanor Grimm came back to the College, well I would say, once a month, once every six weeks, and she really checked on me to see how I was doing. She was my mentor. (Dr. H.: Mmm hmm) And it was through her that I met Dr. Ochsner, and then Dr. Foss, Harold Foss, who became President of the College, and his lovely wife, Isabel, who was an invalid. I might add, I had the pleasure one time in Boca Raton – I was spending a day on the Foss' yacht with Dr. and Mrs. Foss, and Dr. H. Rocke Robertson and myself were the only guests on it. And he teased me because his boat was probably about forty feet, and it was moored next to the Alicia II - I believe it was ninety-three feet – and that was the ship on which Dr. Ravdin had come down to Boca Raton. (Dr. H.: laughter) And the night before I was on the Foss yacht, I was to dinner on the Ravdin yacht. And Dr. Foss said he didn't quite know whether I would accept his



invitation on his puddle jumper (laughter) (Dr. H.: laughter) after being on this beautiful yacht.

I really enjoyed the Fosses. Isabel Foss was such a lovely lady, and being an invalid, we did spend some time, some quiet time, together. I would have to say that I would be remiss in this conclusion if I didn't pay tribute to that wonderful army of women, the wives of the Fellows of the College, who consistently came to Clinical Congress with the expectation and the hope of spending some time with their husbands during the meeting. And they really were Congress widows. For years, some of them were not especially interested year after year in tea parties or some such thing. But, they came and some of them even joined the staff of the College, since we did not have access to automation as you have today. (Dr. H.: Yes) They would sit there and staple papers for me. They would collate papers. They would count. They would proofread. They would do anything. They would just arrive at the door and say: "We have free time. We'd rather be doing something than going to a tea party." But these women were, and still are, an indispensable part of the Clinical Congress. (Dr. H.: Yes) Dr. Hanlon, maybe you remember the time Dr. Merrill Foote was a member of the Board of Regents and Ruth Foote, his wife, would come to every Congress, and she never saw him from the day they unpacked until the day they repacked to go home? And one night - Ruth had a wonderful sense of humor - she left a note on Dr. Foote's pillow, and she said,

“Good night, Merrill, wherever you are.” (Dr. H.: laughter) (laughter)  
And someone picked this up and without mentioning the fact that it was  
the Footes, that note was published in the Clinical Congress News  
(laughter), eliminating the Footes’ name. (Dr. H.: Yes. I see.) (laughter)  
And that I think was a silent tribute to the wives (laughter) of the Fellows  
of the College.

Dr. H.: Yes. That’s a wonderful story. (MR: Yes) He lived to be over a hundred,  
did he not? (MR: Yes) Merrill Foote – I think he was over a hundred  
years old before he died.

MR: Yes. He and Dr. Hawley were on the Alicia II or III, whatever that big  
ship was. And they were having a very friendly argument about boats.  
Dr. Hawley’s boat did not have a bridge. And Dr. Foote’s boat had a  
bridge. Dr. Foote thought in stormy weather, the boat would go forward.  
And Dr. Hawley did not want to go forward. (laughter) (Dr. H.: laughter)  
He liked this sort of a swing back and forth. And these two were on the  
deck of the Alicia, going back and forth in this way - and one of the  
Fellows of the College, who was sitting next to me, who had an aversion  
to water. (Dr. H.: laughter) He always thought, as my mother did, water  
was for bathing and drinking, and nothing else. (Dr. H.: laughter) He  
gave me an elbow in the ribs and said, “Marion, get me off of this tub  
immediately. I’m going to be sick.” (Dr. H.: laughter) And I got up and

excused myself. And I walked him down the deck and gangplank. And I said, "Doctor, I'll put you on dry land. But the minute your foot gets there, I'm going back on that ship – because I may never get another opportunity (Dr. H.: laughter) to be treated the way I'm being treated this evening." (Dr. H.: laughter) And, you couldn't get this doctor even to stand at the edge of a swimming pool. (laughter) (Dr. H.: laughter) I don't know whether he was afraid he'd fall in, or somebody would push him in. But he did not like water. (Dr. H.: Mmm hmm) And of course Dr. Foote's boat – I think he had it docked in Montauk Bay. And Dr. Hawley's boat was in Belmont Harbor. (Dr. H.: Yes) And at the first stormy weather, I would always get calls from all over – "He's not out on that boat, is he?" And I would have to use the binoculars, and find out where he was. And nothing ever happened on the boat. Any time I was on it, we never had any stormy weather. He said I was his good luck charm. (Dr. H.: laughter)

Well, I've gone on much too long. But I must mention a few of the – I can't say my favorite people – but the people that I have worked with so closely, who will be remembered for special reasons, and it goes without saying, all of these Past Presidents and members of the Board of Regents had my greatest respect, and it was a great pleasure to work with them. But, of the regular Fellows of the College, the people that stand out in my mind – Dr. Paul Jordan, who was so gracious to me – he was the chairman

of the IRC when I assumed the responsibility for the committee – he always had an optimistic outlook on everything - no matter how bad something was, he was always sure it was going to turn out all right. And I did learn, when I was in Rio de Janeiro and Lois, Mrs. Jordan, was with him, that Lois was right from my neighborhood. I learned that because she said she had her wedding cake baked at Signe Carlson's bakery (laughter) and they had to carry it all the way to the Bond Chapel at the University of Chicago for the ceremony. Well, anyhow, that's Dr. Jordan.

And, Basil Pruitt is one of my favorite (laughter) people. Whether because he was in the military or whether it's just his personality, but I never have known anybody in my lifetime who gave such meticulous care to every detail. He's really a great person. All of the Honorary Fellows, of course, had my greatest respect.

The last chairman of the IRC that I worked with was Dr. Jerome DeCosse. He was one of the finest persons I've ever known. He had the patience of a saint, and never, ever believed that something was not going to turn out in favor of the College. We just had to be patient, he said. And during his terminal illness, he called me at home and he said: "Before I go..." (meaning before he died), asked that I keep in touch with his family. And his daughter, Carole, lives in the Chicago area. And he said he had taken the liberty of giving her my home phone number and address. And Carole

and I have established a wonderful friendship. And, in fact, I had lunch with her last week. And she came over to look at my new apartment. And I promised her I would only say the best about her dear father. (laughter)  
(Dr. H.: laughter)

I think I covered a good many of the people – except the staff people. Of course, I'm sure that I was one of the few who worked in all three College buildings. But I do think that, if they ever do a thorough housekeeping of the Nickerson, that's where they'll find a little bit of my heart. (laughter)  
I think I left it over there – I forgot to pack it. (Dr. H.: Mmm hmm) I just love that building. When I go by there, I almost attempt to bow my head, as I would passing a church, because I see that as a monument to the people who really built the College. And reluctantly, I moved across the street to Fifty-Five. We did gain an elevator (laughter) and air-conditioning. And I became happy there. But, I used to look across the street many times. When things weren't going well, I'd say, "I wish I were back in the master bathroom." (Dr. H.: laughter) I think I was happier there.

And then of course, I was with the College long enough to move to 633, which is a lovely building. But, I think we lost something. We were always departmentalized when I came to the College, but not in such a way as we are today. In the earlier days, if one doctor was going to be

away for a month, his staff automatically toured the building and said, "What can I do over here to help?" And this is the kind of thing you lose in a modern building – and in something that is so strictly organized, as the College is and must be today (Dr. H.: Yes), you know. Today you couldn't go to another department and say, "I have fifteen letters. Would you do these five? And I'll give five to so-and-so." Because then we had no automation. If I had fifteen thank you letters to write – the same letter to fifteen people – I would pass these out – the same letter – and everybody would do a few letters for me. And that's the way we did this. And I think that was something that couldn't be done today in any organization. I don't say that critically of the College, of course.

Then of course, the staff – I'm grateful, of course, to the Hawley family. I still consider them my extended family. The Hawley Family to this day is deeply dedicated to public service by way of the military, etc. One grandson was graduated from West Point. He lost his life in an air crash while on duty in California. He held the rank of Captain. Another grandson spent more than twenty years in the Navy, retiring as Commander. A third grandson spent some time in the Coast Guard. The fourth joined the Peace Corps and spent most of his time in Africa. Another is a Captain in the Air Force, flying in a trouble zone who is married to a Captain in the Air Force who is flying elsewhere. Insofar as I recall, no Hawley has ever served with the Marines. However, since the

family is increasing in number maybe someday the Marines will have representation in the family. (laughter) (Dr. H.: laughter) I think so.

And then of course, we come to Director North, who was the direct opposite of Dr. Hawley. He was a very quiet man. He certainly got the job done. But – extremely quiet. I have many things to be grateful for to Dr. North. And then we come to Dr. C. Rollins Hanlon. (Dr. H.: laughter) And, when the staff – little people – learned he was coming to the College, they were overjoyed at the open door policy that he established, (laughter) which I think still maintains. (laughter) And I'm grateful to Dr. Hanlon for many, many things.

Dr. Hanlon was succeeded by Dr. Paul Ebert as Director of the College. I think of him as a quiet man always available to his staff and a great problem solver. I had hoped that he would remain Director until I retired but that did not happen.

Mr. Sandrok was always one of my favorite people. He had two sons – one became an attorney; one became a doctor. Mr. Sandrok also was like a father to the girls in the College. If he ever had to reprimand anybody, they felt worse about whatever they had done than they would have felt with anyone else, simply because he'd say, "You know better than that." (laughter) (Dr. H.: laughter) It was like your father would tell you. He'd

slap your hand, and then say, "Now you know you're not supposed to do that." (laughter)

He was succeeded by Mr. Happ, who had many of the same qualities, I think, that Mr. Sandrok had. I'm not speaking of their ability as comptroller, but as a person. Dr. Hawley used to say, "If you ever go out looking for a job, Marion, always find somebody who has a couple of kids. And it will be helpful if you find that they have a couple of daughters, because they'll know how to treat you." (Dr. H.: laughter) And I think that's true. (Dr. H.: Right)

Then came Dr. Padberg, who succeeded Dr. Stephenson. He had a daughter, too, so maybe that kind of helped the arrangement. Dr. Padberg's quality, that I appreciated more than anything, he was always willing to listen to the little people. And, I think the ability to disagree with him, which we did. And, sometimes I could change his mind, and sometimes he'd change my mind. But most of all, when things weren't going well, he used to listen to my five minute soapbox orations on what I thought should be done. He didn't have the authority to do it, but I thought it should be done elsewhere. And then it would filter down to the people who were actually doing the work. So Dr. Padberg, I salute you. (laughter) (Dr. H.: Hmm. Very good.) Dr. Padberg had a few years on me, but I always told him. I said: "If you stay to a hundred and four, I'll stay



to a hundred. (Dr. H.: laughter) And of course, when Dr. Padberg decided to retire, although I don't think he'll ever truly be retired, I quoted to him and I've quoted to many people a passage from the Bible that says: "There's a time to stay, and a time to go." And I really thought it was my time to go. But, I won't go far because every printed line that I see that comes from the College, I read. And a piece of me will always be here, I'm sure. I don't think I'll ever be totally detached from the College. If things had been different in 1999, I probably wouldn't have retired. Although I don't know whether the next Director (laughter) would have kept me. But I would have given it a -- I should say - an old College try anyhow.

I met hundreds or maybe thousands of surgeons and I cannot possibly name all of them, but a few stand out in my mind. Among the Honorary Fellows are Sir James Paterson Ross, my first contact with this group, a long time friend of Dr. Hawley. Sir John Bruce and Lord Porritt, mentioned together because when I saw one the other was with him, fun-loving individuals. Sir Harry Platt, always announced himself as "Arry 'ere." Said that my mother would outlive him. She did. He died at more than 100 and my mother died at more than 103. Philip Sandblom. What can I say about him that everyone doesn't already know? Unique personality. I will remind you that he was born in Chicago a short distance from the College. Lord Smith -- The Congresses weren't the

same if he didn't attend. Emilio Etala -- A gentle gentleman. Fritz Linder -- Always a teacher. Georg Heberer -- a friend from the first time that I met him. Hiroshi Akiyama -- robed him when he became a regular Fellow, robed him when he became an Honorary Fellow and continued to do so whenever he came to the Congress. Witold Rudowski -- highly devoted to the College, its Fellowship and the staff. Each and every one of the Fellows from Australia—working with them was not 'work;' it was 'fun.'

When the Australia and New Zealand Chapter of the ACS Travelling Fellowship Program was established, the administration of the program fell into my lap because the applications were to be reviewed for recommendation by the I.G.S. Selection Subcommittee. Applications were made available to Fellows of the College only from the U.S. and Canada. Firm requirements were written and approved. There was little or no problem with the applicants. After the awardee and an alternate were recommended, it was my pleasure to telephone the good news to them. From that day forward, I worked closely with the awardee and the Australian and New Zealand Fellows who were in charge of arrangements for the program in which the awardee would be involved as the Travelling Fellow. Enthusiasm was the highest that I observed in any program. When the awardee returned to his home, following completion of the Fellowship, the final requirement was that he submit a written report. I

read every word of every report with great interest. It should be noted that more than one awardee became a member of the College's I.R.C.

Among the regular Fellows, a few who come to mind are Robert Condon -- his quick Irish wit. Joaquin Aldrete -- his office staff worked with him in a 'family atmosphere.' Walter Pories -- always on call when needed and it seemed as though I always needed his help. Richard Prinz -- we suffered through the ups and downs of the Chicago Cubs, mostly downs. Wait until next year, Dr. Prinz. My list could go on, world without end, but the tape is just about to end for the day.

I think I've covered just about everybody. But again, I've often heard people say that -- in their lifetime, there's a time when something happens that changes your life, and you don't realize it at the time. And I'm sure that on January 13, 1953, when I walked into the College for the first time, and Director Hawley stood at attention and said, "Welcome aboard," I think my life changed from then on. I didn't realize it at the time. And I had no idea I was going to be there for more than forty-six years -- because I thought when Dr. Hawley left, well somebody will be up here today and take a broom to me. But I stayed on with Dr. North, and I stayed on with Dr. Hanlon and Dr. Ebert. (laughter)

(End of Side 2 of Tape 1)

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(Dr. H.: Yes. Yes.) The tape is coming to an end but my stories could go for hours. The best stories are those I prefer not to tell!

I cannot come to an end without dedicating this effort to record my stories without saying that I owe my wonderful life to my dear parents, Roy and Mary Rapp, the Sisters of Providence and the Sisters of Charity, B.V.M. who were my teachers at Our Lady of Mercy Grammar School and The Immaculata High School in Chicago.

Dr. H.: Well, that's a wonderful account, Marion. There are a lot of other things that you might say. And perhaps, even at some future time, we might pick out a few things that you might comment on. But, I'm very grateful and I know that the College as a whole will be very grateful for the fact that you have taken the time and the effort to encapsulate in some degree the whole story of your experiences and your genuine service to the College, which is, as Jonathan Rhoads said, when he came into the College, he felt that he was not with employees, but with colleagues. And I think that says it very well. So, thank you very much, Marion.

MR: Thank you, and God bless!

(End of Side 1 of Tape 2 – End of Interview)