

**CONNECTICUT 20TH CENTURY AGRICULTURAL HISTORY PROJECT  
ORAL HISTORIES**

Interviewer: Luane J. Lange, CANR, Extension

Name of Person Interviewed: Dr. Al Cowan, Professor, Animal Husbandry,  
CANR, UCONN (Retired)

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LL: March 28, 2000. Finishing an interview, a revisit with Al Cowan, who is the retired department head of Animal Sciences. Thank you very much for agreeing to do this. We talked about here you came from, last time, but we didn't talk about the kinds of things that were happening in agriculture during your time and what you did. So you can start anywhere. We were talking about a picture I had come across with Atherton up in the northeastern part of the state.

AC: Northwestern part of the state, Litchfield.

LL: In Litchfield, I'm sorry. I have other things from there, too. So when you came you were hired as what kind of position?

AC: Both professor and department head in animal science. Previous to that I had been an associate professor at the University of MA for 6 years. That started from the time I got out of the Navy in 1946 to 1952. I came here as a teacher.

LL: And what did you find when you got here?

AC: Um, I found a tremendous number of veterans coming back under the GI Bill for the next several years...real challenge. Some of whom had already come back and had gone out on their jobs and professions, their work careers and so on. I found a good department or I wouldn't have come to begin with and I found a great dean. He's the man that the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is named after, W.B Young. He was dean for many years when I was here. We had a great relationship and that helped I think because of his own interest and wanting to see this place move forward and some of

my objectives, too, and some of our faculty's objectives. It all tied together. We had the opportunity of course during all those years as \_\_\_\_\_ hire as an outstanding person. And uh, I guess my philosophy was even if budgets had to \_\_\_\_\_ we had to hire them, usually at assistant professor levels. Um, my philosophy was to give them lots of room and they were really good with the demonstrators. And if they weren't too good they wouldn't show up and therefore you could make some changes and improvements. And uh, some of our people that we were fortunate to hire went on to national and international recognition. And that's all part of the excitement, but I'd say the other thing that, as I look back over those years, my greatest kicks came from working with students and teaching. And working with people in the field, whether they be farmers, or processors, or marketers, or whatever it was. I tried to come up with things which would be helpful, educational and would do the general citizens some good. A little bit of a minister I guess.

LL: (Laughter). Can you think of examples of some of these things that, the .....first

People who you mentioned, people who went on to be renowned as teachers or researchers. And you talked about some of the things that were happening then when you were out in the field. What were some of the things that were happening?

AC: Well in the field um, as an example, artificial insemination of cattle was becoming increasingly important. It didn't start in this country until 1938 to any degree organized fashion. But in 1950 a man by the name of Paul Gentinglin discovered how you could freeze and preserve semen under ultra-low temperatures for a period of time. It was an accident really the way he discovered it. He was backtracking on Y something and survived, these sperm cells survived!. And he found out that when he had added glycerol to his extender that this was the reason, otherwise they worked on it for years and years and couldn't come up with... Then as a result of that we began to store semen in a dry - - - - -mix and later the largest field trial ever conducted at that point in time. A comparison of dry mixed alcohol with liquid nitrogen was done right here. We were extremely happy and successful in hiring and he was with us for 10 years. He later went on to develop an outstanding international reputation at Colorado State where he was in charge of the reproduction work.

LL: What's the man's name?

AC: Bill Picket. Very well known. Some of our dairy farmers of York also remember him well because he was a great story teller, and an extremely hard worker. He worked his graduate students to beat the band and uh, a lot of little anecdotal things that happened when he was here that were just kind of fun. It added some excitement. So to get back to something that was happening, that and the field of cattle reproduction, became very, very important and still is. And in addition to field trials of that sort, we did for about fifteen years run a very intensive short course for a week to service the producers. They came in here. We started at 7:00 AM going to hands on work with insemination practice, pregnancy diagnosis, things of this sort. And then in the afternoons and the evenings, it was pretty much the text book; they lectured them back up the information that set the stage for the next day. We had a lot of people go through that situation. It would only take about thirty at a time, because of the logistics of trying to get it done.

LL: How much did that cost?

AC: You know I think that that time it didn't cost anything. It was zilch. It's like that old dairy course that was started here in 1899. And I might have told you about this.

LL: I think that's on the other tape, about the plastic uniforms?

AC: The uniforms were \$2.00, the dormitories were \$3.00. They had to bring their own lamps for the kerosene because electricity wasn't in this, the one dormitory that they had. And the cost of the meals at that time, to give you some idea of a place, for 12 weeks was a total of \$30. Unbelievable in terms of a meal cost.

LL: Now did they have an offshoot... I found photos and I talked to someone whose father was in one of the photos of farm week when they used to have the, the cattle on... across the street here.

AC: No that wasn't an offshoot. Not that course, it was not an offshoot of it at all.

LL: Okay.

AC: ... that was I think something that was not just for the farmers, it was for any of the citizens in the state that wanted to come in and see the living, like the Cornucopia now...

LL: Okay.

AC: ... except that the part livestock plays was an important entity as far as that's concerned. Otherwise since I've been here, I've seen this building- - - - - the Ratchiff Hicks Building go up. Uh, when I came here the George White Building, which is the animal science building now, was not up and so the plans for that and all of that effort uh, went into that building which has recently been remodeled \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . Uh, we built a new swine barn, for swine teaching research demonstrations and so on. And um, in addition too, our horse barn went on. The horse barn as we know it now was there. The old, old horse barn that preceded it and there may be a few people who will remember, was the site of our Roy Jones Nutritional Science building When that was first built it was built for the Poultry Science Department because the old Poultry Science building up on Rte. 195 was taken down, as was the old dairy building. And uh, so a lot changed. A lot of changes.

LL: They had sheep too, I had come across some pictures of the Jacobson barn. There's a lot of sheep out in that addition next to them.

AC: Yea, the old Jacobson barn, which is now a dilapidated space in the university and it should really be taken down because it serves no useful purpose and never will from the standpoint of livestock. It completely inappropriate with today's methods and management procedures and it's a labored consuming son-of-a- gun. I'm expressing now an idea that's opposed to some of the ideas uh, that pop around here once in awhile that we should keep things forever and ever. And that's one unit that you well know is practically falling apart and down and is...it just needs to be removed and made a site for some very, very good kind of academic facility. Academics, it doesn't serve the purpose in any way whatsoever any more. It did up until maybe, oh it might have been... the last livestock might have been in there close to 20 years ago. And there were sheep at one time in that unit and then young stock dairy cattle in that unit; no longer appropriate at all for those situations. As you know we have a new dairy young stock farm, um experimental animals, teaching and so on, plastic... like a greenhouse looks, but great from the standpoint of the environment on the animals. And we have a, beef sheep center where the sheep are located.

LL: You still have sheep?

AC: Oh sure.

LL: What do we do with them?

AC: Teaching.

LL: Are we teaching sheep breeding or sheep...

AC: Oh sheep everything, management techniques, handling techniques, uh genetics breeding, performance testing. But we do an awful lot more when sheep had been just teaching. You do use them extensively in that regard. But they would be good, very good pilot animals because they are ruminant and we can use the sheep for some investigations.

They will give us the clues as to where to head, as far as the larger ruminants are concerned, cattle. And we have had a number of things go on in sheep research over many, many years, synchronizing their breeding periods, with a lot of work and stimulating increased lamb production with oh, I don't like to use the word hormones, but stimulants, and so we could increase the prolificacy, the number of young born per sheep for up to 100 sheep. From 25- 30% of some of this research.

LL: Have we changed the meat at all, like...

AC: Coughs.

LL: ... pork has changed a great deal. Has... has mutton and beef changed?

AC: I would say that probably the lamb has always been the same. Something under six months of age ordinarily. Uh, it changed from the standpoint of a relative amount of muscle to bone, as we have selected for more meatiness. Uh, the milk production ability of sheep and there are some sheep kept as strictly for milk production in the world and increasingly so in some parts of New England, for the production of sheep milk or sheep cheese. In fact we have an outfit here in uh, uh in CT that is doing a good job of producing any number of sheep products, wool products that are made into ready to wear items.

LL : Where is that...?

AC: Salem.

LL: Okay.

AC: And um, so as far as sheep are concerned we have done a lot of research.

LL: Was there any reason why sheep were used for the experiments and cloning at the other institutions that?

AC: You mean like the first one in, in Scotland?

LL: Yeah. Did they use sheep \_\_\_\_\_ ?

AC: Where? I think there are probably two reasons. One is very low maintenance and its cost, relatively speaking and the fact that you are not going to be..... initially they weren't successful at all in any of their cloning work they were doing. They were on the road and they were learning but it wasn't, it wasn't a, something to call out all the news all over the world. And so the economics I think was one of the reasons, easy to work with, manually you could handle them with ease and then the cloning situation, samples are easy to come by.

LL: Uh huh.

AC : And you could collect eggs and denucleate them so that you could put something in there that is uh, a direct offspring of them or of others, just like Amy up here at the university, the first clone we had here.

LL: The cow?

AC: Yes. That's a calf.

LL: A calf.

AC: It was born to about a 13-year-old cow and they just took a little snip of tissue because it was a first United States somatic cell use to produce a duplicate of the uh, of the 13-year-old cow.

LL : I've \_\_\_\_\_ talked about it in the newspapers and those that have associated press coverage talk about, that it was a, a joint project with Japan. And yet they ever...some of the articles don't talk about the University of CT. I have been curious about it. Our local newspapers do and the Hartford Courant does. Whenever it comes to associated press during that same time, it didn't mention CT. It mentioned that it was a research project with industry and it was used in Japan. I thought that was very interesting.

AC: Japan has been working on cloning for some period of time and uh, we have a professor on our staff, Gary Yang, who has worked with them on some aspects of the problems. The only time a somatic cell had ever been successful in using a clone, a body cell producing clone, other than another cell or reproductive cell, um, that proceeded ours in the United States was just one in Japan and that was just a couple of years before. The whole thing that we are doing on cloning and on improving the genetic makeup is related to \_\_\_\_\_ one increase in productivity of the livestock population itself, but the other one is to, through gene transfer, uh how success in having the milk there or to beat their farm from those cloned individuals. It would be very helpful in actually preventing or cutting down on human diseases, of various sorts of kind and that is... anyways you use the cow or the sheep or the sow and it's almost like a biological factory for some of the things that are helpful to human medicine. And that 's going to, I think too well many of the, many of the things that they are imp roving, uh biology and gene transfer and things of that sort stock marketed recently, but have been related to not what it's going to do as far as the livestock industry is concerned. Although that's a factor, but what its going to do for humans as far as preventing disease and curing disease and blocking cancer and things of this sort. That's the big hope and that 's why there is so much effort on this, this... the schedule now. Companies working on biotechnology and the developments.

LL: Lets go back to when you came. So these two buildings would be in the back. Our enrollment was up because of it being after the war more and then we...

AC: Enrollment was very low during the war. But after the war, primarily in about '47-'48-'49-'50 and through there, our enrollment went up, but it didn't reach anywhere near its peak until about 1976-1977. I didn't ...when our college of agriculture enrollment was the highest its ever been in history. You can reach way back there are some people who are around here that relate back and think that we had a big enrollment in agriculture at what was then the CT State College in 1930, '31-'32-'33, but you look at the class size and then they were unbelievably small in relation to what they are even today by a lot.

LL: The depression \_\_\_\_\_?

AC: I suspect the depression had something to do with it. I uh, I think too that uh, there are some

people that say that the heyday of this university .....in fact some of the people that want to keep the Rose...the Jacobson barn, saying the heyday of this university, as far as agriculture is concerned was in, when that barn was built in 1890, '91, '92, '93 in through there. That wasn't the heyday and over in there. The fact that we were an embryonic development at that particular point and uh, after the war, WWII, agriculture in its enrollment did increase, but the big, the real big increases came uh, from about '72 through uh, about '83, '84 when we were running around 13,000 to 14,000 (?) students in agriculture at that point and uh, in fact as early as about 1965 to '70, we were running 200 to 250 at that time, so you can see how that mushroomed upward. Oh, part of it was women. We have right now, we have close to 75 or 80% women majoring in animal sciences and its various endeavors and so on. I've got some figures that I can dig out to show you, but it... I think it was about 1948, '49 and '50, the number of women enrolled in agriculture was practically zilch. I remember one year on the records I have, just three women in this whole field of agriculture. Now we have more women majoring in agriculture, broadly speaking, including all the experienced(?) departments than we have men, like today.

LL: Well the enrollment across the board has gone up at universities where the women... more women are enrolling now of over 50% compared to...

AC: ...There is more than 50% women going to college.

LL: So with the uh... what do you think prompted women's interests in the field and opened it up to women? What are they going to do with it when the, when the?

AC: I would say science technology has been a part of that real stimulation. The fact and the recognition of the fact that women can do uh, at least 90% of the jobs that are out there, in terms of processing, quality control, development, uh, these kind of things, just as well as any man can do and the women realize this. Uh, there might be a few jobs or so that require greater brute strength and ignorance, but hopefully not very much and we have moved away from that ----- . Uh, when I was a kid growing up on the farm, women could help no question about it, but uh, it was a very slow progress situation. It meant no electricity on... in many situations, there were no flush toilets, uh, most \_\_\_\_\_ to produce just the needs of that family and maybe one or two others. Uh, that's changed so that science and technology and the competition have, I think, done with things that have really moved this major, major industry forward, where uh, one farmer today produces enough in the United States, produces enough food on average to take the whole state for about 110 other people and that's uh, a very changed situation from what it was when it was maybe 1-4. It's been science and technology and management. The need and the desire to compete effectively. But the need is

LL: Compete for the market or compete for... what kind of competition?

AC: Well course was one of the things that was extremely important, but many other things too. Take our horticultural industry for example, forgetting the fruits and the vegetables and just thinking about all the \_\_\_\_,that is the biggest now in CT of our agricultural components ; uh, horticulture, budding plants, trees of horticulture and things of this sort, shrubs. That's the biggest segment of our agriculture as a commodity type of situation. I think the reason for that is that people want something in their life beyond just let alone their \_

LL: What did you get the greatest satisfaction from as department head? You said you could hire people who were producers. Were you able to continue your own research by the ----- ?

AC: Yea, yea, but increasingly you administrated your duties and the bureaucracy gets to, into you. I always did maintain a teaching component and I'd say my greatest kick uh, came out of working with

students and teaching and counseling students. One time, Will Daniels and I were the only two, three veterinary advisors on the campus. And we had a lot of pre-med students.

LL : Not only from the College of Ag but from other sciences?

AC: Primarily from the College of Ag, but some from biology too because they could get, I think more up to date and better information on the various requirements that the vegetables had and they differed. One school might require calculus and one might not. One might... practically all of them wanted a year in chemistry in general, a year of organic, a semester of biochemistry and some wanted a semester of qualitative and others didn't, so uh, counseling those kids was interesting and challenging. I'd say the greatest kicks I got however, from seeing those graduates go out and first of all to graduate, that's the first challenge and the second one is to have them go out and do well with their lives and in their careers, but particularly be in the spot that was satisfying to them from the standpoint of doing some good for others.

LL: How many, how many people don't return to their own family agriculture  
- - - - ? I mean a lot of times...

AC: Well in this country...

LL: People used to think that you know, farm kids came in and then farm kids went home.

AC: I've seen the figures. All I know is that after they have been out for about 5 or 10 years, graduates from colleges of agriculture are all over this country, roughly about 90% of them are not back out on the farm. But they may be in lots of other things that have become specialized situations that a farmer once did, processing products for example. Very much, not entirely, very much separated as a special situation with food technology and developments of this sort. Uh, the marketing and the quality control. Um, we've got specialized segments where people may work in those segments or in research and development. We have quite a few graduates that go to work with Pfizer. Uh, in numerous times and capacities, so I would say that probably, if I were to take a guess that there wouldn't be more than 10% of the baccalaureate graduates in agriculture in colleges all over this country that wind up 5-10 years later on a farm.

LL: How many of them do you think came from farms?

AC: Well there 's more that don't come from farms today that actually come from farms. It depends on how you define a farm too. A farm by the United States Census is defined as any, it could be a part-time operation or whatever, that has a \$1000 of gross income, that's the definition of a farm in the United States, according to the congress, extension and all of this. And uh, that hardly categorizes itself as a farm, in terms of impact. Uh, impact on our own lives, yes, from the standpoint of a greater satisfaction. Our big increase is in, in numbers of farms have not been in highly specialized enlarged farms. You had a lot of larger ones than we used to have, but the increase in the numbers of farms had been in part time farming, I call it lifestyle farming, because they want something that adds to their life, the country, the natural resources, animals, plants and whatever the case may be. We have a lot of that going on.

LL: Can we go back to the horses. The horse farm that was where the Jones Building is now. We did a lot of horse moving. What did we do with this?

AC: We go way, way back and this comes from just the pictures that I have seen and histories that I've seen. The ----- horse uh, did the farm work, did a lot of the campus work. For example some of the buildings way back early, early on used to be heated by coal and the coal

was hauled by the horses and wagons from a little railroad station that was over in South Eagleville, which is what, about 2 miles off campus, 2 or 3 miles off campus. And so they were used for farm work and um, they were largely Percheron horses a breed of draft horses originating in France, and, there was a breeding program that was conducted with them. Um, just some of the stallions, a few stallions fit here for the service to outside, mares were coming in from farms to improve the draft stock and this is reaching back. Dragon Junior was a very famous stallion here at the University of CT. In 1917 he was proclaimed as the most outstanding Percheron stallion, draft stallion in New England and there were a lot of stallion around at that time. I have some photos of it for example that describe it and there was a monument to him down in front of the horse barn.

LL: I heard the story about him, that that stone really had been in the bicentennial garden and that it was dug up when they were building the new building. And it had to found because someone took it.

AC: They did take it, but we got it back. Laughs. Uh, it wasn't a, it wasn't a student

LL: I know, laughs...

AC: It was involved with the contractor but it is now down in front of the horse barn. There are two horses on it, Dragon Junior who died a few years later, along with a very great mare, and at one time they were both buried on the slope out there just above the Roy Jones Building. That stone, that great marker is probably about 6 feet in diameter and uh, with their names and their birth dates and death dates and so on. Uh, it was ----- commemorating where they had been buried, because they were two very famous individuals. Now to get back to the horse situation, it was along about in the 1930s, early 30s, that the University of CT started to go into some light horses, not just pleasure, some of them are driving, for driving purposes to get somewhere. And it was along about that point in time that they began to shift downward from the draft horse, the work horse, to the light horse. One of the very famous Morgan stallions of all times was a horse called Abbott and he was featured in the promotional material that came out from the Morgan Horse Association. He was here for about two years and then went up to the University of Massachusetts and he got there when I was a student at the University of Massachusetts. I was at an ROTC horse Calvary outfit so I rode him numerous times and I knew him well and he knew me too well! But that horse thing really got cracking pretty good, light horses here, along about 1937, '38, '39, '40, right in through there. Uh, our primary focus on breeding Morgan horses uh and increasing the use of horses in horse science programs, horse nutrition, horse breeding, horse training, horse disease, uh, things of this sort. And then after WWII we really got it going appreciably. Again the major change was away from the draft horse, so that I think probably the last draft horses we had here might have been along about 1960 and I was the only good one picked... yeah. Why the emphasis on Morgans. A lot of people have asked us that. Because they didn't cost us anything to get, to obtain.

LL: Why?

AC: Because of the fact that the United States Morgan Horse Farm was in Middlebury VT and we developed, as did the University of NH, and the University of Massachusetts developed a cooperative program on the United States Department of Agriculture on the improvement, the genetic improvement of Morgan horses and because of that they became a seed stock source for some of our horses that got into the picture on a \_\_\_\_\_. If we had had to go out and buy them, what they were worth at that point in time, we probably might not have gone into Morgan horses. But they were a great choice because they are very versatile and they worked beautifully into our student programs. We even used them for polo, in addition to riding, by both saddle seat and hunt seat and western situations. But the primary reason they are here, however, is teaching horse science, breeding, farm management, physiology, reproduction, nutrition, disease, changes, behavior. That's why they are here and we have a lot of students that are interested in that particular \_\_\_\_\_

LL: And today they have a lot of horses. I was talking to Dick Williams the other day at the Ag - - - - -

AC: Yeah.

LL: Did this Morgan horse interest go out of New England? Did it... was it elsewhere in the country too?

AC: Yea, but New England was very much a strong center for Morgan horse breeding and developing some of the most outstanding horses, but I would say that even in the late 1940s, '50s and from there on, that many other parts of the country, California notably. Uh, we even went into the Morgan business very strongly, in fact we sold several of our outstanding Morgan horses to breeders in CA, from here back in oh about the early 50s, late 50s and so we developed a very, very strong program and quality of Morgan horses and um, we had one stallion as an example, he was New England's twice, two years running, the world champion Morgan stallion at the World Morgan Show in Oklahoma City. It was about 10 or 15 years ago and uh that doesn't, that doesn't happen very often. We bred him here. We named him Ringmaster and just, as a little anecdotal thing, when he was first born, May Hill who was here on our staff We looked all over the darn area to find a stallion that we wanted to breed two of our great mares with. We looked and looked and looked and finally we went up to a place in Massachusetts, Johnny Liden had a horse up there. There were about 10 stallions, you could have had your choice on. And we spent a long time looking and they would bring out one horse and bring out another horse and that wasn't it ----- . Well they brought out a horse called, the last horse out was Shogun. And when he came out we watched him move, watched him work and so on and we both looked at each other and said that's it. So we took those two mares up there. One settled and the other didn't. The one that did uh, had this foal born and uh, the horseman called me and they said you need to come down and take a look at what happened. I went down, this foal was up on his feet nursing and he said what do you think we ought to name him? I said the answer is easy Bruce, we ought to name him UC Ringmaster, because that 's what he looks like, a ringmaster, he

LL: Laughs.

AC: And we used him very successfully and then he went later on, later on he was . So that was, that was fun too. I mean that was challenging, the breeding programs were challenging and trying to make some genetic improvement and contributions that have come in.

LL : Do Morgans ever get raced?

AC: Not from the standpoint of the race tracks as we know them in this country. Uh, there were, they had trotting races with Morgans in them. The old National Morgan Horse Show used to have a half-mile race with both horses on the track. Uh when they to be up in North Hampton this is where they used to have the National Shows for a long period of time. Uh that was a part of that whole National Morgan Show. They had to have the half mile race for horses that could last that long.

LL: Did they hunt? Were Morgans used to hunt?

AC: Uh.

LL: Were they mostly a riding and a, and a buggy horse?

AC: I would say that they are not the 6 foot or 5 foot jumping horses, no they are not that kind of competitions, 3 feet, 2 ½, 3, 3 ½ feet maybe even 4. And if you are going to be in the hunted game, you

are going to have all kinds of obstacles that you have to go over if you are in hunting country. No I would say that it is more the thoroughbreds, and the thoroughbred crosses.

LL: Do they just keep breeding them or do they use them for riding horses? AC: I would say riding and driving are the cue pleasure horses.

LL: But today, what do they drive?

AC: You mean what do they drive?

LL: Yes.

AC: They drive them in a driving cart or a show cart, or a buggy.

LL: So would you call them... see I don't know anything about horses. Would you call them hobby horses?

AC: No, no. Hobby horses are something you ride on the merry-go-round.

LL: Laughs, I know, I know.

AC: Uh, no I wouldn't call them hobby horses because there are some people in the Morgan horse training, boarding, breeding game that are in it to make a living.

LL: Well I mean, but the horses, they board those. Someone, someone suggested to me that... to have, to have your children learn to ride and have a horse was similar to having them specialize in ice skating or other kinds of an activity. And many people want to have their children ride.

AC: And they may do it at a boarding stable.

LL: Yes.

AC: But even if it's not their own horse and they do...

LL: Yes, both, yes.

AC: ... at a stable that offers riding lessons to different levels of novice on up.

LL: So if there wasn't this, this aspect of the Morgan horses, then people breed them to breed them to breed them? I mean I don't mean to sound ----- but...

AC: Let me try to illustrate it this way. I might have told you this story. Uh, we had a

president of this university for many, many years, the Jorgenson Auditorium is named after him, the present Jorgenson. I thought he had a tremendously good philosophy. At a meeting one time of some of these troubled presidents of the New England

College, they were kidding him about the fact that the University of Connecticut had a horse program and wondered what in the world we were doing with horses here. He answered it very well from the standpoint of what the teachers researched for us. He answered it beautifully from this standpoint. He said now you all, and some of um were starting the horse Morgan thing and all the horses in fact, he said you all are starting in the horse thing in response to demand and .He

said, uh, let me tell you my philosophy. I recall this, because I saw it in print, he said my philosophy is that as long as we can have ornamental horticulture in our greenhouses and in our fields, uh or you don't need this stuff You can have horses around a horse barn and that was, what he was saying is that there is more to life than bread alone.

LL: Uh huh.

AC: That's where he was coming from and CT being a fairly affluent state, uh, I don't think its too unusual to think of a situation where some and many many trades and professions and some very wealthy people did have horses. But there is a lot of people who have horses, some at least, who shouldn't probably even have it, from an economic standpoint.

LL: Uh huh.

AC: But they get their kicks out of it that way. Uh, they get their kicks out of their environment, their association with animals. It's just like we have something \_\_\_\_\_, well look at the dogs since then. They don't necessarily need them, but they need them for what's good inside their heads. Uh, there is something about that association, whether it be pets, dogs, ponies, even llamas, whatever it is that adds to the, to the lives of people.

LL: Now someone told me that after they have gotten milking machines that their father went out and periodically threw out \_\_\_\_\_ with his head in the bath because he just loved the animals and that association.

AC: Laughs.

LL: And that some people have told me how much they love animals and that is one of the reasons why they if they were brothers, one who stayed in farming and one who left. Many times the one who stayed chose it because he loved animals.

LL: Livestock is what they wanted to get associated with animals, plants, living things. It was a different kind of lifestyle and if you ever had any uh, experience where people who have had experience, for example in breeding animals. If you have a..... let me use an example. If you have a great female, a great cow lets say, uh and you breed it, you want to get something that will carry on her situation, better hopefully than what she is herself. But if you lose that calf at birth, boy it hits you hard, it's a tragedy. But if you have something born like that Ringmaster horse I was just telling you about, that's an exciting thing, because with his development and training and so on, uh he was one of the great specimens of anything on four legs and there is a certain excitement and satisfaction in doing that. Uh, and they become conditioned to you very, very quickly. I uh, I have analyzed cattle of my own at different points and times and got involved in them and other livestock and its amazing to me how, within just a very few days, if you want them to come to you, remember the cowboy, I'm going to chase them all over the place, with a little bit of grain and a little bit of good hay or whatever the case may be, uh you can go out and toot the horn on your car and they are coming right up to the fence and you can get in amongst them and they are not wild and they are not going to be all over you and they are not going to be dragging you around unless they are playing with you. Uh, there is a certain amount of satisfaction in that. -----I have had this experience myself A real good snowstorm coming down and you need to get some hay to your cattle and where I used to run some cattle I had a hay shed that they could come up and they could feed out of

LL: Was this ----- after you got here?

AC: Yea. But I was running cattle on my own too, on the side. And uh, some satisfaction to go over there and call those cattle and they would come down to the hay shed and I would have thrown out some hay bales in the manger that they had, they couldn't come into the manger but it was flooded, uh the floor and outside its sides so we couldn't, but on a real bad snowstorm, the wind blowing and so on, there was something very satisfactory about having done something good, as far as they, those creature's needs are concerned. And just lay back there on a bale of hay or a few bales of hay and listen to them chomp and so on. There's some satisfaction in that.

LL: In this

AC: So it's satisfying.

LL: Yep, I'm just thinking of, and this occurred to me when I watched the floods and in, in the other countries they are having a flood, when the animals are marooned and die. It must be very harrowing.

AC: There is no question about it. You watch some of these 4H kids that up at the Eastern States Exposition and whatever they show, whatever they are showing, \_\_\_\_\_, cattle, sheep, whatever it is, uh when that gets over with there is some crying that goes on, because there has been a bond that's developed over a period of time, uh and husbands and so on. And so yea, its hard. I have an old dog. The dog is about half blind, can't hear, it's got cancer. And I have an eye, that dog probably ought to be put out away, but the dog is not suffering, he still eats, and I can't bring myself to do that, because the association is strong and a great companion for my wife and so on. And I'll admit, that it really hits me hard sometimes, I lose an animal that, whatever it is. Uh, so I think there are associations and bonding that happen between people and animals and people and plants in some ways. There is no question about it. One of our deans here, Joe Spade, uh the Dean of Allied Health, his major, I guess I would say its not just a hobby, it's his, it's one of the things in his way of life outside his responsibilities in administration and teaching - ---- He has a really big garden. I saw him the other day and um, he was down at the agriculture store and uh, he was buying a lot of stuff. I said Joe, you have a big garden, now I only have a small one and my daughter has that thing, he says yes it's a pretty good size. I said how big is it and he says its 100 feet wide by 300 feet long. And I said that's almost a football field. He mechanically working it of course and he said I supply food to a lot of people uh, giving it away I think, but that is his, that is his tranquilizer...

LL: Uh huh.

AC: ... away from his job. It was the \_\_\_\_\_ example \_\_\_\_\_ and maybe his family is involved too, I imagine they are, but I don't know to what degree. But here is somebody that is getting his fix. I said to him, "He ll Joe, you're a farmer. .... "

LL: Laughs.

AC: ... you categorize how... Crops and

LL: Laughs.

AC: Yes, much better in terms of what your production is and uh, he gets his kicks out of that kind of thing and I think there is a lot of that goes on in this state and in many states. The increasing number of part-time lifestyle farmers. Example, 39,000 farms in this state in 1997, 41,000 now.

LL: Uh huh.

AC: The specialized ones are bigger, better, science and business-based situations. But we've got a lot of that lifestyle situation where an association to the plant world, the natural resource world, the animal world and the wildlife world. Because that kind of habitat encourages uh, wildlife, and support. I'm getting into philosophy.

LL: That's okay. Yes, before the tape runs out, um, what do you think brought you your greatest satisfaction and growth, because the university ----- Your greatest accomplishment? I know you go back to the students, there's...?

AC: Well these are just generals. I would say that yea, hiring outstanding people, rewarding them, seeing them make contributions and teaching and research, outreach, extension, not just in the state, but as they developed regional and national recognition and all over. That's a major satisfaction, hiring them, rewarding them and keeping them.

LL: That's the difference too in someone who becomes an administrator, if you will, because some people would prefer just maintaining their own world and their own research...

AC: Oh yea.

LL: ... and not get the satisfaction from the development of others.

AC: No that is true. And uh, being a little bit critical I think is one of our problems at universities today, is that many, many faculty people don't have an awareness of the importance of what many other faculty people are doing. And many of them can't wait to just go to work on their own research work, because they figure that that's the only thing that may help them move ahead or one of the important things that may help them move ahead in promotions, wages, salary increases. Things of this sort. And in a way, it's unfortunate because when that prevailed, when that prevails in a particular person, simply because of the fact that the main reason this university exists, or any university, one of the main reasons is students and students not just in the classroom, but out of the classroom uh as well. And one of the great examples was a guy we had here, Don Kinsman a great professor, and uh, Tim followed them in their lives, their careers, their alumni and so on, of the great major \_\_\_\_\_

(Phone rings)

LL: You can just take that...

(End of Interview)