

From Vision to Verity:
The Mayborn Museum Complex Oral History Project

An MST Professional Project by Steven Sielaff

Introduction

The Mayborn Museum Complex Oral History Project documents the capital campaign, design, construction and formal dedication in 2004 of the Mayborn Museum Complex at Baylor University through the use of oral history interviews. No prior effort to record this period of the institution's history had been made at the time of this project. While certain primary source materials are available documenting various facets of this history, it was determined that the vast wealth of information rested in the memories of certain individuals who played key roles in the new museum's development and creation. Therefore a pure oral history project, using primary sources as background research materials, was chosen as the ideal course of action.

Although a new museum, the Mayborn Museum Complex (MMC) was built upon several older entities: the Strecker Museum, the Ollie Mae Moen (OMM) Discovery Center and the Gov. Bill and Vara Daniel Historic Village. It was the dream of many to build a new museum facility to bring together these separate entities in one location. This project documents the process which led to the complex described in the Baylor University Catalog as:

The Sue and Frank Mayborn Natural Science and Cultural History Museum at Baylor University includes the Harry and Anna Jeanes Discovery Center, the Gov. Bill and Vara Daniel Historic Village and the Strecker Museum Collection. The Mayborn Museum Complex brings together in one location the resources of hands-on discovery rooms and interactive natural science and cultural history galleries including outdoor exhibits. This unusually rich combination provides a wide spectrum of engaging learning

opportunities for all types of learners and visitors of all ages. The exhibits and educational programs encourage families to learn together as they make choices and design their own museum experience. The multifaceted museum complex also serves as a learning laboratory for Baylor University students in the Department of Museum Studies, as well as many other disciplines across campus.

Oral history as a methodology for acquiring primary source accounts of history is a fairly new concept in the annals of academia. While the practice has its roots in the United States with the convergence of global turmoil and technological advances of WWII, it was not until the social justice movements of the late 1960s and the availability of cheaper, mobile recording mediums that the use of oral history expanded. Throughout the remainder of the twentieth century the discipline organized itself around a collection of legal procedures and professional practices. Meanwhile, oral historians professionalized by connecting via national and regional associations. Today oral history is a popular and accepted form of scholarly research and has an established role providing key first-hand historical accounts of our whole society, from the privileged to the disenfranchised.

The Baylor University Institute for Oral History (BUIOH) has served as the center for Baylor University's efforts in acquiring and archiving oral histories since 1970. While the BUIOH focuses primarily on local, regional and state history, it also conducts investigations and records the history of Baylor University. It is in this capacity that the BUIOH enabled the Mayborn Museum Complex Oral History Project a platform to be conducted and later repositied for perpetuity.

It was in my capacity as a graduate assistant at the BUIOH and through my own interest in institutional histories that I first proposed a professional project detailing the history of the MMC to fulfill my graduate requirements. In Summer 2011, I enrolled in Seminar in Oral

History taught by BUIOH Director Dr. Stephen Sloan, and as part of the course requirements I conducted my first series of interviews. As a topic I chose the history of the Dr Pepper Museum, synthesizing my new interest in oral history with my future academic training in museology. My experience at organizing such an endeavor, plus my growing curiosity in the general practice of establishing institutional histories led me to believe another similar effort would make a fitting graduate project and/or thesis topic. In Spring 2012, it was discussed with Department of Museum Studies Chair Dr. Kenneth Hafertepe and Mayborn Museum Complex Director Dr. Ellie Caston that this idea, applied toward the Mayborn itself, would be a mutually beneficial project for both the student and the museum as well. It was agreed that I would serve as the researcher and primary investigator of the project and amass a collection of interviews detailing the early history of the Mayborn Museum Complex for preservation and potential future use.

The Professional Project

The scope of the professional project initially included four primary interview targets covering topics relevant to the vision and development of the Mayborn Museum Complex during the early 1980s through the dedication and opening of the museum in May 2004. As the project encountered delays in scheduling certain interviews, other supplementary interviewees were chosen and added to the project list. At the end of the process a total of nine individuals were interviewed, two on more than one occasion, detailing perspectives and insights from administrators, professors, museum educators, development officers and major donors.

The materials created by this project will be housed in multiple locations to be used for a plethora of reasons. As per the standard operation of the BUIOH, each interviewee will be given a digital data CD of audio from their interview plus a bound copy of the transcription of their

memoirs. The BUIOH retains digital forms of both the audio and the transcript in its preservation archive, with online access granted via Baylor University's ContentDM front-end searchable database. The Mayborn Museum Complex will also receive a complete set of digital data CDs for the audio and bound volumes of the transcripts when completed. Uses of these materials range from library inclusion to source materials for future website additions or scholarly publication and are further discussed in the "Future Products and Applications" section.

Preparation

To ascertain the full scope of the project, the first course of action was a series of meetings with Dr. Ellie Caston in Summer 2012. Dr. Caston was hired in 1997 as Director of Operations of the Strecker Museum Complex and later became Director of the Mayborn Museum Complex just as the foundation for the new building was being poured. As such she was present during a majority of the developmental process. Her input on the highlights of the timeframe in question and relationships with many of the key individuals was vital in creating the initial list of potential interviewees. In addition, Dr. Caston provided access to the museum's administrative archives for background research.

At the same time, meetings were held with Dr. Stephen Sloan to discuss the inclusion of the Mayborn Museum Oral History Project sub-project into the greater ongoing Baylor University project heading. The BUIOH resolved to provide the processing, transcription, editing and publication of the interviews. I would undertake the research and investigation myself, then aid in the remainder of the process by providing wordlists, processing audio and editing content as the interviews passed through the general BUIOH workflow.

Research began concurrently in the summer of 2012. A number of sources were consulted, including but not limited to: online archives of Baylor University press releases, *Lariat* student newspaper articles, back issues of the Strecker Museum News/Strecker Notes/Strecker-Mayborn newsletters, Chasing the Bone Pile (an Occasional Papers of the Strecker Museum publication), and various promotional and professional materials detailing Strecker Centennial Celebration, Discovery Campaign and overall construction plans. In addition, various former interviews held at the BUIOH, specifically with Calvin Smith and Ollie Mae Moen, were discovered and researched.

After collecting these materials two major themes emerged: the idea of a new Strecker Museum was much older than first thought, and the developmental process to make the museum a reality was much more arduous than anticipated. Because of these facts a general twenty-year timeline of events was constructed, beginning in 1983 with the change in the Strecker Museum directorship from Bryce C. Brown to Calvin Smith running until the Mayborn Museum Complex dedication and opening in May 2004. While the trio of institutions that comprised the Mayborn Museum Complex would all be discussed and investigated, special attention was paid to the Strecker Museum itself due to its tenure as one of the oldest museums in Texas and the efforts of the community to preserve its legacy.

To technically prepare for the interviews, I gathered recording equipment I was familiar with from my past oral history interviews. I used a Marantz 620 digital recorder with a Sony ECM-R100 Electric Condenser Microphone, recording the audio on various secure digital media cards. This allows for the creation of uncompressed audio in the form of Broadcast WAV files. The recorder was formatted to produce track segments thirty minutes in length to protect against

complete interview corruption, and both battery and AC adapter power were used in case of interruption of service.

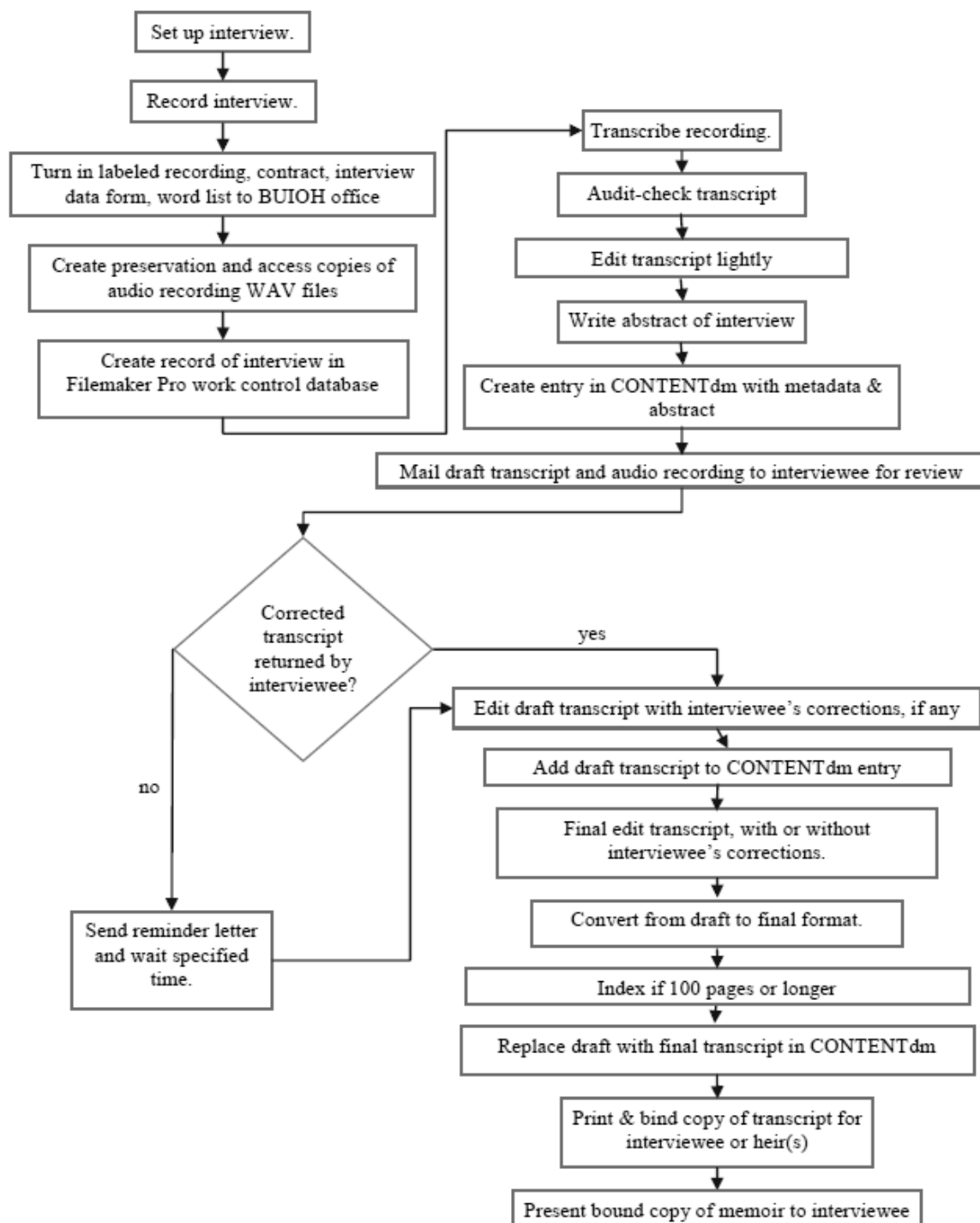
Interview Process

When arranging each interview, the first step was an initial e-mail communication between Dr. Caston and the interviewee detailing the purpose of the project and inquiring as to their willingness to participate in the interview. Soon afterwards I sent a follow-up e-mail introducing myself and the general process we would undertake at the BUIOH in order to best preserve his or her memories. Interview dates were agreed upon, and the interviewees were sent two documents electronically: a version of the timeline based on their involvement in the Mayborn Museum Complex developmental process and a general topic list detailing the various events or subjects in particular I wished to discuss. These documents proved especially helpful in initially enabling the interviewees to revisit their memories of the past and/or begin researching their own files a week in advance of the actual interview. By the time of the meeting the interviewee was fully prepared to provide a comprehensive account of their role in the process.

On the day of the interview, a location of familiarity and/or comfort was chosen for the interviewee. Specifically, a quiet location free from distractions is preferred. For this project, both the MMC and the BUIOH provided conference rooms for many interviews. Deeds of gift were signed to empower all parties involved with “shared authority” over the intellectual properties of the interview. Interview length was limited to two hours, with a mandatory break after the first hour of discussion.

The following is a flowchart of the technical process of interview handling at the BUIOH:

Baylor University Institute for Oral History
Memoir Processing Flowchart



This process includes participation from BUIOH staff editors, graduate student editors and processors and undergraduate transcriptionists. For the purpose of this project, I provided the front end investigation, audio processing and when available, audit checking/editing leading up to the final edit stage. Interviews are subject to the general workflow of the BUIOH and generally are inserted into the proper position in the queue at the time of their submission. In addition, mailing of transcripts for interviewee corrections lengthens the process depending on the response time of those involved. Therefore, this overall process is ongoing as the procedure from interview submission to final mailing of the bound memoir is typically one to two years in total length.

Interviews Conducted

The following is a list of all interviews conducted for the project. Included is the date of interview, the position held by the interviewee during the period of history investigated, the place and length of the interview, and a brief synopsis of the topics covered during the session:

1. Larry Smith – 8/6/2012

Title/Role: Assistant Vice President for Gift Planning - Baylor University

Location & Length: Clifton Robinson Building - Waco TX – 1 hour 37 minutes

Topics Covered: Discovery Campaign, community gifts, Harry and Anna Jeanes relationship and estate planning, Mayborn Foundation gift, donation naming conventions, ceremonial groundbreaking of MMC, continued recognition of donors, dedication of MMC

2. Jill Barrow – 9/20/2012

Title/Role: Director - Ollie Mae Moen Discovery Center/Director of Education - Mayborn Museum Complex - Baylor University

Location & Length: Mayborn Museum Complex Conference Room – 1 hour 19 minutes

Topics Covered: early operation of the Youth Cultural Center (YCC), educational style of Ollie Mae Moen, YCC use of old Waco High School, discovery room and box origins, renaming YCC to OMM Discovery Center, relationship with Calvin Smith, absorption of OMM into Strecker Museum Complex, educational programming at Gov. Bill and Vara Daniel Historic Village, move of OMM to old Nabisco Warehouse, fundraising luncheons for capital campaign, ceremonial groundbreaking of MMC, moving living collection from OMM to MMC, dedication of MMC, expansion of educational programming to encompass MMC

3. Calvin Smith – 1/10/2013

Title/Role: Director - Strecker Museum Complex & Program Chair - Department of Museum Studies - Baylor University

Location & Length: Mayborn Museum Complex Admin Office – 1 hour 38 minutes

Topics Covered: relationship with former Strecker Museum director Bryce C. Brown, state of Strecker Museum in early 1980s, creation of Gov. Bill and Vara Daniel Historic Village, early fundraising to support new museum designs, formation of Strecker Associates, Anding lead gift origins, funding and later acquisition of OMM Discovery Center, Strecker Centennial and Baylor Sesquicentennial, changes to architectural plans by Baylor University President Robert Sloan, 1993 Texas Association of Museums (TAM) meeting in Waco,

expansion of museum studies program, quiet campaign for New Strecker Museum, corporate gifts, Harry and Anna Jeanes gift, Baylor University President Herbert Reynolds' influence on fundraising successes, Mayborn Foundation gift, volume of donations from Waco community, new Baylor bidding and construction policies affecting MMC plans, ceremonial groundbreaking for MMC

4. John Chiles, Marie Chiles & Calvin Smith – 1/11/2013

Title/Role: Founders - Strecker Associates - Baylor University

Location & Length: Edgemere Retirement Community (Dallas, TX) – 1 hour 21 minutes

Topics Covered: beginnings of the Strecker Associates, importance of commitment of Baylor University President Herbert Reynolds to New Strecker Museum, selling the Waco community on significance of New Strecker Museum project, Tom Anding stock gift, early Strecker Associates meetings at Gov. Bill and Vara Daniel Historic Village, village claiming the land for the upcoming museum, Strecker Associates endowment formation, investigating and investing in the YCC, creating the steering committee for Discovery Campaign, ExxonMobil matching donations, Mayborn Foundation gift impact, change of design/scope of museum, ceremonial groundbreaking for MMC, dedication and benefits of MMC

5. C. Gwin Morris – 2/5/2013

Title/Role: Vice President of University Relations - Baylor University

Location & Length: BUIOH Conference Room - Carroll Library – 1 hour 15 minutes

Topics Covered: assigned special project of New Strecker Museum funding, consideration of accepting Gov. Bill and Vara Daniel Historic Village, early fundraising efforts in Dallas,

New Strecker Museum as low-priority development project, historic village setting the stage for future complex, fundraising relationship with John Chiles and ExxonMobil matching gift protocol, creation of support organization – Strecker Associates, impact of village opening on fundraising, other Baylor construction projects taking precedence, seeking a lead gift donation by Strecker Centennial, incorporating OMM Discovery Center as part of new museum, stagnation of plans due to Baylor Presidential transition from Dr. Reynolds to Dr. Sloan, importance of OMM Discovery Center to fundraising, hiring of Larry Smith and his relation to donors Harry and Anna Jeanes, Anding gift use for future fundraising propaganda, Mayborn Foundation gift, naming rights-based presentations, loss of Strecker name for new complex

6. Don Schmeltekopf – 2/12/2013

Title/Role: Provost - Baylor University

Location & Length: Schmeltekopf Office - Carroll Library – 28 minutes

Topics Covered: priority of new museum amongst Baylor Administration, importance of Mayborn Foundation gift, relationship of Gov. Bill Daniel and Baylor University President Herbert Reynolds, community donations driving interest in new museum, discussions on whether or not to support the OMM Discovery Center, major donations create increase in interest among Baylor Administration, Chancellor Reynolds' leadership in fundraising, design plans for the MMC, Baylor-Waco cooperation in marketing MMC

7. Ellie Caston I – 2/22/2013

Title/Role: Director of Operations - Strecker Museum Complex - Baylor University

Location & Length: BUIOH Conference Room - Carroll Library – 1 hour 21 minutes

Topics Covered: hired as Director of Operations/Assistant Professor in Museum Studies in 1997, state of Strecker Museum Complex (SMC) at hire, Tom Anding stock donation for New Strecker Museum development, Harry and Anna Jeanes gift to Discovery Campaign, “Day Two” planning for opening of new complex, “Backyard Monsters” fundraising exhibit backed by Junior League of Waco, Waco community relations with the SMC, staffing status of the SMC in 1999, move of the OMM Discovery Center from Waco High to Nabisco building, President/Chancellor Herbert Reynolds’ influence on fundraising, creating new organizational chart for future museum staffing, Mayborn Foundation gift, naming conventions for the new MMC, ceremonial groundbreaking on January 2001, impact of MMC on Museum Studies program, Bryce C. Brown’s tenure as Strecker Museum Director, change to designated staff for museum and faculty for museum studies program

8. Ellie Caston II – 3/26/2013

Title/Role: Director - Mayborn Museum Complex - Baylor University

Location & Length: BUIOH Conference Room - Carroll Library – 1 hour 39 minutes

Topics Covered: announcement of impending retirement from Calvin Smith, Harrison Price’s “Buzz Report” outlining operational estimates for MMC, assuming Directorship of Mayborn Museum Complex, initial task of reducing exhibit budget, loss of Strecker naming convention and creation of “Strecker’s Cabinets of Curiosity,” creating office space from

exhibits/hallways, beginning of new hires in early 2003, Calvin Smith announces earlier-than-expected planned retirement, assuming Chairmanship of Department of Museum Studies in Summer, impact of MMC construction on Gov. Bill and Vara Daniel Historic Village, consolidating multiple directors of component entities, allowing department heads to hire their staff , phased move into the MMC and difficulties in moving large objects out of Sid Richardson basement, evolution of Strecker Associates program and new MMC membership policies, frantic efforts to complete exhibits for dedication, MMC dedication on May 14, 2004, Blanche Largent donations

9. Tom Charlton – 7/1/2013

Title/Role: Vice Provost of Academic Affairs & Research - Baylor University

Location & Length: Charlton Home (Fort Worth, TX) – 1 hour 53 minutes

Topics Covered: plans for the Strecker in the 1970s, move of the Strecker Museum to Sid Richardson Building, Strecker Director Calvin Smith's many exploratory budgets, early consideration for New Strecker Museum, overseeing Strecker activities as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, relationship with Gov. Bill Daniel and plans for the historic village, move of Daniel buildings to Baylor, Baylor University President Robert Sloan's conflicting vision of new museum, concern and report to Provost Don Schmeltekopf on new museum's budget, hiring of Ellie Caston as Director of Operations for Strecker Museum Complex, connective plans for the entities of the Strecker Museum Complex, meetings with and budget needs of Calvin Smith as Vice Provost, effectiveness of Ellie Caston during construction phase, ceremonial groundbreaking for MMC, dedication of MMC in May 2004

Challenges

Throughout the process there were three main challenges that primarily affected the length of time required to complete the project. The first of these appeared during the research phase when I discovered the efforts to build what was then known as the New Strecker Museum were much older and arduous than first imagined. The efforts during the 1980s to place the creation of the new museum on the radar of Baylor administrators and the early efforts in the development office toward this end seemed worthy of inclusion in the interview cycle. I immediately began to consider expanding topic lists and even the interview list to include these details.

The second challenge of the project was scheduling around locality issues. Almost from the beginning of the planning stages I had in my mind a general idea that it would be beneficial to interview Calvin Smith prior to Dr. Ellie Caston so that the story would flow properly from one director to the next. In addition, Mr. Smith was the impetus behind so much of the vision and early direction of the museum's development that his interview on the whole seemed a proper keystone to the entire project. Scheduling a time to hold this interview however was quite problematic as Mr. Smith lived out-of-state and was currently in a transition himself from employment in New Mexico to retirement in Colorado. Efforts were made to coordinate an interview during a visitation cycle in Texas for Mr. Smith, but this opportunity did not arise until January 2013, thereby creating a delay between interviews of approximately four months.

The third challenge was scheduling around illness. As I progressed through the project in Spring 2013 I became enamored with the idea of interviewing Dr. Thomas Charlton, who was the VP/Vice Provost of Academic Affairs during the development and construction of the

Mayborn Museum Complex. Dr. Charlton was also a major figure in my professional realm as the founding director of the BUIOH and author of *Oral History for Texans*, and was very receptive to aiding in the project. Unfortunately through the course of the spring and summer Dr. Charlton was beset with several health issues and a scheduled trip to Waco for visitation and interviews at one point was cancelled due to illness. Even though the session was rescheduled and executed on July 1st, the overall delay was enough to warrant the extension of the project into the summer.

Immediate Results

As of this writing there are three major products from this project available for use. The first is the timeline detailing the major events in the twenty-year span of the Mayborn Museum Complex's development. This timeline is easily transferable to other mediums such as the museum website or in-house exhibit. It can also be used for future research or as a source for potential additional interviews.

The second available resource is the complete set of audio files from the nine interviews. These files were presented to the Mayborn Museum Complex in official BUIOH CD cases for easy recognition and access. Original copies of the audio are housed at the BUIOH and on electronic servers at Baylor University and throughout the country per preservation protocols. These CDs can be featured in the Museum Studies library or included in the general Mayborn Museum Complex archives depending on the administration's preference.

Third is a complete set of time-stamped abstracts created for the interviews. Abstracts are a typical product produced during the BUIOH editorial process, but for this project I included timestamp information for each major topic heading listed. This information will be important in

the near future as I integrate the interviews into the various online endeavors discussed in the next section.

Future Products and Applications

The bulk of the fruits from the labor that was the Mayborn Museum Complex Oral History Project will be forthcoming and certain facets are dependent upon how best the museum decides to utilize the information gathered. In addition, the process itself will provide material for future papers or panel discussions as I continue to develop my professional investigations into the practice of collecting institutional histories. The following are the future products of the project and my recommendations for their use.

1. Bound Memoirs

At the completion of the editing process for each interview the Mayborn Museum will receive a bound volume of the transcription. These memoirs resemble thesis/dissertation tomes in style and would make a perfect addition to the Department of Museum Studies library. For quick reference, the interviews will also be available online in the ContentDM database Baylor University maintains. The entire text of the interview will be searchable providing easy access for a variety of research applications.

2. Anniversary Celebration Oral History Kiosk

A perfect extension of this oral history project would be the purchase or construction of an oral history kiosk for the greater museum. Its primary use would be to highlight the development and construction of the museum during its upcoming 10th anniversary celebration in May 2014. With replaceable paneling and audio files, the kiosk could be used

in the foreseeable future for a variety of exhibits. This would also be a great educational tool for future museum studies students or those interested in developing projects through the combination of public history/oral history courses to be taught by Dr. Stephen Sloan beginning in the upcoming Spring 2014 semester.

3. Museum Publication

The last work under the Occasional Papers of the Strecker Museum series was published in 1995 and highlighted a century of the Strecker Museum Complex's history. With the construction of a new museum complex and ample time passed to record its history, I feel this is a great time to begin a new publication and report on the whirlwind of change that has taken place the past twenty years. My oral history accounts plus the research materials I have amassed will provide a great foundation of resources to begin such an endeavor, and I personally would welcome the opportunity to be a part of this effort.

4. Strecker Associates History

The history of the Strecker Associates has been a recent research interest at the Mayborn Museum Complex. Through my interview with John and Marie Chiles I was able to procure firsthand accounts of the formation and efforts of this volunteer group. Once in final edited form, this interview should be investigated and added to the sources for the official history publication.

5. Public Lecture

Using the materials accumulated during the research for this project and adding the first-hand audio accounts from the interviews themselves, I plan to create and conduct a historical

lecture of this time period. The lecture will be open to the public, but will be especially targeted at current Museum Studies students, MMC staff and volunteers. The lecture will be quite interactive using the Prezi online presentation software. The slides themselves will then be readily available to embed in the MMC website as a permanent online representation of its institutional history.

6. Online Interaction via OHMS

In my work at the BUIOH, I recently began beta testing a new piece of software designed by the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky to enhance user front-end experiences with oral history recordings. Named the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS), it meshes the written transcript with the audio/video file to present the user with integrated options in accessing and interacting with the contents of the interview. Complete with timestamp skipping and subject indexing, the final product allows users to pinpoint the topics they are interested in and read/listen/watch them instantly.

Moving forward with both the Mayborn Museum Complex Oral History Project and my work for Baylor with OHMS, I would like to use the interviews I have conducted to create a series highlighting the MMC's development. The finished product would not only be something that could be easily accessed from the MMC website, but it can also be used as evidentiary examples of OHMS integration outside the University of Kentucky. I will introduce these possibilities at future academic conferences, including the national meeting of the Oral History Association (OHA) in October 2013, where I am scheduled to present my work on the official OHMS panel.

Lessons Learned/Final Thoughts

Looking back on the project, I feel there were several notable successes worth mentioning. The first was borne from the challenges of scheduling. Despite the difficulty in procuring the Calvin Smith interview, in the long run I view the circumstances as a net positive. Not only did the delay lead me to investigate further a prior Smith interview at the BUIOH that was in need of interviewee edits and therefore led to their procurement, but the timing of the interview itself proved advantageous. Mr. Smith's relationship with Mr. and Mrs. Chiles opened the opportunity to join him on the next leg of his Texas road trip in January 2013 and conduct a group interview with the trio at the Chiles' retirement community. This interview was a great addition for the project, and a further bonus for the Strecker Associates research.

Throughout the project the participants were very gracious with their time and excited to talk about the topic. Interviews seemed to complement each other as prior details learned turned into discussion topics for others. Especially effective were the timeline and topic lists, as several interviewees mentioned how simply familiarizing themselves with the facts sparked memories of certain events they had not thought of in years.

Dr. Caston's role as mediator during the project was crucial to its success. Not only did she help with the initial contact for each interviewee, but she participated in debriefing sessions after each investigation and helped maintain focus on the overall story to make sure all aspects were covered. In oral history it is often helpful to have that "insider" or trusted member of the community to vouch for you if you are unknown to your interviewee base, while at the same time taking care not to take advantage of said relationship where overfamiliarity can lead to too much "assumed knowledge" glossed over on the recording. Every researcher regardless of

community status should be weary of this practice during the interview process so that a wider audience can fully appreciate the final product.

Despite multiple delays, the end product proved twice as large in scope as originally planned. I feel it is important not to let momentum stymie because you are waiting on that one particular interview schedule to work itself out. Plan multiple avenues of investigation, and be willing to delve back into your research if things hit a standstill. Develop your primary interviewee list, but provide a supplemental to fall back on if things slow down.

Overall I feel the partnership of the MMC and the BUIOH, with me as the conduit, led to a successful endeavor. A year or so down the road all the finished products should be prepared and the Mayborn Museum Complex will have a thorough accounting of its early history dutifully preserved both physically and electronically thanks to the best practices of the BUIOH. For those interested in conducting a similar project I cannot stress enough the value of partnering with an established oral history program and archival repository. The resources and tutelage of such an organization are invaluable, and institutions will be more comfortable entrusting the documentation of their history knowing their materials have a reputable place to call home.