

Interviewee: Maddox, Emery
Interviewer: Katie Adams
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Adams: This is Katie Adams and I am interviewing Emery Maddox in his residence in Tallahassee, Florida. The date is October 9, 2008. The topic will be Mr. Maddox's experiences as a student at TBUF and FSU from 1946 to 1950. This interview is being conducted for the Heritage Protocol program at the Florida State University. So where are you from, Mr. Maddox?

Maddox: Well, I am from Tallahassee. I have been here since 1924 — no 1925. Tallahassee and Leon County back in those days was, I think the population was 9,000 people [laugh]. I came here as a baby. My family moved from Apalachicola — that's where I was born. I lived on East Park Avenue, or eastside of town for all my growing up years anyway. I am a Tallahasseean — all my life except for about nine years. I was away in the Navy for three and a half years and lived in Georgia for six years of work and came back to Tallahassee in 1955 and been here ever since.

Adams: After the war, did you attend school on the GI Bill?

Maddox: Yes, I did. GI Bill helped many of us ex-military people. Under the GI Bill those of us who attended college, we were paid \$90 a month — initially \$50 a month — plus tuition and books. That is one reason why there were so many male students in college after the war. There were no jobs available — or at least not sufficient — and maybe 10 or 12 million people getting out of the military after the war — they needed assistance, in this case probably brought us the GI Bill gave us a chance to get trained for — to help the economy of the United States get kick-started. Under the GI Bill we were probably given three years of those benefits — educational benefits. That certainly helped me go to college and I wouldn't have been able to do it otherwise [laugh].

Adams: Why did you want to go to the University of Florida?

Maddox: Well I started college at Auburn University. I was a pre-veterinarian and I stayed up there only six months and decided I was going to change majors and came down to Florida State College for Women. At that time that was in June of 1946. I went to summer school — back in those times FSCW would allow males student to attend college in the summer time. A lot of us GI's were just getting out of the service — I started school went through the summer at FSU. Then in early September there was a group of us ex-military that marched on the Capitol [laugh]. There were about 75 or 100 of us and we marched from the gates of FSU down College Avenue to the Capitol. Governor Millard Caldwell — at the time he was governor — he met us

on the front steps of the Capitol and we asked him if he would help us get male students — or make FSCW coeducational. And he said that he would do all he could to push that through. So we accomplished our objective because he got with the powers to be — back then it was the Board of Control that controlled the colleges of Florida. So the Board of Control approved FSCW to allow male students all through that '46 to '47 year — allowed us to attend the Tallahassee Branch of the University of Florida. That's when we became known as the T-Buffer's. That lasted until next spring and the next spring the legislature passed the law governing FSU to make it Florida State University. Then it was full coeducational just as it has been allotted to today. That's how it all started. So I started in June of '46, transferred from Auburn down here and — when I was a sophomore I determined my major was going to be Business Administration. So that's when I changed my major and pursued that degree. I was done with that degree in '49 — three years after starting college. Then I stayed home for one year to get my Master's in Library Science, specializing in audio/visual materials.

Adams: So how was it attending a college that was majority female students?

Maddox: It was fun [laugh]. The numbers I think in '46 was 10 females to probably 1 male at that time. I started dating my wife that first summer when I started at FSU and two years later we got married. Back then they would help married students with housing at Florida State. The housing was provided in old barracks out at the West Campus. The barracks that we were in were one-level barracks and they had put six apartments in those old barracks with two bathrooms at the end of the hallway, one was for women and one for men [laugh]. It was pretty low-key. The apartments were sealed on the outside, but they weren't sealed inside. In other words, the studs in the frame walls were on the inside of the apartments and that's the way they were. Probably only paid \$17 a month for them so that was a deal for us [laugh]. We made some good friends in at our barracks with the other six couples that were housing there. Some friends except for today we occasionally see. Most of the barracks or buildings at West Campus were either married students or they were classrooms. Classrooms were primarily business school and library science school and some English classes out there. And of course nothing was air-conditioned back in the late-40s and in the summer time we were pretty miserable in those buildings [laughs]. That was — and we had transportation between campuses, Main Campus and West Campus — about a three-miles difference. The buses were the old-style school buses, no air-conditioning. [discussion of children and grandchildren not transcribed] Anyway, that is how we got started at FSU. Campus life in the first two years I was single out there — we had a lot of fun. Most of the campus life — social life was in the proximity of Westcott. So we spent a lot of time at the Mecca across the street from Westcott and the Sweet Shop — of course I don't know if you have seen pictures of the Sweet Shop, but it's gone now I think. We spent a lot of time at both places, meeting people and just enjoying life. And we spent a good deal of time in the Alumni Building which is right across from, at that time, from Jennie Murphree Hall. We played in the Alumni Building — we played cards and shot pool and played badminton and we just had a good time there. Those were all the primary social places — within buildings around the Main Campus. West Campus our social life was normally going to local Lake Bradford which was only about a mile or so away. So we did a lot of that in the

warm weather months. That's kinda about what we did in those first few years. I had a part-time job on campus that paid about 50 cents an hour [laughs]. I was a projectionist for audio/visual materials and when an instructor or professor needed to show a movie — they weren't trained to do that — we would take the projectors to their classes and set them up and run them for that class. We did this and all sorts of things. Anyway, that's — part-time work was essential for — to most of us to get some extra money. Anyway, we enjoyed life and we had a good time.

Adams: Did you meet your wife on campus?

Maddox: Yea, she lived in a dormitory originally. She was from Tallahassee. But she was four years younger than I was and she went to the same high school — Leon High School. I did not know her of course, she was too far behind me. I met her the first day in the first class I had at Florida State in June of '46. I actually had seen her briefly — talked to her the week before when we were registering. Back then registration was all done manually and she was working at the Registrar's Office directing people where to go to register. So I came by asking for directions and she was flirting and I picked up on it [laugh]. The next day, I believe — or the next week I went into English class and she was in that class [laugh].

Adams: Imagine that [laugh]. You mentioned you lived at Dale Mabry Field. Did the classrooms look the same? Were they in the barracks, too?

Maddox: Classrooms were primarily in smaller buildings. They more or less were office buildings that were military. They didn't move them there they just stayed there when the base closed down in 1945. The city, the county, the federal government acquired that base, land all of that. Primarily the south side of it was bought up by the city and by the state. The state guide that worked and went to Florida State expanded the campus. That was the quickest way to get classrooms and buildings, you know, before they could start construction on the Main Campus. The classrooms were primarily all the smaller buildings, frame construction. So they were located within a block or two, or three blocks of the apartment that we had. That was pretty convenient. Although not air-conditioned [laugh], but, you know, that is all we had in those days and you know you lived with it and you just — it was hot but, you know — did what we were supposed to do under the circumstances. The men's gym was a two-story building. It was a gym that belonged to the military before they left the base to the government. The men's gym is where they played basketball. The first basketball team they had played their games out there. That was then right in the middle where the classrooms were. It was all contained within three quarters of a mile — all the buildings were. The Florida state, you know, just bought that, the state did from the federal government when they closed the base. Okay, that tells you a little bit about West Campus.

Adams: What buildings did you have classes in on the Main Campus?

Maddox: Westcott — and the Chemistry building was right opposite the south wing of

Westcott and next door to it was the Biology building. I had classes in both of those buildings. Most of the classrooms were held — they were all along the south side of Westcott. There were no other classrooms over near the campus that first year or two. Those three or four buildings, including where the Library was and — that has been changed to some years ago to some other building that they utilize — but most of the classrooms at that time were held in those four buildings and the four were right along Jefferson Street on the south side. Dormitories for females were behind Westcott. Jennie Murphree, Reynolds Hall, and I have forgotten the other — Landis Hall was a senior — students, female students and that was right directly across from the Sweet Shop. Those were the main buildings in '46 and they started construction on other buildings in '47. There was some — the Psychology building was only the north side of Westcott — and I think the Music building was there too. 'Cause that was the only buildings with classrooms at the time. They didn't have any others, except in West Campus where they have them — they expanded. Those we had to have.

Adams: Did you have any classes in Dodd Hall?

Maddox: Where was Dodd? Do you know —

Adams: I was told that it was a building that a lot of Library Science classes took place.

Maddox: I think that was a building next to the old Library. Yea, I actually had some classes in there — economics and geography I believe. And I think that was between the library and the biology building. That was — I really hadn't thought much about it but that where all the Main Campus classrooms were, just in those about five buildings right there right — right around Westcott. Anyway that's — and of course you could drive around Westcott back in those days. The gates were open and they didn't have the circular part of Westcott, but — traffic was not that heavy back in those days. You could drive around Westcott and the other streets were all open to traffic [laugh].

Adams: Do you remember any of the professors that you had? Names?

Maddox: Mrs. Miller taught me English. And I have forgotten the Chemistry teacher's name. She was a fine teacher. Dr. Royal Mattice taught me Economics. He was quite a good professor — well established and — he had good report with students. I can't — Dr. Miles Richey taught me several classes in Library Science along with Mr. Clapp — Charles Clapp, C-l-a-p-p. Mrs. Gregory, I think in Library Science School. I don't think — the dean of the Library Science School was Dr. Louis Shores and I don't think I had any classes with him. That's the only professors I can recall — oh, Dr. Yost, George Yost. He taught Humanities in the Westcott-West campus building. He was clever — comical character [laugh]. In his lectures, he made some dry literature pretty interesting and funny [laugh].

Adams: Were there a lot of people who majored in Business Administration?

Maddox: Yea there were quite a number of students 'cause back then — a lot of male students didn't know what they wanted to go into. Science was not a big field for anyone back in the late-40s. In not knowing what they go into, business was pretty general. You could use it for a lot of things. It was a pretty large school. Business law, salesmanship, and I don't remember the other courses off of the top of my head but those two particular ones were pretty interesting.

Adams: Were they mostly male students, or was it a mix of male and female?

Maddox: Well, it was some mix but three-fourths of them were male. Seems to me most of the female students did — they had classes on Main Campus because they had other fields, other schools that they were in and that were taught on Main Campus and not on West Campus. With the exception — they didn't have school and Library Science school in the main classes. I don't know of any other classes on West Campus. That's all about I can remember, I guess.

Adams: When you went and got your Library Science degree, was that a majority female, or was that a mix too?

Maddox: Majority female, yes. I would say 75% female, maybe 25% male. One of my good friends Wayne Howell, he was in the Library Science school specializing in audio/visual materials — just as I was — and he ended up going up to Indiana and he worked for McGraw-Hill, which was a strong company in the educational field with books and everything else. We were good friends. We did a lot of social things together.

Adams: So all the male students really kept close in the Library Science program?

Maddox: No, not necessarily. Just being a minority I guess — when we got out of class out on the West Campus, if we had a class out there, we normally just went back to our apartments [laugh]. We didn't have any other particular place to socialize out there on West Campus. Mostly we were out there because we lived out there and the students that had classes out there would just get out of class, get on the bus, and go back to Main Campus. So, we didn't have much time together out there.

Adams: Were you involved in any clubs, sports, fraternities?

Maddox: Yes, I was on the varsity baseball team in the second year they had the team. That was my first experience — and by that time I was a senior and once you got your degree, then you had to quit playing sports. While I stayed on another year, I couldn't play baseball in the second year. We did a little traveling — the coach arranged games during the second year. He just had to call up colleges and say — make-up some sort of a schedule and we would go and play. And we played in North Georgia, Oglethorpe College — Mississippi, and Louisiana — that is as far as we ever went out of town. We didn't play any other teams in Florida at the time. We had a good time. The buses we traveled on were kind of like a Greyhound bus back in the

— no, I take that back. They had the old school bus and that is how we traveled. There was no air conditioning. We didn't mind then — we had fun.

Adams: What was the coach's name?

Maddox: Charles Armstrong. He continued to coach for — he was primarily a football coach. He was a coach under Don Veller — coach Veller. He was a coach for the first two or three years of baseball and then they acquired a baseball coach from some place. The first couple of years — of course none of the departments had much money. The schools were growing, but the legislature just never had enough money to do what you wanted to and the athletics of course didn't get much money. We had occasionally — we lined off our own baseball fields for the right and left field lines from home plate. We had acquired a little rolling-type of a drum where we could put the line — the white line out for the fields. There were no employees that were assigned to do that for us so the baseball team, the players had to prepare the field for these games [laugh]. It was alright, just have fun with it.

Adams: What position did you play?

Maddox: I played right field. We had a reunion about five or six years ago, so I was able to see a lot of the old players. But the field was nothing like what they have at Florida State today [laugh]. The first field was out at West Campus. It was just stuck out on one open area — nice level field, but there wasn't much to it. As I recall, there were just a few little bleachers where somebody can come and watch the game [laugh]. Normally, we didn't have any more than 50 people watching our baseball games anyway [laugh]. That wasn't too bad.

Adams: Was there any one school that you considered a rival?

Maddox: No. Not in those days. It was just too early in that league. We didn't have any feeling about competition with anybody. We had an experience up when we went to play Oglethorpe in north Georgia. We had a pre-game warm-up — practice — and we were on the field in different positions and just taking some warm-up batting practice — [as side A ended, it cut off Mr. Maddox's baseball story. He described that as the teams were warming up on the field, a squall blew over the field]

End side A

Adams: You were talking about the baseball game.

Maddox: Yea, the little squall came up suddenly and the wind picked up and it was almost a tornado. It did not rain, but a bolt of lightning hit out in right-center field and there were trees around the field and we were down in a bowl that was a baseball diamond and the lightning came down and struck the turf out in the outfield and just dug a little trench about a foot deep, 15 feet long. Tossed sod up in the air and did not strike a player. We had one man in right field

that was probably 75 feet away and two of us were standing right to the left of where the bolt of lightning hit. We were not struck by lightning. We were just blessed somehow, 'cause normally lightning will hit something at some point. But it just came down. It frightened many of us [laugh]. Those in the outfield — we left the outfield in a hurry — it scared us [laugh]. That was a nice event that did happen and we considered ourselves lucky to this day.

Adams: So was that game called off because of that?

Maddox: No, the squall just suddenly quit and we were able to play the baseball game.

Adams: Even with the big trench that it made [laugh]?

Maddox: No, they came out and did a small repair on the field. We were able to play the team.

Adams: You gave us a picture of you shaking hands with Doak Campbell. Do you remember how you felt at that time?

Maddox: I felt relieved [laugh]. I had been in school four years and I was receiving a Master's degree at that time. I was glad to get through school. Of course it was an honor to have Dr. Campbell present it. Back in those days the president presented all of the diplomas and of course you didn't have that many graduates. I suppose you would have 500 or 800 graduates at the most. I was relieved to get my degree and to be able to get out of college and go out in search of a job. I went through school year round, and I was able to get my Master's and my undergraduate degree in four years. My wife got her degree about half-way through my Master's degree. And she worked, too. We both had part-time jobs through college. I had gotten a job with the Department of Agriculture doing surveys for crops. That helped us — having those jobs. She was a secretary with the State Veterinarians Office up near the Capital. But in the end to finally get that degree.

Adams: Those are really all the questions that I had. Was there anything else that you wanted to add that I didn't ask?

Maddox: Katie, I don't think there is anything. That pretty much covers the notes that I had. I think I told you about everything I put on here.

Adams: Okay —

Maddox: Yea, I think that covers it pretty well.

Adams: Well thank you very much.
[discussion related to his written notes not transcribed]

End Interview

Addendum: After the interview and the tape recorder was packed, Mr. Maddox described his Master's thesis. Originally, he wanted to do a report on the cattle industry. After heated debate between his advisor, Dr. Miles Richey, and Department Head Dr. Venila Shores, it was decided that Mr. Maddox find another topic to write his library science thesis on. In the end, he did a survey and write-up on how audio/visual equipment in classrooms were used, and often times abused.

Mr. Maddox also provided written notes on his experience at FSU. They consist of a chronological list of events that he experienced at FSU. Here are the notes transcribed:

“June '46 – transferred from Auburn University to FSCW summer school at the end of summer a group of male students (most all military veterans) marched on the Capital to urge the State of Florida to approve FSCW as coeducational, to allow males to get their education at Tallahassee instead of Gainesville. Governor Millard Caldwell met the group of about 75 on the Capital steps, and stated he would push for legislation approval

.
The Board overseeing state colleges and universities approved a temporary plan immediately to allow male students to attend FSCW as ‘Tallahassee Branch of the University of Florida.’ Male students were known as ‘TBUF’s.’ During the following spring the Legislature changed FSCW to Florida State University.”

“1947 – The bulk of the male students were helped financially under the G.I. Bill – paid \$90 a month and tuition.

As a Tallahasseean I lived at home on Call Street with my brother and parents. I had served three and a half years in the Navy from August '42 to December '45.”

“June 1948 – I married a student that was from Tallahassee, and whom I had first met in June '46 when I first entered FSU (or FSCW).

My wife and I rented a two room apartment in a military one-level barracks, part of the Dale Mabry Air Base – after World War II the base was closed and the state of Florida acquired much of the property where offices and barracks were located.

These FSU rental barrack apartments were “bare bones” – walls were sealed only on the outside or hall-side. There were six other apartments in our barracks, all two-room with a female and male separate bathroom at the end of the hall. We paid \$17 per month for this privilege, and we were all happy and had made close friends.”

“‘West Campus’ not only housed primarily married students but also contained classrooms for several colleges or departments of FSU. In particular were classes of the Business School, Library School, and some in the English Department (literature).”

“None of the West Campus was air conditioned.”

“Transportation between West and the Main campus was provided by FSU buses, the old style regular school buses, for the three mile separation of campuses.”

“There were no nearby supermarkets or grocery stores, but Lake Bradford was only one and a half miles away to provide recreation during the summer.”

“My program to achieve a degree entailed three full-time years to obtain a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and one year to obtain a Master’s Degree in Library Science (specialized in audio/visual program). 1946-49 for a Bachelor’s Degree and ’49-’50 Master’s.”

“Campus life was at the Main Campus – the Sweet Shop on Jefferson Street at the South Gate, and the Mecca near the Main Gate. And of course the Alumni Building across from Jennie Murphree Hall.”

End