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David McCall, Junior-

Dr. Anthony: How did you get involved in the process?

My recollection of how the community college effort came about was through the commissioners court with driving force and Jerry Hoagland approached me about being on the committee for the formation of a petition to form a community college in Collin County.

Dr. Anthony: You actually co-chaired with Carey?

Yes, co-chaired with Carey Cox.

Dr. Anthony: Kind of divided up the county North and South?

That's correct and I took the southern part and he took the northern part. We worked together well. I didn't know Carey well at that time and I think we developed a real good friendship. We had a lot more in common than we realized. Carey and I became good friends during that period of time.

Dr. Anthony: He's a good guy.

Yes, a very good guy.

Dr. Anthony: What kind of responsibilities as a southern sector chair – what kind of things did you get yourself involved with?

The main effort was education and that was self education and education of the voters and the big issue was getting enough signatures to get on the petition so that we could get on the ballot. I believe we had to have 10,000 – 10% of the registered voters. Sue Olivier

was a work horse and we had people at grocery stores, we had people signing people up at other elections. So it was not an easy effort. It took, I believe, over 10,000 signatures to get us on the ballot, which was no small feat in 1984.

Dr. Anthony: So the major emphasis at that time was education of the voters and getting the petition signed by the voters?

Of course we had to be educated. Collin county was the largest county in the nation without a community college. One or two previous efforts had been made in getting the college on the ballot, but it failed in the county. We weren't at all sure it would pass this time. But because of a lot of things, a lot of people, it passed very handsomely. The economy was good at the time, there was an optimism about the county and about the cities involved and I think one of the more astute decisions that was made was to get the whole county involved. And that carried over.

Dr. Anthony: Whose decision was that?

I think it was more of a mutual decision. There may have been jealousies between the southern part of the county and the northern part of the county. There was a shift in political power at that time from the old county seat to where the voters were, which were in the southern part of the county. And I think after the election passed one of the smartest things that happened with this, there was a slate proposed and the slate consisted of people from almost every city in the county. We had someone from Allen, who was elected, several from Plano, Richardson, Wylie, Farmersville and Frisco. So each city was represented. That's not to say that Plano could not have elected every one of the trustees, and I think everyone on the slate but one was elected.

Dr. Anthony: I understand that you were responsible for soliciting a couple board members.

I did. I had a talk with Nelson today.

Dr. Anthony: But Tino said you had also contacted him at one point.

That's correct. Tino, I'm sure, make a great trustee and makes a great trustee and Jim made a great trustee, especially for that period of time because land acquisitions were real important. And I think that the community college did a wonderful job in getting locations and being visionary. That's one thing that a lot of governmental entities aren't today – visionaries. Other than getting the thing passed, the two greatest things that happened was the diversity of the board so that the whole county was included, inclusive. The second thing was hiring John Anthony. Those were the two best things that happened.

Dr. Anthony: The best thing in my career was to take the job.

Well, it was the best thing for the community college, and we were blessed.

Dr. Anthony: Well, I think we were all blessed. It was a great opportunity for anyone. Were you familiar to some degree with the precarious nature of this whole process and how shakey it was down at the legislature with the voters and all that? I had not known that until bill Roberts had talked to me about some of the concerns that were raised.

If you were to just move into Plano today and look back and say, or move into the county today and say, well the community college was established.. no big deal, but it was. It could have just as easily been killed in the legislature, because of the funding. I don't think anybody in the legislature cared one way or the other whether we voted to have it or not. But they were concerned about having to fund it. Because there were so many other community colleges seeking those funds at the time and it could have easily been killed in the legislature and it could have been killed in the vote.

Dr. Anthony: even the county commission... I guess at one point there was some opposition.

And it had been killed before in Collin County.

Dr. Anthony: Were you familiar with the impetus before in the 70s when your dad was involved?

No, I think Johnny Whisenant had a lot to do with that but I was not involved in that. I think I was still in law school.

Dr. Anthony: Was your dad still in the school business?

He got out of the school business in 1955.

Dr. Anthony: That's when I left the school business. You were very active and then you served kind of as the college attorney for the first couple months because I recall you going to the meetings. The others who were involved in the process, actually took board seats, that's something you did not feel interested in?

the City Council had just appointed me to serve on the Dallas Rapid Transit Board. I'd served for about four months when this came about and I didn't feel that it would be proper for me to resign from that to run for trustee because the transportation issue was important to the City Council at the time. I think I would have been better served personally, and had a lot more hair.

Dr. Anthony: Any characters you came in contact with during this process, any real frustrations you felt. I know it's 15 or 16 years ago, but if you reflect back and say, gosh, this is a process, a challenge, a hurdle, we're going to have to overcome.

In any endeavor there'll always going to be naysayers and usually they're the same naysayers on any issue on every issue. They're going to be the ones you offer free beer and nickel kisses. I remember a man came into me and said that I just can't support this and I said why can't you support it. And he said for these two reasons. And I said let me tell you why this reason is invalid, and he agreed that that was invalid and then the other reason he agreed was invalid. And I said now, can you support it now. And he said nope. I said, well, you want to come in and be a player but you don't want to play.

Dr. Anthony: I knew there was some opposition in the smaller communities on the basis of taxes, but even Plano at that time was not a large community- it was in the process of growing. Anything as you look back that you would have done differently as a chair or co-chair?

No, I think everything fell into place in spite of Carey and I.

Dr. Anthony: I think the county owes you and Carey a great debt of gratitude for all that you've done.

Actually, everything fell into place. Carey and I were fortunate to serve in that capacity. And timing had more to do with it and the enthusiasm of the committees listed in there.

Dr. Anthony: Other than chairing one of the committees, were there actually two committees, one north and one south?

No were were all one committee.

Dr. Anthony: But you took responsibility of the southern sector. Were the school districts involved?

They were involved as much as the law would allow. But personally, they were enthusiastic and felt that this would be an aide to them and it has proven that. It has

proven to be an aide to our public school system, proven to be an economic aide, just as we tauted, that for every dollar spent it would return three to five dollars. I guess the only regret would be we bought right property, but if we'd waited 18 months we could have bought the same property for a lot less, especially the McKinney property.

Dr. Anthony: I recall sitting in this office with all those attorneys from that, I forget what the name of that company was and I drove over in his Rolls Royce, chapter three written all over it.

I think if we'd waited a little bit, but who knows if we'd waited it could have gone the other way. But the locations are ideal.

Dr. Anthony: And as I drive by the Bealls Mall everyday, I said for one of a couple days that could have been the college campus. We're probably better off where we were.

You can't look back. The locations have worked wonderfully. The college has done more than we dreamed it would and it has more students than we anticipated, than I ever anticipated it would. Because of the efforts of the administration and a lot of people, came to the forefront of community colleges in the nation.

Dr. Anthony: Other than Sue Olivier who I knew was very active in the petitions and the guy, mayor of Wylie, John Aiken, were there others that were very active that you can recall at that time. I'm going to go through this material. I've got a box from Sue and a box from Carey and I'm going to go up to the county and look through their records.

There were just a lot of people. And the newspapers helped.

Dr. Anthony: David, anything else for the good of the cause?

All the things I'm in, I think I'm proudest of the community college and the Leadership Plano, the two super things I've been involved in I'm real proud of.

Dr. Anthony: I kind of miss the leadership play. Now that I'm retired I've said, I should have done that...now that I'm teaching two classes is a tough assignment. I've asked all the people I've interviewed, when this book is made into a movie, is there any particular person you want to play you?

Redford's a little old, Newman's a little old.