

TYPESCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW WITH DR. DANIEL W. HUMPHREYS, CUSHING, OKLAHOMA, DECEMBER 10, 1966, OBTAINED BY R. PALMER HOWARD, M.D., PROFESSOR OF HISTORY OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA:

Dr. Howard : "This is December 10, 1966, and I have the privilege of visiting in Cushing with one of the physicians in the state who has practiced here longer than almost anybody else; at least, he has been a physician for fifty four years, Dr. Daniel Wilson Humphreys. Now, Dr. Humphreys, where did you start in life?"

Dr. Humphreys : "I was born in Parnell, Missouri, on November 1st, 1889, and my father was a doctor, and went to medical school in Cincinnati, Ohio. I had my primary education in Parnell and I attended Maryville High School, Maryville, Missouri. After leaving Maryville, Missouri, I went to Broken Bow, Nebraska. In the meantime, my family moved from Maryville to Owasso, Oklahoma, and I came to Owasso in 1909".

Dr. Howard : "Now that was, of course, before you went to medical college - "

Dr. Humphreys : "Yes sir, that was the year I went to medical college, in 1909, at Cincinnati, Ohio. I graduated from the Eclectic Medical School in 1913, on the 12th day of May. Following that I took an internship in the Seaton Hospital one year in Cincinnati, Ohio, and one year in the Springfield City Hospital, Springfield, Ohio".

Dr. Howard : "Was this a general internship - you did surgery as well as medicine?"

Dr. Humphreys : "It was a general internship. In those days very few interns ever did any surgery. You assisted in surgery and you made your own deliveries and many things of a minor nature, but never did interns enter into major surgery, only as assistants - that's the way it was".

Dr. Howard : "Well then, in your intern days you really did learn to do surgery?"

Dr. Humphreys : "That's right".

Dr. Howard : "and look after wounds - "

Dr. Humphreys : "Yes sir, gunshot wounds and stab wounds and compound fractures and all those things".

Dr. Howard : "yes, and then what did you do after those two years of interning?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Well, I went back to the little town of Owasso - but first, before I went back to Owasso, I went to Cleveland, Ohio, to Dr. Criles' Clinic to take my physical examination for the Army". I was examined by Dr. Sloan, his assistant. Then I returned to my home in Owasso, Oklahoma, and was called to active duty on the second day of January, 1918. I was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, School for Aero Observers, as a medical officer and was assigned to the 137th Aero Squadron which was a company of Airplane mechanics, the 34th, 35th, 36th and 37th Aerial Squadrons. We left Fort Sill on the 18th day of February, 1918, and arrived in Mineola Field No. 2 on Washington's Birthday, February 22nd, 1918, and on the fifth day of March they were making an embarkation of troops to be sent overseas and our four air squadrons of mechanics were assigned to the Steamship Cedric. It was a sister ship to the Celtic. We were loaded on lighters and taken down to Bush Station in Brooklyn about 3 o'clock in the afternoon and ferried on a scow with a tug-boat around by the Statue of Liberty and up the Hudson River to Pier 55, at which we disembarked from the scow and loaded on the Steamship Cedric. Everybody was accounted for and that evening we had deck privileges and a great number of the men congregated on the back of the aft deck of the Cedric and they climbed the rigging and sat down on the booms and sang many of the old Army songs .. 'It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary', that was one of them...but there's many songs like that, and we sang until the curfew was sounded. Then we all retired and on the morning of the 6th of March, 1918, we were all closed in. Nobody had opportunity to see

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outside, and we went down the Hudson River and took off into a raging sea. It was a very high storm, and it was quite an experience for an old poor boy from the short grass country of Oklahoma to see a wave as big as a ship. We had this storm going up the coast of Maine, and the first day out we organized a Medical Corps and I was the Quarantine Officer. In this quarantine we had an isolated area which was later known as the brig. It was in the bow of this ship on the first landing, and on the second day we had mumps, scarlet fever, diphtheria and meningitis".

Dr. Howard : "And this was long before the days of streptomycin and penicillin -"

Dr. Humphreys : "Yes, we guessed at it . We had nothing else to do, but we did have some antistreptococic vaccine or antitoxin, which was just in its infancy, and diphtheria(antitoxin)was just in its infancy too. I had to administer this after dark, after lights were out, and with this raging sea, and all the hatches were closed and all the bulkheads were closed except to me, I being the Quarantine Officer, and I proceeded to administer this antitoxin to those men in the bow of the ship, down in the hold. I came up to the hatch on the aft deck and it was so dark I couldn't see my hand in front of me...I just got oriented and walked straight ahead until I came to the cabin and followed the rail around to the cabin 'til I came to the forecastle, and the forward deck was awash but still there was a hold that I should enter that I knew was there, and I made my way towards that hold. In the meantime the ship became completely awash and it took me with it".

Dr. Howard : "Oh, I was wondering what was going to happen".

Dr. Humphreys : "That's what happened..that's exactly what happened. I was floating with the sea right over the deck. My foot was on the deck but my body was above it and I was worried about hitting the gangway where there was just a chain, but when my foot hit against the gunwhale, well, that was a great relief because I could stop. When the bow of the ship came up and she cleared water I dogged it, hands and kness, until I came to this hatch and went down, very wet and very frightened".

Dr. Howard : "yes, and you still had your antitoxin - "

Dr. Humphreys : "Absolutely, I had my antitoxin - I didn't lose it - so I administered the antitoxin, the diphtheria antitoxin, to two of the boys, and one small dose of streptococic antiserum to the scarlet fever, and the mumps boys just had to get along. The sea was rolling and the old ship was diving back and forth and I sat down and began to realize what it meant to be an officer, a medical officer, trying to serve his duty".

Dr. Howard : "yes, this was about your most dramatic experience - "

Dr. Humphreys : "The most dramatic experience, because I had not seen light from the time I left the hold in the aft until I received contact with the one on the port, which I could raise the lid and get in; and I got to thinking, that nobody knew where I was, for I walked by every sentinel on that boat on the lee side of that cabin and they never knew who I was or where I was - they never saw me. I could have been washed to sea and nobody knew where I was. I would have just been missing, and it was a serious realization. But I lived over it. I came back the same way I came, only I timed myself. When just the bow started up I climbed out and took off and got to the front portion of the cabin and made my hauds fast so it couldn't wash me away, and got back - and was very glad to get back. It was an experience I'd never had.."

Dr. Howard : "Well now, did you have much actual military experience yourself, or were you at a base hospital?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Well, I missed hospital experience, but I had just a few days when I arrived at Fort Sill on the 8th day of January, and left on the 18th of January.."

Dr. Howard : "Yes, but when you got to Europe - "

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Dr. Humphreys : "Oh now, that's another area. When we got to Europe, you see, we were sent to a small place down in southern England just a short distance from Southampton. Then we were broken up into groups and sent to the various airdromes in England, and we just accompanied the troops, and I was the medical officer for 1200 troops that docked at Ducksford, England, about 14 miles from Cambridge, England, and about 40 miles from Newmarket Racing Track".

Dr. Howard : "And where did you spend your time - in the old colleges of Cambridge, or Newmarket Racing Track, Doctor?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Well, we could get to Newmarket and we could get to Cambridge, but the races were only on at a certain time. I have the pictures of the English Derby being won by Gainsborough".

Dr. Howard : "No!"

Dr. Humphreys : "And Gainsborough is a sire of the lineage that comes down to the great horse, Nazrullah . . . who is the sire of Bold Ruler, the greatest sire of the day".

Dr. Howard : "Well, I hadn't heard of Gainsborough, I'll admit, but I had heard of Nazrullah -- and Bold Ruler".

Dr. Humphreys : "Gainsborough won it - Gainsborough won it".

Dr. Howard : "Well, there were some interesting times in England even though the war was on".

Dr. Humphreys : "Yes, but then while we were out there we were invited to many of the colleges, Kings College and the Cambridge College and the College of the Crown, and four or five of the large universities. The faculty would invite we four American officers, of which I was the medical officer, and we were treated royally and they were very interesting people, and made us like them and we tried hard to make them like us, only the difference was this - they tried to apply all their rules to us, and we didn't particularly care for it because . . . we weren't acting too well as American officers . . . we just thought we'd declare ourselves free . . . because it was a free America and we were under the domination of the English which we didn't willingly like, but never got disagreeable about it, see, but after a while we all got along fine".

Dr. Howard : "Well now, Dr. Humphreys, I know you must have had a valuable experience in war-time England, but this period of your career was relatively short and the war ended for you, I suppose, in about 1919. Where were you demobilized?"

Dr. Humphreys : "I was demobilized after return from France at Camp Dix, Trenton, New Jersey, on July 10, 1919, and from there I came to the small town of Owasso, Oklahoma, where my family lived".

Dr. Howard : "Oh yes, was your father practicing there?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Yes, he was".

Dr. Howard : "He was a physician, too -"

Dr. Humphreys : "My father graduated from the Eclectic Medical College in 1883 and I graduated in 1913, thirty years later."

Dr. Howard : "Yes, that's wonderful . . . your grandfather wasn't a Doctor, though?"

Dr. Humphreys : "My grandfather was a 'granny doctor'. My grandfather and my four uncles walked off the front porch of their home in St. Charles, Ohio, and joined the Ohio Volunteers. My grandfather was placed as a medical orderly in the Army and he was part of the Battle of the Wilderness. In the Battle of the Wilderness my grandfather stepped on a stub (stump) and injured his heel . . . had a short heel . . . and it never did hit the ground. When he came back he sat down in some doctor's office and read some medical books. That was the schooling, he read some medical books in the 1860's and after two or three years of reading medical books, why he became a doctor".

Dr. Howard : "You mean he practised -"

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Dr. Humphreys : "He practised, that's it".

Dr. Howard : "And where did he practise?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Well, he practised in Ohio. That's where he practised..that's beyond me, but he wasn't really a graduate. He was a doctor of the day, like the Sooner doctors here, all of these doctors here who never graduated. They read books and practised all over. When statehood came in they were all given a license to practice - that was in our lives, 1907".

Dr. Howard : "Yes, I know, but now your father, though, was a licensed doctor, and he was in Owasso; so how long had he been there?"

Dr. Humphreys : "1908 was when he came - and this was after the war in 1919".

Dr. Howard : "Yes, I know, not tell me again, in what part of Oklahoma is Owasso?"

Dr. Humphreys : "It's twelve miles north of Tulsa, Oklahoma, in Tulsa County, near Collinsville".

Dr. Howard : "Well, those towns are better known to me, both Tulsa and Collinsville, - and Owasso now is pretty small?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Owasso now is getting very large. It's almost grown to Collinsville, it's about five times as big as Collinsville - it's come up to where this big factory, Douglas Airplane - it's only four miles over there to Owasso".

Dr. Howard : "I see, so it is in Tulsa County, and that's where you started again after the war in 1919 -"

Dr. Humphreys : "After the war in 1919 I never stayed at Owasso. I came to Oilton on the 29th day of August, 1919".

Dr. Howard : "And why did you choose Oilton?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Well, my sister lived in Shawnee and I came back from the Army to Shawnee by the way of Tulsa - from Owasso - from Tulsa to Jennings, Oklahoma, and then from Jennings, Oklahoma, I came to Cushing and then got the train from Cushing to Shawnee, because my sister lived there. My sister had heard from one of our family acquaintances that his brother was a dentist at Oilton and we were acquainted, so I stopped off at Oilton on the afternoon, and he was glad to see me and made me acquainted with one Dr. J. H. Noah".

Dr. Howard : "Noah?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Yes, J. H. Noah, now he was one of those Sooners, see .."

Dr. Howard : "How do you spell Noah?"

Dr. Humphreys : "N - O - A - H, just like Dick swallowed the whale , and that afternoon he says, 'Well, I got a lot of practice, I'd like to have somebody come in with me', and about that time they brought in a fellow who had been working on the road, and he'd been kicked square in the face with a horse, and it knocked out his front teeth and crushed the upper portion of the malar bone and the outer ridge, flattened his nose and he couldn't breathe, had a large laceration on his head and ..of course, the doctor had never had any experience, but I had had two years hospital work and two years in the Army and that was just something I was used to. So, he had about four dollars worth, he didn't have many instruments, but I did get the alveolar process on the malar bone back, but the teeth were gone. I took them out - they were just hanging - there was no way to get that, but I did take some cocaine, four per cent solution of cocaine, and pack his nose to anaesthetize it, which is still the best nasal anaesthetic, and took a curved Kelly hemostat, slipped it up the sides of the septum and raised the bones from the imbedded area in the malar bone, pulled them up on one side and pushed them back up on the other side, and packed his nose so he didn't bleed, and sewed up the lacerations. He seemingly felt much better from the treatment, because his face had lost the sensation of pain. Did you ever fix a broken nose?"

Dr. Howard : "I had my own nose broken, but I haven't practiced surgery".

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Dr. Humphreys : "I anaesthetized the supraorbital, mandibular and the lingual. They don't feel anything. Just pack it and take a finger and push that thing back up, put the plates together and you can't ever tell they were broken. Right soon after that, they brought up a man from the pool hall that was unconscious and having convulsions. Red had been hit in the head with a brick, just the corner of a brick, and made a small dent in his head. It was bleeding profusely and we called the barber up there to shave his head. We got that done and we washed it off with a washpan and ivory soap and then painted it with iodine and cut the opening into the scalp wide enough so we could see what it was. It had crushed the skull like a dent, and pushed the little margin of the fractured skull up, and I reached in with a forceps, hemostat, and wiggled them all loose and took them out as if having done a trephine. The blood spurted and it did this and that, and we just painted it with some more iodine and packed with iodoform gauze. And it wasn't long until Red quit having convulsions, for the pressure was off, and he got up fightin' and wanted to go". ..That same hour, we didn't anymore than get Red loaded up and back to the rooming house 'til in came some people with a home-made stretcher with a man on it on a crowbar. Now way back in the early days these pumpers to start an engine would have to jack the engine over with a crowbar, and he was up on this crowbar with his leg over it, or standing by it with his leg by it, jacking this engine, only it backfired and threw the crowbar right through the thigh of his leg and they brought him in there with it through it, and some fella says, 'Oh, my God, you need a silk handkerchief, Doc, you need a silk handkerchief'. Well, of course, the theory was this . . I just washed off the handle of the crowbar, just pulled on it, just pulled it out. It bled profusely and then the man said, 'Oh, Doc, wait 'til I go home and get my silk handkerchief.' Well, you could stick your fingers clear through. We couldn't do anything else, only take the silk handkerchief when he got back there with it, and soak it with iodine and take a hemostat and push the end through and then pull it clear through and everybody was satisfied. But we did pack the wound with iodoform gauze and wrapped it up with compresses.

Dr. Howard : "And who kept the crowbar?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Well, that belonged to the company that he worked for"..Dr. Noah said, 'Well, I never did have such a time in my life. You're just the man. I want you to work with me and I'll just start in fifty-fifty with you if you'll start up with me right now'. Of course, the doctor had never been inside the walls of a medical school. He read some books down in Pontotoc County and down at Pierson's Switch, that's where he was from. That was a location then known as the Indian Doctor's".

Dr. Howard : "Dr. Noah wasn't himself part Indian, was he, do you think?"

Dr. Humphreys : " No, I don't think he was. Anyway, we started in the practice of medicine immediately, and a year and one month after our association, why he decided for reasons not to be mentioned, to move, and I gave him a thousand dollars for accounts receivable and what few little instruments he had. I had accumulated quite a few in the year. He took off on the 10th day of October, and on the 15th day of October I went up and paid off the thousand dollar note I had borrowed to give him. In five days I collected a thousand dollars".

Dr. Howard : "Well, that was capitalism in the early days".

Dr. Humphreys : "That was capitalism in the early days. I practiced in that location over the Wileman Drug Store for three years. In the meantime the First National Bank failed and moved out, and I moved my office from the Wileman Drug Store to the First National Bank building, and that was in 1925 or 1926. And my office, I kept it open in that building until 1945. The windows in that building and the clock that hangs in my office now, and the glass that's in the bank building windows came from the Liberty National Bank after they had built their second bank.

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Dr. Howard : "Now we're talking about the Liberty National Bank of Oklahoma City".

Dr. Humphreys : "The bank of Oklahoma City. They're all there for the evidence, the clock's in my office for the evidence, and the glass still stands and is so scarred by all the wear of all the years in Oklahoma City and for fifty years, practically, in Oilton. They are very dingy but they still stand. I stayed in Oilton and practised surgery in the Drumright Hospital, which was headed by one Dr. George S. Reynolds and Dr. W. O. Starr. Now Dr. Reynolds is deceased and Dr. Starr is retired and lives at Spavinaw, Oklahoma. . and after the big storm of 1930 it was decided that we would close".

Dr. Howard : "Close the hospital?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Close the hospital, because in Cushing, Oklahoma, they had a good hospital building but their staff was of the local doctors and closed staff. There weren't any doctors who ever carried any patients to the Cushing Hospital because there was a closed staff. But the Masonic Lodge of Payne County took hold of the situation of the hospital, and they organized what was known as the Payne County Masonic Hospital Association. If you were a Mason in good standing you could become a member of the association for \$25 membership and \$10 a year fee, and when they did that, they opened the doors to the outstanding country doctors. I was the first after the big storm of 1930, which barricaded all the roads for two weeks; you could only get around if you had a tractor to run or somebody to pull you with a team. I brought the first two pay cases from the countryside to the Payne County Masonic Hospital of Cushing".

Dr. Howard : "What month was that storm?"

Dr. Humphreys : "That month was January".

Dr. Howard : "And it was a great big snow storm !"

Dr. Humphreys : "It was a terrific storm, never has been such a storm before or since; it got 20 degrees below zero and it had sleet snow that was 14 inches thick. A man lost his car in the snow in the curve bend of the road at the Ball Tank - everybody knows about it - it's at the end of the Coker lease between Oilton and Drumright - he lost his car there and didn't get it for five days. But, as that storm began on the 7th day of January 1930, Dr. Starr of Drumright called and says, 'Dr. Humphreys, I want you to come down and visit one of my patients I've delivered, and she has an abscessed breast. He called me just as it was getting dark and I closed my office and got all the things I would need to take care of an abscessed breast. I started down the road in my Model A car but I didn't get much farther than the Y, that's an area half mile south of Oilton, until everything was frozen in, and I got out and scraped off all the ice I could. I didn't have a heater and I didn't have a windshield wiper, but I drove back from the Y down to the Ball Tank, and got around this car that was stuck, and kept on going and driving down this highway with the window on the left side turned down so I could tell when I was in the road. I kept coming until I came down to the railroad hill. Every night out at the Tidewater Refinery there was a tank train came out about 8 o'clock, and as I came down that hill I could not see through the windshield. I could see light and I could tell when a lighted car was coming and I would look out and see where I was, and I would get over for it; but the little light on the caboose that came through the Prairie Pump Station Yard with a million lights, I never noticed. I came down to about, I'll say fifteen or twenty steps from the railroad, then I could see some glittering, and I put on my brakes, mechanical brakes, and with this ice those wheels just slid right into that freight train. I hit the freight train! What frightened me the most was that I couldn't see exactly. I was afraid I was going to run behind the trucks of the wheels and run under the belly of this tank train. I would have been a good subject for a grinding up! But I didn't. The tank car hit square in the middle of my radiator and knocked me back about five or six feet. I think I sat there about an hour waiting for all the glass to get down. The hood of the car came right straight back over my head through the windshield".

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(Telephone rings)

Dr. Howard : "Well, Doctor, your own busy practice of 1966 interrupted this story of 1930 by a telephone call just now, but you were telling me that fortunately the car was pushed back by the freight train and you were dazed for a while, and then what happened?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Oh, I was never dazed. I just seemed like ..it just seemed a long time when that glass came down ..it seemed a long time.. I wasn't dazed. I wasn't hurt a bit. A man came runnin' down there and says, 'Doc, oh my goodness, look what it did to your car', and I said 'Yeah, look at me. I can get a new car but I couldn't get a new leg that I don't need'. But I did go on and attend the woman patient for Dr. Starr".

Dr. Howard : "Oh yes, fine! Well now, one day when I saw you a few years ago, I think we were talking about the fact that some of the men around Oilton in those early days were very rough. Once in a while you even had to operate with a gun in your back. Tell me about that".

Dr. Humphreys : "One night I was called down to my office. There had been a car wreck. Some people had run off the side of the road and got in a ditch, and there was three men and two women. They brought them up to my office and I went down to attend them. The men were drunk, and I went back..and it was a small doctor's office..and I had to get the water hot and I had to get my instruments ready and prepare the table and all these things. One of them said to me, 'Now, damn you, Doc, don't be so long. I got the difference to that', and he walked up and poked me in the ribs with a gun, and I said 'Now lay that damn gun down because I can't do anything when you..' and he said, 'That don't make no difference. Now you just take care of this guy'. So I sewed up that one. His face was cut all over and he was bloody all over. But they were always standin' at my back and they were always in the way; so when I got that done, well, the other fellow got up there. In the meantime, you see, I had to change my dressings and get the other things back. Well, it took a little time, and he said, 'Now, damn you, you're taking too much time, get down here'. Then he took this gun, you know. He was doin' it all the time. About the time I got through with the second man, in came the Chief of Police, Ben Clark, and a man by the name of Walter Doolin. Ben Clark was a good man physically in those days, and Walter Doolin - it wasn't to be questioned how good a man he was - he was just a good man. They said, 'Doc, what's goin' on here?' and I said, 'Well, this man's been standing here holding a gun on me for an hour'. Ben Clark says, 'Where's that gun?' And he took ahold of that fellow and hit him in the head with his pistol, and old Walter Doolin grabbed the other and they drug them out of my reception room and beat.... Old Ben whammed that fellow about three or four times and he stood still with the gun. The other guy, well, old Walter had him down, just about, and he says, 'You'll never hold a gun on Doc again!' So they got all three of the guys and put 'em in the city jail up there".

Dr. Howard : "You didn't have to do any more -"

Dr. Humphreys : "No, that ended it all. They just took them up there and put them in jail, then there was no more trouble. The women, now, they were there. I guess they got drunk. They were in my waiting room..it never had a key on it. Ben Clark was the police and he'd walk down the street and meet somebody he wanted to visit with and say, 'Come on in the doc's office' - .The women, we left them there. The next day we took them before the Justice of the Peace and he signed them over to the County Court and they all got three years in the penitentiary for handling a gun. Now that's just one of 'em - I've had it happen in the homes and all around. A man stopped me on the road one day, was trying to get even with me for one time he got in trouble in Drumright with the police, when he got out of town with his

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head all cut up. He came to my house one morning about two or three o'clock and said, 'Doc, come on down and sew my head up; I got in a little trouble'. I said, 'Go on down and I'll be down there later', and I went back to sleep. About an hour later he came up and he opened the front door which I didn't have locked, and he says, 'How God damn you, Doc, you come out here and sew my head up or I'll come and get you'. Well, I just walked out there on the porch and said, 'How what did you say?' 'You sew my head up or I'm gonna take you'. I just hit him one time on the button and he fell clear off my porch in the rose bush and his friend with him came and drug him out and said, 'Come on, Jack, let's get out of here. We've been beat up once now, we don't want any more trouble. Let's go'".

Dr. Howard : "Well, it was lucky you were a big man, I may say".

Dr. Humphreys : "He was one of the meanest guys you ever saw. He tried to hold me up one night on the road and I wouldn't stop for him and I outran him. I had a better Model T than he had".

Dr. Howard : "Is that right?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Yeah, I took off down through a side road. He tried to follow me and I ran off from him. I ran way out on one of the leases I knew".

Dr. Howard : "Well now, didn't you have to go and deliver a woman - the wife of one of these men - or did you operate on a woman out in the country?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Yeah, but this was the way it was .. it was a very bad stormy night. I went six miles east of town and two miles north right on the bank of the Cimarron River. I went down over the bank of the river to a little house. This little woman was having a very difficult time delivering and just she and her grandmother was there, and her husband. About the time I thought I could deliver with instruments, well, we ran out of coal oil. This man said, 'Wait a minute now, I got to go get some coal oil'. I thought to myself, 'Well now, we can't wait for coal oil, we got to have a light, there isn't any light'. So I backed my Model A car up and turned it around and let it come down the side of the hill right through the window - the bed was there - and turned my lights on. I washed up things the best I could. Old grandma, she gave the chloroform anaesthetic and I applied the instruments, and it was as hard a delivery as anybody ever did - with the light shining through the window. The next time I saw that man was five years later. He had gone to California and come back and stopped at a cotton patch, pickin' cotton, and his wife was very ill with pellagra. She had been treated out there in California with this thing and that thing. She lived three days after she got back home with pellagra.

Dr. Howard : "Now, the baby lived, though?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Oh yes, the baby lived - now lives in Tulsa and has three nice children. That's right, I've got all the records."

Dr. Howard : "Well now, you've had a lot of time in these 54 years..you delivered a lot of babies".

Dr. Humphreys : "Oh yes. Just the last few years, before I moved over here, did I ever deliver them in the hospital 'cause I was 20 miles away. One time I brought a patient over here I delivered five babies from 11 o'clock at night 'til one o'clock in the afternoon. That's just about 12 hours.

Dr. Howard : "Well, how old do you think the oldest one is now, the oldest baby you delivered?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Oh, the oldest baby I delivered, I couldn't say that. I delivered 15 babies in my junior year..colored children".

Dr. Howard : "When you were in medical school . . but in Oklahoma - "

Dr. Humphreys : "In Oklahoma, now wait a minute . ."

Dr. Howard : "You delivered some in Owasso when you came?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Yeah, I had a terrible experience one time. Now look here, I'll tell you about these experiences. You see, my father was called out here, and old Dr. Kirks was called out and I went out to help him and my father went along, and this woman - they lived in a box house. They had a floor and it was boarded up on

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the sides four feet. They had about four feet, maybe three feet of canvas around, and a canvas top. It was called a box house. . . This woman was having convulsions and I went along, see. They had used all the linens. The two old doctors, my father and this other doctor, left because I had given the chloroform and they did a manual delivery and delivered a live child....but after they got through, then they left. It was out there in this little tin and they didn't have but very few things of any kind and this woman having had a large dose of magnesium sulphate was having profuse stools and everything was soiled, and there wasn't anybody there to take care of her but me and another woman. I ended up the next day with the leaves of a Montgomery Ward catalog. . . and she lived". . . That was over on Bird Creek at Cwasso, Oklahoma.. Now the oldest one at Oilton - you have the picture of her there - she's 47 years old - 1919 she was born - on the 6th day of December, 1919 - Her family hadn't contracted a doctor because it was in the early days, nobody knew the doctors - but I had been down there in Oilton in September or October. This was in December. I was a tall, slender guy, weighed 147 pounds, 6 feet 2 inches tall, and had a little tight suit of clothes, one suit of clothes that I got after I got out of the Army. I was still wearing it, civilian, and I wore a cap, an English cap I had, see... Now this was at Oilton and I was dubbed the King of the Kid doctors, and some people wanted the kid doctor, and some didn't want the kid doctor, so when they sent to town they sent Wayne Van Horn and Roy Gregory who were two young men that lived out at Crow. That was a little station in the oil field where the passenger train stopped. Two young men, not married; each had a pretty good car-and they would need a doctor at night - they'd be coming back - they'd send a doctor - or if they wasn't going anyplace, why they'd get hold of me and ..now the information was this - 'You go down to Oilton, and get a doctor but don't you get that kid doctor'. So, they got me and I got in my old car, and I didn't ever get there .. I had to walk. It was rainin' and I was pretty wet by the time I got to the house and I come in with my little old grip and a few things I had, and this maternity business was kind of new to me. I had been in the army for two years, you see, and that just wasn't very strong in the army. So I heard 'em say, 'Oh, they got that kid doctor, they got that kid doctor'. They shut the door, wouldn't let me in, didn't invite me into the room where the baby was born. So I climbed over behind the old cook stove and tried to dry out the best I could for I was pretty wet from walking in the rain.. I could hear .. One of the women came out with a washpan, and one with this and that. Then they'd go back, and they gave me a glance. I was there and it was raining and hell, I wasn't going to leave. I stayed with 'em and pretty soon Mrs. George Drake said, 'Well, get that kid doctor in here; if he can do me any good, all right, and if he can't, just tell him to stay where he is'. So that gave me an opportunity to put my foot in the crack of the door and I came in and I spread out a few instruments and a bottle of chloroform and a mask. No rubber gloves, nobody used rubber gloves, just washed your hands with some more lava soap. And I examined her and the baby was about to be born, so I greased her face with a little vaseline and told one of the women to give the anaesthetic. She said, "I don't know how to give it", and I said, 'I know you don't but I'll tell you how'. You put that mask over her face and you put two fingers under it and hold it with the other three so that the air will come around it and you won't get too much, and you drop that on there a drop at a time and you keep talking to that person and when she answers you, why you keep dropping it, and whenever she quits answering, you stop'. And so she did, and pretty soon the patient started to talking and I said 'Drop your chloroform until she quits talking, quits answering'. She did, and after a fashion the baby was born, the cord was tied, and the mother took it out in the other room and rubbed it with compound cottonseed lard, which was all right. But I had some little pieces of gauze which I had sterilized, and I tied the cord and delivered the placenta and helped change the bed, and about that time Mrs. Drake was awake and she says, 'Well, when's that baby going to be born?' They all spoke up, 'Well, Mrs. Drake, you've already had the baby'. 'Oh, my God', she said, 'the first baby I ever had in my life, and I've had six, and never did know it,

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I've had six, knew every one of them', and when she said that I was in the baby business! From then on I was in the baby business - go any place and do instrumental deliveries and many a doctor I've gone to the country that had to do an instrumental delivery..have trouble, I'd be called, for they wouldn't know how to do a delivery in the home with instruments - about half of them didn't know how".

Dr. Howard : "Well, how many did you have in an average good year, Doctor, about 300 babies a year?"

Dr. Humphreys : "No, there weren't that many. I think I had 23 babies one month, but they'd run about 12 a month for about five years; then they began to drop off because after a while, you see, the big boom was over and all. It settled down to the routine of those who took care of oil and the stragglers and such people had to leave. The gamblers, the bootleggers, hijackers and thieves all had to leave because ...Most of these went to Seminole".

Dr. Howard : "They took the women with them, did they?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Oh yes, they took the women with them when they had them. Now you talk about the women, why there was a notorious place down at Drumright called The Hump. There was plenty of those people down there if you wanted to see 'em. Just go down there if you had any reason to go down there..and they were located in Oilton at the hotels, too".

Dr. Howard : "And so part of the baby business was associated with the wives and friends of the gamblers".

Dr. Humphreys : "Yes, well the oilfield workers. The gamblers didn't have so many women with children born, but I did do it. I went over one night and delivered a baby in a house, just one small room, divided with a curtain inside, and they had a curtain in the corner of the room. I knew who these people were and they knew me. That family even carried it to the point where -- this man, he and his brother robbed a bank in, I think it was Rock Hill, Kansas, and got caught. He and his brother got caught, and they sent them to the penitentiary in Lansing, Kansas. I picked 'em up after they had been there a while and this one wrote me, and he said, 'Doc,' he said, 'things are hard up here and don't have much money, don't have many cigarettes. I wish you'd send us some cigarettes', he said, 'what I'm writin' you for, I'm goin' blind and I want you to get the American Legion hold of it and see if you can't get me out of here, 'cause I'm goin' blind'. So I sent him a little..made a point to send him a carton, and then wrote him and I said, 'Where's old George?' 'Oh, he says, 'he's over here with me, he's goin' blind, too, he needs cigarettes, oh no, he wants Prince Albert, if you can send him some Prince Albert, he smokes a pipe and smokes cigarettes, and he smokes Prince Albert'. So I sent 'em a carton of cigarettes and three cans of Prince Albert every month. Along come this woman and she says, 'Here, Doc', and there was a picture of George and Monroe in front of the prison at Lansing, Kansas, and they both had Oregon boots on, and they both were handcuffed hand to hand, and I said, 'Well, what's this?' I said, 'That's just where they turn the light on George and Mon'. 'Well', she says, 'I want to get you to sign this petition for pardon'..but this picture was taken five years before she came along..and I signed it, and they did get out, they did get out. Well, George went plumb absolutely blind. Monroe, now old Monroe, he stopped off in Joplin or Kansas City, now I could never get it straight - it's two stories, there were two stories. One story, he started to heist a gambling house, see, and he got killed. The other one, he started to heist a whiskey store on the Main Street in Joplin, and this young guy runnin' it was just an ex-marine and shot him five times before he could get the news. They brought him down there to bury him. Now, do you want this story?"

Dr. Howard : "Well, how did you know these fellows to begin with?"

Dr. Humphreys : "Oh my gosh, they were residents for many years of Oilton. They would come to me. I'd go up - they'd say, 'I'm gonna be gone now, Doc, you take care of Ma'. And I'd go up to their house - I've even gone over there - they'd call me up and say, 'Doc, go over to the shack, over to George's . old George Burgess, ..

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now these boys had connection with the top bandits. They're not little ones, they're the cream of the crowd. This guy, this Monroe, he was the most..I could take you in 30 minutes to the hiding place where he drove the car when they started to rob the Excelsior Springs Building and Loan, George and Monroe. was the most expert soup man in the whole southwest. When there was a safe being blown that fellow blew it. You look up the records in February 1922, when the Santa Fe train was held up and robbed in Edmond in broad daylight and that guy shot it. I could never get over old Monroe. He got killed and his brother come in and says, 'Doc, I got to plant Monroe'. I said, 'What do you mean, you got to plant Monroe?' 'Oh', he says, 'he was in a car wreck and got killed. He got out a little while, and he couldn't see too good and got to driving a little too fast and he got killed and I've got to plant him'. And this was getting a little late in the evening - in November - and it was beginning to get just a little dark and I said, 'Now, why don't you get - have you got a preacher?' 'No'..'You have to have a preacher. He says, 'Mon - old Conley, and Bake and Blue is out there diggin' a grave', he said, 'we can't get a preacher', and I said, 'Well, I'll get a - what do you want me to do?' And he said, 'I want you to get me a preacher and get this figured out, I want you to take care of the American Legion', and I said, 'All right, I'll take care of it'. And my wife and this girl that worked for me, they came up to the funeral home, and I went and got Harry Bradford, he was the superintendent of schools, and I said, 'Harry, you got to be the chaplain for a funeral', and he said, 'Funeral?', and I said, 'Yes, don't make any difference, the guy just got pardoned out of the penitentiary at Lansing, Kansas, and he got killed; he had a car wreck - though I don't believe it; I think somebody shot him'. Old Harry said, 'All right, all right, I'll be there. When is it?', and I said, 'Right now!' 'Oh,' he says, 'all right'. So the word got out that we was gonna have Monroe's funeral that night and, gosh, there was a crowd down there. So we went up there and we had some boys, two boys out of the service, two boys with their uniforms, and two just walked off the lease, as the Color Guard. The pallbearers was American Legion boys, just kinda picked up. The Sergeant-at-Arms was this Ben Clark, old Ben Clark. And Harry Bradford gets up and he reads the ritual, part of the ritual, and says the sermon of who's being buried. He says, 'Monroe A. Quick, born in Searcy, Arkansas, in 1885, with honorable discharge from the American Army, served overseas, Oh Lord, Amen. Monroe Quick, born Searcy, Arkansas, born, 1885, honorable discharge, served the Army, Oh Lord, Amen'. Said it twice, and that was the end of it. It was then that my wife and this girl sang two songs as pretty as anything you ever heard in your life. They've forgotten what they was and I have. So Ben Clark said, 'Well, Color Guard fall outside, form outside', said, 'Pallbearers will take the remains to the hearse, we will now proceed to the cemetery'. And here we go to the cemetery, and it's gettin' dusk. We get up there, now this is a funny thing, you don't need to believe it - I believe it 'cause I've told it so damn many times - Here's Bake, he is a typical old bun, shoes out at the toes, and old pants baggin', wears a old coat that's got a velvet collar that's all worn off, no hat, a bandanna handkerchief around him, and his nose is as red as a beet pickle, and not shaved, about 70 years old, he's just an old bun; he's just an old drunk; and his colleague, he's one of my syphilitic patients. He says, 'Wait a minute, they're comin', they're comin', yea, they're comin! ', and old Bake says, 'Well, I've got to get it', and old Blue says, 'God damn it, what'd you do with it, what did you do with it, here they are, they're all here, hurry up, hurry up, Jesus Christ, hurry up! ' Old Bake was down diggin in the corner of the dirt, just a'diggin', and they'd had their jug of whiskey and they'd been throwin' dirt out and covered it up and here come the funeral cortege, see, to bury this man and they couldn't find their jug. Pretty soon they got the jug, and off they went ".

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Dr. Howard : "The job was more important than the burial, eh?"

Dr. Humphreys : "That's what they wanted. This Blue, he was a good friend of mine and I took care of him. He never could get drunk enough to have his teeth pulled, so one Saturday he just got as drunk as he could be, and he staggered down to my office and he come in and he says, 'Doc, I wan' you pull my tooth' - I said, 'Hell, I've been tryin' to get 'em all pulled'. 'Ah', he says"