

Lebanon Valley College®



Voices of Lebanon Valley College
150th Anniversary Oral History Project

Lebanon Valley College Archives—Vernon and Doris Bishop Library

Oral History of

George Reider, Jr.

Alumnus, Class of 1968
Board of Trustees *Emeritus*

Date: June 16, 2014

Interviewed by Art Ford

Professor *Emeritus* of English and Alumnus, Class of 1959

Transcribed by Stacie Allison
Vernon and Doris Bishop Library Technician

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Mr. George Reider, Jr., '68, Board of Trustees *Emeritus*—Following graduation from LVC with an economics degree, Reider entered the insurance industry, primarily with Aetna. In 1995, he was appointed Insurance Commissioner for Connecticut and later served a term as president of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Reider served on the College's Board of Trustees from 1995 to 2013.

A: This is Art Ford. I'm here in the College library—Bishop Library—with George Reider. George was a student here at one time, and also served on the Board of Trustees. It's now June 16, 2014. So George, let's start with you. Tell me a little bit about yourself. Where were you from? Where did you go to high school?

G: Art, I'm from Steelton, Pennsylvania, and our family has been in Steelton since it was founded. The steel mill there was founded in 1866, and our families on both sides—the Reiders and the Funcks—all migrated from the farms in Lancaster County and Upper Dauphin and so on to the towns, obviously seeking out employment with Bethlehem Steel. And I'm one of five brothers. I'm the youngest—the older brothers, in fact, could have been my father—I came way behind. And one of those brothers, Charlie, attended Lebanon Valley College for several years after he got out of the Marine Corps and World War II, and his wife is a Houser, from Main Street here in Annville. But he then transferred to Gettysburg and became a Lutheran minister. And my father was self-educated. He went to 10th grade in school, but he read and, in fact, we're cleaning things out now from our home that we've collected over the years, and we were looking at books, and he had books on trig, and algebra, and history, whatever. And the Harvard Classics, we're giving those to his great-grandson who just graduated—well, three years ago—from Harvard Law School. And my father would have been impressed that he had a great-grandson that went to Harvard as well. But he was very proud that I went to Lebanon Valley—I was the last of the five brothers, and earlier I had gone to Millersville State Teacher's College, and then took ill with mononucleosis. From there, went to HACC—the Harrisburg Area Community College, which was relatively new, and a number of colleges supported that, including Lebanon Valley. And then from there came to Lebanon Valley in the beginning of my

junior year, so I spent two years here as a transfer student. And I was very...I enjoyed the College very much. In hindsight, I am disappointed that I missed some of the things that a full-time student on campus would have enjoyed, but over the years I've gotten to know some of the classmates, and I remember, obviously, others from being in class and whatever.

A: So you were a commuter?

G: I was a commuting student.

A: You were a commuter from Steelton?

G: From Steelton.

A: Every day?

G: Every day. And I was just trying to think...I'd either come here to the library, which was the former building, over in what had been the gym, whatever, and they had a room set up for commuting students. You know, and from that moment forth, I've been attached to Lebanon Valley. I worked on a number of campaigns from the time that I graduated, and so I've been in touch. But I was thinking this morning, coming up, there was something on television yesterday about Civil Rights, and just to give you a flavor of any number of highlights... But one was...the teacher, I think, was Miss [Alice] Brumbaugh, and she was the sociology teacher. And this is in '61, '62, '63. Things were, you know, very unsettled in the south, and young people and blacks, others, were being lynched, and she introduced us to a book named Black Like Me, and it was a reporter who had his skin dyed dark, and kinkled his hair, and traveled the south as a black man, but actually, obviously, was white. And he wrote this book. But I remember so well the fact that there were so many things in the College here that were visionary and ahead of their time, and Art, you showed me this recorder, and I just want to share with you, Miss—again in

the sociology class, she wanted us to do a paper, and we had—about 25 percent of Steelton, then, was black—and there was a gentleman, Vernon James, Dr. Vernon James, and he was the principal at the black elementary school—there were black and white then, again, putting a time on things—before it was integrated. And I visited with him, and I took my recorder, and it looked like a big suitcase, and it had reel-to-reel, and I recorded discussions about what was happening and so on, and then I wrote a paper on that, and presented it—one of the papers I did reasonably well with. But he, interestingly, was going to attend our graduation, my graduation, in 1963, as a guest of our family. And it rained that day, and they had to hold the graduation at the church—the Methodist Church—so that limited the number of people. So obviously, I was married, so it was my wife and my father and one brother came with me, and that was who had tickets for the graduation so... It was, you know, a remarkable...I just mention that because it's, you know, a liberal arts school, and a school that was, again, ahead of its time. So I graduated from there and...

A: Let's stay with that. Steelton High School. What were you interested in when you were in high school? Extracurricular activities or academics?

G: Yeah, I was...again, Steelton was an excellent, excellent school, and had an excellent reputation, even though, you know, it was a steel town, and some people, you know, from Harrisburg and so on, that was quite affluent, would not quite identify. But my interest was...I was in sports. I played football, was on the track team, and they didn't retire my jersey (laughing), but it was a great experience, of course, particularly at Steelton, which has such a remarkable history with sports. And I was active in a number of the clubs and so on at school as well. And to be quite candid, I wanted to go to college, but I wasn't sure what I wanted to

study. But the goal was to get to college, and at that time I was able to go to Millersville State College for \$800 a year—that was everything. That was tuition and board and whatever. And I had a football scholarship, and the football scholarship was waiting on tables (laughing), and I got \$200 for that (laughing). And then I took ill, and I developed mononucleosis, and became very ill because it wasn't diagnosed timely, and I was down for a period, and transferred to HACC, and from there went on to Lebanon Valley. I think maybe I already mentioned that.

A: What year did you graduate from high school?

G: I graduated from high school in 1958. I graduated from Lebanon Valley in 1963. And I lost a year in the transition, so I had to repeat some classes, and pace myself. So I did graduate in '63.

A: What caused you to come to Lebanon Valley?

G: Well, it was interesting. One, it was one of the colleges at LVC...or LVC was one of the sponsoring schools at HACC. And two, as I said, I was familiar with Lebanon Valley because my brother had attended here, and his wife, and so I applied. And I'm embarrassed...the gentleman who was the admission director...

A: Clark Carmean.

G: Clark Carmean—he wasn't too sure he was going to admit me to the College. And my brother was, at that time, an Air Force chaplain up in Long Island, and Dr. Carmean came up that direction and they visited, and my brother mentioned that he had a young brother who was interested in attending. I got admitted, so (laughing)... So that was how I transitioned here.

A: Let's skip over Lebanon Valley for a moment—we'll come back to it—but after you left Lebanon Valley College, what was your career trajectory?

G: I often told the people at Aetna...I ultimately became the vice president in charge of the national claim operations, with 6,500 people across the country that I had responsibility, and at another stage I also had ran the national underwriting operations. But I shared with them, when I was in college, I was looking for a job in something I would like, and my wife is at Nationwide, and so I wasn't permitted to work there, and I applied...and I had a cousin who was more senior than myself, who was in management at Aetna in Harrisburg, and I visited my aunt's home, and he being her son, said, 'What are you going to do?' and I said, 'Well, Dick, I'm looking for a job.' And things were a little bit tough back then, for a job. And he said, 'Why don't you apply at the Aetna?' And long story, I applied, and I was accepted, and I graduated here on June the second, and I started at the Aetna that next morning, on June the third. And I moved through the ranks, moving six different locations. I was the general manager, which then was the top of the field operation, the goal—in West Virginia, at Wheeling, and I had the bordering counties of Ohio and Maryland, and I was there for three years—that was '80 to '83. Then I got transferred to New York...Long Island...and I was responsible for the New York operation as well as the Long Island operation. At the Aetna, we had 500 independent agents and 500 employees, and it was quite an assignment. We ended up being the most profitable branch in the country, and with that I was offered to come into home office in Hartford, Connecticut, and head up the—at that time—the underwriting, national underwriting. And subsequently, then, my background being as a claim trainee and a claim person, they moved me over to run the national claim when that vice president retired. And I finished my career at Aetna, and...31 years...and then moved on—took another position for a short term in New York City with another company, and then was asked if I'd consider being insurance commissioner in New

York. And even then, there weren't a lot of republicans in Connecticut, but the governor was republican, so I was in consideration, and I was named and appointed by the legislature. And I served five years, and during that tenure, the highlight was we had more mergers and acquisitions than in the entire history of the insurance department, which went well over 100 years.

A: You're talking New York?

G: No, this is when I got to Hartford.

A: Connecticut?

G: Connecticut. And then from there, from Aetna, I went into New York City again for a short stint, but in 1995 I was appointed insurance commissioner.

A: In Connecticut.

G: In Connecticut, for the state of Connecticut. And a year or so later, I had the good fortune of serving as an officer, and ultimately the president, of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. And my particular niche, and I remained active in this regard, was to work with the Commerce Department—US Commerce Department—as an advisor on insurance, and represented the National Insurance Association—Commissioners' Association, and I traveled to many countries. My most recent trip, after I left the commissioner's role in 2000—but I continued to be invited to different foreign countries—and I've been to Turkey, I've been to Egypt, I've been to Macedonia, I've been to Saudi Arabia, France, any number. And then two years ago, my last trip was to Mongolia, and I went there. The State Department pays for that.

A: Now was it Mongolia, or Inner Mongolia?

G: No, Mongolia.

A: Oh, Mongolia?

G: Yeah, yeah, and it was just a tremendous experience. I was there two years, helping them to implement an insurance program, and what's happening—and most of my work is in the developing nations, because as their economies begin to grow, companies coming in from outside—from Europe mainly, or, you know, North America—their interest is that there be insurance for their people traveling in that country, living in that country, for their businesses. So to be viable, these new developing nations require an insurance structure. And that's been my role, to help build insurance regulatory bodies to oversee the evolving insurance industry. And that was my role in Mongolia. So it's been a real wonderful experience. I don't get paid for those, and I always take Carol at my expense, but it's just been a wonderful experience, because you're dealing directly with their government and top officials, and yet you're also out meeting people that work in the insurance companies and whatever, so it's been an area of service, and one that I enjoy very, very much.

A: So you mentioned Carol—do you have any children?

G: We have four sons. The oldest boy was born in '62, when I was in the middle of my tenure here as a student. And then the next boy followed in '64, and we had two after that. And unfortunately, one of the great losses of life is to lose a child, and we lost David six years ago in June. He was in great physical shape, and to everybody's surprise, he had severe diabetes, and the complications of that, and then a case of pneumonia, so we lost David. He was just going to turn...he was 45, and was going to turn 46, and, you know, there's not a day we don't think of him, but we have a wonderful family. And we have six grandchildren—sometimes we skip over the children (laughing). But the oldest boy, as we speak, he is 23, and he is with the U.S. Navy,

and a month ago we traveled to Meridian, Mississippi where he had trained as a Naval jet pilot, and received his wings. And he's now in the survival camp out in the middle of the woods in California—mountains of California. And then the next girl is at...or the next boy is a senior at, his brother is a senior at the University of Connecticut, and we have a granddaughter who just finished her first year at NYU. And the other three children, the youngest being seven, they're all still in high school or grade school, but then that's a big part of our life, as it is with most people. I remember a gentleman speaking at a motivational session when I was at Aetna, before I had grandchildren, said there were two things he wanted to mention. One was that if you lose your job, what happens? He said, 'You get a better one' (laughing). I don't know if that's true, but I remember him speaking not to be discouraged. And the other was that being the grandparents, that the greatest relationship God ever created between two people was that of the grandparent and the grandchild, and I think that's true, and we all have experienced that. But that's a big part of our life.

A: Ok, good. Well, let's get to Lebanon Valley College, here. Another big part of your life, I suppose.

G: Yes.

A: What was your major in college?

G: Business administration and economics.

A: Ok, was it a double major?

G: Yes.

A: And why did you choose those majors? Did you intend to go into business right at that point when you came here?

G: Yeah, as I said, I was at Millersville, and I was studying to be an elementary teacher, and the hope being that I'd be a principal, because I admired my principal at the Steelton school system, and then when I took ill, I had made a decision that maybe I'd be more interested in the business world. And as a result, I chose those majors, and they have served me well. But that was the basis of my choice.

A: Ok. First of all, you said you were a commuting student. What was it like in those days to be a commuting student?

G: Well, it was basically...you'd get up in the morning, and you'd travel to the College. You usually got here for your first class. When that finished, if there was a break between classes, as I had mentioned, they had a room set aside for us—a study room—where we could go study and whatever, or come to the library. And you'd stay here, and when the last class ended, you'd get in your car and head back home. I was married at the time, and as I said, David was born in 1962, so it was a family. But it was pretty much back and forth every day, and as I recall, you know, my schedule was five days a week, Monday through Friday. One of the interesting things is, I recall Hershey Road between Harrisburg and Annville was a three-lane road at that time. And I never had a ticket until my last day, coming for my last final exam (laughing), and a trooper got me for going five miles over the speed limit, and a month later they changed it from, you know, one speed to a speed higher than I was going. But I would travel back and forth. The other interesting thing...my wife often laughs when we tell people...Reese's Peanut Butter, they had a store right at the factory. It wasn't a store so much, as you could go in and you could buy—and I have to recall this, but I think I'm exactly correct—you could buy five pounds of reject peanut butter cups in a box, layered, and they were off color, or you could see

some of the peanut butter pop through. And the five pounds was \$2 (laughing)! And you buy one now, it's a buck.

A: Well, let's talk about your classes then. As a business administration major, who were your professors?

G: I had, as I recall, the gentleman who was the history professor here led the...

A: Ralph Shay?

G: No. Oh my goodness...very, very, very well-known. I'm embarrassed.

A: Alex Fehr?

G: Alex Fehr—and I can remember him so well. He was an excellent teacher. He gave us great insight, and was very realistic. I mean, he taught about history in a way that, you know, the history and also related it to what was happening in that current day. He was a teacher I remember well. The Spanish teacher...

A: Oh, Charlie Cooper?

G: No, it was the husband and wife team. She was... He taught, and then she also taught. But she was a remarkable teacher, and they stand out in my mind. I don't know...did I mention this on tape? Yeah, I did, I mentioned Miss Brumbaugh. Yeah, so I already mentioned that. I didn't know if we were on tape or not. But I remember her so well. You know, the thing with teachers—whether it be high school or college—sometimes your greatest appreciation came years later than at the moment. I mean, I always enjoyed them, but Miss Brumbaugh was very down the line and, you know, in subsequent years, I just think of her so often. If I may just touch on a personal thing I'm very proud of, shortly after graduating—in fact, a couple years thereafter—I was elected to the Steelton town council, and I became the vice president of the

council. When I ran to get the nomination, I was 24, and so when I stepped into office in '65, I guess, I was just 25. And when you think back to the Civil Rights situation, with the problems in the south, we had a significant turnover in our police department in Steelton, including the chief. So it became necessary to appoint a new chief of police. And one of the things I'm proud of, there's a gentleman named Fred Douglas, and he was a black man—he came from Alabama, made a great appearance as a police officer, was a very decent individual, and I proposed that we make him the chief of police. I was head of personnel for the council. And he was subsequently appointed the chief of police, and was the first black chief of police in the history of Pennsylvania. He died about two years ago, and there's another large feature on the history of that. But I remember at the time, when I talked about that, there were some people saying, 'George, you like politics, and you're looking' (laughing)—at that point I would have liked to have ran for state senate or whatever—'you can very well bring your career to a very abrupt end.'

A: (laughing)

G: And yet, he was appointed, and there was not one iota of any resentment, once people became familiar with him. And it was just a wonderful, wonderful thing for me to have been part of, and work with a council that was open to do that.

A: Other faculty members that you remember? Particularly in your department—which ones were the important ones for you?

G: Well, there was Dr. [Joseph] Tom. Again, Dr. Tom was the marketing and economics professor, and he was just absolutely outstanding. The story I remember with him, I took my...my project—they had to do a project—mine was to develop the idea of a little container,

aerosol container, that if you were out and you had a nice hat or something, and you were in the rain at a football game, you could spray this. And people laughed, and now you can buy them (laughing). But I do recall, you know, that. And then I took my final exam, and I remember I was about halfway maybe into Hershey or Hummelstown area, and I started to think about the test, and I realized that I answered one of the questions in the reverse of what it should have been. And it just hit me. Well, I became almost ill in my stomach, so I turned around, and I drove the whole way back, and I went in to where his office was, and it was locked tight as a drum, and I knocked, and there was no answer, so that ended that. When I went to get my grade, interestingly enough, it's obvious that he recognized that, and didn't penalize me for it.

A: He realized you knew it.

G: Yeah, he realized it, and to this day—and I never had a chance to, you know, talk to him about that. I did talk with him once. Aetna was looking for employees, and I was asked if I had made contact with Lebanon Valley and announced that we would do interviews, and that was just a couple years after I started with Aetna, and that was the last I spoke with Dr. Tom. And then there was a Dr. [Robert] Riley, and he also was a teacher in the marketing area, and there was a gentleman that taught us accounting, and he came from...he was a graduate from the College, and he worked for one of the large accounting firms.

A: D. John Grace?

G: Yeah. Yeah. And so I had a lot of good teachers, but again, when you're commuting, it's a different relationship in some ways, because it was strictly meeting them and talking to them in the classroom, and not having the chance for the exchange. And again, I regret that I didn't. Another person who was the professor of religion was Dr. [Harold] Beamesderfer.

A: Ah yes, he was the chaplain.

G: Chaplain, that's right. And so I got to know him. And he had a brother who was the pastor at the...I guess it would have been the United Methodist Church in Steelton, Pennsylvania—an old United Brethren Church, and they were brothers. I knew that family, and I did get to know him a bit subsequently, as well, but those are the teachers that stand out.

A: Did they have Chapel requirement when you were here?

G: They did have Chapel requirement.

A: Did you have to go to that?

G: Yes, absolutely, I had to be here and go just as somebody on campus did. And again, I always enjoyed it, and they would have a choir from the College who would sing at those, and whatever. But I recall that today that doesn't happen.

A: Ok. Any other thoughts of your time here as a student, before we move on to board?

G: Well, again, I guess the thing—and I've said my regret—that I wasn't able to be fully engaged because of commuting, but in spite of that, I mean, there's people that I wasn't close to, but when we have gatherings at the Vickroy dinner or something of that nature, that they identify with me, and me with them as well. And the other thing I did do, which was helpful to me...as I said, when I was in Harrisburg as a new Aetna employee, there was a gentleman—I don't recall his name—he was an attorney, a relatively young man, maybe 10 years older than me at the time, and he reached out to me and asked if I would help on a campaign, which I did. I went out, and met with people, and talked with people, and then some years later I was asked to reengage on the alumni development council, and I recall—interestingly at Aetna, we had a very large publication department, and public relation—and John Synodinos was the president

at the time, and the College, then...now, had some remarkable achievements. The number of people going on to get their doctorate, and any number... And the Aetna prepared the brochure for us at no charge. And it was a mailing brochure, and it told all the highlights, and encouragement to support your college, and this was going out to alumni. But as I said... So I worked in that. And then in '95, I think it was, right as I was appointed insurance commissioner, John Synodinos asked if I would be willing to join the board, and so I was a board member from '95 until I stepped down...the beginning of 2013 was my last assignment, I think, January or May.

A: So, 18 years.

G: Yeah, I was on the board for 18 years.

A: You must have seen a lot of changes in that time, too.

G: I did.

A: Let's stay with the board now.

G: Yeah, ok.

A: Well, the board... You know, the amazing things was to see the College transition, and John Synodinos, I think we all agree, was a visionary, and he saw the need, one, to be sure the campus was as attractive as it could be. I remember, subsequently, bringing friends from Connecticut, and we traveled through, and we stopped at the College, and they were just fascinated with it—you know, such a welcoming place. And he also recognized that we had to grow if we were going to remain viable. And, you know, during that period of time, the demographics changed, the economy changes, the perceptions change, but I think John Synodinos gave us the footing to begin to grow and to be responsive. And the College was a

wonderful College. As I said, when I was here, I have no criticisms. I mean, there's a proud history. But on the other hand, with anything, it has to change. And I remember, I was a vice president of the Aetna, Art, the telephone rang, and my administrative assistant said that there is a person from the College—from the president's office of LVC—and I took the call, and it was a young lady, and she said she was administrative assistant, and that the College and the president were coming—the choir and the president were coming to Hartford, Connecticut. And she was wondering if we could have dinner, and they had some other people they had invited or would be invited, would I select the restaurant, and they would be there. And I remember, it was such an honor for the president of the College to—I was a vice president at the time, and doing well—but it was just a great honor for me to have that connect. And from that moment forth, my identity with the college and my working with them intensified. And I remember John Synodinos, and I often thought of this, if I were writing a book in leadership, John would probably have two chapters. But he met with a group of people—that was subsequent, we got invited down, and it was at the Hershey Hotel—and he had a group of people, alumni, that were there, and he explained that we were going to have to change. And people resist change, of course. And he said, the library—we were going to have to replace the library. And people kind of gasped, because that was a new building (laughing). And he explained why, with technology and whatever else. But he said something that put everybody to ease—it was just absolutely amazing. And he said, 'You know, I'm talking about a lot of change, but we will never, never touch the foundation of this College, and all the wonderful things. We're not tearing it down, we're building on that foundation.' And you could just feel an ease and an acceptance come across the room—I can always remember that vividly. But I was

active there, and then when I was on the board, I served on different committees. Ultimately, I was vice chair, one of the vice chairs of the board. And I served on several development committees when we had campaigns and whatever. And the thing that always amazed me with that is, you could go out, and if you sit with people and you touch base with them, they may not immediately accept the fact that 'I'm gonna give X amount of money,' but it did open doors, and I was always amazed at the generosity of the people. I do remember the development director and I went out about four years ago, and she said that we were going to...she was coming to New England, up to southern Massachusetts, not far from Hartford, and would I visit with her with one of the families—the wife was a graduate here. And so we met at Starbucks on the way, and we went up to visit this home, and we spent the morning, and it overlooked the valley—not an extreme...but certainly a very nice home. And we went to lunch, and she said, 'George, you have to do the ask.' And so...we had talked in the morning, and the husband was an executive with an oil company, retired. And he explained he just gave a considerable amount to his College, and they try to be generous to Lebanon Valley. So we had that background, so now we're at lunch, and I explained how much we appreciated the hospitality and whatever, and we realized, but here's what we're trying to accomplish, and, you know, whatever they could do, and whenever they could do it would be most appreciated. I got a call the next morning that said, 'Are you sitting down?' And I said, 'Yeah.' My thought was that there may be a gift. But the wife called and said, 'We're making a contribution of \$160,000.'

A: Not bad.

G: (laughing)...Cash. Since then, I've been a little more bold in my reaching out in development.

A: It built your self-confidence.

G: It did. It was amazing to me, and, you know, not to be arrogant, but if you present the case... I might share, just quickly, Farmington is where we live now, and I served as the chair of the town council 20 years ago. They called me a swamp Yankee up there, cause I came from Pennsylvania (laughing). And since then, Carol and I have been very, very active in the volunteer community, and I'm currently helping the volunteer fire department getting a million dollars to build a burn training center, where they can train to come in and out of a burning building and whatever. And my days at Lebanon Valley on the development committee has helped me a great deal. And once again, just amazed, if Carol and I would hold a reception, we'd make a few remarks, the fire department shows a video, and then question and answers, and we've had people on the spot commit to \$5,000, \$1,000, \$500...just remarkable. And so I think if you have a good cause and you communicate it, people are receptive. And I think that's a mark of the people at Lebanon Valley as well.

A: So you were with Synodinos almost from the beginning of his tenure a couple of years after he started.

G: Yes.

A: Just a couple years after he started.

G: Yes.

A: And then, who came next?

G: David Pollick.

A: David Pollick was the next one. How did you work with him?

G: Well, David and I became very close. Carol and I...I was on the board at that time, and also doing some development work. And we would stay at Kreiderheim—at that time, they had one

of the...there was a suite. It had a sitting room, and a bedroom, and a bathroom, and that was offered to us on a number of occasions. And David, at that time, lived in an adjoining suite. But, you know, I got to know David on the board and whatever, and I enjoyed working with David. And again, I think, a visionary. Everybody has the pros and cons—we all do, and I'm sure with David too. But he certainly understood where the world was heading—the world of education—and where we, perhaps, should follow or maybe even take the lead. But I was with him, and then...

A: Steve MacDonald.

G: Steve MacDonald came on, and Steve and I became very close—not in a social sense, or personal, but from a College standpoint. And again, he and Mary [Warner] had a room up at Kreiderheim and, after a meeting, we'd go to the sitting room...the sun room on the second floor...we'd have a bottle of wine, and each of us would have a glass of wine and a chair. So I became very close to Steve as well, and I thought that, you know, Steve was a very solid leader. He projected that of a college president, and in fact, now when we're at the Vickroy dinner, we always have a chance to exchange greetings and visits. But he was, you know, not to get too personal, but when I was with the Aetna, I remember one of the people that came in to consult, and said, 'You can survive one bad leader, you can survive two bad leaders, but you can't survive three.' And we've had the good fortune, I think, not to have fallen into any of that in any shape or form. The company missed here and there, and it just points out that leadership is absolutely essential. And sometimes they have to take us where we don't think we should go, and yet, I always say, if it's not immoral or illegal or unethical, and it's the leader, and they've given you the chance to voice your concerns, then ultimately, as I said, you follow the leader,

and the leader sets the example, and whatever. And I've had opportunity to participate in the selection of our current president, Lewis, and I think...my opinion is, we were very fortunate to have him come on the scene when he did. The College was challenged in several ways, and I think, again, that was an excellent selection, and I think he's done well, and I think he'll do well. And not that we don't have challenges—we do. Demographics are changing dramatically. And that's the one thing—you asked as you look back over your tenure, as you're sitting at one point in time, and this what the world is, and you plan accordingly, and if you're not careful, it shifts, and you find yourself on the wrong end of the equation. And as I said, for the most part, I think we've been visionary here at the College, and able to stay ahead of that curve to a great extent.

A: It sounds like your experience as a board member has been a positive one.

G: Oh, absolutely, Art. It's one of the things that I enjoy most, was just the interchange with... And the other thing with the board here that always amazed me...I've served on several for-profit boards, and whatever, and obviously attendance is very good (laughing), but the College is a volunteer board, and when I come in on a Friday afternoon or morning to get ready for the weekend, and everybody in attendance, and then you come to a Saturday morning, and the room is filled with attendees, and people very busy, very successful...but I think you, you know, you take pride in the fact that this is my College. And just back to the giving one more time, the development. You know, one of the things is, I think, people are motivated by saying, "LVC is where I graduated from," and we all have a responsibility to keep it strong and keep it viable, and support it to the best of our abilities. But I...as I said, it's been one of my highlights, and I

never minded getting in the car and driving the 650 miles round-trip if I was participating on the board.

A: Well let's draw this to a conclusion, with one final question—a broad question. And you've been skirting around this question, I think, anyway. When you look back over your experiences with the College—as a student and a board member—what would you say Lebanon Valley College means to you?

G: Well, it means a great deal. One, I think the College has treated me very well. In your life, when family or teachers or neighbors are good to you, it's something you recognize and you appreciate, and I think I've been fortunate that when the time came, that there was Lebanon Valley, and it was a quality institution then as it is now. And that I had the opportunity to be educated here, and I take great pride in... When I get into New England, and you say 'Lebanon Valley College,' some people are aware of that, but there's a number of people that aren't. But I know they'll share with me on occasion, 'George, you're sure proud of your school, aren't you?' And I say, 'Yep,' and I tell 'em what a wonderful place it is, and whatever. So no, the College means a great, great deal to me. And I look at schools that have not continued, and there's one in New Jersey I recall very prominent—I can't recall the name—but it failed. And I just would find it a tremendous loss if for any reason Lebanon Valley wasn't here, even though, you know, I've kind of run out the string because of age and my past service. But still, it's very, very important to me that I can know the College is here, and know what it's accomplishing. Like on the board, we remind ourselves occasionally that, you know, everything goes back to educating young people and making them successful for life, and so the College is just tremendously important.

A: Well good, that's a nice note to end on, I think. Thank you very much George.

G: Yes, thank you very much. I hope I was responsive, and... (tape ends)