

00:00:00 - 00:02:15 Dancing on campus

Well, we'll continue our discussion of presidents of PLU. Under Mortvedt I should have mentioned that another thing he did after he came, the students were asking for dancing and dancing was something that had not been permitted on the campus up until that time. Every year the students would have a homecoming dance out of the Century Ballroom or someplace like that in the community, but it was never publicly announced. It was always word of mouth. Kids were dancing all over the place and everybody knew it, but it was still said that we couldn't have it at the university.

Well, finally it came to pass in the first year after Mortvedt was there he talked the Board of Regents and said, "Let's let's get with this thing and permit the students to have dancing and let's have it on the campus instead of having to chase all over the place," and so this was done. It's interesting, we had our first dance at PLU in the fall of '63. I was running the News Bureau at the time, took pictures of the first dance and the students, gave them to the Tacoma News Tribune, wrote a story about it, it was run in the paper, we didn't receive one word of complaint, not one word, not a phone call, not a letter from anybody in the constituency relative to this.

We'd had dancing around PLU for years. I remember when I was a student there (a little confession's good for the soul I guess) and we had, we used to set up a - when the deans would go out at night, once in a while we'd set up a record player in the in the hall up in the in the dorm. and the girls would come or we'd go over the other side where the girls were, and we'd have - and we'd dance. Just a lot of fun, nothing more. Or else we'd go to dance halls in the area. Well, that's beside the point. Now to get back to the presidents.

00:02:15 - 00:38:15 Eugene Wiegman

Dr. Wiegman, Eugene W. Wiegman came from Washington DC, at the federal community college there, in the fall of 1963, '62, for a - now excuse me - 1969, for a six-year term. He was a young, young man of 39 years of age, had a lot of ideas. Missouri Synod in background, and taught in the Missouri Synod schools, and had been principal at some other schools, and he'd been at their higher education schools at Seward, Nebraska under Tom Langevin.

He came to PLU as the Great White Hope, you might say, because he had quite a few tickets. He'd been in politics, he worked for the government, he had a lot of experience in his field of education. It was thought that he was a man who would bring great things to PLU, and he did when he first started out. I remember he met with us as a President's Council and I'd talked to him, and others had talked to him, stating willingness to step down and let him pick his own team. He said, "No, Dr. Mortvedt has a fine team, has organized a fine team, put it together,

and we're gonna go with what he's got." He said, "Why change something that's winning? There will be no changes made here. We'll just go right ahead and you fellows keep on doing it, doing things the way you have." Fine, fine, so we're off and running.

He instituted some interesting things right off the bat. He wanted to have a theme for each year,

so he proclaimed that school year 69-70, at the opening of the school year, when he had the convocation and gave his inaugural address, as a "Year of Joy," and we all picked this thing up. We had this Year of Joy in 1969-70, put on publications, and we used it extensively.

Then another thing he felt was we should do more for minorities. He had worked with the minorities at the Federal City College in Washington. This school was 99 and 44 one-hundredths Black and he knew how to get along with the Blacks and so he instituted a program that saw that we had a Minorities Affairs Advisor brought in, and a lot of things happened in that particular area. More scholarships were set up for these people. He had some good ideas there.

Another thing he set up was the Regency Award, Regency Professorship Award, to go to the outstanding professor each year. And the professor that gets that gets a semester off and a bonus of \$4,500, and he can use that semester to enrich himself and do some travel or study, travel and study.

Another thing he set up were the President's Scholarships for incoming students of \$500 each. This went over, this was a forward step. He had a lot of other good ideas in various areas.

But then, as time went on, to begin with let's say he had the faculty for him and the students were for him, but he had one fatal weakness and we call that egomania. This proved to be his downfall because he wanted to be all things to all men, and you just can't do that in life. You've got to let people know where you stand. So he'd tell students one thing, the faculty another, the Regents another, and the church another and this resulted in trial and tribulation for him as the months and years moved by.

His first mistake when it came to the constituency was shortly after his arrival. He had been invited to give the keynote address at the North Pacific District the American Church Pastoral Conference which was held down Gearhart, a hotel resort down on the Oregon Coast, south of seaside.

He got up there, gave the address and then he looked, in the course of his address, he looked at the pastors and he says, "No, I'm running Pacific Lutheran University," and he said, "I will brook no interference from the church. You are not going to tell us what to do. We run the school. You stay in your own bailiwick." Well, this caught the fellows completely off guard. They had made no inference that they were interested in running PLU. They've always left that up to the Board of Regents and the faculty and the staff. So why all of a sudden this?

This turned a lot of the pastors off right before the guy had hardly gotten off the ground, although they were willing to let this pass and not too much of a raucous ensued afterwards. But they were puzzled. I was too. Why this attitude towards the church? But it soon became apparent that this man did not like the authority of - coming from a Missouri background where the church had pushed, evidently been quite forceful and where some clergymen had been quite forceful - he had this - he was down on pastors and down on the church and this continued throughout his career at PLU. And this didn't help me any because I was a clergyman. So he started working on me. We never did hit it off as it were, but that's another story.

Well we might as well talk about what happened to everybody in the administrative setup. As soon as Tom Langevin heard that this man had been elected, why, he was out looking for another job. This should have been

a tip-off to the rest of us, but we just didn't catch on at the time. We thought, well maybe Tom didn't like the idea of working under someone who had worked for him in the past. But then it became apparent that this idea of vice presidents bothered him, and he didn't like the term vice president. He didn't want people being vice presidents around so he gradually got rid of these positions and these people over a period of time. I was the first one to go as far as my position was concerned.

After six months he called me in one day and says that as far as public relations is concerned he said, "I'm Public Relations at the University. We don't need Public Relations anymore. You're through as far as being Vice President for University Relations. That is being dissolved as of now, and we're carving up your setup." See under our setup we had the University Relations, which included Admissions, Alumni, Photo Lab, News Bureau, Sports Promotion, Publicity, all the publications of the University, and we had a team there of 12 of us working together.

We'd meet every week and plan our work and we had a pretty good thing going there, I feel. I think it was one of the most effective public relations programs of our church colleges, and of most of the colleges and universities in the Pacific Northwest for that matter. But, there were those who - naturally the thing was far from perfect, the perfect thing doesn't exist - but, when it comes to the talents and abilities of the people who were involved in that particular setup - oh yes, we had Church Relations in there, too - in that setup things were going pretty good. We were willing to make any changes that were necessary or that people felt should be made in the administration. We were open to change, always have been that way. So, naturally, we were quite overcome when all this came about. Oh yes, we managed organizations of the University besides in that office, and I was manager of the choir, and the band, and the Ambassador Quartet and other traveling groups. We did the promotion for these things. We also were in charge of promotion for all campus events, such as concerts and plays and - that is under the Artist Series we promoted these things - and all the other lectures. So we just did all kinds of things. We put on the Commencement, Baccalaureate, these arrangements, Opening Convocation, other convocations, and so forth. Anything involved with the public, why, we were in charge. So we had quite a thing going. OK, we were the first to go, and the pressure went on to the others after.

Of course the pressure never left. It was kept on us all the time. As far as our work was concerned, things were divided up. Admissions was put under the Provost's Office, and the musical organizations were put in the hands of someone else. Alumni was made a part of the Development, and so things were gradually whittled down and changed around. And to a certain extent a lot of effectiveness went out of the program.

Then Dean Buchanan, the Vice President for Business and Finance, and Don Taylor, the Student Congregation Pastor or the University Minister, came in. These men came and Dan Leasure, the Vice President for Student Affairs came in for heat, pressures, and so forth. Don Taylor and Wiegman didn't hit it off from the very beginning. This caused problems. And so Wiegman set about to get rid of him, and was successful in getting someone else to take his place and that was our friend. Lathrop was called, see they got the thing up for a call. I don't know all the machinations, how it worked, but anyway Don was there on call. He came there during much of Eastvold's last year and then he was over. There was no stipulation as to time he was to be there, and so a Religious Life Council was set up, which was kind of a good thing.

There were good things to some of the things that our friend Wiegman set up. But, it was setting up machinery for doing some axing as well. Well, took him a year to do it, but then he finally got rid of Taylor. Oh, I'll never

forget that President's Council meeting the morning after the Religious Life Council had met and issued a call, made a decision. I talked to Dan Leasure the night before and I said, "What happened?" He says, "Well, Taylor didn't get it and they're calling a man by the name of Lathrop." "Fine", I said, "OK word's out then." "I know it hasn't been announced publicly," he said, "but it'll be announced tomorrow morning." "OK, fine."

Next morning we met and Wiegman's walking up and down there in the President's Conference Room clapping his hands, a big smile on his face, "Wonderful morning! Great day!" I said to myself, "Oh brother, I know what's happened now. He's got the word, he's happy, he's got his way." And then he says when he held the meeting he said, "Now we're going to have a very important announcement. None of us know what the announcement is. I don't even know. But, Dick Nelson will be coming in and telling us what happened at the Religious Life Council meeting last night." So there's a tap on the door, a real dramatic moment you know, tap on the door, and Wiegman says stop, door opens, "Here's our announcement." So Nelson makes the announcement. Wiegman makes no show of emotion, just says "Thank you very much for the announcement. You've got the word gentlemen, and Lucille, now we'll proceed with the rest of the meeting."

Okay, that's how that's how that was taken care of. Don was out in the street, and there was a quite a to-do on the part of the constituency. They weren't very happy about this and when the church met in convention for this, the PLU Association meeting, and the first week in June, down in Olson Auditorium. Why, you know what hit the fan, and there was all kinds of stuff going on. Many of the Board of Regents men were mad as hops. They said this was a slap in their face, that the people were upset because of what had happened to Don. Well, they had a right to get upset, and I felt good that day. When I walked up to the meeting where the church castigated the Regents and said, "What in the world is going on around that place?" And I said well at last or at least we got the church behind us.

Now there were other things behind this, besides just the changing of Don. Wiegman had been making cracks about the church and he had been about the Regents and so forth, and these things are beginning to catch up with him.

Well the following year, Dan Leasure got a chance to go to Penn State and took it and left. When the pressure really started to go - it was still on me - but, I felt should I leave this institution? Part of this in my mind - I talked over with some of my friends, they said, "No, don't leave you've got -" I said, "Am I doing the job that I feel that the university wants from me?" If people kind of hint around say, "Well, Milt, maybe it might be wise for you to go," or if they just if they were lukewarm about things, well, then I'd get the message and get out of there right now. But, everybody told me to stay, including the bishop of the church, Clarence Solberg, he says, "No, Milt, you stick around." And others in the Board of Regents told me to stick around, so we stayed around.

About that time, oh it was after a couple years, but after Wiegman being in there a couple years, and a lot of this unrest was going on. Why, Mike Dederer and the Executive Committee of the Board, Mike was chairman of the Board, he held a meeting, called all of us of the President's Council together and said he wanted to talk they wanted to talk to us individually. They called us in there for about 15 or 20 minutes at a time, or half an hour, and grilled us about what was going on at the school and what, I think, what our feeling were and we all responded.

We were kind of over a barrel, but we had to talk in circles, but Mike was a firm believer in Wiegman and wasn't about to listen to what we had to say. It's just a formality, but that's all right. Mike's entitled to his views. Maybe history will show him right, although I don't think so. I think he was duped and by this whole situation, just didn't want to see what was going on because these fellows aren't around enough to know these things. They don't know how subtle all these little things operate.

Well, next one to go was Buchanan. The heat was on him all the time, and Buchanan was trying to hold the line because this guy was a spendthrift. He was doing a lot of things that he, that Buchanan, had to hold the line on. Buchanan had to go to, was going to, doctors up in Seattle for psychiatric, help for physical ailments. This guy was getting to him and that's the way they operated, continually, little things all the time. We won't go into details on this stuff, it's with regard to me and Buchanan and others. Buchanan left. He got a position, he was offered a position at California Lutheran, so he dropped everything and ran, and it was his salvation physically and mentally. But it was PLU's loss because Dave Buchanan was one of the greatest financial wizards in college circles in America today. He's in demand all the time to go around the schools and give them advice as to how they should run their financial programs. So a tremendous loss.

When Buchanan left this was the straw which broke the camel's back. Well, it wasn't just a straw it was a it was a huge rafter that came down and broke the back. And it resulted in the faculty getting very upset and finally voting no confidence in the president by a sizable, over two to one, majority. And the result was that the church, an action in 1973, following up on this recommendation of the faculty, recommended that Board of Regents that the president be relieved at the end of the 73-74 school year, and continue his contract. Yeah, continue his contract. This has already been discussed by the Regents and been voted by by them, but this followed up on their action. The upshot of it is that Wiegman has one more year left, but he has a six-year contract. So, they'll honor that contract, but in the school year 74-75 he will just be on the staff as a paid person, but have no authority and wouldn't be in charge, would do what he was told to do.

Well this passed the church, by the Regents and by the church, and was set into operation. Oh yes, it was further set up that specified that Dr. Richard Jungkuntz, who was the Provost, should be the one who would be the acting president for the 74-75 school year.

But even with this happening, this didn't stop this man Wiegman from going after more vice presidents. The next man he went to work on was Clayton Peterson, the Vice President for Development, who'd been at the university for 14 years. He went and made life so miserable for him he almost became a basket case. Finally, it was apparent that he had to leave. One thing that was set up for him was to go and to the Board of Higher Education for the American Lutheran Church through Norman Fintel and come and work for them until Wiegman was through, for that school year. That would be about six or eight months and he could be consulting around various schools and return to PLU. This is all right with Wiegman, but the one specification Wiegman wanted was that he return as Director of University Relations and not as Vice President. Peterson didn't want that. He wanted to come back as Vice President.

Well, this is that vice president thing coming in there again. Wiegman just seemed to hate that position, that title, because it had something to do with Mortvedt and because of other administrations and he just want to get rid of all these people as much as he could. OK, he got rid of, he changed the name of Vice President for Academic Affairs to Provost right after he came. Then Clayton Peterson got a job with Children's Orthopedic

Hospital in Seattle in their development program, a real nice position and a good raising salary, and he went over there in February of 1974. And who's going to get the heat next?

Well, the heat had already for several months now, the heat had kind of gone to Dick Jungkuntz and Jungkuntz was getting edgy and getting jumpy. That's just the makeup of Wiegman, one of his things that he does, that he just had to be after somebody all the time. He'd gotten rid of everybody who'd been there when Peterson left, everybody who had been there in the administrative positions - with the exception of Dr. Richard Moe - had been changed and so now he has to start on one of his own appointees.

So anyway, Wiegman leaves now in the spring of '74, but there's still a way - I've got something wrong in history. When it came to the Regents and the church in the spring of '73, May of '73, they said that an acting president be appointed, they didn't say Jungkuntz, they said that an acting president be appointed for 74-75 year. Then the Regents picked later on, during the year, that school year, they picked Jungkuntz. And then Tom Anderson, who was chairman of the Board of Regents, announced at the Association meeting in June of 1974 in Eastvold Chapel was being held that afternoon, he announced it or that morning - no it was the afternoon session, yes, 1:30, he announced that he was so happy that Dr. Jungkuntz had accepted, and Dr. Jungkuntz was sitting near me and I heard him say, "Well, I have not accepted," and he hadn't. Because there were certain stipulations in there that he wanted changed. One thing was in there it's stated that Dr. Wiegman would report to the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents for his assignments during this 74-75 school year and it had been [END OF TAPE]

This is the continuation of the president's period and we're talking about Wiegman versus the Board versus Jungkuntz. Jungkuntz insisted that Wiegman report to him because he knew how Wiegman would operate if he was able to take orders from Tom Anderson and the executive committee. He could do whatever he wanted to. Well, the upshot of this was that it was still an impasse until the latter part of July. And then he went to the university attorney Warren Peterson, and Warren drew up a document, he drew it up according to Jungkuntz's specifications and in keeping with the action of the board and the action of the church. And Tom says "Well, Gene isn't going to like this," and they said, "Well, so what? This is the way it's got to be." And so Tom signed it and that's what happened. The result was that during this school year, in 1974-75, Wiegman has been on his best behavior and he's capable of being a wonderful person and we haven't had any problems, but there you go again, you have another president leaving under a cloud.

Wiegman's not too happy about this whole thing as you might well imagine, but it's been brought on by himself. He says, how to characterize this particular administration is pretty hard to do right now because it's too close to when it happened. But we've given you some of the things that have happened and probably some other things will come up during the course of our conversations on tape in the weeks and months and years which lie ahead.

See what caused Gene's problems was he going after people who were opposed to him. He didn't like Mrs. Moileen on the Board and so he did his utmost to see that she was defeated when the group, the Association, met in 1963. Norm Lorentzen is the president of Burlington Northern now, the second largest railroad in the United States. He was a member of the board, but in '64 when his time came up, why, Wiegman just dropped him and saw to it that he wasn't up for renomination. He moved out, but he could have been in there as an at-large member, but he had opposed Wiegman a couple of things so that was it. He just didn't like opposition. And a tip off as to how he was going to be was when it came to the liquor issue. He likes alcohol and there's

nothing wrong with that. If he likes it, that's fine, but he wanted to flaunt this in the face of everybody. He knew that the students wanted booze in the dorms, so he tried to get that through the Student Affairs Committee and Mrs. Mileen blocked that and others. Well, they just didn't want this. I remember he told the students after the Regents met that first year he was there, in a meeting right he said, "Well you didn't get everything you wanted, but remember you can have bottles in your room. All I ask is that you'll be sure that they're empty when we come around." Well that's just tacit approval and whether it's right or wrong, drinking the dorms is not what I'm bringing up, but it's the fact that there's a rule to that effect. It's still in our rules. And it still isn't adhered to. If we're going to have a rule, let's enforce rules. If we're not going to enforce it, let's get the rules off, but knock off this hypocrisy.

There were other things that were interesting during his first year. There were two students who were going to school who had an airplane and they talked to him about taking him around the Pacific Northwest in an airplane and this appealed to him. So the students were to get paid so much, and this would go towards their tuition, off their tuition and he would fly all over the Northwest, to speaking engagements and so forth. And the kids, of course, everybody, started kidding about this, calling it Air Force One and so forth, but that disappeared after a year. I think he even saw that it wasn't too practical a thing.

Then he was given a car when he came. Bob Allen said that the car he ordered was the most lavish car he had ever delivered in the history of his organization. It had everything on it except the kitchen sink. Then when we got the Gonyea House, thousands and thousands of dollars, would you believe \$40,000 was spent fixing up that place. He even ordered the gold-plated handles for the sinks in the bedroom, in his bedroom. Those things cost, those gold-plated things cost, had to be ordered custom made, and they cost about 150 bucks a piece. Well so much for the Wiegman era. As I say that'll be coming up from time to time as we discuss other things. And so excerpts about other presidents, but now we're entering our new era, Dr. William Rieke.

00:38:15 - 00:42:20 William Rieke

Dr. Rieke is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran from the class of 1953 and he was one of the most outstanding students that we have had at the university through the years. He comes from a wonderful background. He is a fine Christian man. He is the type of person who will make a good impression for PLU and the cause of Christianity wherever he goes. He has an outstanding record in administration and in education up until this time, and now he's all primed and ready to go and make a great contribution, I know, at PLU. He's the second Northwesterner, a native of the Northwest and graduate of the institution to become president. Dr. O.E. Tingelstad was the first one. He was a native of Silverton, Oregon, and came to, he was a graduate of PLU, went back to Luther College and graduated. He was a junior. PLU was a high school when he went there.

Now we've got Bill Rieke who was the first student to my knowledge to graduate from PLU with a straight A, 4.0, and one of the few was ever graduated from PLU with a straight A. He went on to med school and graduated with a straight A. And he was he was not just a bookworm. When he was at PLU he was active in student government and student affairs. He was an outstanding debater. He and John Erikson made a team that wiped out the opposition all over the place. They went back to a West Point tournament, they debated teams from Cambridge and Oxford who visited the United States. These fellows were great and Bill was just an outstanding person all the way through. And I know that under his leadership we're going to see a lot of wonderful things happen at the institution. We look forward to the years under him. PLU will take on new

dimensions. I can't help but feel that this is the hand of the Lord here, working to bring about an era of even greater service for PLU.

So there we have it when it comes to our picture of presidents of the institution through the years. The picture's by no means complete, but it gives you an idea of the ups and downs. We haven't had a lot of presidents like some schools have. We've only had ten and two of these have been acting presidents for one year terms. These men have all been Lutherans and have been members of the church and active in the church. They profess that they have been sold on the cause of Christian higher education, and they have been used of the good Lord to further the cause of Christ and His Kingdom in the Pacific Northwest on the campus of the institution. But they have been fallible human beings who have made mistakes and this is as it will ever be I imagine. Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown. OK that's all on presidents and we'll go on to some other topic now as the spirit moves us.

00:42:20 - 00:45:08 Memories of Eastvold and Tingelstad

Well, we'll reminisce some more about Eastvold. Eastvold what was the most colorful individual that we ever had as president of the school and so naturally you remember so many things about him. His driving habits are something I'll never forget. I rode with him one time when he was doing the driving and after that I'd always do the driving the driving. I'd do the driving because he was so busy talking and pointing, just gesticulating, that he wouldn't pay much attention where he was going and he constantly rode the brake. He liked Oldsmobiles and he had an Oldsmobile car with a hydromatic shift and so he'd always you have one foot on the gas and one foot on the brake. And he kept pushing on both of them all the time. And he would be oblivious to what was going on around him.

I remember one time he - back of Old Main, he always used to park his car there - back of what's now Harstad Hall, it was a driveway going in there and Wheeler Street which is now cut off, used to run where the Library is now, right on down between the Administration Building and Harstad, I mean between Administration and Xavier Hall and down that walkway there, that used to be a street there. It was very dangerous. During the Mortvedt administration we got that thing changed. So anyway the driveway went in, you can still see where it was in back of Old Main. And Eastvold'd always park his car there and he'd always drive in front end in to the parking stall and then when he'd back out he'd come, he'd stick that car into a full gear, full bore, and he'd back up and the dirt would fly and the gravel would go in all directions and people would scurry out of the way and then he'd put her forward. And I remember one time he backed up and that was where the garbage cans were kept - and he rammed a whole bunch of garbage cans and sent them flying in all directions. And everybody's looking, "What in the world's going on?" And here was this cloud of dust and he's full tearing away. He didn't even get out and look. He put it in full bore forward and just tore out of there. Everybody just roared.

This fellow Tingelstad was quite a driver, too. He had all kinds of automobile accidents because he just didn't want to obey stop signs. Eastvold'd obey stop signs and so forth and so on. It was just part of the color of the man that he was very independent in his driving.

00:45:08 - 00:52:42 Eastvold hiring choices

Something came to mind here... oh shoot hold on. Eastvold was a man who loved his fellow clergymen and always looked after them. So there were a lot of retired pastors around, others without calls that he wanted to help out. One of them was Nils Wangen, who by the way is related to Stew Govig on the faculty here. Nils is

retired now again and living around here, but in the '50s Eastvold brought him on campus as a janitor because he was without a call, no parish. And he took care of the Memorial Gymnasium and other things on the Lower Campus.

Finally, when Ole Jensen retired, pastor of Messiah Church in Tacoma, he brought him out as a janitor in some of the buildings, and poor Jensen, he was a wonderful fellow and a good janitor, but he just didn't take to this janitor's job over the long pull. And finally he got the job as chaplain of the L.C. Foss Home in Seattle where he was until he died, and he was very happy in that. But Eastvold saw to it that he was taken care of. That was his genius. He brought in these pastors to be houseparents. Now there was a lot of feeling about this. Some felt that that these men were and their wives were not the ones to have as houseparents in our dormitories. That's been changed now so that you have a different philosophy, but these people were dedicated men and women who thought a great deal of the students and enriched the lives of the students through the years.

Whether because of their lack of training in academics, if they were not as effective as they might have been is another thing, but they did have their strong points. Among these were Reverend and Mrs. C.K. Malmin and Reverend and Mrs. Sig Moe and Reverend and Mrs. Alf Krabel. Sig Moe is the only one who remains to this day. Krabel died a few years ago. He was still houseparent at Pflueger Hall and Malmin died back in Wisconsin. He left PLU some years back and Moe is retired, living in Madison, Wisconsin. His wife still lives. Malmin's first wife who was with him in Harstad Hall where he was housefather and also down in Evergreen where he was, she died, and he remarried and his second wife still lives. And also there were pastor's widows and others who were brought in to be houseparents. These people were dedicated, devoted.

There was Mrs. Schefveland, for instance. After her husband died, she came over as a houseparent in one of the dorms. A dedicated, devoted person who loved these students and did a lot for them. As I say this whole thing has changed through the years as a lot of things have been changed around school.

Nothing wrong with change, but these people did have a contribution to make and this was something that Eastvold initiated. He had a tremendous concern for the welfare of other people. Can't take that away from him. This was quite apparent in his hiring practices when it came to hiring faculty members, he, Eastvold, made his share of mistakes just like anybody else. We used to kid him about how he'd go and meet somebody at an airport or a train station somewhere in the country and have an interview with him and then hire him, offer him a contract. He did - he found people all over. Some of them are still with us today. Some of them have left us; they didn't pan out too well. But that's been true of every administration school we've had. We've picked a lot of fine teachers and we've had some real losers. Some mistakes have been made along the line.

Now there isn't an institution in the United States that hasn't had this happen. The perfect faculty doesn't exist. You strive for it, you want to get the best that you possibly can, but you do make some mistakes. And when you make mistakes but then you try to make changes. We've done that through the years we haven't stayed with real losers in administration or faculty. Eastvold was quick to see that. He hated to fire people, that's one thing he didn't, he just hated with a passion. He just couldn't get himself to fire people. Unless there was something real, real bad. I remember there was one professor that he didn't care for. There was no way we were going to get, but he wouldn't couldn't bring himself to let him go even though he wasn't the best teacher in the world. He was a nice fellow, had a lot of friends. But anyway this man one time was caught stealing in a grocery store. He'd been doing it before and they'd been watching him closely and they finally caught him. The owner of the store had to

be a PLU grad and he called up Eastvold and he said what had happened and he said, "I won't press any charges if you'll if you'll handle this situation and see to it the man is no longer at PLU, but if you don't handle this, why, there's been enough things wrong with this fellow through the years. Now we got something and if you don't do something about it I'll press charges and then get it in the papers." Well, Eastvold talked to the professor and sent him on his way packing.

There was a lot of fuss and feathers about it at the time, but it was the best thing to do in the circumstances. Other than that there were other type people that hung around and hung around year after year after year, and they were costing us. And they shouldn't have been around, but he just couldn't bring himself to let them go, especially if they were nice persons and people that he liked. He liked people and he hated to hurt them. That's one of the strange paradoxes of the man. He could wade in with both feet and be merciless in the way he handled people and castigate them and so forth, but still when it came to letting them go he just didn't have it in his heart to do it. That's one of the interesting facets of the man.

00:52:42 - 00:54:01 - The Kiosk

Eastvold was impetuous. One day decided he looked out there on the campus and felt that there should be a bulletin board out there, and he had seen something over in Europe that intrigued. So he called John Richards the architect, and told him to design something, and he ordered the Kiosk. This is put up in the middle of the campus between the old Library, which is now Xavier, and Ramstad Hall, between the Chapel and the Harstad Hall, right there in the middle. This worked out fine for a number of years, and because it was in the middle and people could see it as they came from classes and so forth, but then as the campus changed the use of that particular structure was outdated, and so it was gotten rid of, taken down in the late '60s, but the kids call it the rocket launching platform and a lot of had a lot of fun over that thing. It cost about \$14,000 and everybody thought there was an awful lot of money at that time, it's peanuts now, but it was quite a few dollars then. It was a nice little thing out there, lighted bulletin boards, there were eight boards.

00:54:00 - 00:55:48 - The Outdoor Swimming Pool

His son Donald was selling swimming pools there for a while, so he decided that they want to get PLU a swimming pool. We didn't have a pool and so one was put up. It was one of these portable plastic pools. It was stuck in the ground with a plastic bubble over it. This was in the late 1950s. It was built about '56 and we had it 'til about '59 or '60 or something when it collapsed of fatigue. But we had that for a few years just up until the time we got the present pool in 1960. The kids of course they called it the Seth's Pool for Seth, his first name, S-E-T-H. They call it Seth's Pool. I remember when they dedicated the pool, he asked Ted Karl and Pat Thompson and I, the faculty, to wear old swimsuits, old-fashioned ones, and be a part of this first dunking. Well, the water been put on the pool the night before and the heating unit wasn't working yet, and that water was about 45 degrees, and it was cold, let me tell you. I got in and out of that water and I let out a yell and so did Ted. We got out of there as fast as we could, but we had a lot of fun that day. But the pool was used by the students quite a bit to begin with. But it was a recreation pool, it was not very large. I don't know what the cost of it was but the Eastolds gave it to the university as a gift.

00:55:47 - 01:00:31 - Student Pranks

Another interesting incident comes to mind was when the Board had voted to change the name of the Eastvold Chapel and so Eastvold called John Richards and John Richards saw to it that the concrete facing up there was taken off and and a new stone cast with the words that are up with the inscriptions up there now. Before the new

stuff was off and the old one had all been taken out it was just just a mortar up there across the face of the building. The student body is putting on a "This is your Life" program for Dr. and Mrs. Eastvold as part of Student Body Day on a Tuesday morning. I came to school that morning, were going to put up the new facing in a couple of days, and I came here and looked and I was aghast. It was about 7:30, quarter to eight, in the morning here somebody with black paint had painted up there in huge letters all the way across the face there "Seth's Sinagogue" S-I-N-A-G-O-G-U-E. Well of course if kids are getting a big charge of this, but that was more I said, "Man, we gotta change that." It'd be terrible if Eastvold was come to chapel, this fine program that students are going to put on, there's a farewell for them and a tribute to them, that if Eastvold was to come and see that it would be awful. So I called up Kenny Jacobs, down in Maintenance, and I said "Kenny, can you do something about this, get somebody up here right away?" And he said sure. So about an hour later they had gotten this all off of there. They just put mortar on top of it, covered it up, and Eastvolds never did know about it.

Kids are full of tricks, you know. It reminds me of the time one morning at Commencement. I forget what year it was, about three, four years ago. There was a big sign painted in letters across the sewage disposal plant "Wiegman Hall." I don't know if Dr. Wiegman ever saw that one either, because we had to get that painted over before all the Commencement crowd came around and could see it. Students are full of tricks. You never know what they're gonna do. They keep you young.

I can remember I came to the office one morning about six o'clock to get a story out about an event that happened the night before, to get it down to the paper. I heard this terrific racket upstairs in the Administration Building, and I couldn't figure out what was going on, but I was busy writing away. All of a sudden, Clara, the maid, came tearing in and says, "Mr. Nesvig! Mr. Nesvig! Upstairs! Upstairs! Horse!" I said, "What are you talking about upstairs?" and she's just out of breath, she couldn't get anything out. I went tearing upstairs and here was a horse tied to a pipe upstairs. And there was dung all over the floor and urine, it was a mess. And this poor horse was just about strangled. I loosened it up, and got the poor horse downstairs and out of there. We called the sheriff's office and they came and it developed that the horse belonged to the Rosso family over there on the southwest corner of the campus and was returned to them later on.

Well, these are some of the things that make life interesting around an institution. You never know what the students are going to come up with next. Well, this is the end of this tape and we'll go on to some other things on our next tape. It's hard telling what we'll deal with, but we'll see as the spirit moves us, which is the way we've been doing it all the time. There isn't much rhyme or reason to a lot of these things, not too well organized, but we have a lot of fun reliving these days all this, my dear friends who are listening to this. These things are said without any malice or forethought. These are just observations and things that occurred in my observation during the years I've been at PLU and hope that... [TAPE ENDS]