

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Ike Muslow

COLLECTION: 4700.2635

IDENTIFICATION: physician; former dean of LSU Medical School; long-time member of Louisiana Board of State Medical Examiners

INTERVIEWER: Trenton James

SERIES: Louisiana State Medical Society

INTERVIEW DATE: January 20 and 21, 2016

FOCUS DATES: 1940s-2013

ABSTRACT:

Session I
Tape 4591

Introduction; Muslow was born in Oil City, Louisiana on April 4, 1926; interview is taking place in Shreveport, Louisiana; his parents were Harry and Sylvia Muslow; father was a farmer who got killed in an accident when Muslow was six weeks old; his mother was from Poland; one older sister; lists the schools he attended; spent most of his childhood in Shreveport; as a young child, he developed osteomyelitis in his right femur; a doctor saved his leg by treating him with drainage and maggots; that doctor, O.C. Rigby, inspired Muslow to become a doctor; after graduating from Byrd High School, went to LSU for a year and a half; then went to Centenary College in Shreveport; never got a degree; worked at Heidelberg Hotel in Baton Rouge while going to LSU; held three jobs while working at Centenary from 1943-1944; then went to LSU Medical School in New Orleans; first lived in a boardinghouse, then in the parish prison while working for the coroner doing autopsies; did extern work at Charity Hospital; his first year, he transported lab data at Charity; record keeping at Charity; entertainment for med students—dances, skits, parties; did his residency in internal medicine; hard to get a residency because so many veterans were returning from World War Two; Dr. Edgar Hull was a big influence on Muslow during medical school; World War Two ended while he was in medical school; internships at Schumpert Hospital in Shreveport and Charity in New Orleans; transferred to Charity in Shreveport; military called him up, so he volunteered to be an officer; on choosing the air force: “I saw it had the lowest mortality of physicians.”; reported for duty in Biloxi, Mississippi; flew from Shreveport to Westover, Massachusetts in a B-26; temporary duty in Fairford, England as a base surgeon for five and a half months; Muslow suffered from both air sickness and seasickness; sent back to US on a ship, seasick most of the time; spent a few days in New York before returning to Biloxi; Muslow told the military he had no training, despite four years of ROTC; after his service, Muslow returned to New Orleans; residency in Georgetown,

Washington DC from 1952-'53; "I learned to be an academic at Georgetown."; Muslow loved to solve the problems of diagnostic patients; joined the med school faculty in New Orleans from 1954-1958; became head of the artificial kidney station at Charity Hospital; dealt with acute renal failure only, no chronic dialysis; "If you kept them alive for ten days, fourteen days, the kidney function would return."; during bombing in England, doctors learned that people with crush injuries died after a few days due to potassium release, which could be treated with dialysis; description of dialysis process; only one dialysis machine, so one patient at a time could be treated; lists antibiotics used at that time; dialysis was a 12-hour procedure that usually began at midnight; decided to leave New Orleans because he didn't want to raise his children there; moved to Shreveport, went into private practice; shared an office with Dr. Sam Lieber; was also an attending physician at the VA hospital; lists all the Shreveport hospitals where he practiced; consultation practice in Shreveport; move to Confederate Memorial Medical Center, where he focused more on teaching; kept his skills up by doing work for the VA; learned to do cardiac catheterizations at Confederate; the history of Confederate as a public charity hospital; was head of internal medicine at Confederate; residency program at Confederate; on 1964-1970 at Confederate: "I think that's the best six years I spent in medicine."; in 1970, Muslow went to Willis-Knighton as director of medical education and set up a chronic dialysis unit there; returned to LSU in 1973, but continued to run the dialysis unit; evolution of dialysis; payment for dialysis; returned to LSU as associate dean of development; opportunity to develop a residency program at Conway; importance of personal care for hospital patients; was reluctant to become a dean at LSU because of the infighting between medical departments; trajectory of Dr. Edgar Hull's career; when Muslow became dean, he brought in Dr. Hahn to take his place as head of family medicine; Muslow served as dean from 1975 to 1981, then became vice chancellor; acting dean from 1990-1992; served as vice chancellor again; dean from 1996-2000; amalgamation of LSU Medical School and Confederate Memorial in Shreveport; LSU Medical School improved Conway: "whereas before the patients thought it was a death trap."; Muslow redesigned Conway's family practice to be the best in the country; "If you asked me how many physicians I have trained as far as teaching, oh, it would be a roomful."; Muslow was never interested in the politics that came with being a chief of staff; service on Louisiana Board of State Medical Examiners; served on the board of nursing for four years, which met monthly in New Orleans; Muslow's cousin Irwin was close to Governor Edwin Edwards; names his fellow board of medicine members; memories of board president Dr. Charlie Odom, who had served as George Patton's personal physician; dinners at Antoine's, where Odom would read the entire agenda aloud; Odom could be brusque; medical society worked with Adams and Reese law firm; disputes with Adams and Reese over billing; after Odom's presidency, the society set term limit of twelve years; while F.P. Bordelon ran the board, he made sure that a country practitioner and a Black practitioner would be on the board; Muslow knew Bordelon from med school; playing softball in med school; Muslow served on the board of medicine for 26 years; stopped conferring with medical students in 2005 because he didn't like the way things were being done; Muslow's work at the VA until retiring in 2013; now enjoys gardening; met his wife Berte Alcus in about 1954, married in 1956; met Berte through her brother-in-law, Henry Threefoot; had three children; son Harry is a doctor who attended LSU Medical School and now practices in Israel; professions of other children; nine grandchildren.

Session II
Tape 4592

Introduction; Muslow was on the physicians' health committee of the state board of medical examiners, which formed regulations concerning physicians' problems with addiction, mental health and other issues; decided that if a physician agreed to get help, the committee wouldn't report them for a disciplinary problem; if a physician completed therapy, they could get their license back; consequences of a relapse; "Having this agreement in writing, I think, made a great improvement in our ability to rehabilitate physicians."; Caduceus meetings for physicians in recovery; system of preserving physicians' anonymity as long as they complied with treatment; "The board was not trying to use this as a means of punishing the physician, we were very much interested in rehabilitating this physician."; physicians in recovery would often be transferred to a work situation where they could be monitored more closely; revoking physicians' right to prescribe narcotics; sometimes they even changed their area of practice, such as with anesthesia; the board developed expertise about reliable recovery centers and doctors who made good monitors for those in recovery; recovering physicians might take on additional period of residency after their treatment; Dr. Roy Clay at E.A. Conway in Monroe oversaw many of these recovering physicians; Muslow served on committee to grant temporary permits for doctors to practice; working on regulations with attorneys; board's investigatory process; as more groups came under the jurisdiction of the board, the board had to write more regulations; working with the state legislature.

TAPES: 2 (T4591, T4592)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: Total = 1 hour, 47 minutes
Session I = 1 hour, 27 minutes
Session II = 20 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: Total = 104 pages
Session I = 90 pages
Session II = 14 pages

PHOTOGRAPHS / PHOTOGRAPHER: 9 digital photos

OTHER MATERIALS: obituary

RESTRICTIONS: None