

Eady: What year did you start with Emory?

Billy: September 3, 1903.

Eady: How did you come to work at Emory College?

Billy: Professor Stone got me here. I worked around on the campus and cleaned off the big drive, called then lovers' lane; I toted the books out of Seney third floor to the Library when it was built. Professor Stone said he hired only men not boys but that he kept his eye on me and I was a good worker. He hired me to carry water to the men working and to help Mr. Smith. My first assignment was the chapel and to keep it clean.

I've only been hired once in my life, by Professor Stone. He is one of the finest, greatest men I ever knew. His record shows it and the boys that went out from here in his time show it.

Eady: Who was here in charge before you?

Billy: Bob Hammond. He started on January 2, 1882. He died on the job on September 2, 1923. I was still the underhand--Professor Stone asked me to take over. I took over on Wednesday after Bob was buried on Tuesday. I told him I didn't know if I could do it or not. Professor Stone said. "I brought him up to that, of course you will take it." Mr. Reese said you will take it and you can do it.

Eady: What sort of instructions did Professor Stone give you?

Billy: He showed me how to lay off drives, ditches, Lay off walks. He was a civil engineer.

Eady: How did you do the plumbing? How did you learn about plumbing?

Billy: He took me and put me with the plumbers when they worked on the campus. I learned what to do by watching them. Professor Stone put me to work for two summers in Decatur to learn and one summer in Atlanta (I didn't get the names of the concerns). When we got steam I knew what to do.

When I came here we had wood and coal stoves in all the classrooms.
There were no dormitories. The boys lived in homes out in town called helping halls.

Florida Hall

The Old Ki Phi House (between Miss Kate Nicholl's and the Old Church-in pecan grove)

Eiss Lynn's Branham's

Miss Emmie Stewart's

Miss Holly Thompson's

and others

Classroom heating: On the first floors there were wood stoves and on the second floors coal burning stoves. These were all we had in the offices and classrooms. We had a regular schedule for firing the stoves. The fires were built at 6:00 a.m. and the stoves looked at every hour. There were six men working then.

Eady: When did the college convert to steam:

Billy: In 1923 Seney Hall was put on steam. When the Gym was built in 1906-1907 a hot air ventilating system was installed. In 1923 pipes were run to Seney and then to Language Hall. In '29 to Science Hall. There was a boiler in the Library for that building.

Billy: When the Gymnasium was built we had a dynamo put in to make lights. Before that we used lamps. At night they were used on the fourth floor of Seney in the drawing room. Professor Stone taught engineering and his students developed their blueprints around the track.

Eady: What happened to the helping halls when Haygood was built?

Billy: When Haygood was built the boys still lived in the boarding houses too. The dormitory wasn't big enough for all of them; and the dormitory wasn't filled at first--not filled in 1913 and 1914. In 1915 when they put the Academy here Haygood filled up. The old hall burned down in 1915 (I think he had reference to Miss Emmie Stewart's boarding house). There was no time when all the students were in the dormitory until 1922.

Pierce Dormitory was converted in 1922 from Science Hall.
It was converted after the College was moved to Atlanta.

Professor Stone arranged the dormitory. He had measured the dormitory in 1915.

Eady: Were there many rooms on each floor of Pierce before it was converted?

Billy: On third floor there was one large lecture room on the West. The birds were in one room and on the East was the laboratory. On each floor only one large room. General Science on the first floor, large room on west side; boiler room on other. Building was built in 1902, used in 1903 —55 years old. In 1922 sewerage was put in, Sewerage and bathrooms and disposal plant were built into Haygood. In 1922 Pierce Dormitory was connected into this.

I was the first one to ever fire a steam burner on this campus. First on oil and first on gas.

In 1913 we installed electricity on the campus -first at Haygood.

Lights put in Church in 1910

Haygood in 1913

Then to the rest of the buildings.

Eady: Since I've been here all the lights have been put in the classrooms.

Billy: The Library was built in 1898 the lights were put in —in 1913.

Eady: Where get money to build Library?

Billy: Named in honor of Bishop Candler.

Capt. J. P. Williams Chairman of Board of Trustees when Haygood Built. --He gave so much on Pierce Dormitory--named Gym in his honor. He gave money on more buildings.

I put all pipes under buildings. I had to remember where everything was and still do. I remember where every T is--where every opening

Eady: I asked Dean Roach why don't make plat of pipes. He said, "Oh, Billy knows that." Of course this was eventually done. I remember your stepping three feet from tree to joint.

Billy: I had markers for pipes. I had paper with markings written down. I learned these. Once had to refer to this paper for pipe at Haygood.

Interview with Billy Mitchell

Billy: I had pipes around Haygood Dormitory marked around the ledge of the building.

In 1916 Dining Hall put on Haygood. Until then ate at Boarding houses. Spring of 1916, dining hall at place where Eady lives now. No one lived in house. Man to look after Dining Hall. Dr. Johnson Dean then. Mr. Stipe went up there after that.

When old hall burned down, moved Dining Hall up there--used one year.

Dr. Johnson acting President when moved to Atlanta. Reece came in in '23. Dr. Sharpe came. Dr. Hewlitt 1916-17 Headmaster

Dr. Sharpe came in 1917 until 1922.

Dr. Reece -1923 in Alumni Hall

Highest enrollment I remember in Academy.

Never did have dormitories full with students until now. Now ain't got faculty in dormitories.

Mrs. Smith came in '25, dietitian

Miss Rogers first dietitian--one year.

Mrs. Sharpe 1916-1922

Miss Duncan -one year

Mrs. Brown-1 year

Mrs. Greer -one year - '24

Mrs. Smith Fall 125 until 1945-20 years.

Mrs. Camstra, Mrs. Hutcheson, Mrs. Grigg.

Eady: Of all characters met up with in all these years, who stands out most in your mind? Many students.

Billy: Many students I remember. Can't say one stand out more than other. Many made fine men. I recall Mr. Hal Hentz, Dr. Lester Rumble, Mr. Hugh Howell, Mr. Walter Candler, Mr. Harry McCord, Dr. Eugene Burton.

Eady: Were you here when Stipe finished?

Billy: Yes, he was a fine man.

Eady: What kind of student was he?

Billy. Just go along. He was in baseball and all.

Mr. Noland Goodyear

Dr. Goodrich White

Dr. Doug Rumble and all of those fellows.

Billy: One May smart. Quiet. Went to Army--when came back joined staff. This one is the one I'd pick. He is Dr. Goodrich C. White. No body ahead of him.

Of the Old College days Professor Harry Stone stands out. Dr. Turner.

Billy said if he had the opportunity to do over his life and working at Emory for all of it he would do over. He said that he would know more--but do the same thing over.

Don't know anything else but Emory.

Eady: Has been pleasant?

Billy: Yes. No fights, no crossings. I have known what I had to do and done it. I couldn't have been myself anywhere but here.

Eady: You liked the clock.

Billy: Yes, I love the clock. That was my first job outside of the chapel. Bob Hammond showed me how. I never did want anybody else to handle the clock but me. I learned it from Bob--he tried to take good care of it.

Eady: Professor Stone laid out work.

Billy: He met us every day at 12:00 outline work, Probably draw it. He always asked if we understood. You better tell him if you didn't understand. I always told him that I didn't understand, so he would tell me twice and then I would know for sure. He laughed and said Billy never understood the first time.

Billy: Boys painted cow once that belonged to Prof. Peed. He ran her out of his pen and she ran back. He said he wanted that strange cow out of his pen.

Another story about the saddle on the horse backwards --when boys said Prof. Peed --your saddle on backwards, He said, "But you don't know what direction I'm going in."

He was a good man. A good teacher--He was respected.

Billy: Used to talk of Good old days. They are better now. The students better--everything better. Faculty better.

Used to have to go get Mr. Dooley from telephone polls--from Covington and all around.

Eady: If you sum up your life at Emory--I think you have worked long and faithfully and have earned the right to retire.

Billy: All the time Emory has been good to me. Now retired, don't think could have been taken care of better. Just owe my life to this institution.

Billy: Think good to have new dormitory. Glad to see Eady and Candler turn the ground at ground-breaking.

Charles Candler one of first to room in Haygood Dormitory.

Billy: I'm going by to turn some dirt too for the new dormitory.

Billy told of a detective coming to investigate the run away of a box car on the old side track that ran to the College. A freight hit it. Detective asked Billy if he knew anything about. He said he didn't. Some thought they knew boy that did it. Billy didn't.

He said that if he ever did know anything on a boy, he kept it to himself. Bob Hammond -head janitor before Billy--told Billy to keep to himself anything he might know about boys. Never told on a boy.

This document has not been transcribed word for word. Spelling errors have been fixed for accessibility and readability.