

Personal Reflections

Dr. Howard G. Sengbusch

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SMJ: Today I have with me, Dr. H.G. Sengbusch, Professor of Biology, he is recently retired, right?

SENG: Yes, I retired on January 1, 1981.

SMJ: Oh, I see. You were not teaching this past semester then?

SENG: No, I was in Hawaii doing some research.

SMJ: That sounds good, well, we will come to that later on. Could you give us some background information? Your hometown, early education, what influenced you to go into teaching, and especially in the field of science?

SENG: I was born in Buffalo, which is rare for Buffalonians to stay in the area. I went to Fosdick-Masden High School , it was very, very good academic high school at that time. It was a beautiful building that is being made into a state historical site. The instruction there was excellent. I took science courses: chemistry, physics, and biology. The biology instructor was a lovely woman who appreciated students. She could relate to them. She encourages me because I was terribly shy and introverted. She drew me out. When I graduated from there, my grandparents and my uncle, who was a lawyer, had set aside a trust fund, so that I could go to college. I won a scholarship to Hobart. Right after high school graduation, with the market crash, that money was gone.

I was devastated... I didn't know what to do. I went to this teacher and then to the principal, it was mr. Roberts who just died. They said they would see what they could do for me. They encouraged me to attend Buffalo State. It was there encouragement that I came here. At that time it was just the quadrangle here on Elmwood Avenue.

SMJ: I didn't realize that you went to school here.

SENG: Yes. Fortunately, right at that time, they were just beginning a junior high school curriculum. Up until that time, it was all elementary school curriculum. I moved into that area, and just loved it. The science staff included people like Margaret Dupre, Charles Vail and Dr. Raymond Fretz. In those first Roosevelt days, they had the NYA, and I got a job working in the science department. I took care of the first green house, which was at the end of Ketchum Hall and is still there.

SMJ: You mean the room is still there?

SENG: Oh yeah, I did repairs on the electric equipment. Rather interestingly Dr. Fretz was teaching a physical science course with a large enrollment. It was back in the 30's, when he had the sections combined in Rockwell Hall. He had to have someone take the roll and look after things... so that became my job! Excuse my rambling, but in one of those classes when I was a junior, was a Ms. Beatrice Ebling who wrote her class cards in green ink, I found it curious. I finally got to know her... and eventually married her!!

SMJ: Why did she write in green ink?!?!

SENG: I don't even know!! She was in Art Education, and artsy people do that you know!!

SMJ: Isn't that clever! That is interesting!! (much laughter here) What you said, though, points out how important teaching is, as far as influencing the students. I am sure you have never forgotten that and used it yourself.

SENG: It is one of the important things. Also, something else to encourage is a good home environment. The teacher, who has who has the background knowledge and who can influence the student in some ways has a greater influence.

SMJ: Did you have any further contact with this particular teacher? I am sure that she was very proud of you.

SENG: Yes. When I came back to Buff State in 1951 I ran into her. She was delighted to see me and to know what I had done. Another early influence that I would like to mention was that I was a youngster in the fruit-belt, the Buffalo Museum of Science had opened in 1927, and I would go over there to the early Saturday morning sketching classes. I would do the animals and the birds. Wandering through the museum, being in contact with the environment, again was an influence on me. That is why I was so pleased to be on the Board of the Museum. I am still on the Board of Managers to this day.

SMJ: How wonderful. When you were a child, did you read a lot, and was it in the sciences? Did you read science, science fiction, animals or what?

SENG: Yes, through various people. Again, my uncle, the

lawyer, put me in contact with H.D. Wells at an early age. I was very interested in the different explores, especially Byrd and his Arctic explorations. I recall when I was taking physics in high school, I became interested in a book that dealt with the salvage of a submarine that had gone down. It told of the difficulties in getting down to that particular depth, the pressure problems, etc. You wonder about these incidents, that happen so far back, yet influence what you will do in the future. You may not know this... but I am a scuba diver, and that came about because of my interest in this story.

SMJ: Did you have any teaching experience before you came to this college?

SENG: When I graduated from BSC in 1939, jobs were very, very few and far between. With my degree in junior high school science, there were absolutely NO JOBS whatsoever. The only thing that was available was a one room school out in Lockport. I did stay in education.

SMJ: Were you married at this time?

SENG: No, no, I had not married, I taught for two years in Lockport. Actually, it was in the little town of Rapids, along the Tonawanda Creek. O took care of the fires. I had to teach all of the classes and make contact with the community for supplies and the budget, etc. It was a tremendous learning experience. I had to try to organize the one room so you could be teaching one group and not have the other group raising complete havoc. You had to have a technique, where the older students would pitch in and help

the younger students, then it would be a cooperative effort.

SMJ: How many students did you have?

SENG: Oh, somewhere between 15 and 20. It wasn't 40 or 50. During the second years, of course, the war situation was bursting. I was one of the first to be drafted, but I was able to get a postponement of my induction to finish teaching. On August 12, 1941, I went into the US army. We were not yet in war, as we had not experienced Pearl Harbor. I wanted to go in and get my year over. I was offered and turned down a commission because I knew a commission would involve a number of years in the service. By that time, Beatrice and I were dating seriously. I went to basic training at Camp Lee, Virginia. At that time I was in the quarter master corps because of my background and because I could type of all things! I was put in the armor division at what is now Camp Drumm in the Adirondacks. By this time, I realized that we were in the war for good. Then, I immediately applied for officers school. I applied for a commission in the infantry. I was not too smart at that time, and I met with the board which was comprised of seasoned veterans. They asked if I REALLY wanted this commission in the infantry. They told me that a quarter master commission was coming open in about a month, to wait and apply for that. I did, thank goodness!!

SMJ: You were young and naive and didn't know about those things!

SENG: Sister, I really did not. I went to quarter master OCS back at Camp Lee Virginia. The day after I received my commission,

Beatrice and I married. We have a very warm spot in our hearts for Petersburg, Virginia.

SMJ: I am sure you do!! Did you have to go overseas at all?

SENG: Yes, I did. There was a delay in getting my orders because of the North African invasion. My unit made that first invasion. We landed on November 8, 1942 and then made the invasion into Sicily, Italy and Anzio. I was in four invasions and picked up 7 battle stars along the way. Fortunately, I was never wounded.

SMJ: Were you over there until the war was over?

SENG: I was there until after VE Day. I was then sent home on a 45 day temporary leave. When the Italian commander found out that I was in education and had a degree, I was made the Italian Education Officer. When we were not in active combat, I was able to put the men in contact with the armed forces school, so they could take correspondence courses. I took one myself in calculus to keep myself busy.

SMJ: Do you mean at that time to do that while a war was going on?

SENG: When we were not actually involved in combat, we would go back and do that.

SMJ: well, that was tremendous logistics.

SENG: By the way, my commission was changed at the invasion time, because transportation corps was created and that was what I was in. We were specialists in amphibious landing.

SMJ: I have never asked this but I have not had too much contact with anyone who was in the war. When those invasions take

place, is there a fear that comes over you, or are you so busy in concentrating what you have to do, that you don't fear what may happen.

SENG: There are all kinds of things about, and FEAR is one of them. But you have so many repetitive experiences, that you sort of fall into a pattern and then your mind falls into neutral. During the Sicilian invasion, we had plaster maps of the beach. We moved in with the invasion force at night. It was pitch black. The moon came out after we moved the landing craft in to give us some light. The intelligence sources told us that there was NO enemy around there, that the landing actually would be on a post. So when the landing craft started moving into the beach, huge search lights came on. They were waiting for us. That sort of got the adrenalin pumping a little.

SMJ: You had to start fighting immediately, then, didn't you?

SENG: Yes, we did. It was a very, very touch and go situation.

SMJ: Of course, they had the advantage, too.

SENG: The German and Italians were there with their best Panzer divisions, which almost pushed us off the beach. TO get back to the FEAR thing... I was up on the beach on the second day. A German plane came strafing down the beach. I wanted to hide, of course on the beach there really is NO place to hide. So I ducked behind something, at that time I didn't realize what it was. The plane passed, and only then did I realize I hid behind drums of gasoline!!

SMJ: Oh good Lord!!

SENG: These are experiences which I can look back upon and laugh at!!

SMJ: Well then, what brought you to this college?

SENG: I came back after VJ day and the dropping of the bombs. I, for one, was and still am happy that they did it, and the bombs were dropped. We saved, I don't know how many American lives, with that action. I came back to Buffalo. On the day that I received my discharge, January 18th, I enrolled at UB for a Masters program, in education, in teaching biology. I was in Buffalo and got my Masters. I do hope that all of these asides, sister, are not cluttering up the interview.

SMJ: Goodness no. That is part of the "interest", because we do have the information.

SENG: I wrote my Masters on the teaching of sex education.

SMJ: Well, that is a very relevant subject and this particular time in history, isn't it?

SENG: I do feel that I was a little ahead of my time. The reason I did it was because handling troops overseas for three years, I observed they got themselves so fouled up sexually that the venereal rate was always so high and these poor guys really did not understand the motivation, what was happening to them and so on. I felt OK. If the guys don't know it, then it must mean that the home is not teaching them. The "alter" home would have to do the training, and that would be the school.

SMJ: That was a unique idea at that time of course, wasn't



it!?!

SENG: I remember that I had to go to the Catholic Church, I spoke to a very fine Father at Canisius College when we tried to iron out a modus operandi, and we did. He was quite pleased with the thesis that I completed.

SMJ: Where is that now? Do you have a copy of it?

SENG: Yes, but I never had it published, and quickly became interested in something else. While going to UB, I took all of the biology courses that were offered. One of them was parapsychology, and I fell in love with it. Going back to the war experiences in Sicily, I contracted malaria which hospitalized me. I had several attacks after coming home. The idea of parapsytism as a way of life is of great interest to me.

SMJ: You find it easy to study that topic, as it seemed to like a part of you?

SENG: Yes. The man who taught it, advised me to go to the best person who taught it, to get my doctorate. That person was Dr. Stockard at NYU, he was the editor of the Journal of Parapsychology. His students were known all over the country, all over the world for that matter. I spent four years with Dr. Stockard, got my PhD in parapsychology.

SMJ: Did your wife go with you?

SENG: Oh yes, by this time we had our first son, Craig. My wife taught for the first few months that she was pregnant. For the four years we were in NYC, she stayed home and took care of the home and family.

SMJ: Did you have a fellowship that made it possible for you to do this?

SENG: Yes, I had the GI Bill of Rights and a teaching fellowship, Dr. Stockard was very nice. We had housing, eventually on campus.

SMJ: That GI Bill was great, wasn't it? Think of the men and women who are great leaders of the country right now in education and otherwise, and who could not have done it without the GI Bill.

SENG: It worked out that you were allowed one month for every year of service. I forgot the exact formula that was used for calculating. It was a maximum of 48 months. When I started at UB, I was one semester behind. On the 48 months I picked up three degrees. Master of Education in the teaching of Biology at UB, then a MS in Zoology and a PhD in Parapsychology. So they got their money's worth!!

SMJ: That certainly is wonderful. That is a good thing that the government was able to do for the soldiers.

SENG: I was going through some files the other day and found some letters that I had written to Jack Kemp in terms of the Vietnam veterans, urging a similar GI Bill for them. He gave me a very nice reply. I felt they should have the same kind of benefit that we had.

SMJ: Is there any possibility for that?

SENG: Well, they do have one, but I don't feel that it is comparable. I didn't answer your question: "What brought you to Buff State?" Well, I left NYU in 1951 and had a contract to go to

Southern Illinois University. On my way out to Carbondale, I stopped in Buffalo and visited Buffalo State to see some of my old professors who I have mentioned earlier in this interview. At that time, John Urban was acting chairperson. He told me they had an opening, and we discussed it informally. He later called me at home and asked me to come. I was ambivalent, do I go out to Carbondale or go to Buff State which was still in the growing stage and not so important? By this time, we had two sons, and both of our families were here in Buffalo, so we decided to stay in Buffalo for a few years. Then I called Carbondale, to tell them I would stay in Buffalo. Buff State did raise the starting salary to meet that of Carbondale. Do you know what the money was then? I think I received \$4800 for an annual salary!! That is the story of how I came to Buffalo State College.

SMJ: Was there ever a time when you felt that perhaps you should of have gone out to Illinois?

SENG: Buffalo State had been awfully good to me. Several time I felt that I should have moved on because no one stays in his/her original starting place of employment. It seems that every time I went through one of those periods, I went overseas, or else, I was offered a promotion. So the inducement was always to stay in Buffalo.

SMJ: There does seem to be a different mood now than before. I used to get the idea that stability and continuity was very important. Now they say, that you have told all of the jokes, that you should leave; after five years you are drained, and should go

somewhere else to get new ideas. It is just different now.

SENG: I do think you need to do that. That is why I took so many opportunities to be off campus. My summers were mainly spent in research, or traveling on grants. (we can get into that later)

SMJ: I don't know whether the next question is relevant because if you were in school you already had impressions, but I didn't realize that you had gone to school here. As a faculty member, what were your first impressions of the school?

SENG: Well, I can't give you the number of students. At that time they had the yellow brick dormitories, but that was about all. You have to realize that the faculty who was on staff when I was a student here in 1939, were still here when I came as a faculty member in 1951. Beatrice graduated in 1941, and of course we both knew the faculty members. I remember Dr. Rockwell, as he was here for a while after we arrived. He said he likes to hire his "old boys", and of course he did.

SMJ: Yet that could be a criticism of "in breeding". You could see both sides of the matter.

SENG: I think that is the reason subsequent presidents tried to minimize that and hired from the outside. Certainly, those of us who did go through the college, have a different feeling for the place. We have a warmer respect for it. Certainly, being in education as we have mentioned before, we have a commitment to the students and to education. Some of the newer instructors, I am afraid, do not have this commitment. They just do not have the loyalty to the institution, that we felt so strongly.

SMJ: It seems as if they use it for a stepping stone to something higher. The student can see this also. You just know what a persons intentions are. The library was built during that period of 51 - 52, and that is the time many buildings began to go up.

SENG: The original Butler Library was built when I came. When the new one was built and completed I remember we had a "student walk" across the campus where we moved books from one spot to another.

SMJ: So your impressions, then, were good ones? You were actively involved, too, weren't you?

SENG: As an undergraduate, I had been a member of Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity. When I came back, I was, for several years, the faculty sponsor. The students found out that I used to play tennis, so they tried to get a tennis team started. I was the first coach of that era. I built up the tennis team to a Spring and Fall season. The last year we went undefeated and went to an invitational tournament in New Jersey and won the competition. I left tennis in 1957 when we went to Germany.

SMJ: Do you play tennis yourself?

SENG: I used to play a great deal, but unfortunately, I broke my right elbow at the College Camp at the ice skating rink. That did set me back a little bit. But I did play a little after that. Two years ago, I had a tumor removed from my right wrist and I have not played since.

SMJ: Did you play on the indoor courts that are down on

Elmwood Ave.?

SENG: No, I did not. By the way, the first tennis court on the campus was right behind the old gymnasium, which is now the exception Education building. It is the parking lot now.

SMJ: It probably wasn't too much trouble to turn it into a parking lot, then, was it?

SENG: When I was coaching, we had to use the Delaware Park Courts. There were no courts on campus at that time. We played Canadian colleges.

SMJ: How many did you have in your group?

SENG: I guess there was a dozen.

SMJ: Men and women?

SENG: No, just men. One of the last players I had was Charlie Garfinkle. He has just won for the third year in a row, National Senior Racquetball Championship!! My first captain of the tennis team is now Dr. Bruce Burr who is the principal of Smallwood School. I had a lot of great guys.

SMJ: What position did you hold at first, and then through the years, what position did you hold?

SENG: There was no instructor rating when I was hired. I was hired as an assistant professor. Then became associate and then full professor in 1957 before I went to Germany on my first sabbatical. That was tremendous for me, because in Germany, the title "professor" is usually earned only by older faculty, and they are highly respected. As soon as I got there, I became: Herr Professor Doctor Sengbusch. Believe me, that opened up many, many

doors for me. If anyone should listen to this tape, I urge faculty, as much as I can, to take advantage of every sabbatical opportunity that you have. It is very easy to postpone them. I, on the other hand, took every one of mine.

SMJ: Did you have any problems with the language? Did you know it?

SENG: My background is German as you might expect. My grandparents spoke German. I took German in school. I took German as well as French for my doctoral exams. Before going to Germany I tried to brush up as much as I could. By the way, I was invited by the head of the laboratory in one of the max Plank Institutes, the big research institute of Germany.

SMJ: How long were you there?

SENG: We went over in September and stayed until July of the following year. The entire family went. When I knew that I was going over there, I found the slowest transatlantic ship we could find. It was a rather small Italian ship, and the crew were so very cordial. It took us 13 days to cross the Atlantic. We stopped in France and England.

SMJ: Now that was your first trip back since the war wasn't it?

SENG: That is correct. It was the first trip for my wife and sons.

SMJ: It must of been very exciting. Did you go anywhere else?

SENG: I was working at the Institute with a man about my age.

He wanted to learn English and I, German. They provided me with tremendous facilities. They provided an apartment for us right in the laboratory. This was in Wilhelmshaven which is on the North Sea. The Institute had been the former submarine school. When we arrived in 1957, many of the buildings were still a pile of rubble left over from the second WW. The people were still ambivalent about the war.

SMJ: Do you feel that you were looked down upon with suspicion because of the war?

SENG: Not too much as an American, no. They were very reserved as most Germans are. We bought a VW auto right away. Beatrice would go shopping to the local markets, so she had to learn the German language very, very quickly. We put the two boys in the German school, so they had to learn German. However, we did bring their regular books along with us and Beatrice would keep them up in their American studies in the afternoons. While I was there, I was working on mites, as I am a paracytologist, I was corresponding with the others in the field around Europe. I told them, through my letters, that in the summertime we would be taking our car and traveling. Could I visit there laboratories and work with them for a day or two, or even three? Again, I could not believe how cordial were and just how many we visited. We went to Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Italy, France, Holland, et al.

SMJ: My, you really saw Europe, then, didn't you?

SENG: Yes, and also from the beautiful stand point that we were traveling in the morning, go to the markets and have our



breakfasts there. We would buy bread, meat, cheese, and have our lunch along the road. We would then have our big meal at whatever place we would stay for the night. All of the archeologist invited us to stay with them or they would find an inexpensive motel for us... that way we avoided the tourist path.

SMJ: Did your sons enjoy this?

SENG: Yes, the older son in particular. They still talk about it as one of the highlights of there lives.

SMJ: How beautiful.

SENG: Again, what is coincidental is that the archeologist are going to meet in September '82 in Edinborough, Scotland. I have kept in contact with this group for 30 years now and money permitting we would like to repeat this trip.

SMJ: What influenced you to consider the center for study of water local waterways? Now, that is getting down to the specifics.

SENG: In 1951, I was coaching the tennis team and was in contact with the Physical Education people. There were several people there who were interested in outdoor education. John Urban was one of those people, and he was also interested in a Science Camp. Several of us would have lunch together every day and peruse the papers looking for an abandoned farms for sale. We were constantly talking about this. We would go out and look at places. As it would happen during my childhood, I would go up to Canada to my Grandparents farm during the summer at Point Abino. That is where I learned to swim. My wife loves to swim and learned in Fort Erie because her mother was a Canadian. That made us very

concerned about the water. We could see that the lake was deteriorating, for during the summer the odor from the algae and the dying fish was just disgusting. Reading about the ecological situation back in the early 1950s tied in with the outdoor education science camp. Another factor was added to it. While working on my PhD in Woodshole, MA I spent a summer at the famous station up there, it was a teaching/research station, and they taught an invertebrate zoology course in which they invited instructors who were tops in their fields for each group of animals. I just loved it. You went out and had to collect what you were going to work on in the laboratory. I had the idea that if you could do that on the ocean, why they couldn't it be done on the Great Lakes? After speaking with John Urban, he became interested also. We made a trip to Ohio State University, Freshwater Station the Frantz Stone Laboratory, to see what they were doing. By this time, we had the college camp, so why not start something else? That culminated one evening at a rotary meeting. In the meantime I had become a rotarian. I was sitting next to the head of the Boy Scouts in Buffalo. During casual conversation, he mentioned that they were going to give up the Sea Scout Base at the foot of Porter Avenue. Then a light went on!! My heavens, they want to give it up, and we need a spot! Let's pursue it!! So, I did. It is a long, long story, and I am not going to put it on tape. Just let me say that I had tremendous cooperation from Paul Bulger who was president at that time, from the vice president and from Albany. There were a lot of other

units that wanted a fresh water station. We were opposed by UB, as they wanted a graduate center to be involved. We were opposed also by Fredonia, Brockport, and the amount of politicking to put this through just took a tremendous effort and a long period of time. Finally, we dedicated it and got the thing started, I was the first director, simply because we did not have the money to get one. In the meantime, I was Dean of Arts and Sciences so I could not handle two jobs. Fortunately the Biology Department had hired Bob Sweeney who was a limnologist, who then became the first working director of the Great Lakes Laboratory.

SMJ: While you were talking and you just mentioned that you were dean, reminded me that I really didn't finish that last question: "What positions did you hold?" You were a professor, and then you were made dean?

SENG: Yes, in 1965 the summer I believe that I got a call from Bob Drew. He has been a good friend all of these years. He told me they were looking for someone to head up the Arts and Sciences, and that my name had come up in the conversation with the search committee. Would you not be interested at all!! I remember that I just laughed... absolutely not. I am not an administrator, I love what I am doing, and I do not wish to have any more responsibility. He kept talking me, telling me not to be so hasty, and to think about it. We won't do anything until you talk to your family about it. Call up your friends and let us talk again at the first of the week. I told everything to Beatrice, and she didn't answer. Over the weekend I called some of my very good friends and

discussed it also with my sons. Everyone did encourage me. I did finally say "yes."

SMJ: You never had thought about taking part in administration before?

SENG: No, never. Never did I even apply for a job in administration. All of this was brand new. Now, at that time Walter Greenwood had been acting Director of Arts and Sciences which was really a paper organization at that time.

SMJ: He had replaced Dr. Whittemore, Right?

SENG: Yes, right. But there was no real faculty and students. When I took it over there were a few students coming in. Sylvia Chaplain was advising students. It was a brand new organization.

SMJ: Actually, this was the beginning of the organization chart wasn't it?

SENG: Yes, I was working with Houston Robinson who was very encouraging. I remember spending the first summer getting acquainted with the operation.

SMJ: Of course, it was not something you could just inherit. You were just starting it, and there was nothing for you to fall back on.

SENG: It soon became obvious that we had a large science department, and a large social studies department. These people moving into the 60s were moving more into the area of liberal arts, and they had to have their own identity. One of the first jobs I tackled was the braking up of those two groups. That was a

tremendous operation, due to the fact that there were all kinds of loyalties.

SMJ: I have it down to ask if there was a great deal of conflict involved?

SENG: It wasn't enough to say "OK, we are going to have a biology department", it meant that we had to have a chairperson. Every time we created a new department, we then had to set up a committee to work with a group of people to come to some agreement for a chairperson.

SMJ: And I am sure there must have been a good number of hurt feelings. That is a sensitive area because you can be a very, very good teacher and then be overlooked as a chairperson. I don't care how old you are or how many years you have taught, you still wonder "What is wrong with me not being this or that."

SENG: It was also the matter of finances, that the people did not know about, or, even care about. Every time you create a department, it needed a budget to go along with the chairperson. They also had to have an office, a secretary, etc. and we just didn't have the money. I had to rob Peter to pay Paul. In the beginning we combined secretaries and departments which, philosophically, I did not want to do.

SMJ: Did you enjoy that?

SENG: It was exciting. Perhaps I had become bored with what I was doing, but that was a real challenge. I can minimize the fact that I did receive so much help from Paul Bulger, for he was always there with an encouraging word, suggestions etc.

SMJ: Of course the college was really growing during his time. He had the dedication of all the new buildings after there construction. Once we reached an agreement. Paul would never back down, he supported the administrators 100%.

SMJ: He certainly had a warm spot in the hearts of many people here on campus.

SENG: I was so delighted when he came to retirement. He taught me an awful lot about administration, some of the pitfalls, the things you should and should not do. He also had excellent contacts in both Albany and Washington. The Washington contracts were essential in getting the Great Lakes Laboratory.

SMJ: I have all of that down for the record under the Great Lakes Lab. of course. So it is not necessary for you to repeat all of that. But I did want your own personal reflection on it because you were the heart of it, the beginning of it.

SENG: Once we decided upon an organizational chart, operational chart, then the next thing was to hire good faculty. Again, this was a challenge. The departments were a little divided. Maybe this is nowhere else in the record that we still had the hold over educational people. They felt that anyone we hired should have one foot in the education establishment as well as the other foot in the academic "arts and science" area. They opposed hiring people who published that with "no" teaching experience. They were both a little right and a little wrong.

SMJ: Yes, you had been in both fields so you were able to see how one would feel.

SENG: This is how I saw my job. I was the bridge to do this. I think we did hire some excellent people during those years.

SMJ: I think that your advantage was that you had been to school and you had been a teacher here as an educational institution. Therefore, you could understand and sympathize how the older people felt yet understand that the trend was leading towards liberal arts.

SENG: My basic job in "arts and science" was to foster the liberal arts, and I did that to the best of my ability. I tried all avenues to have people think "liberal arts", to get the college moving in this particular direction. I tried to pick out some of these people who were just hired and bring them to the Dean's conference room, sit down and "rap", kicking around some ideas, that was quite exciting. We tried to do "sherry parties" for people who had published. We tried to give an aura to the college of academia in the best sense of the word. I fostered to have the old president's house as a club for the faculty. I was on that committee. I was delighted when we had the lunch room there. In the beginning there were tablecloths, waitresses, etc. I am sorry to see that go.

SMJ: You were Dean for how long?

SENG: 1965 until 1970.

SMJ: What transpired that you left the office in 1970?

SENG: It was a very mixed up sort of situation.

SMJ: You don't have to mention it, if you don't care to!

SENG: I will state this as easily as I can. I did not have

the same relationship with Dr. Fretwell that I did with Paul Bulger, as they were different types of men. Fretwell had different ideas and values, and perhaps he wanted to move in different directions than I did. The first year went quite well in moving in the right direction. I must go back to another story which will explain what happened. When I was in the Orient in '62-63 on a Fulbright, I stopped in Hawaii on my way home. The President of the University of Hawaii at that time was Dr. Thomas Hamilton who had been President of the State University of N.Y. I got to know him through the Research Foundation, in particular, and I liked him very much. I sat down with him. He was very relaxed, and we talked for an hour. My original thought, in seeing him, was that, at that time, there was an opening at the University of Hawaii. I had considered about moving out there. While we were talking, I asked him why he left State University to go to Hawaii? He told me his philosophy of higher administration. He said that any administrator, president of a college should think in terms of a three year tenure. The first year you get the job, you sit back and learn the job. You find out who is important, and who is not important. Get all of the background information. On the basis of the information you gather in the first year. You make your moves the second year. There may be many things you can do, but narrow your objections down to three. Put all of your money on that. So he said, "Ok, let's institute these moves." By the third year you pretty much have them in place, which means you have alienated one half of the campus!! If you move someone, you are going to make



someone else mad. So that any one who is in this position, who is just not going to sit back, who is going to try and give some leadership to the job is going to run into increased opposition. By the end of the third year, you should think of getting out. It made so much sense to me. About 1968, I was finding this out through the faculty that was coming to me. We were looking at the second generation of chairpersons. The English department was very large, (50 people), and I felt it was just too big for one chairperson. I felt there were enough areas in English that we could break it up... so we set up a committee to think about the idea of more than one chairperson. Most of the committee was not in favor of this idea. I was fed up with the fact, that my office used the area where people would come in and complain about this and that. Few of the faculty would ever come in and tell me about the good things that they were doing, or what the college was doing, let alone what I was doing. I was missing the classroom terribly. I am enough of a ham that I like to be in front of the classroom. I like the give and take of the classroom, I like the near immediate reinforcement of what you are trying to do. I missed my research. I tried to keep writing but found that it was nearly impossible. People would ask why I didn't teach a course, administratively the work was piling up with the Great Lakes Lad, and with everything else. By this time, I had three directors which we have not mentioned here. I started thinking again about going overseas. Maybe that was my escape mechanism. We had the program in Mysore, India, and I knew Dr. Burrell quite well. She

always said, "Howard, why don't you go there, they have more parasites than any place I know!!" Also, on the staff, heading the Foreign Student Group was Medhi Kiszalbash, who encouraged me. India started looking very, very good. Sometime in 1969 I had written to the man at the University of Mysore, got beautiful letters back. They had given me a laboratory, a house to live in, and all sorts of those things. I talked to Dr. Robinson, as he and I worked very close together. He told me that I may be in a little of trouble. I told him that administrators need sabbatical leaves as well as the faculty. He agreed. All I could do was apply for an administrative leave, which I did do. I sent it through channels to Dr. Fretwell. I did not hear from Dr. Fretwell; however, Robbie told me it was not good. Some of the faculty members had been complaining about my administrative ways, etc. That, coupled with the idea that Dr. Fretwell did not believe in administrative sabbatical leave, if that leave was not going to be used to enhance my administrative skills. I recall that Hank Mann came to see me. Hank said, "This is crazy! If you have to take a leave, make it a six month or a semester leave, but go some place where you can learn more about administration, work in higher education, go to Washington, do something... just don't become a biologist." Finally, Fretwell called me and we had a cordial conversation. He asked me if I really wanted to go to India. I told him yes that I did want to go, that I need a change, and I want to work in my own particular field. He said he thought he needed a Dean, a full time person, not a person who would come in

and take your place while you are gone. I could respect that, but I said that I did have ~~three~~ directors. He also was frustrated by that fact. The education and industrial arts area were overwhelmed by the rapid growth of the Arts and Sciences. By this time, there were 350 faculty members and approximately 55 departments. It was a college in itself. I don't think he liked that. He wanted to make sure that a college of Arts and Sciences had a president, not a dean under the president. He told me that if I really insisted upon going, that I would have to give up the deanship. There was no question in my mind, that I did enjoy teaching and research much more than administrative work.

SMJ: You did not lose anything in your salary due to this did you?

SENG: Oh no! Getting back to the faculty meeting, Dave Theilking was very angry, I recall, at that time because administration would not give me the leave I asked. He felt that if you asked for it you should be granted the leave and not be denied. Dr. Hulicka, whom I hired, spoke up on my behalf. So did many others. I don't think that they were surprised. Obviously the people who were not too happy with me being an administrator were glad to see me go. There were some faculty on campus, we had hired without the Doctorate. I had been very adamant in dealing with the chairperson and with them, that they had the better get that degree if they want to receive another promotion. This really irritated a lot of people. They felt that in terms of ~~seniority~~, they should be given promotions, whether they had the degree or

not. I forced a number of these people and then I was accused of all sorts of things... anti-semitism for one... which really still irritates me to this day.

SMJ: Did some leave because of this or not? Or did they go on and finish there degree as was expected of them?

SENG: Most of them did finish their degree, I am happy to say!! Now, I think we are better off for it. No one likes to be needled into achieving something like that.

SMJ: You were really doing them a favor in the sense... you were increasing their opportunities of getting raises.

SENG: I was accused by every department that I had other than the Science Department, of always giving more money to the Science Department!! It was true, but it was because of the building and laboratory situation... the maintenance of that in terms of supplies and books was tremendous.

SMJ: That leads me to the next question: Did you receive many grants and/or fellowships? Did you go to India on a grant or a fellowship?

SENG: We went to India. By this time our older son was married. He moved into our house, and the younger son went with us. He started college at the University of Mysore. For this, I had a sabbatical leave. After I got there, I received several small grants from pharmaceutical companies. they provided me with drugs for going into villages where I was working. The Indian government gave me one of their University Grants to lecture around India.

SMJ: Now, was that your first trip to India? It probably was something, wasn't it?

SENG: It was traumatic, exciting, depressing; all sorts of words can describe it.

SMJ: Have you talked with the present dean?

SENG: Who, Bullough? Not about India, no.

SMJ: The reason I am asking is because he and his wife were there. He had some comments to make about it.

SENG: No, I have not. I have only had a few conversations with him. The man who eventually took my place in the Arts and Sciences was Dr. Hickar. He and I are very good friends because he spent a year in Ceylon. So we do have a lot in common there.

SMJ: The poverty must have been terrible!

SENG: It was unbelievable. I did work and published three papers on my research in India.

SMJ: Isn't it depressing, or did you just have to close your eyes to it? I don't know whether I could handle that or not.

SENG: I hate to say that you get used to it, but you certainly have to be thinking if something else. Hopefully, what I was doing in the long run, would be helping them to overcome this. I would go out into the village where I spent most of my time. It was not a poor village. It was a farming village. By our standards it would be considered middle class I presume.

SMJ: Did your wife and son enjoy it?

SENG: My son did. He took classes at the Regional College of Education which was set up by Ohio State a number of years ago.

Their instruction was more in the American style. He also took history and philosophy from the University of Mysore.

SMJ: What about the heat situation?

SENG: It was terribly hot. It must have been 100+ every afternoon. When I was working in the city of Mysore, which was seven miles away, I would ride my bicycle wearing a toupee on my head, a pair of shorts and my little kit behind me. I felt as though people would look at me and say "Ah, what a crazy American." Mad dogs and Englishmen!!

SMJ: I had down here that you had received many grants and fellowships. Could you comment on those that stand out as being particularly important or impressive? Was the trip to Burma a special one?

SENG: I did not go to Burma. The former chairperson of the Science Department, Dr. Brown had been to Burma a couple of years, and we talked about that. Possibly as a result of him and some other things, I was offered, very unexpectedly this Fulbright to go to Burma. My wife was excited, and she felt she could teach English out there as a second language. The boys were excited about going, so on and so forth... great!! Everything was fine. We corresponded and we sent our large trunk and two smaller trunks. Suddenly there was a change in Burma. Burma threw out all Americans. So Burma was out! The State Department had to retrieve out trunks. Now, what do I do? I have a leave from the University, so I have to do something. They asked me to give them a little time. I received a telephone call from Washington asking

me how I felt about going to Seoul, Korea? Again, Paul Bulger came to my aid advising me to call Washington to see what we could find out. He called Jim Restin, the reporter, and I spoke with him. He had just returned from Korea. He advised me not to go. The country was in the midst of a terrible inflation. With the money that I would be receiving from the State Department, it would be gone. I had to call Washington back and turn down the assignment. I was getting desperate, I called a second time two weeks later... in the meantime we were chewing our fingernails!! How about the Philippines? That sounded very interesting. The instruction would be in English. So we accepted that assignment. We stopped in Hawaii making contact with Bishop Museum. It has been gone now for about twenty years. We had a wonderful year in the Philippines. I did a lot of research and teaching. Beatrice taught out there, and the boys went to school there. We were able to travel. On the way home the Fulbright people provided grant money for me to teach in Taiwan. I did lectures at three or four universities there. I didn't they even had that many!!

SMJ: So, you really were on the Fulbright then?

SENG: I had to take a leave with out pay. For anyone who listens to this tape... please be very careful about this because I lost a year of retirement. I offered to pay my contribution to the retirement fund, but they were adamant about it, so I lost the year 62/63 by taking that leave with out pay. I would still do it, but in a more informed way. At that time, I didn't think it would be that important. Now that I am retired, it would of meant

another year.

SMJ: Are there other places that you...

SENG: Well, I had grants in 1960 a grant from NIH through the Louisiana State School of Tropical Medicine, to study in Central America, with all expenses paid. I was in Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador and Mexico. That was a great summer.

SMJ: Didn't you suffer from the heat?

SENG: Yes, but I do like the heat. I never really minded it.

SMJ: Did you go to Africa?

SENG: Yes, North Africa during the war. I have never been there since. I would like to go back, but not with the political situation the way it is. Now that I am free I could go for a year or two. There is always the possibility. For example, on my desk at home I have papers from the Peace Corps, also, i am a reserve officer in public health service. Both of them have been after me to volunteer to do something.

SMJ: You are almost connected with medical paracytology, aren't you? You do the research that benefits the doctors, don't you? I noticed you published so many articles. Where do you get the ideas? Where do you get the subject matter?

SENG: Since my days with Stockard, I have always worked on the mites. That is an ongoing kind of thing. The other projects have grown out of ideas that I have picked up or with the graduate students. So I am a generalists from that stand point which is very rare in terms of paracytology.

SMJ: How do you find time to do all of your writing?



SENG: Looking back on it, I really don't know!! It was difficult at times when trying to take care of two sons.

SMJ: Evidently, it must have been in your mind and you found it easy to write it down. You loved your work to begin with, so maybe that is why you found it fairly easy to write.

SENG: I like to write, but it is not easy for me.

SMJ: It isn't?

SENG: I think writing for a scientific journal, each editor has his own ideas.

SMJ: Do you have a complete copy of everything you have written?

SENG: Yes, I believe so.

SMJ: Have you given a copy to the Archives of the College?

SENG: No, I doubt it.

SMJ: I doubt it too!! The only professor on the campus who has given me every thing that he has written is Dr. Gerhard Falk. I have a complete file of everything he has ever written. I may also have a complete file of everything Dr. Czurles has written.

SENG: How about Drew?

SMJ: No, I have a bibliography, but not a copy of everything that he has written. I would like a copy of everything that you have done if that is ok?

SENG: No problem. The only thing I have tried to do if I have something published, is to get that particular volume and keep it in my files at home. That you don't want, you just want the copy of the article that is in the volume.

SMJ: What should I do, is to go through your bibliography because the Library of Congress would have a copy of everything. We could get it from the library and just make copies of it. Next question: Would you care to express some observations on the changes that you have seen with the administration, faculty or even the students?

SENG: In terms of administration, perhaps I could get a few things off my chest while we are talking. When I mentioned that I was Dean and interested in fostering Liberal Arts, at the same time the University of Buffalo was going bankrupt, and being taken over by State University. At that particular point, Paul Bulger, and I think the rest of us, believed that Buffalo State was going to become the State University unit in Buffalo. That was our goal. Of course, with UB coming into the situation, that changed the entire picture. In the college there were two factions. There was the faction that thought it ok if we want to maintain our own identity, because of the two unit situation, that we should become the education center, if not for the whole state, at least for Western New York. There was a strong, strong feeling for it. The other faction felt No, that we should keep moving and diversify directions with a strong Liberal Arts component. Being the Dean of Arts and Sciences, I was in the second category. I was pushing the Liberal Arts, hoping to maintain our own identity.

SMJ: May I interject? Was there ever any mention of this place being part of the University?

SENG: This had been rumored off and on. Probably it was

discussed at high levels that I was ever a part. Getting right down to it, I think, at this particular point in time, I feel the tax payer deserves only one unit. The idea of having an Amherst Campus, a Main Street Campus and possibly an Elmwood Avenue Campus, just doesn't make sense at all. Getting back to the education sort of thing... I feel that perhaps, in retrospect, if this had become the Education Campus, there would be no question about identity. The college had been in an identity crisis ever since the State University came in to UB. I really don't feel that we have solved it, I really don't. This does bother me. I am worried about the administration, of course as this involves philosophy and direction. I don't think that you can become all things to all men and women. You become so diversified, and everything becomes watered down. Instead of having an idea of excellence, which we may have with education, or with one or two other areas, we could have survived. The Industrial Arts may have been able to do it. I do not feel that we are moving in the right direction. We have three campuses at ECC to cater to the beginning technical areas and the urban situation. I do not know how to bring this about. I do not think there are any clear expressions about this.

SMJ: Finances will probably be the determining factor.

SENG: Possibly. This of course, then impinges upon faculty. The faculty members feel that there is no direction. With no direction, they do not have loyalties to anything. They fight for grants and loans, position and tenure, etc. The college as a whole comes out third to last.

SMJ: Of course, you know it is all a built-in thing, Dr. Sengbush. We are a victim of circumstances in a sense. When you are a smaller institution, there is more ability to be loyal, to be friendly and loving towards one another. The larger you become, the more bureaucratic you become.

SENG: I am sure that is a part of it - part of it but not all of it. I do know when we would have general faculty meetings years ago, we would all meet in Rockwell Hall. Again we would have common ground, Nowadays the presidents, both Fretwell and Johnstone, would invite the faculty to a "Sherry Party" before the first faculty meeting and very few people show up. So there was no loyalty to that.

SMJ: I guess I feel what good would that do for me because I am not the important person, so how would my opinion be accepted? It is sad in a way. Then, there is the idea that you shouldn't stay too long and become involved too much because you will be going on anyway.

SENG: But, then, going back to the administration, when Bulger was here and Houton Robinson was here... in terms of the Arts and Sciences, Paul and all of us were working from the stand point that as the college would get bigger, say 10,000 at the most, we figured that we had to have the chart in place by an 8,000 enrollment, so that it would work and function. That is why we created with the Dean and three Directors underneath. The philosophy back of that was a downward movement of responsibility. Paul started giving me more responsibilities as Dean. He would

support my decision making. I was moving to give responsibility to the directors. They, in turn, were giving more responsibility to the chairperson. This way, the system would work. Now, I get the feeling that all of the decisions are made in Cleveland Hall.

SMJ: Did they have a Vice President then?

SENG: Yes, they had a Vice President for Academic Affairs, who was Robinson. George Sherrie was for Administration and Charles LaMorte was Student Affairs. I was under Robinson.

SMJ: Do you find the student body to be different?

SENG: The same thing with students, they do not have strong loyalties either. There is no loyalty to the institution. When I think back to the students activities we used to have, stunt night, holly hanging at Christmas time, Moving-Up Day, etc...

SMJ: The program that Dr. Wincenc would put on was always filled to capacity.

SENG: The plays when Mina Goosen was here were just wonderful, they were also packed. There was a lot of student support at that time. When I walk around campus now, I see how dirty it is. The grass is not cut, papers were all over, pop cans were laying around, etc. Beatrice said we should take our Canadian visitors around the campus. I told her NO because I was so ashamed of the way it looks.

SMJ: Of course there is a beautification committee set up now. In order for the committee to work, everyone has to be committed to the cause.

SENG: I will go to the beautiful auditorium in the Science

Building and see the mess in there. I used to do a Thursday morning presentation in there. I would say to the students sitting in there eating their lunch or whatever. "Don't you care about this place? This is your home during the day while you are going to school. Aren't you ashamed to have a visiting professor see the place the way it is?" I guess it was just the "old fashioned school teacher" in me reacting in what I see. Everyone's attitude seems to have changed. Some would respond, some would just squeeze down in their seats a little. I absolutely refuse to let the students bring in any cans or food or smoke for that matter. I get furious with the faculty when I see them do this.

SMJ: They do that. I have seen faculty members sit up on stage and smoke. I have seen faculty members do it in the Communications building, right in front of the Do Not Smoke signs. And nothing is done about it. There is no loyalty.

SENG: Let me go back to the terms of loyalty to administration. I feel this quite strongly right now, having just retired. I retired after nearly 30 years as a faculty member and 4 years before that as a student here. With close ties and let me say just for the tape, that I got my Bachelor's degree here. My wife got her Bachelor's and Master's degree here. My older son got his Bachelor's degree here. His wife got her degree here. The younger son got a Bachelor's degree here. His wife got her degree from here. So... we are tied in here. When a faculty member retires, after all of these years wouldn't you think that the college as a whole, as an institution, would do something for that

faculty member in terms of recognition for all of that service? They did absolutely **NOTHING, NOTHING**. The president will write a letter, the Vice President may or may not write a letter. However, any kind of recognition, dinner, party, reception, etc. is in the hands of the person's individual department. I feel that this is wrong. Where is the institutional loyalty to that faculty member? There should be some reciprocity. And I know other institutions will honor retiring faculty at the next commencement. Now, our names were in the book, but we were not invited. Now, either the administration should do it, or this union that is supposed to represent us should do something as an institution. A number of years ago, when we had the Centennial Celebration, I wrote a letter to the President at that time saying that I am familiar with other institutions and after 20 or 25 years that they award that faculty member with a medallion which is worn at all the Academic Processions. It has the person's name, date and number of years of service on it. Down at Middle Tennessee State University, at 25 years they get a silver medallion and at 20 years they get a gold plated one. It is a nice gesture. Dr. Fried was in charge of that celebration, and I wrote to him explaining it. Possibly as a result of my letter or someone else's letter. they did honor those who had 25 years of service. At that time, of course I did not. They never followed through on it. It was just a one shot deal. Now really, how can they wonder why faculty members do not come to commencement exercises? Why should we come?

SMJ: I know when Dr. LaHood wrote his latest history, I did

the appendices; we were very cognizant of the importance of the 25 years of service. We listed them all. But I also feel that it is very important to be recognized after giving that many years.

SENG: Now, I had a marvelous party. It was one of the greatest parties that a faculty member here ever had. It was held at the Park Lane. There were over 100 people there. Dr. and Mrs. Johnstone were there, Dr. and Mrs. Bulger, it was just overwhelming. If I had not that party.....

SMJ: I wonder though, if that is a delegation that the administration just gives? You know, giving it to the department to take care of instead of doing it themselves? Of course the department should do it, because they are the people who work with the retiree. But they should make sure they attend. Now I went for a retirement dinner and the president was not there. I was very surprised. It was for Dr. Drzewienieski.

SENG: He was there for a short while. He was there because I did talk with him. He did have to attend another meeting.

SMJ: Ok, I stand corrected!! I came in a little later on and I did not see him. I feel that a president should be at a retirement party.

SENG: I would think so also, but then, I would have to go back in time when the college used to honor the retirees and it would be a college wide function.

SMJ: I suppose it goes back to that thing that Dr. Sugarman mentioned. That when she came to the campus, she knew everyone, faculty, administration, students, just everyone. And that when



she left, she did not even know everyone in her own department.

SENG: I can't say that, but I do remember when Beatrice and I came in September 1951, they had hired only 3 faculty members that year. They had a college wide reception in the old union at that time, Dr. Rockwell was there. Of course, in those first years I used to wear a brush cut and a bowtie. I remember attending one of the function where I was mistaken as a student!! You could walk across the quadrangle and know everyone with whom you would come in contact. In fact, it was such a close knit group that when we would go for coffee.(Coffee at that time was in the basement of Rockwell hall) You would sit down with people in art or music and so on. That way you just got to know everyone. There were dances nearly every weekend, and you would chaperon. There would be as many as eight faculty members at that dance.

SMJ: Would you be asked to act as a chaperon?

SENG: Oh yes... we loved it because we just loved to dance! We made them all. Then there was the ritual of the Sunday Sherry Party at faculty homes.

SMJ: That was great. Those things don't take place any more?

SENG: Oh there are a few. But now, people feel that sherry is not good enough. You have to have cocktails and h'ordurves, etc. We used to keep it simple in those days because none of us had any money. We also had young children to care for, but we still had a lot of fun.

SMJ: You certainly got to know one another, didn't you? Coming from a small institution, I can relate to that. You have

been here for every president. I have not asked you this but I would assume that the president whom you liked best would be Dr. Bulger.

SENG: Yes, I was the closest to Paul Bulger of all the presidents. I respected him, he had that sense of loyalty. Maybe, he in turn, developed it because he was a student at Albany State. He knew the system from that stand point.

SMJ: We have been very fortunate in having very good presidents. I feel that the presidents have been outstanding, don't you?

SENG: When I came, Rockwell had just retired, although he did interview me. Harvey Rice came next, and he was an excellent man, good, strong administrator. I used to play tennis with him. Could I go back and reminisce a little? The first summer I was here in 1952 with that salary of \$4800, I was absolutely broke. We were just arranging to buy a new home which we still are in!! I wanted to teach a summer session, and my department said Ok. At that time, Ralph Horn, as a Dean of the College, I guess set up the entire summer session program. He put me on for two sections of Physical Science. I had a new PhD in paracytology. I went to John Urban and told him that I did not know a darn thing about Physical Science. He said, "Well, Howard, that is what is down here!! I don't know what you can do about it except to go and see Horn." In a real tizzy, I went tromping over to Rockwell Hall, got in to see Ralph Horn and asked him why he expected me to teach Physical Science with the credentials that I had. He told me that there

were no biology courses to offer me to teach, that if I did want to teach it would have to be the courses in Physical Science. So there I stood. But, I didn't know if I could handle that sort of thing. He said well, biology is a science, isn't it? You are a scientist. You can teach Physical Science!! He kidded me that if I had a PhD, certainly, I could handle teaching a Physical Science course, especially at the beginning level. That summer I had to learn astronomy, celestial sphere, and some geology.

SMJ: So you were just one step ahead of the kids, huh!! But you did it, and I am sure that you must have learned a lot from it too.

SENG: As a result of that I still like to go outside and look at the stars, and kick around the rocks once in a while.

SMJ: Well, do you have anything else to add?

SENG: Back in the early days we were asked to do so many things. We had heavy teaching schedules which I haven't mentioned. In the Science Department, the Biologist had to teach a general biology course. It was a two semester course. The first being Botany, the second was Zoology. We had two 1-hour lectures a week and one 2-hour lab. Our normal load for each section was 35, and they would squeeze in the extra person. So you would have three sections of General Biology with over 100 students with no lab assistants whatsoever. You did all of your own preparation, and collected your own material. In addition to that, as a bonus you were allowed to teach one course in your specialty. I taught genetics, comparative anatomy, zoology, field studies in science,

field biology, all kinds of things... but!! We had to correct all of our lab papers, no computerized exams, we typed up our own exams, we did all of our own work. All of this was done under very tight situations. The chairperson was an absolute dictator. I loved John Urban but he was a dictator.

SMJ: He was like a father figure then.

SENG: I never hated my father!

SMJ: Are you still in contact with him?

SENG: Oh yeah! We like each other very much. We respect each other. These young faculty, when you hire them, have never been in front of the class, and they can't teach. Those of us who came up in education were told not to walk rapidly in front of a class where the students are being made dizzy by your motions. You should never talk to the blackboard, but you talk to the students. When you write questions for an examination, you try and get only one piece of knowledge. Not ask a true and false with three different pieces of information in it. These people do not understand that, they do not appreciate it at all. If they teach three sections, they feel put upon; if they are asked to teach four days a week, they are put upon. We used to teach five days a week. If we wanted to earn extra money, the Continuing Education occasionally would allow us to teach at one of the suburban schools. I also would do that when needed. Now you wonder, "How did I find the time?" I tried during the thirty years I taught, to be able to write a paper.

SMJ: What are your plans now? What about your future?

SENG: I have so many plans. I just returned from Hawaii, spending three months out there at the Bishop Museum where I am a research associate. I finished two papers out there, I have two more that I am currently working on at home. I did the drawings while I was out there. They were done in pencil. The first two papers are completely finished, and they will be published in the journal Pacific Insects. The others have to be inked and the paper written.

SMJ: It sounds as though you also have to be an artist.

SENG: I have always liked to draw; maybe that is why I married Beatrice.

SMJ: Does she help you?

SENG: That is another story. We tried that. I published a paper in New York before I got my degree. I thought she could do all of the drawings. It turned out that she was making them look pretty and not as accurate as they should be. We had quite a to about that one. That was the last of it.

SMJ: So are you still publishing?

SENG: Oh yes. I still maintain contact with Bishop Museum, and I can publish through them with material from Micronesia and Hawaii for as long as I desire.

SMJ: That is interesting. You seem to be doing this out of love for your material rather than for any monetary award. You just wanted to keep doing your thing, right?

SENG: Oh yes. You have to do something when you retire.

SMJ: Are you planning to go anywhere else?

SENG: We are trying to go to Scotland and Europe next year. we may get down to Siena. I had talked with Dr. Weaver, and we could stay with him.

SMJ: Do they know who is going to be there next year?

SENG: Yes, Manuel Delameda. He was there before. In all probability, we will be going back to Hawaii. That will probably be in another two years.

SMJ: Where are your sons now?

SENG: Our older son, Craig, is in Hawaii with the US Navy. He is a Lt. Commander. He is in micro biology with an environmental preventative medicine unit. So he travels all through the Orient. He is being reassigned to Bethesda. They have a new University with a long name. It includes the medical school for the uniformed services. Low and behold his next assignment will be an assistant to the Dean of the Graduate School. So, he is sort of following in his father's footsteps. I spoke with him on the phone last night, and he said they are packing up and will be coming through this area in August.

SMJ: What about your other son?

SENG: The younger son is completing his PhD in Psychology at Kent State. While he is writing his dissertation he is teaching down in Rochester at RIT. My oldest son has two of his own, and my youngest son has a daughter and two sons... five grandchildren all together.

SMJ: So your has been very busy?

SENG: My life has not been just busy, it has also been very

lucky.

SMJ: You have been very fortunate. As I listen to you, I realize that you have a lot of talent and a lot of gifts, and you have used them to cooperate with the circumstances in which you have found yourself. I feel that is the whole trick, to recognize your opportunities and use them.

SENG: I do think that I have tried to do that. The opportunities have been excellent for me, for they seem to have come at the right time. We have made the sacrifice of money and maybe other considerations, but never have we regretted them. We enjoyed every experience that we had overseas. We will never stop traveling, we will probably go down to the Caribbean next Easter. I hope to go diving out in Lake Erie again this summer.

SMJ: Lake Erie is getting better, isn't it?

SENG: Yes it is. I was out there last summer on the breakwall in the harbor. I could actually see two yards in front of me. I can remember when the water was so clear off Ft. Erie that we used to collect cannon balls from the War of 1812. You could see them down in the water, dive down and pick them up.

SMJ: I want to thank you very much, Dr. Sengbusch.

SENG: It has been my pleasure!!