

Archival & Historical Committee
Interview with
T. R. Sharp
March 24, 2006
Gaylord Texan Resort, Grapevine, Texas

People present: Theron Robert Sharp, D.O., FACOFP, dist, Kevin DeRegnier, D.O., FACOFP,
Jim Froelich, D.O., FACOFP, Andrew Adair, D.O., Mary Sharp

Committee: Dr. Sharp it is indeed a pleasure to have you here today to bring us your
experience and firsthand knowledge of ACGP/ACOFP events and personalities
that you have witnessed through the years

T. R. Sharp: Well, Lord willing and I hope that I can help.

Committee: In the book [*The Continuing History of the American College of Osteopathic
Family physicians*] we ended up having a lot of alleged inaccuracies. For
example, the book stated a location as Devon instead of Des Plaines and it
turns out it was Devon Street in Des Plaines, so we're still picking up those
types of things. Any inaccuracies that you can correct would be really helpful.
Also, there was just an absence of information in a lot of places and that's
where we are hoping that you can shed some light on things.

T. R. Sharp: Well, like I said, Lord willing because he's the only one that helps me when I
get to thinking, "I don't remember that."

Committee: All right, great. When we were talking just a little bit ago, can you tell us
about that first convention in Des Moines? You said that you had brought two
patients with you right?

T. R. Sharp: Yes, they were good friends anyway and I invited them to come to Des
Moines.

Committee: Did they come as a part of the convention?

T. R. Sharp: No, they were just there as visitors, kind of like I was; it was the first one I ever
went to.

Committee: Do you recall anything about the conference?

T. R. Sharp: No, not much.

Committee: We had found something about that in researching the book; they talked about
hypnosis and a couple of other things...

1 Committee:: Was it Psychiatry?
2
3 Committee: Yeah, hypnosis and something else.
4
5 T. R. Sharp: Where did you get the information? What is it?
6
7 Committee: The book on the history of the ACGP [*The Continuing History of the ACOFP*].
8
9 T. R. Sharp: Was that about the first meeting?
10
11 (Cross talk)
12
13 Committee: It's in here. It was...summer 1958 in Des Moines, Iowa.
14
15 T. R. Sharp: That sounds about right.
16
17 Committee: See [quoting from page 5 of the book], "meetings had been held earlier in
18 California but those records have been lost." So the first record we have of an
19 ACGP meeting is 1958 and it says that they discussed medical topics,
20 osteopathic manipulative medicine and hypnosis. So tell us a little bit about
21 what you remember about the first convention?
22
23 T. R. Sharp: Well, the first one I ever went to was kind of like the entertainment part of this
24 convention here. It's more of a show and tell, isn't it? It went over so quickly
25 and I was so involved with trying to impress the guests that I had trouble taking
26 it all in. Heck we [osteopathic medicine] were bigger than my guest thought.
27 She was a good person to impress too, I don't mean that in a negative sense.
28
29 Committee: Who was that you were trying to impress?
30
31 T. R. Sharp: This patient and her husband because they were kind of, well they were
32 farmers, but they were pretty well known. They could call the shots in the
33 county. They were kind of the big shots in those days. I thought it would be
34 wise if they would be better informed about D.O.s than they had previously
35 been. They were good patients.
36
37 Committee: Where were they from, do you remember?
38
39 T. R. Sharp: About 5 miles south of Reeseville, Wisconsin
40
41 Committee: That was the 1958 ACGP convention Right?.
42
43 T. R. Sharp: Yes, I think I had a new car at that time. I wanted to drive it and so we drove
44 it down to Des Moines because that was the thing to do.
45
46 Committee: So you took them in order to kind of sell them on osteopathic medicine?
47
48 T. R. Sharp: Well kind of. We had known them for a long time before that. I couldn't tell
49 you the time of the year it was. R.W. Anderson at the time was in the
50 Milwaukee area. Do you know him?
51

1 Committee: Doesn't ring a bell with me, no.
2

3 T. R. Sharp: Well, I think you probably know him. He and my brother located very close to
4 Dr. Anderson, he was a DO. But they got along about like an estranged wife.
5 Andy [Dr Anderson] had a brother that was a DO also. He was out in, well, in
6 Arizona, and I can't tell you exactly which one of the bigger spots.
7

8 Committee: Arizona's close enough.
9

10 T. R. Sharp: Okay, and he was a good practitioner. I don't think he had another one in
11 practice. Dr. Anderson is still living and he could be of some help to your
12 archives committee.
13

14 Committee: That's good information, we'll see about contacting him. Dr. Sharp, there's a
15 list of people that you talked about in your brief dissertation [a document
16 written by Dr. Sharp and read by a committee member]. It's two and a half
17 pages and there was a long list of people that you mentioned. I'm going to
18 read that part so that we can have you comment about each one. You wrote,
19 "It has been stated that you never know upon whom your shadow falls. I had
20 the luxury to know and appreciate a number of such icons of general practice.
21 Their shadow touched me. To name a few, risks omission of some that should
22 have been added to the list, but such a list would include", and then you listed
23 several people. Those people that you listed would be the people that we are
24 interested in because, we are looking for additional characters and information.
25 These would be good people to consider. I'll read them all out now and then
26 we'll talk about them as we go, if we need to. Al Schramm, Ben Scharf*,
27 Myron Auld, Tiny Andreen, Jim Rowland, Mancil Fish, Joe Stella, Del
28 Maddox, Bob Haman, Eli Stark, John Burnett, Mary Burnett, Ray Saloom,
29 John Sevastos, and S.L. Koplovitz. Now we've talked about a lot of these.
30 John Sevastos gave us some information about Dr. Koplovitz. Also, many of
31 those names are ones that we as a committee have been concerned about not
32 having any information on. What can you tell us about any of these?
33

34 T. R. Sharp: Dr. Koplovitz was a tremendous orchestra violinist. Did you know that?
35

36 Committee: Yes, I've heard that!
37

38 T. R. Sharp: I don't know that he did too much with it. I do remember one time we were in
39 Chicago at a meeting, some kind of a meeting, and we went over and had
40 "goodies" at the lounge and he played the piano for us. The problem was that
41 many people thought that maybe Koplovitz wouldn't want to be known just for
42 playing the piano. We thought that there had to be more involvement in the
43 organization, so we offered it and he willingly took it. But he could play, my
44 gracious. I took on the piano one time when I was foolish enough, and my
45 mother insisted.
46

47 Committee: Al Schramm, you said you knew him.
48

49 Committee: That was he the only DO that we could identify that ever became executive
50 director or ran the association. Is that your recollection?
51

1 T. R. Sharp: Well, I'm sure you read or heard Dr. Sevastos' comments and, gosh, he was so
2 good with names, places, when, how long, the whole darn works. I was never
3 that good. I just would try to be there and keep my mouth shut. Now that's
4 pretty hard for a guy that has one that goes on and on.
5
6 Committee: How about Dr. Schramm?
7
8 T. R. Sharp: Schramm, well, we went out to see him one time. We had a meeting out there.
9 Eli Stark was the head of that particular meeting and there were persons from
10 all over the state or the country that met out there and that's when we met him
11 and, who's the other fellow... Do I list another man's name there in that
12 letter?
13
14 Committee: Well those early ones, Mancil Fish, I think you had.
15
16 T. R. Sharp: No, he was from Oklahoma. He came later.
17
18 Committee: Tiny Andreen or Jim Rowland?
19
20 T. R. Sharp: No, he's not the one...
21
22 (Cross talk)
23
24 T. R. Sharp: What did you say?
25
26 Committee: Myron Auld and Tiny Andreen?
27
28 T. R. Sharp: Well, those two, yeah, they were probably in the organizational part of it when
29 the beginning of the ACGP was occurring in California and I met them maybe
30 four years apart, so I...
31
32 Committee: That meeting, was that like at a convention then or...
33
34 T. R. Sharp: We had our own convention.
35
36 Committee: In California?
37
38 T. R. Sharp: Yes, but it was not a big thing. It was probably like, maybe there were 50
39 people there in all. But maybe we were just on the road again. There she is.
40 Bless her heart. Here comes the better part of my memory. [Mrs. Mary Sharp
41 entered the room]
42
43 Committee: Mary, come over please.
44
45 Mary Sharp: All right, well let's see I can help.
46
47 T. R. Sharp: Well, Mary's heard a lot of it but some of this is way before her time and mine.
48
49 Mary Sharp: Well, who we really need is Mary Burnett to jog our memories.
50
51 Mary Sharp: I know you know how sharp her memory is.

1
2 T. R. Sharp: She knows people, places, and things.
3
4 Mary Sharp: She, Mary Burnett, could jog his memory on a lot of stuff.
5
6 Committee: We didn't want this to be very formal. We did a formal type interview with
7 Mary and that interview went well but it was the committee's first.
8
9 Committee: We didn't want to burden you with having to be so formal because when we
10 did Mary Burnet's interview we had eight or nine committee members. But if
11 it would be possible in the future, it would be wonderful to have you and Mary
12 and maybe John Sevastos at the same time so everybody could help recall the
13 names and events.
14
15 T. R. Sharp: Because we value each other very much too.
16
17 Committee: Wilbur Hill is on the Archives Committee as is John, so there's a lot of
18 institutional memory here.
19
20 T. R. Sharp: Wilbur Hill was pretty active, I think. Wasn't he in Des Moines? Where did
21 he go to practice?
22
23 Committee: He's down in Missouri, I believe now.
24
25 Committee: Yeah, Missouri.
26
27 T. R. Sharp: But anyway, he is a good man, and I met him here yesterday. That was the
28 first time I had seen him in 50 years. That's how time goes.
29
30 Committee: Dr. Sharp, where did you do your internship?
31
32 T. R. Sharp: My internship was with Dr. Coogler* in Hustisford, Wisconsin.
33
34 Committee: Spell that please.
35
36 T. R. Sharp: H-U-S-T-I-S-F-O-R-D.
37
38 Committee: Do we already have that in the book?
39
40 Committee: I think we have that in the book already. Hold on I'll check.
41
42 Committee: And then, where did you go from there?
43
44 T. R. Sharp: Well, you see that was during the war and you had to have an approved
45 internship, which I had, and by the way, it was about the time that Dr. Coogler
46 was looking for a surgical spot at Kirksville. When he got done teaching me
47 all he knew, he went back to Kirksville.
48
49 Mary Sharp: You started to tell us about your internship with Dr. Coogler.
50

1 T. R. Sharp: Oh, Dr. Coogler was one of these guys that started a hospital out in the middle
2 of nowhere in a little county of Wisconsin, near the Southern part of the state,
3 and he had at the most, I think he had maybe 15 on the staff. There were two of
4 us that were interns, Dr. Warren Nordell and myself. Nordell was ahead of me
5 so he started practice before me. Before I could finish my internship, the war
6 was declared won on V-J Day and all that kind of good stuff. So about that
7 same time, and maybe for a few years before that, there was another doctor
8 with him.. He was the first D.O. Ear, Eye, Nose, and Throat doctor in our area.
9

10 Committee: Where was he?
11

12 T. R. Sharp: It was at the Hustisford Hospital.
13

14 Mary Sharp: Then where did you go after your internship? You said that you had to find a
15 community that at the end of the war. .
16

17 T. R. Sharp: I said that it was an “essential community”. You had to be in an “essential
18 community” or be drafted and sent over to Europe to clean up things. Well, we
19 had had a number of patients. It was about, oh, 15 miles from the hospital and
20 they would come in from this little town. There were about 6 or 8 little towns
21 nearby, and they fed patients into the hospital. Coogler was a good operator.
22 So anyway, when I finished my internship, by that time the government said,
23 “You shall be in an essential community,” which means that you would have to
24 prove that the community needed you, not the dollars out there or anything like
25 that. It had to be pretty legit. So as convenience would have it, there had an
26 MD in town, in this little town. We had quite a number of patients, but he had
27 been sickly and then died about, oh, within a month of the time I could relocate
28 there. I went over and looked at his home. He had a home and office together,
29 but the rooms that he had for the doctor were, oh, maybe 7 x 8 foot rooms.
30

31 Committee: Examining rooms?
32

33 T. R. Sharp: Yes. I don’t think that he had a laboratory; I don’t remember seeing it. His
34 wife made us an offer, because by that time he was dead, she wondered if I
35 wouldn’t be considering buying the house: “why you can have the clinic and
36 all I want to do is to sell the house, but you’ll have the run of the whole house
37 and blah, blah”. But down the street was a widow lady. She was the post
38 mistress and so my dad and I went down, talked with her and, gees, I think we
39 bought her house for, oh gracious, it was like \$14,000, something like that. It
40 was a pretty good size house. Then about the same time there was another one
41 that came up for sale, so we renegotiated with the bank and bought the more
42 expensive one, which I took in and then added an office to the front of the
43 house, and the house virtually remained the same. But I had an x-ray and a
44 McMannis table and gee, I can’t remember what else.
45

46 Committee: What was your practice like? On the day you started practice, were you doing
47 mostly manipulation or were you doing only a small amount of manipulation?
48 What was your practice mix?
49

50 T. R. Sharp: I taught the town about osteopathic treatments, but in the meanwhile I was
51 made busy by delivering babies and taking care of nearly everything. We used

1 to say, "I borned them and buried them." That's about the way it was. If you
2 have anything like it, you've done it too. But anyway, we moved in there, and
3 we had a lot of help and finally that clinic was a little too small so we enlarged
4 it. But my x-ray developing tanks and all that stuff was down in the basement,
5 so I'd run on over to develop my films.
6

7 Mary Sharp: You told me that you started doctoring the colds and flues and births and
8 deaths and just the general doctor things and then he taught them to appreciate
9 osteopathic treatments.
10

11 T. R. Sharp: Well, and they liked me best because the old doctors were getting too old to
12 think about those things. Most of the young doctors, like the one that came
13 after I came to town, he wouldn't listen to anybody. I always would tell my
14 patients that they're really not my patients, they were my friends, and we
15 treated them like so. That made a difference to their perception and all. That
16 went on for 17 years.
17

18 Mary Sharp: Well it's going on today.
19

20 T. R. Sharp: What's that?
21

22 Mary Sharp: He hasn't changed.
23

24 Committee: It still goes on today?
25

26 T. R. Sharp: Well, I guess that's right. Anyway, but the reward, you see, as I told you
27 earlier, would be in heaven. Mine was right there and they named a street after
28 me, Sharp Avenue, and it's still there.
29

30 Committee: Really, that's neat.
31

32 T. R. Sharp: But I knew everybody in town. Everybody knew me; and the other doctor,
33 nobody knew him, and he wouldn't talk to anybody anyway. He was a young
34 guy out of medical school, University of Wisconsin. Bless his heart. I think he
35 was intelligent enough but apparently he didn't have any "folks" in him.
36

37 Committee: Now, did you start the state chapter of the ACOFP there in Wisconsin?
38

39 T. R. Sharp: Yes. There was another fellow up in the Northern part of Wisconsin who
40 worked with the group of doctors in his area. I don't recall his name.
41

42 Committee: A couple of names that we have are Stout, Kegel and Crane.
43

44 T. R. Sharp: Now Kegel was in the Milwaukee area. The last one you mentioned?
45

46 Committee: Crane, J.S. Crane.
47

48 T. R. Sharp: I believe he was there too, but the first one that you named was from...
49

50 Committee: Stout, J.W. Stout was the name?
51

1 T. R. Sharp: Yeah, he was... Yeah, Stout and Kegel, so that they were as interested as we
2 were because I think somehow we were able to encourage them to go to some
3 of the GP meetings like in Des Moines and in Detroit and into Chicago; they
4 had quite a number of D.O.s there. We would go because we really felt like we
5 needed more information. I think those men were the ones that kind of put the
6 written word together and made it suit the applicant state, and so we were able
7 to kind of wave a flag over it and say, "Hey, this way boys." They gave us the
8 blessing.
9

10 Committee: I was just going to say, we have two as far as the national president at that time
11 was Herman Schlessberg.
12

13 T. R. Sharp: I didn't know him.
14

15 Committee: Didn't know him...okay, because we don't have any information on him, so I
16 was hopeful that maybe you had some.
17

18 T. R. Sharp: Now spell that.
19

20 Committee: S-C-H-L-E-S-S-B-E-R-G...
21

22 T. R. Sharp: Oh, Herman, yes.
23

24 Committee: Herman Schlessberg.
25

26 T. R. Sharp: I think he was from California. Now that is, I think about it.
27

28 Committee: We'll check.
29

30 Committee: I think that's right because he's one of those original guys or close to it...
31

32 T. R. Sharp: Now by golly Fiore started that whole darn thing in New York, and then
33 moved bodily to California.
34

35 Committee: Really?
36

37 T. R. Sharp: I believe that's correct. I'll have to go back and find the right box of my
38 records.
39

40 Committee: Let us know if you find that box.
41
42

43 Committee: Dr. Sharp, about how long after founding the Wisconsin [ACOF] chapter was
44 it before you left the state, about? Was it two or three years or was it a long
45 time?
46

47 T. R. Sharp: Oh, quite a long time.
48

49 Committee: How big was the Wisconsin society when you left?
50

1 T. R. Sharp: Well, let's see, by that time I had recruited my brother to stay with me and
2 others. How many were there? Gosh, maybe 25.
3
4 Committee: That's a respectable enough number for a small early society.
5
6 T. R. Sharp: Especially if you can get your brother to go out and do some of the work.
7
8 Committee: In the book it says that you "spent 16 years in practice before his wife, a native
9 Texan, would persuade him to move to Mesquite".
10
11 T. R. Sharp: Yes, that's true.
12
13 Committee: So tell us a little about that transition.
14
15 T. R. Sharp: Well, when I went to Kirksville in the beginning there was this lovely girl that
16 sat right in front of me there in the auditorium right where they lecture. At the
17 time, to make some money, I took in laundry, and I had a laundry lady that
18 would process the clothes and then have them ready for me. After she took
19 them in on Monday or Tuesday, I'd get them by the weekend, and everybody
20 loved that.
21
22 Committee: Was that your business? Were you the entrepreneur there?
23
24 T. R. Sharp: Yes, but I didn't do all the work. That brought me a little income. We were
25 right in the middle of war rationing.
26
27 Mary Sharp: What about Marge sitting in front of you?
28
29 T. R. Sharp: Oh yes, she was there and we got chummy as most of our class was. It wasn't
30 a big one, about 20 students.
31
32 Committee: Was she a DO student?
33
34 T. R. Sharp: Yes. She wanted to be a doctor because she had been operated on by a DO
35 down here in Texas, Dr. Sparks.
36
37 Mary Sharp: Sam Sparks.
38
39 T. R. Sharp: No, his wife.
40
41 Mary Sharp: Marille
42
43 T. R. Sharp: Marille Sparks was the instrument that excited her about going into osteopathic
44 medicine. She knew women could do okay then in this profession.
45
46 Committee: Was Marille Sparks a surgeon?
47
48 T. R. Sharp: She was a proctologist and did a lot of operating and her husband was a general
49 practitioner, general doctor, and general surgeon there in Rockwall, Texas. So
50 I knew where I was going to go when I graduated; I was going to go to that
51 place in Texas. Well, with my late wife being so close to that situation in

1 Texas, she and I got chummy. Besides, basically there weren't a whole lot to
2 pick from.
3

4 Mary Sharp: Now T.R.!

5

6 T. R. Sharp: Not on my case, but on her case.
7

8 Mary Sharp: I started to say, "Now let's not say that about Marge."
9

10 T. R. Sharp: Well, no, she didn't have a lot of competition. Thank God. I couldn't have
11 afforded it if she wanted an apple.
12

13 Mary Sharp: Her relationship with Luibel, how did you get together?

14

15 T. R. Sharp: Well, Marge's mother, ultimately my mother-in-law, knew Dr. Luibel because
16 he practiced in the same town, Ferris. When I came down...
17

18 Committee: Ennis or Ferris?
19

20 T. R. Sharp: Ferris, F-E-R-R-I-S, right outside of Ennis. Anyway, she knew him and
21 ultimately went to work as his front lady.
22

23 Committee: Your mother?
24

25 Mary Sharp: Mother-In-law.
26

27 T. R. Sharp: Yes, my mother-in-law.. Now I was not married to her daughter yet, but this
28 was kind of a, well, an exploration date that we went down and found out we
29 could tolerate each other. So anyway, we got pretty friendly. Then from
30 Kirksville, while I was still in school, they allowed me so many days out, so
31 Christmas and Easter and such and we would go to Texas. In Fort Worth we
32 went to the Colonial Country Club, that's where Dr. Luibel invited us after he
33 moved there and we were in grand style.
34

35 Mary Sharp: That's where he ended up. But before that, didn't you come down and take
36 over Dr. Luibel's practice while he went on his honeymoon or something?
37

38 T. R. Sharp: I did, yes. Then I found out about the area.
39

40 Mary Sharp: Wasn't that before you got your license?
41

42 T. R. Sharp: Yes...I was on a vacation from Kirksville and I came down to Texas to cover
43 his medical practice without a license.
44

45 Mary Sharp: You were in Reeseville for 17 years weren't you?
46

47 (Cross talk)
48

49 T. R. Sharp: Yes; I married my wife Marge before we left Kirksville then we moved to
50 Reeseville. We were still in war rationing but because I was a doctor, we were
51 allowed extra gasoline and tires and such.

1
2
3 T. R. Sharp: Was it the “A” or was it the “W” on the car window that allowed you to get
4 more than just a sampling of gasoline through the war years? Do you
5 remember?
6
7 Mary Sharp: Now, that I don’t remember...
8
9 T. R. Sharp: There was...well you had to have a certain card that you could show and then
10 they would let you have extra gasoline and things...because I was a doctor.
11 Why you could do most anything, sir.
12
13 Committee: Get extra fuel?
14
15 T. R. Sharp: Yes, oh yes.
16
17 Committee: Extra tires?
18
19 T. R. Sharp: Yes, right.
20
21 Committee: What else?
22
23 T. R. Sharp: Well besides that, I knew the Ford man as a patient as well as his kinfolk, so if
24 I ever needed any car supplies he would take extra good care of me. And then
25 when I got in trouble with tires and such, He said, “Hey, you know what?” He
26 would say, “Why don’t I sell you a new car?” Now cars were not easy to come
27 by so that was a really big deal! Everybody took really good care of me. We
28 loved it there but we’d come down to Texas and help the “old man”, William
29 Forrest Smith, my wife’s grandfather. He was quite a guy. Well that’s another
30 story.
31
32 Committee: How did Marge persuade you to go down to Texas?
33
34 T. R. Sharp: Well, it seemed logical. We were doing well up there in Wisconsin. We could
35 afford to move.
36
37 Mary Sharp: I think she promised him that he wouldn’t have as much snow.
38
39 Committee: I’ve been to Wisconsin, I know what you’re talking about..
40
41 T. R. Sharp: Boy that’s the truth! Yuck, that’s part of why I’m here. Also, one of the
42 movers and shakers of the Mesquite area built up his practice then kind of
43 offered me his place to practice. Ben Tisinger* was his name.
44
45 Committee: Was Marge in osteopathic medical school with you?
46
47 T. R. Sharp: Yes.
48
49 Committee: Did she graduate?
50

1 T. R. Sharp: She did not. We discussed it and I told her, “There’s only going to be one
2 doctor in the family.
3

4 Mary Sharp: A little chauvinistic!
5

6 T. R. Sharp: Well we talked about and I think she was satisfied that she could be that close
7 to it.
8

9 Committee: Dr. Sharp, you were awarded the ACGP certification certificate #1. How were
10 you so fortunate as to get #1?
11

12 T. R. Sharp: Well, you see if you are president, you can do a whole lot of things. No, I had
13 some good backers. They knew that they didn’t want to work that hard and so
14 they said, “You can have #1.”
15

16 Committee: Can you describe the flight to Hawaii to take that first certification test?
17 Obviously there was a lot of hullabaloo [*sic* politics] beforehand. I’m
18 assuming you were a big part of it.
19

20 T. R. Sharp: Well not a whole lot of fanfare because there weren’t too many folks that really
21 wanted to give that much time. We had trouble even filling the seats and we
22 should’ve had. We had about half of them filled anyway.
23

24 Committee: I’m going to go back to the question because we asked Mary Burnett that same
25 question because she was in the same class, right?
26

27 T. R. Sharp: No, about two years younger.
28

29 Committee: We asked Dr. Burnett, “How did T.R. get so lucky as to get #1?” Her answer,
30 was that she thought it was because you had come under a lot of fire and had
31 taken a lot of responsibility for some report, and I think it was called the
32 “Minority Report”.
33

34 T. R. Sharp: Oh yes. Oh yes.
35

36 Committee: Was it called the “Minority Report”?
37

38 T. R. Sharp: It was after I gave it.
39

40 Committee: You were the one that gave that “Minority Report” right?
41 (Cross talk)
42

43 T. R. Sharp: Yes. The AOA Board of Trustees met in Hot Springs and they knew I was
44 coming, and they knew what I was wanting. So we went up there and it was
45 hashed around.
46

47 Committee: Was that with the President of AOA?
48

49 T. R. Sharp: No, the secretary of the AOA, Crowell, and Jack Hanks , the Executive
50 Secretary of the ACGP, and I went in, to him and we said, “Now this is our
51 document and all and we would like you to know that we’re really interested in

1 getting this thing [the certifying of family practitioners by the ACGP – ed.]
2 done” He said, “Not over my dead body.” Well, we didn’t stay too long. The
3 report was given and the battles were fought. Surprisingly, after we got our
4 certification, he actually ended up dying within a week or two. Well, I had
5 warned him!, He was an internist and he could not understand anybody
6 wanting to be a GP, and much less why, if you were a general practitioner, you
7 would need to get certified. No, if you’re going to go into it that much, go be
8 an internist. Well, he didn’t stick around long. So therefore we were on our
9 own. We had our own certifying board. What we did was to pull out a motion.
10 Oh, who was the first president of TCOM? The fellow that moved to Boston.

11
12 Committee: Marion Coy?

13
14 T. R. Sharp: Yeah, Coy, he was the president of the AOA, so he was there and it was a table
15 like this, I suppose, and being the AOA president, he had a lot of leeway to do
16 whatever. He was in general practice. Well, he could recognize me as a
17 participant at the AOA Board because it didn’t hurt his term or anything. So
18 we put out the report that you have mentioned. It was agreed to by the Board
19 as a whole that we were qualified for certification. The corollary of that was
20 the requirement by the AOA that you will be trained by a certified GP. Well,
21 there weren’t any so that’s what our opponents would come back at us with.
22 Then it prevailed, we won. They said we could certify G.P.s so we could train
23 interns. You had to have some way of governing the doctors who were
24 applying for certification because you had to have the certified man in that
25 hospital to aide in the training program. So they virtually gave me the key and
26 forgot to lock the door so we climbed in through it. Then we really started to
27 move because we had men ready for that, I mean highly qualified persons.
28 Gosh, so many good people and names, and a lot of those that are, well that
29 were not young enough to still be here.

30
31 Committee: Was your Fellow’s sponsor John Burnett?

32
33 T. R. Sharp: Yes.

34
35 Committee: He was?

36
37 T. R. Sharp: Yes.

38
39 Committee: It’s hard to get a sponsor at the infancy of an organization. So how did that
40 come about?

41
42 T. R. Sharp: Well, we were on the same hospital staff and I think it was...

43
44 Committee: In Mesquite?

45
46 T. R. Sharp: No, in Dallas, and I was the chief of staff and by some quirk of coincidence
47 they re-elected me. Well about that time Burnett asked me if I would conduct
48 the selection of the program that we would be giving to the general
49 membership of the Texas group, [TOMA] I agreed and we had some
50 outstanding speakers for some lucky break. That went over quite well. Now,
51 we had a little help from the Lord. We had a golf game set up so that the boys

1 could go out and golf, that would be a way to waste some time and all, and it
2 rained and it rained and I mean it rained!. Oh my gosh! Anyway, no one could
3 go anywhere. You couldn't get anywhere without your rain boots on. People
4 couldn't go anywhere so we had a captured audience. Well, that was quite a
5 success... Oh, and we had the surgeons and the radiologists and the whole darn
6 thing in our program because there wasn't anything else going on. Well then
7 about six months later, John asked if I would do that for the AOA. John was
8 on the AOA Board and he asked if I would conduct a program coincident with
9 their program in Florida. So we set up a pretty good one with the option of
10 going overseas a little bit afterwards like to Puerto Rico.

11
12 Committee: The first one, you're saying the first convention that you were the program
13 chairman of...

14
15 T. R. Sharp: Second.

16
17 Committee: But when you were program chairman, was it already set up where you would
18 go overseas?

19
20 T. R. Sharp: Oh yes. Yeah, that was common. About that time it was popular to discuss the
21 possibilities of one organ donation to another. Uh-huh, then there was a big
22 uproar from those who were deeply religious about that sort of thing and about
23 how would we regulate any of this whole thing. Well when I set it up, I was
24 able to get in touch with one rabbi and we had one quite important churchman,
25 I'll say a Protestant and then we had an internist and a surgeon and a GP on
26 that program. Each had their time to speak and whatnot and the Lord said,
27 "Bob, you didn't get enough rain on that last program. Let's try her again." It
28 rained. Oh my God, it rained. But we knew that if we ever got it over with,
29 we'd be going on out to the islands. So, it didn't bother me any. Here again,
30 they couldn't go anywhere so they had to sit listen. They finally got really
31 quite interested in single organ transplant – heart, kidney and of the other
32 things that would be considered; so there was a lot of interest, my
33 gracious... Well, here again it was raining like, oh boy, and we had almost a
34 thousand people at that convention. About 800 of them went to our program
35 and the rest of them let these other programs kind of sit there. So the Lord was
36 on my shoulder, you understand. It all broke well and everyone was quite
37 interested in it, and we even went on the local TV and oh boy. We had it good.

38
39 Committee: When would that have been, about what year?

40
41 T. R. Sharp: I would think about '68.

42
43 Committee: What year did you become a fellow about?

44
45 T. R. Sharp: Oh about 1970...

46
47 Committee: '72?

48
49 T. R. Sharp: No, '71/'72 I was the president.

50

1 Committee: Well, your fellow's certificate will have that information. We need to get that
2 date if you will. We're revising the book.
3

4 T. R. Sharp: O.K. Well then because of our success in Florida, the next major meeting,
5 maybe six months later, I knew a banker, DeKeefer* who agreed to speak to
6 doctors on estate planning. That's was when my wife died; I had some recent
7 experience. He agreed to go overseas with us to give us a financial program.
8 We went to Puerto Rico and we had our base meeting there, for those selected
9 few GPs going on the extension trip. We went to Puerto Rico and one of the
10 islands nearby, the Virgin Islands. So we went over there and he was the prime
11 speaker for that because it was on how to save money and work too. He was
12 kind of the leader of that, and he got some of the other bankers, and some of
13 the insurance companies to present their big boys. Oh, it was a heck of a good
14 program. He had all the connections, you see. So anyway, it went over very,
15 very well; no rain this trip.
16

17 Committee: No rain? God must have decided that you had figured it out by then and you
18 didn't need his help.
19

20 T. R. Sharp: So that was real good. Then of course the AOA thought we were kind of
21 usurping their study time and everything else. They were a little jealous of
22 what we were doing. They didn't know whether that was going to be okay.
23 The next thing you know somebody said, "Well, we'd kind of like to have a
24 trip to Venezuela." I said, "Yeah, what about it?" This again was with
25 DeKeefer's help. He knew the bankers and whatnot in Venezuela where we
26 went. So we had some good program with that. When we got down there we
27 didn't know ahead of time, but it just so happened that one of the chief
28 speakers was a surgeon that had trained in the United States, and he was the
29 first man to put in a pacemaker with an anatomic energy source for it. Of
30 course he was really *somebody* down in South America; he was known all over
31 the world. So he was in our program, and it was kind of nice to have that kind
32 of quality.
33

34 Committee: How did you transport there? Was that a cruise?
35

36 T. R. Sharp: No, a flight.
37

38 Committee: Where did the flight leave from?
39

40 T. R. Sharp: Miami, I believe. That one to Venezuela, it didn't seem that long of a flight.
41 So anyway, we landed and then, here again, DeKeefer knew somebody that
42 was up at the German settlement in, what town was it? Well anyway, whatever
43 and they lived in a plateaued area north of town. The only way you could get
44 there would be to ride one of those cable cars. So we got up there and got a
45 chance to meet all the most important big wigs. Yet again this was a slick
46 surprise and everybody was just singing our song because the GPs were putting
47 this one on. Of course if you were a surgeon, you'd say, "I can't go that long,"
48 nor could many of the others, but some of us GPs had somebody that would
49 take over for us when we were gone. Well then they said, "Yeah, but don't
50 you have some contact in England?" "Well yeah." "Don't you have some
51 contact in Spain?" "Well sure." "Do you have any over in Italy?" "Well not

1 much, a little.” So anyway, we dreamed up a program to take them on over
2 each time. On one trip we went roundtrip to England and one of our speakers
3 was the head of their entire country’s medical organization, what would it be
4 called, anyway their governmental medical coverage. He was the head of all of
5 their governmental medicine and darn fool that I am, I met the man and I said,
6 “Oh, thank you for coming.” I gave him my hand like this and then I said
7 some silly thing about Texas or whatever. Anyways, I thought “of all the darn
8 fool things”, to meet the head of the whole darn business in England and to say
9 something so silly. But anyway, he got along fine. He would not take any
10 money for appearing. The others were pretty well all sponsored by the local
11 many pharmaceutical houses. I think Abbott had some work over there and
12 that’s where they did their research and then there were several others that
13 helped us out..

14
15 Committee: Along another line, were you a part of the group that went to wrestle the
16 organization away from that Executive Director Hank’s?

17
18 T. R. Sharp: No. No because they knew that I was his very dear friend and they didn’t want
19 to embarrass me nor him, and of course, I never did say anything. In fact the
20 story that I read in the article that you produced about John Sevastos...

21
22 Committee: You read Dr. Sevastos’ story? Did you disagree with any part of it?

23
24 T. R. Sharp: Oh, I did not hear that much about it. It was all, well, way back.

25
26 Mary Sharp: So that was kind of about the time you and I were starting to see each other.

27
28 T. R. Sharp: Yeah, because Haman was a part of that, a little later. He was maybe five years
29 later. He and Andy Anderson were the people that put the Texas programs
30 together and then deciphered the way that they would be able to give credit for
31 it because it was required that you have X number of hours to continue your
32 certification. So Haman and I got to be very good friends.

33
34 Mary Sharp: Would that have been before or after Jack Hanks was kind of run off?

35
36 T. R. Sharp: That was after Jack probably. I think Haman may have sat in on one meeting
37 with him but that was near the end of Jack. Anyways...

38
39 Mary Sharp: He was not privy to a lot of the information going on during those times you
40 are talking about because during the rift, they [Dr. Sharp and Jack Hanks] were
41 very good friends.

42
43 Committee: So you were shielded from it, is it what you would say, that you were shielded
44 from the politics?

45
46 T. R. Sharp: I was. I knew there was a little bit of distrust, but that’s about all, nothing
47 specific.

48
49 Committee: How was it then immediately afterwards, the next year, once everyone got over
50 the shock and the adjustment after Hank’s departure? How was your
51 relationship with the ACGP?

1
2 T. R. Sharp: Oh fine, it didn't really change because they had a workhorse.
3
4 Committee: The new organization then, did it run pretty well right away?
5
6 T. R. Sharp: No. No, you wouldn't expect it to, but it took them a year probably to get in
7 gear and they were adequate, certainly better than most places you can go to
8 for programs. That was our forte ; programs, programs, programs. Eli Stark
9 out of New York, he set up several meetings in Chicago, downtown
10 somewhere, and he was very, very good. He became the dean of the New York
11 school and a good man. Gee, such a fine man. I don't see anything written
12 about him, but he was something great.
13
14 Committee: He's in the book in a couple places.
15
16 Committee: Do you have any recollections of Herman Schlessberg or Andreen?
17
18 T. R. Sharp: Andreen was, boy, he was a "power bragger".
19
20 Committee: Anything regarding Wagonseller?
21
22 T. R. Sharp: I don't know that one.
23
24 Committee: What do you remember about that whole California merger?
25
26 T. R. Sharp: Well, we told them they were bastards. It was not a well received situation, but
27 there were some heads out there that wanted to do it their way, and they did.
28 Of course we darn near lost a college out there, well we did for a while.
29 Because of inner politics with some of the high ups in government, they were
30 able to smooth that over and allow the school to develop. The MDs took over
31 and took over the buildings too. So we went out and said, "Okay, but you
32 know you owe us \$314 million for our facilities here." That's exaggerated of
33 course. But kind of laid it back on them and they said, "Well, we don't mind
34 working with you." There were a lot of excuses on both sides. Anyway, it
35 ended up that they got our school.
36
37 Committee: For those of you out here in the rest of the country though, how did you pick
38 up the pieces and keep it going?
39
40 T. R. Sharp: Looking back at our own tail on a regular basis. But they must've had some
41 money, the MDs, to be able to make inroads into that thing because it wouldn't
42 go in Texas, you know darn well it wouldn't, and Missouri heck no and
43 Michigan no. We have our own school; we'll handle it. Kirksville and Des
44 Moines and all these others. Boy.
45
46 Committee: What was the environment? When you first heard that it had happened? Was
47 it abrupt and was it like catastrophic?
48
49 T. R. Sharp: Yes.
50
51 Committee: It's like a bomb went off. What were your personal feelings?

1
2 T. R. Sharp: It wasn't that severe because it was, you know, "those guys out there." I had
3 never met many of them in my life and so you kind of hate to give up
4 acquaintances and all, but... Oh, and they really didn't have it very well
5 thought out either.
6
7 Committee: So you never really felt it was a threat to the larger profession?
8
9 T. R. Sharp: No. No, if it had been successful it would've been.
10
11 Mary Sharp: What was the timeframe on that?
12
13 Committee: '63, something like that, 1962.
14
15 Committee: Mary Burnett described it as catastrophic for the profession. I think John
16 Sevastos, well one of the two said, "We were afraid we would lose the whole
17 profession over a movement that started in California."
18
19 T. R. Sharp: It was a possibility and maybe he was just coming up with the worst
20 possibilities.
21
22 Committee: You just said, you didn't feel that way?
23
24 T. R. Sharp: No. Well, I didn't know much about it except that certain D.O.'s in leadership
25 roles had gotten their stuff together and they took it through the state
26 legislature and all; it was set up and away they went. Well, who's old Bob
27 Sharp to say, "You guys down there better get that cleaned up." They weren't
28 listening to me. So, yes, I'm sure it meant more to the people that were out
29 there in California because they just got the rug pulled out from under them. It
30 wasn't a very neat thing. But I remember that some of the instructors at some
31 of the colleges would refer to it and they were a little bit, not ashamed, they
32 were just flabbergasted. To change subjects, did you know that John Burnett
33 was a college professor before he became a D.O.?
34
35 Committee: No, where was that, remember?
36
37 T. R. Sharp: I don't know.
38
39 Committee: In Texas?
40
41 T. R. Sharp: No, no. No, I think he was from... I don't know whether it'd be Colorado or
42 Oklahoma.
43
44 Committee: He and Mary taught high school briefly in Fort Worth.
45
46 T. R. Sharp: Yeah, but before that.
47
48 Committee: He was a college professor?
49
50 T. R. Sharp: Well a school anyway. I don't know that he was a professor because those
51 have some sticklish meanings.

1
2 Committee: Do you remember anything about that meeting at the Burnett's home where
3 you talked about starting up the residency?
4
5 T. R. Sharp: Oh yes.
6
7 Committee: What do you recall about that?
8
9 T. R. Sharp: Well of course John and Mary were both in practice in my hospital.
10
11 Committee: What hospital was that?
12
13 T. R. Sharp: That was East Town.
14
15 Committee: East Town Osteopathic Hospital?
16
17 Committee: Which became Mesquite General, right?
18
19 T. R. Sharp: No.
20
21 Mary Sharp: It became...
22
23 T. R. Sharp: Defunct.
24
25 Mary Sharp: Metropolitan Hospital.
26
27 T. R. Sharp: Well yes, Metropolitan Hospital in Dallas. So at John and Mary Burnett's we
28 would get together and plan things. We outlined the entire sequence of things
29 that had to take place in a certified residency training institution.
30
31 Committee: So were you kind of setting up what would be required of the resident prior to
32 certification?
33
34 T. R. Sharp: Yes, we had the guide books of the AOA, so it wasn't that we were coming up
35 with something completely new; it was just that some of us didn't know much
36 about setting up a residency program. But you know, you just sit down and
37 learn the darn thing.
38
39 Committee: Was that the first osteopathic family practice residency in Texas? You said you
40 and John were talking about setting up a residency. You did set up a residency
41 right?
42
43 T. R. Sharp: Yes, we did.
44
45 Committee: At East Town?
46
47 T. R. Sharp: Yes, I think it was for two or three [residents]
48
49 Committee: Was that probably the first in Texas?
50

1 T. R. Sharp: Well, I'm just thinking back. The first hospital, osteopathic hospital in Texas
2 was Marille and Sam Spark's.
3

4 Mary Sharp: That was East Town. No that was Doctors Osteopathic Hospital.
5

6 T. R. Sharp: Doctors Hospital was over on Ross Avenue. It is closed now.
7

8 Mary Sharp: Not the Doctors Hospital. It is currently on Garland Road that you may know
9 now.
10

11 Committee: Yeah, that's downtown Dallas, Ross is downtown Dallas.
12

13 Mary Sharp: Yes, but what he wants to know is which hospital had the first residency for
14 GPs. Was it East Town?
15

16 T. R. Sharp: Because Marille Sparks was by the book, she would not have had it any other
17 way.
18

19 Mary Sharp: They started that hospital over on Ross and then they went over to the Pleasant
20 Grove Balch Springs area of Mesquite and Dallas and built East Town
21 Osteopathic Hospital.
22

23 Committee: So East Town was in Mesquite.
24

25 T. R. Sharp: No.
26

27 Mary Sharp: It was actually in Dallas.
28

29 T. R. Sharp: Yeah, on the edge.
30

31 Mary Sharp: But it's on the edge out there. So they actually started two hospitals.
32

33 T. R. Sharp: Three.
34

35 Committee: We're still struggling with the question: where was that first osteopathic
36 general practice residency in the State of Texas?
37

38 T. R. Sharp: Yes, I understand. I don't know but it would have had to be either the one on
39 Ross Avenue or East Town.
40

41 Committee: But the first residency was probably not down in Houston or San Antonio or
42 some other city, right?
43

44 T. R. Sharp: Oh on, not down there. No, I think it would've been East Town because there
45 was John Burnett and myself who were on those boards. We would've known.
46

47 Committee: You said that you were lucky to be associated with one of the originating
48 members under the chairmanship Dr. Mancil Fish.
49

1 T. R. Sharp: Yes, I think he was quite active with things in Oklahoma. That's where he was
2 from, Tulsa. So he was given the honor of supervising the development of the
3 hospital in Oklahoma. He was active there for a number of years.
4
5 Committee: Who can you think of that really stands out and that you would say was the
6 number one or number two most influential figures?
7
8 T. R. Sharp: In Texas?
9
10 Committee: Well, the driving forces for the national ACFP movement.
11
12 T. R. Sharp: Oh, heck, who is the president TCOM* when...
13
14 Mary Sharp: Miller*.
15
16 T. R. Sharp: No.
17
18 Mary Sharp: Oh, Coy.
19
20 T. R. Sharp: Coy, Marion Coy. He was being primed for AOA presidency and so he kind of
21 took that under his wing and he helped to walk it through many a committee
22 meeting without swords.
23
24 Committee: So was he on the side of the ACGP (ACOFPP)?
25
26 T. R. Sharp: Oh yes, he was a GP.
27
28 Committee: Marion Coy was a friend of the ACGP?
29
30 T. R. Sharp: Oh yes.
31
32 Committee: And he was president of AOA at the time?
33
34 T. R. Sharp: At the time, yeah.
35
36 Committee: Doctor, did you say that the resistance was primarily from the internal
37 medicine people?
38
39 T. R. Sharp: A little from the internal medicine, but there weren't that many of them.
40
41 Mary Sharp: Well you said the one of them said, "Over my dead body". Was that Crowell?
42
43 T. R. Sharp: Oh, Crowell, he was the secretary of the AOA. I don't know that he even went
44 to any of those programs for the internists. But he could tell you how to run
45 *your* ship. He was good at that. Oh he was dogmatic! It was my pleasure
46 when I announced to him after that "over my dead body" statement and I said,
47 "Gee, I'd hate for that to happen, but we'll take it then too."
48
49 Committee: You said that two months later he died.
50

1 T. R. Sharp: Yeah, it was a very short time after we won the battle. I don't know what he
2 died from.
3
4 Committee: Does the name Frank McCracken ring a bell at all?
5
6 T. R. Sharp: No.
7
8 Committee: Okay, he was the first recipient of the GP of the Year and we've got a picture
9 and I don't know who this guy on the end is. We have identified everybody in
10 the picture except for this guy. Does he look familiar?
11
12 T. R. Sharp: Oh Alfred Schramm?
13
14 Committee: That's Alfred Schramm?
15
16 Committee: That's who we've got...
17
18 T. R. Sharp: There's McCracken...
19
20 Committee: We don't know who that guy is in the dark suit.
21
22 T. R. Sharp: Oh, I see.
23
24 Committee: He's the only one not listed.
25
26 T. R. Sharp: I'm sorry; I don't know him either...
27
28 T. R. Sharp: I did have an uncle who was an MD and he was quite an influence on me and
29 my brother. He was my dad's brother. In those years the older boys stayed
30 pretty close to home, but they would go out and work for others to get enough
31 money for the family fortunes. When an opportunity to go to a professional
32 school arose, the family would support the doctor because it would be pretty
33 hard not to. My family did that for my brother and me. I wish uncle Virgil had
34 been a DO. He practiced out in a little town near Eau Claire, Wisconsin and he
35 would have been a great D.O.
36
37 Committee: I know where it is.
38
39 T. R. Sharp: Uncle Virgil found this little town and he went there and built a hospital. It
40 was about a 50-bed hospital, but only one doctor. He had good nurses. Then
41 he built a house on a sprig of land that went into the water so he could cut
42 across if he had to. Gosh, what a good guy. I mean he cared for people. In
43 those days, the M.D. group was not called the Academy of Family Practice by
44 the MD GPs, but it was something on that order and he was one of the
45 originators. He was one of the people you saluted. Boy, would we have loved
46 to have him!
47
48 T. R. Sharp: My uncle encouraged me to visit the medical school in Iowa. It was much
49 known for the pediatric program there. So I promised that I would run by
50 there, and I did, I got accepted. Then my dad said, "Now remember that we've
51 got two boys that are going to go into medical school, but I don't think I can

1 afford to do all of that. Is there a way that the boys can help themselves by
2 working?" They slammed it shut right there and said you shouldn't do that to
3 your student [son] here. So my dad and I left, went down to Kirksville, had a
4 fine reception by them. I mean they were just real folksy, like with a long lost
5 cousin. We talked to them, they said, "I think we can get you some work if
6 you're going to need it." I was the only one at that time. My brother went there
7 later, but I was the first one. Yeah, they helped me and I cleaned rooms back
8 in those days I've never had to tell that before. So then about a year later my
9 brother came in the fold and they offered him a job too. So we both worked,
10 went to school there at Kirksville.

11
12 Committee: Let's go back to the ACGP. What was the most memorable, pleasurable, best,
13 or even the worst memory about the organization? What was the low; or what
14 was the high?

15
16 T. R. Sharp: I never had too many lows. I was, happy usually. "Have a good day", I
17 usually respond. I always have a good day, some days they're just better than
18 others; and I believe that. So there you are, the knowledge of this old 80-year-
19 old gook.

20
21 Committee: Well then, what is your best memory of ACGP?

22
23 T. R. Sharp: I can't say.

24
25 Committee: Too many?

26
27 . R. Sharp: Yes, way too many. I suppose that one of my greatest memories is when I had
28 visited a lot of those pharmaceutical companies in England and in Europe, and
29 then the AOA decided to allow us to sponsor a program in Madrid, Spain. We
30 all got together after one of the AOA meetings and we flew to New York and
31 waited until 3:00 in the morning or something and then got aboard another
32 plane and landed in England. Well, I made a trail of the people and the names
33 and all of the communications and letters getting that one together and oh my
34 God. Anyways, I told them what I was after and they would say: "Well, we
35 don't give monetary support to anything." I would have to tell them, "No. No,
36 I don't mean for you to support it with any money, except can you provide just
37 one of your speakers, one of your specialists in this area, we would be
38 amendable to anyone that you felt could deliver the story that he wants to tell,
39 he would love to hear him." Well I signed a number of people up then of
40 course. We went over to, well, France and Germany and there were some
41 other countries over there where, we did the same thing. So then ultimately, a
42 month or two later, I went down to Switzerland. Well, in Geneva, I met with
43 some pharmaceutical companies because they were all in that little area.

44
45 (Cross talk)

46
47 T. R. Sharp: Anyway, I walked in and there were three people that I had written. I'm one of
48 those terrific writers and I had probably two letters a piece, a week apart and
49 then two more maybe a month before that to each of them. I had told them I
50 was coming over and we wanted to have a program and we felt that they would
51 have something that we would want to hear. When we went over there and

1 met with the three of them, one from each of the different pharmacies. They
2 said, "Dr. Sharp, we appreciate your coming this far. What is it that you want
3 to know?" Oh, I could've killed all three right there. I said, "Do you get your
4 mail quite regularly?" "Well sure." "Did you ever read any of mine?" "Well
5 yeah." You could tell that was a half no. Then I laid into him. I said, "Now
6 there's no possible way that we can communicate any more often, nor with any
7 more clarity than we have to you folks. You are either on the program or
8 you're off, and I don't give a darn which one you choose right at this minute."
9 Well, I guess I nailed all three of the companies to the cross and then when we
10 broke up I went back. I said, "Well you think about it... I'm getting on the
11 plane here in Geneva and I want to have heard from you either by phone or by
12 a letter, whatever, and you just tell me if you want to do part of this." I said,
13 "It's the only one of its kind in the osteopathic profession..." "How many
14 people do you think you're going to get?" I said, "Well, I'd say between 100
15 and 200." "Oh!" Now we had them interested. They performed. They had
16 people come to Madrid. So as you can see it took a lot of penmanship and
17 everything else until you could get through to them but the result was
18 magnificent.

19
20 Mary Sharp: Was that Germany or Spain?

21
22 T. R. Sharp: No, these people were in Switzerland and they were going to go to present in
23 Madrid. That's where we were having our convention.

24
25 Committee: How many showed up eventually?

26
27 T. R. Sharp: I think around 60, which wasn't a bad. Actually that was very good for those
28 foreign trips. I think there were 150 on the Britain trip. I think Mary and John
29 were there in Madrid.

30
31 Committee: Something I've always... Do you all have any other questions?

32
33 Committee: No, go ahead.

34
35 Committee: You really if you have any others, you need to go ahead of this. This is our
36 very last question; it really is because I've always wanted to ask somebody
37 this...Dr. Sharp, I look at your pictures from awhile back and I've always
38 wondered: Why did people wear bow ties?

39
40 Committee: (laughter)

41
42 T. R. Sharp: I told that when...

43
44 Committee: I knew you would know.

45
46 T. R. Sharp: At the AOA Convention, when they gave me a distinguished service award for
47 something and so I addressed them and I said, "Now you may have noticed that
48 I'm wearing a bow tie." Well I didn't ask for them to answer. I told this story
49 and it's a true one. I said, "I went to Philadelphia to take some post graduate
50 courses..." I think I took three or four of them out there. One was pharmacy
51 and one of them was obstetrics, another one was pediatrics." I said, "There

1 was one person that I saw that I was highly impressed by. He wore a bow tie.
2 He was not a general practitioner. I think he was an internist, but he was a
3 communicative soul. I enjoyed hearing him, and I enjoyed the way he handled
4 himself. I thought: Well by golly if he can wear a bow tie then I can too.
5 Because for me, in those days, I wore those long things and I'd lean over
6 somebody and the darn tie would get in their mouth. Oh gees. Then after I had
7 explained that to them well I heard some clapping. And that's the story of that
8 one.
9

10 Committee: So it was to keep it out of people's mouths.

11

12 Mary Sharp: Now, you've got about 500 of them.

13

14 T. R. Sharp: I do; I have about 500, and I never bought any. They were all presented to me.
15 I don't use them much anymore because I'm not in the office every day.
16

17 Mary Sharp: Now I know you're not going to believe this, but he got invited to testify on
18 behalf of a patient in court one day and the patient's attorney said, "For God's
19 sake, please wear a long tie." He said, "Well why?" He said, "People who
20 wear bow ties are known to be opinionated...
21

22 T. R. Sharp: That's right, and I remembered that so I knew that I had to wear a long tie.
23

24 Mary Sharp: ...and judges don't look favorably on testimony from opinionated people..."

25

26 T. R. Sharp: They think that you think that you're too darn smart.
27

28 Mary Sharp: Bob got a long tie and wore it. It's the only time I've ever seen him wear one.
29

30 T. R. Sharp: Well, I didn't know how to tie the darn thing; I'd forgotten.
31

32 Committee: Actually, I did have a serious question. Both Mary and John gave you
33 accolades as being the person, I believe, that did more work in creating our
34 documents, original documents. Tell us a little bit about you as a wizard of
35 basic documents. Was it your calling? How did it come to be that you were
36 that person who could think through and create those things?
37

38 T. R. Sharp: I don't know exactly but there is some chronology, and it would go back to
39 Wisconsin. Well no, it would go back to Kirksville. When I got to Kirksville,
40 the documents for initiation into a fraternity were very bad. So I thought:
41 "Well gees, I can leave this a little better." That was what my dad always said,
42 "If you find something, try to improve it." So I did, I typed the whole thing
43 over so they could read it now. Later after beginning practice I joined an
44 interested group who were MDs, DOs and chiropractors and they wanted some
45 things rewritten. So I rewrote part for them and sent them back. But, it may
46 go back even a bit farther. In high school I was the editor of the yearbook.
47 When I went to college at the University of Dubuque in Iowa, I was the editor
48 of the yearbook, and then when I went down to Kirksville, I was the editor of
49 the yearbook because once you get into it, you have a lot of contacts. The
50 documents didn't just surrender to me. I tried to pull them out and put them in
51 a better order. Commonly we'd take the old document and then simply list as I

1 thought it should be. I might do it just because it was Sunday and I could sit
2 out on my patio and type all of these things here and there. I didn't have any
3 dogs, children, or anybody else running around the house to bother me. They
4 were out in the pool swimming, so I didn't have to worry about entertaining
5 them as such. So that was one organization then, oh, about every organization
6 I went to, their documents were incomplete. You know that there's better
7 wording so I would just type the darn thing over. Well then you could get kind
8 of the scheme of it and how it goes then it gets easy. As far as the information
9 goes, it's been put there by better heads than mine and you kind of follow
10 along their path. I was usually appreciated because nobody else wanted to do
11 anything, and it was free.
12

13 Committee: They described that you created reams of documents and they said that in a
14 nice way. It was stated that it was a lot of labor and that you were very good at
15 it and that you just did it for the good of the organization. But you also must
16 have that analytical kind of mind for that stuff don't you?
17

18 T. R. Sharp: Kind of like some of you fellows sitting right here. I know that you have the
19 makings and it would be my suggestion that you all get on to the ACOFP
20 Board and hammer down. If it's right, it's right, it's right, it's right.
21

22 Committee: Well, gentlemen, questions?
23

24 T. R. Sharp: Oh, we could go on all night.
25

26 Mary Sharp: I said too much.
27

28 Committee: We sure appreciate your sharing.
29

30 T. R. Sharp: Well you didn't get my bill yet did you?
31

32 Committee: (laughter)
33

34 Committee: Who do you think would be good people for this committee to interview?
35

36 T. R. Sharp: Anderson*, Dick Anderson because, well, he remembers his mother being
37 sewed up after her episiotomy. I mean he's got a good memory.
38

39 Mary Sharp: He's retired.
40

41 T. R. Sharp: Yeah, he's "tired".
42

43 Committee: Was he a national ACGP figure?
44

45 T. R. Sharp: Yes, a national ACGP figure. He and Haman were the people that hammered
46 this certified post doctoral training.
47

48 Committee: What's his first name?
49

50 Mary Sharp: Richard, R. W. Anderson.
51

1 Committee: R. W. Anderson, I don't even remember that name mentioned in the book.
2 Was he a part of what you and Haman were doing?
3

4 T. R. Sharp: Well for this particular thing [working on certified post doctoral training] it
5 was him and Haman only.
6

7 Mary Sharp: It was really the two of them.
8

9 T. R. Sharp: Oh, and Bob Finch, but he's dead.
10

11 Committee: So did Anderson predate you?
12

13 T. R. Sharp: No, but he worked hard on this project for setting up certified post graduate
14 training. Because they wanted to show the government that they were not just
15 kicking a ball around. It's the real thing and you had to pass additional certified
16 tests or you didn't pass.
17

18 Committee: So was that just for the State of Texas or was Anderson involved nationally?
19

20 T. R. Sharp: No, it was nationally. Before coming to Texas he was president of the
21 Wisconsin Association of GPs, and he was there for quite a number of years.
22

23 Committee: He was ACGP then?.

24

25 T. R. Sharp: He was a member.. He's also certified.
26

27 Mary Sharp: Crumb, you know where Crumb is?
28

29 Committee: (Inaudible)...
30

31 Mary Sharp: Bob and Dr. Anderson and Bob's brother were all...
32

33 T. R. Sharp: Study mates.
34

35 Mary Sharp: ...and R. W., "Andy" we call him...He is still here in Dallas. He would be a
36 good one to interview about those times.
37

38 Committee: Dr. Sharp and Mary, it was a pleasure...
39

40 T. R. Sharp: My pleasure indeed.
41

42 Committee: ...doing the history and learning about you guys has truly been an honor.
43
44
45
46