

H.B. Teichmann
Narrator

June Dobervich
Interviewer

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JD: The time is ten o'clock in the morning on Tuesday, March 19, 1985. This interview is with H.B. Teichmann. This taping is being produced in Moorhead State University's recording studio. The interviewer is June Dobervich, representing the Heritage Education Commission.

H.B., it's nice to have you with us this afternoon. I know your interest in theatre goes a long way back. And I'm really interested to know what you did, how you began...How did your interest in theatre begin, at what age?

HT: [Sighs] I've thought about that, and I...I can't say when it began, because...ah...it seems as though with our...almost forever. [Chuckles]

JD: Forever, eh? [Chuckles]

HT: Well, yes. Soon after I was born, when I was a small child. Although we were not in a situation, or in a place where I had contact with theatre, but...well, when we were...when I was about five years old...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: When we moved to Big Stone, South Dakota, and there we were...well, there was no theatre there, they had summer Chautauquas.

JD: Oh, yes.

HT: And that had, you know, occasional plays, and entertaining music, lectures, and all that sort of thing.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Did you and your sisters kind of make up plays, and do things at home? Or not that you can...?

HT: Oh...not that...not that far back...to begin with.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm. Then from Big Stone, South Dakota, H.B., did you...? Where did you go from there?

HT: Well, from Big Stone to Aberdeen. That was a bigger town.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: It had an opera house, and had a school there, a normal school, it was then.

JD: Sure.

HT: Who put on...and the public schools there put on plays and things.

JD: You went to high school in Aberdeen?

HT: Yes.

JD: Yes.

HT: [Chuckles] Two years of high school in Aberdeen, and one in Bismarck, and then I finished in Fargo.

JD: Oh! Well, you weren't in any place very long, but I'll bet you didn't waste any time getting up on that stage. Were you in plays at that time?

HT: Oh, just...just a little.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. That was kind of an introduction, hmmm?

HT: But I was...I don't know *why* I was always interested in...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: In Aberdeen, they had...there was an opera house where they had road companies...came there.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And an old man, an old Civil War veteran who lived next to us...and he used to take me to some of the shows there, where there was ten, twenty, thirty melodramas.

JD: Mmmm! Well, that's interesting.

HT: *The Homespun Heart* and *The Lighthouse Robbery*.

JD: Oh! [Laughs]

HT: [Laughing] And that sort of...

JD: [Laughing] Interesting titles!

HT: [Laughing] Yes!

JD: Mmmm. Mmmm-hmmm! And then your family moved to Fargo when you were a senior in high school, is that right?

HT: Well, I...yes, I went into the senior year here.

JD: Uh huh. So when would you say you started playing parts on the stage?

HT: Oh...a little...a little bit in school.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: I had a small part in that high school class play.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And then in...when I went to Fargo College for four years after high school.

JD: High School.

HT: And we lived in Fargo.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And of course I did some things there, in the German Club, and in the class play, and things of that sort. [Chuckles]

JD: Sure. Uh huh.

HT: But I...but not a great deal of it. But I was always interested in it. I don't know why.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Well, and it...it apparently answered some kind of a need. Hmmm...what do you think the theatre has done for you?

HT: Mmmm-hmmm.

JD: I mean, how has it...? Obviously, it's given you some satisfaction to be a part of the theatre.

HT: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

JD: What would you say? Has it...what kind of needs has it answered for you?

HT: Hmmm. [Chuckles]

JD: Just...perhaps a need to express yourself? Hmmm...would that...?

HT: Well...yes.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm. Have you lived in Fargo your entire life then since that time, H.B.?

HT: Well, I've...it has been home base.

JD: Uh huh. So you've been...?

HT: We did have...you see, my father was a minister.

JD: I see.

HT: What is now...would now be a Methodist minister.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And at that time, hmmm, we lived in parsonages, and that's one reason that we'd have our...ah...four year limit, so we'd have...

JD: Is that right?

HT: At that time, so that four years is about as long as we lived anywhere.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Until later there...they relaxed that a great...little bit.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: So that's why we moved so often.

JD: Is that so? That's interesting.

HT: And we never had a home of our own until after my father died. Then we...my mother bought a house in Fargo, an older house, and we...

JD: Were there others in your family, H.B., who were interested in the theater, or only you?

HT: Well, they were all interested in the theatre. Hmmm, that's something...hmmm...our father was a minister, well, see, a Methodist minister. And in those days, you know, Methodists...

JD: They were kind of against the theatre, weren't they?

HT: Well, a little.

JD: A little bit?

HT: They were...yeah, hmmm way back then, yes.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Oh, this tobacco, and alcohol, and the theatre, and dancing, and card playing...

JD: All those things were...[Chuckles]

HT: Those were the five deadly sins! [Chuckles]

JD: [Laughing] I see! But somehow or other, through all that training, you still managed to cling to your love of the theatre.

HT: Oh, yes. Well, my parents were both interested in education.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And anything that was...well, cultural or educational we would call it now, they tried to expose us to it. And they would...like we always...when we lived there in Big Stone, where they had Chautauquas, we attended those things.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And well, if there were lectures, or concerts, or anything, hmmm, they tried to see that, well, that we took it in.

JD: That was a great advantage for you, wasn't it?

HT: Oh, yes.

JD: Yes. So many children don't have parents who feel that way.

HT: Well, in Aberdeen there were...at that time, it wasn't...here, the schools all have artist courses.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: In Aberdeen there, there were two churches, which...I don't know for what reason, Presbyterian and one other church there ran an artist course.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And then during the winter season we'd have lectures, and concerts, and things. And they always saw to it and encouraged us to attend those things.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Kind of had to make your own fun in those days; weren't any movie theatres. [Chuckles]

HT: Well, no. Then...well, in nearby Aberdeen, then there began to be, yes.

JD: Yes. Mmmm-hmmm. Well, when did your...? Did your involvement with our theatre here in Fargo-Moorhead...? Was there nothing between school and the time that you played your first role here in...on our stage, H.B.?

HT: Oh, yes.

JD: There were things?

HT: [Chuckles] Oh, yes.

JD: Okay! Well, that's what I want to hear about: before you started with us. Because of course after that I know a lot about it, but I am going to ask you about that, too.

HT: Oh, well, hmmm...I was always interested in and wanted to have something to do with the theatre, professional theatre. And I read about the American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York, and wrote to them, and...hmmm...had my eye on a school in...if I ever were able to go there.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And then...well, except what little I did in high school and college, I didn't have any real theatre experience or theatre...well, training experience, I mean.

JD: No...no education in it.

HT: No.

JD: What...about what time...what year would this be, H.B.?

HT: Well...

JD: Approximately, when you started...when you started learning about the New York institution.

HT: Well, what I...when I went there was in 1922. That was after World War I, and after I had finished college here.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And back from Europe from the war.

JD: The war.

HT: I didn't know what I was going to do.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: But that fall, they talked about a shortage of teachers. And for quite a while...well, I was...there wasn't anything really in my life [unclear] as the theatre. I had a teacher I very much liked in high school who taught biology. And I got interested, and was interested in science anyway, and I thought that I would like to teach biology myself, you know. And I sort of had that in mind.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: At the back of my mind, I was *most* interested in theatre...or that, you know.

JD: And that was first.

HT: But...but yes...

JD: Teaching was kind of a possibility?

HT: Yes. Hmmm. But I thought for a while that that was I was going to do.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And then when they said there was a shortage of teachers, ah, I signed up with an agency, and I taught three years.

JD: Where did you do that? What place?

HT: Oh...

JD: Several places, hmmm, now?

HT: Yes.

JD: Okay. So then it would be...this would bring us to about...

HT: [Unclear]...here in North Dakota and South Dakota. And...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. So does this bring us to about 1925, when you thought about going to New York?

HT: No...hmmm...oh, about...well, 1922 is when I went.

JD: Oh. Okay.

HT: Hmmm. [Chuckling] I couldn't go whether...ah, that teaching wasn't paying much, and I wasn't that good a saver. I never had it.

JD: [Chuckles]

HT: So I didn't...save money enough to do anything with. [Chuckles]

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: In those three years of teaching.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And each year I thought, only...maybe next year I'll have...get ahead a bit. Then when, hmmm, North Dakota paid what they called a soldier's bonus to those who were in service...

JD: Ah. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And that gave me about fifteen hundred dollars.

JD: Ah. A real nest egg.

HT: And then I wrote to the Academy and...and went! [Chuckles]

JD: And great you were accepted.

HT: What?

JD: You were accepted there to train?

HT: Yes. Well, yes. Mmmm-hmmm.

JD: That's wonderful. I understand it's very hard to get into the Academy these days.

HT: Well, I don't think it is. The...I went there when the founder...it was founded in 1884.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: The founder...hmmm...what was his name? [Chuckles]

JD: Well, most of us wouldn't know it anyway.

HT: Yeah. Mmmm-hmmm.

JD: But anyway...

HT: Hmmm.

JD: He was still there, was he?

HT: Oh, yes. He was still there.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Terrific.

HT: It was his...his last year there.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Hmmm.

JD: Maybe his name will come to you later as we talk. But anyway...

HT: Franklin Sargent.

JD: There we go. Franklin Sargent.

HT: Franklin Sargent.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: He was...well, the...he had to with the Frohman's...the Frohman producers.

JD: Uh huh.

HT: Hmmm, in New York. And they had...hmmm...they...well, I don't know to what extent they...that they invested in it or not, but anyway, they had a...

JD: Some sort of a tie in with that?

HT: ...a school, yes, even before it was the American Academy.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: It was a lyceum school or something, and then the Lyceum Theatre is still there. [Chuckles]

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Hmmm. Which the Frohman's had. And...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. So how long did you go to school there?

HT: Well, a year. And then it was...there was a junior year and a senior year.

JD: I see.

HT: Because senior year was...hmmm...well, the junior year had several hundred.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. In the group.

HT: In the...in the group, yes. And the senior...if you did well enough where they would...they asked you if you wanted to come back...

JD: They asked you back. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: The senior year.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And every...everybody, that was all of us, and we were, "Were you asked back? Were you asked back?" [Chuckles]

JD: Mmmm. Oh! Exciting day, wasn't it?

HT: Well, yes.

JD: Yes.

HT: Well, I was. I was told...and see, by the time I went there, I was twenty-...hmmm...well, that fall, I...that winter I became twenty-seven.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And for that sort of thing, then they urge you to start younger.

JD: Start early.

HT: You should be in your teens or early...your very early twenties.

JD: You were considered an old man at that time, hmmm? [Chuckles]

HT: [Chuckles] Well, they...they...

JD: Little did they know how long you were going to people this planet! [Chuckles]

HT: Well, hmmm...they were...there were others there my age.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: There were people, oh, that came out of...and my best friends, there were two of them, Brown University graduates.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: A lot of people went there from college then.

JD: Right from college.

HT: Yes. And...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. So now what...what did your training there...? I mean, you were actually in classes of various types for a year?

HT: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

JD: And then did they do productions at the same time?

HT: Oh, yes. Yes, they were the...what they called the examination plays.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: We'd do, well, short plays, or an act of this or that kind of play, one act of a comedy, or an act of dramatic showing.

JD: Reading the whole thing yourself? Or in groups you would read?

HT: Oh, no. Oh, no, I'm...in groups we...

JD: In groups?

HT: No. No, we had to rehearse and play them.

JD: Ah. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: It wasn't just reading them.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Okay.

HT: Hmmm. And I...I was told I could come back if I wished.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: I have the card yet from...[Chuckles]

JD: That...that is your...?

HT: Just signed by Mr....by...

JD: By this...

HT: By Franklin Sargent.

JD: Well, I...

HT: Ah...and he wrote on it, "Good comedian." [Chuckles]

JD: Ah! [Chuckles] Well, I'd agree with that. [Chuckles]

HT: [Chuckles]

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Well, now then...but you didn't go back the second year?

HT: Well...if...

JD: Or did you?

HT: If I had had the money to go back.

JD: That...I was going to say.

HT: Because that...

JD: It was the money then.

HT: Because it would have taken...

JD: Another fifteen hundred dollars, hmmm?

HT: [Unclear], yes.

JD: [Chuckles] Yes. Uh huh. Uh huh. And so you ran out of cash, and you...that was it, hmmm?

HT: Hmmm. Well...I stayed in New York.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: For...well, I got it...to that very...I was one...and there weren't so many in that big class who got a job right away.

JD: Uh huh.

HT: And I was very fortunate. [Chuckles]

JD: Oh.

HT: Hmmm. Then that summer when we were living...a group of us who were in the class together as students had an apartment together. And some...well, we would...well, you'd go down to the offices and ask...

JD: Sure.

HT: And be told, "Nothing today. We're not casting now in something."

JD: Casting offices, yes.

HT: Yes.

JD: Yes.

HT: But someone told me they were casting the...Wagenhals and Kemper were casting for road companies of *The Bat*, which was a very successful mystery play.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: It ran for quite a while in New York. And then they had about five companies...five or six companies on the road for several years after that.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Hmmm, a western company, a coast company, a city company, a New England company, a southern company, and I was cast as [unclear] the western company.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: So I came and played out here.

JD: You played in...near Fargo then?

HT: I played pro-...I played at the Orpheum for...in Fargo.

JD: In the Orpheum Theatre.

HT: Yes!

JD: Well...

HT: And in Aberdeen, I played where I had gone to high school. And in, well, Ortonville, which is right near...next to Big Stone there.

JD: Sure. Yes.

HT: There I played. So I really played in three...

JD: All your old hometowns.

HT: My three old hometowns. [Chuckles]

JD: [Chuckles] Well, how did...? Hmmm, how did your family take this? Were they...? I'm sure they were very proud.

HT: Oh, yes.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Oh, yes. They were all there to see it!

JD: Oh...I can imagine.

HT: See that. [Chuckles]

JD: Yes. Well, wasn't that exciting? Uh huh. So after that show, what...you went back to New York?

HT: Yes. And then as the bank account ran out of what there was...[Chuckles] Well, was running out.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Then I'd do any...you know, anything to...just to [unclear].

JD: Get a little money so that you could stay in New York.

HT: To...to stay there.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And hmmm, well, these friends of mine that I lived with, they...one of them, well, became well known later on radio...why, radio and TV, Herb Butterfield.

JD: Herb Butterfield. I've heard that name. You bet.

HT: Yes.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Oh, yes. He played on *The Halls of Ivy*, and a number of radio and TV shows after that.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Well, anyway, hmmm...I don't know why I got onto him...?

JD: Well...

HT: Well...[Chuckles]

JD: He was one of the men you lived with and worked with at that time.

HT: Yes. Yes.

JD: Sure.

HT: Well, yes, of everybody he...I guess he got into something then...some part in a New York show.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: But I went to the theatre where I heard they were casting, and they had me read the part. And I spoke to them, I said...and they said, "Come to their office next..." That next week. And I made an appointment. When I came in, well, then they offered me the part in the western company. And that was...I signed up then, but that would be for the fall, you see.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And then I began to take odd jobs. I worked at a...New York was full of orange drink stands. There were dozens of them right around Times Square. And then that...ah...all over the place, you know.

JD: I bet it was hard for you to save money, because I bet you wanted to see every play on Broadway, didn't you? [Chuckles]

HT: Well, it was...I stayed there; I lived there for six years then.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: I worked nights at...I took night jobs, because that would give me my days, I could still go to the office, you know, for casting.

JD: Sure.

HT: But I would get so sick and tired of that, where I wasn't getting no response.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: But I just gorged on plays, concerts, opera, and kept going by working in these drink stands, or night auditing at the hotels, ah, night jobs.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And well, these...these friends of mine, the year after I was with *The Bat*, ah, when I was working at the Roosevelt Hotel as night timekeeper, they told me about...well this one friend then at work had a home in Maine, and they spent their summers in Maine.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And they got in touch with somebody there. There was a little repertory company which played the little towns there up in Maine. And that was...well, somebody had taken it over. It wasn't doing very well. But anyway, they took over from him then, and they asked me to come

up there. And we rehearsed two...a kind of a silly comedy and a kind of a dramatic show, it was not...no great shakes as plays...but...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Gave you experience.

HT: I went up then...yes, it was experience. I went up that fall then, and it was beautiful country, beautiful scenery.

JD: Yes. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And interesting people and interesting towns.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: So we played...going around to the...these little towns.

JD: Provinces, hmmm? [Chuckles] Yeah.

HT: Yes. Playing these plays.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. So your experience then in New York and its environs were in those years probably between the time you were what, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, thirty-three...four...five, something like that?

HT: Yes. Mmmm-hmmm.

JD: Then when you had to leave New York, after six years...

HT: Well...

JD: Or did...? Or am I hurrying you? I don't want to now. Is there more we should hear about your experiences in New York?

HT: Yeah...Oh, except I was going to the theatre and...oh, movies, too.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And theatre plays and musicals, now and then an opera, concerts.

JD: That was the life, hmmm?

HT: Yes.

JD: Great. Wonderful.

HT: And I just...got out of the habit of going to offices and looking for a job.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: I just gorged on *seeing* plays, you know.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Wonderful.

HT: Which...which didn't get me anywhere as a...

JD: Personally.

HT: ...as a career.

JD: Yeah. Yeah. Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: But I certainly enjoyed it. [Chuckles]

JD: Yeah. Well, then I guess what I want to try to do now is...I don't want to hurry you, but I want to get to our own Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre.

HT: Mmmm-hmmm.

JD: Hmmm, you have...I've heard your name for many, many years, long before I got to know you through the theatre, H.B., and your family. Hmmm. What kind of...what did you do here in Fargo then, after you came back? Did you...hmmm...?

HT: Well, I came back just when I did, because that was Depression time.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Sure.

HT: And the Depression hit the cities...and hmmm...

JD: No jobs to be had.

HT: More...yeah, ah...

JD: Sure.

HT: Was no...no, there were all kinds of...lots of...crowds of people out of work.

JD: People jumping out of windows and all that kind of thing.

HT: Well...[chuckles]

JD: Here, at least, we had our vegetable gardens to keep us alive, didn't we?

HT: Oh, yes.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Well, now, hmmm...I know...you know, that the Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre didn't start until 1946, and so there had to be some years in between there where perhaps you were kind of fallow.

HT: Mmmm. Oh. Yes.

JD: You didn't have an opportunity to be in plays much, probably?

HT: No. No...

JD: Is that right?

HT: Ah, I came out here, yes, when things...when even the poorer jobs or these makeshift things that I used in between there, to keep me going. [Chuckles] Well, those were drying up, too.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Sure.

HT: I mean, it wasn't even easy to get that kind of job.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: So I came out here thinking I'd stay until...

JD: Things got better, hmmm? [Chuckles]

HT: Yeah.

JD: Yeah. [Chuckles]

HT: Until, yes, conditions were a little better, maybe two or three years, then I'd go back east again.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Well, I got home here, and ah...my home, which I had rather deserted for all those years... [Chuckles]

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. [Chuckles]

HT: Hmmm...that was still here. And I...well, I got interested in the home. And we had gardens, and the campus gardens, the Fargo College campus gardens.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And got interested in gardening, and...well, I did...[Chuckles] Jobs here were getting scarce then, too.

JD: Of course. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: But I did get a job at Northern School Supply.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And stayed there about thirty years! [Laughs]

JD: [Laughing] Is that right? Now see, that's something I didn't know about you.

HT: [Chuckles]

JD: I didn't know where you had worked that many years. That's a long time! Thirty years.

HT: Yes.

JD: I should say. Hmmm. Then...hmmm...oh, but in this time in between until 1946 when the Community Theatre began...

HT: Mmmm-hmmm.

JD: ...ah, is it fair to say that there really was no place for you to act, to do things?

HT: No.

JD: I mean, the opening of the theatre, in other words, was...filled a need. I mean, something that you had been wanting to do, and that you...there was no opportunity for you to do.

HT: Yes. Well, and at that time, hmmm...my mother was...well, wasn't well. She wasn't...well, at first...well, she wasn't really bedridden to begin with.

JD: No.

HT: But just...just the last years. But I got interested...so interested in the house, and keeping up the house, and the garden, and all that sort of...and while I in a way missed the fleshpots of Egypt...[Chuckles]

JD: [Laughs]

HT: [Laughing] The theatre in New York.

JD: Sure.

HT: I...I wasn't...

JD: Your life was busy.

HT: I wasn't unhappy.

JD: No.

HT: I mean, I didn't create a fuss about it. Well...

JD: No. You had responsibilities here.

HT: Oh, yes.

JD: Sure.

HT: I hoped to go back sometime.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Yes.

HT: And...and...

JD: Did you ever go back? I mean, even for a short time. I mean, have you...?

HT: Oh, well...

JD: You've been back many times?

HT: Well, oh, many years, I've been back many times, but not...

JD: Not to stay.

HT: Not to go into a theatre. Well, I'd go to...

JD: See the season.

HT: I had friends in New Jersey, and some of these friends were still around New York.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: I'd go visit friends of mine on a two-week vacation.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: I would see all...as many plays as I could work in.

JD: Sure. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And then my younger...youngest sister Ruth was...by that time...that was one thing, she was very close to me. We got along so well.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And I had always hoped that sometime we could live in New York together.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm

HT: And it never happened while I lived there. But I used to go back and visit after she lived there. [Chuckles]

JD: Oh! She...she lived there.

HT: In later years, yes. She...

JD: Oh.

HT: She went...she went into Camp Fire work. She was a musician, and didn't...ah, her life was music from before that. But she...somebody in Camp Fire talked her into going into Camp Fire work, and she did that.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: She was an executive in Minneapolis, and Fort Worth, and in Fargo at one time.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And then she went to the Camp Fire headquarters in New York.

JD: Well, this was wonderful for you!

HT: Yeah.

JD: Gave you an opportunity to visit, and...

HT: Yes, and I'd go visit her there, and I'd get into town and go...go around and pick up as many theatre tickets as I could...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Mmmm. She couldn't...spend all her time in the theatre like I could, you know. [Chuckles]

JD: Like you. [Chuckles] Uh huh.

HT: But she...she wouldn't...

JD: Well, this sounds exciting. You really have soaked up an awful lot of theatre in your time, whether it was behind the footlights, or in...

HT: Front of them. [Chuckles]

JD: ...in front of them. Right. Yes. [Chuckles] Hmmm. But I'd like to bring this down now to 1946 when our theatre opened.

HT: Mmmm-hmmm.

JD: And I know...I know you were probably instantly drawn to the fact that we were going to have a theatre, maybe never imagining, as I never imagined, that we would still be going strong in 1985 as we are.

HT: [Chuckles]

JD: But, hmmm, in...at that time, in those first years...do you remember the first play, H.B., that you played in? Could you...?

HT: Oh, yes. Well, I didn't immediately get into the theatre, because at that time, hmmm...well, I was working. I had a job there, you see.

JD: Daytime job. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And...

JD: Responsibilities at home?

HT: At home.

JD: Yes. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Hmmm. So that I didn't feel that I could give...

JD: The time.

HT: ...the time to it.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Rehearsing, and all that sort of thing, besides my job.

JD: Sure. So what's the first...?

HT: So it was...it was a number of years...

JD: Uh huh.

HT: Hmmm...

JD: Doesn't necessarily have to be chronological. I mean, just...

HT: Well...hmmm...no, no.

JD: No. What...?

HT: But it was...hmmm...

JD: You don't remember offhand about...?

HT: Well, yes. Yes. Oh, yes. Hmmm. Well, it was in...?

JD: Marvin Hannibal[sp?] still here? At that time that you started?

HT: Oh, yes.

JD: And...

HT: Well...

JD: Was he the director?

HT: No, no. No.

JD: You didn't do anything under Marvin Hannibal?

HT: Ah...no. I saw the plays.

JD: Yes.

HT: I saw all of the plays from the...

JD: Oh, yeah. From the beginning.

HT: From the day, yes.

JD: Yes. Uh huh.

HT: But...hmmm...it was...hmmm...it was after...well...[Chuckles]

JD: Barbara Oliver's time?

HT: It was...oh, well, I know her, too.

JD: Yeah.

HT: Ah, well, anyway...who was...? Well, I played my first...

JD: What was the first play?

HT: Or in...ah...I went to a tryout [unclear] for one of the five...or for...hmmm...

JD: Hard to remember, isn't it? It's a long time ago.

HT: No, that...no, the first play was the...

JD: The first play that we did?

HT: Yes.

JD: *My Sister Eileen.*

HT: *My Sister Eileen.*

JD: Oh.

HT: I went...

JD: To the tryouts.

HT: To that. Yes. Yeah.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: That...not...thinking if there was maybe a small part for...

JD: That you could play.

HT: And I would be able to do it.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And Don Bishop was there. He and I read the same part and he got it. [Chuckles]

JD: Oh, he got it?

HT: Yes. [Chuckles]

JD: Oh, that...it's...I remember it was the custodian in the building, wasn't it?

HT: Yes.

JD: That he played? [Chuckles]

HT: Yeah. Yeah.

JD: Yeah, I remember that, too.

HT: And turned the letter around to them, yeah.

JD: Yes. Uh huh.

HT: Hmmm.

JD: Well, hmmm, Don was busy both backstage, and onstage, and in front of stage administratively.

HT: Yes.

JD: He was certainly one of the...

HT: Oh, yes.

JD: ...great moving forces of our theatre in that time. Well, what was the first play that you did actually take part in then, H.B.? Do you remember what some of the parts...?

HT: Well, it was...*Detective Story*.

JD: Detective.

HT: That was...Ed Bigelow.

JD: Oh, yes.

HT: Was the director of that.

JD: Yes. Uh huh.

HT: And *Detective Story*.

JD: Uh huh. That was the first.

HT: Yes.

JD: Well, I know that was the first of *many* parts that you played.

HT: It wasn't a big part, but it was a good part.

JD: Good part.

HT: And...I got very good notices. [Chuckles]

JD: Yes, I...

HT: And some attention for that. [Chuckles]

JD: Every play you ever were in, you got good notices.

HT: Well...[Chuckles]

JD: Because you are certainly a character actor.

HT: No, but hmmm...but I was encouraged by that.

JD: Yes.

HT: And from then on I went to...hmmm...well, see, my mother died in 1954.

JD: Uh huh.

HT: And though I...while I was still working, but there...there wasn't the pressure at home anymore then, you see.

JD: After that.

HT: Of...of being...

JD: On duty at night.

HT: Being out at rehearsals and that...and that sort of thing.

JD: Sure. Yeah.

HT: So that I was free to...to attend rehearsals, and attend tryouts.

JD: Left you free in the evening. Uh huh. Uh huh. So...ah...

HT: So from then on, I was in...

JD: Loads of them. [Chuckles]

HT: Oh, twenty, thirty plays, lots of them. [Chuckles]

JD: How many? Twenty, thirty, do you think? That many?

HT: Yes.

JD: Really?

HT: Oh, yes.

JD: Oh, golly.

HT: Oh, yes.

JD: Well, hmmm, I...

HT: Oh, lots were walk-ons or small parts.

JD: Small parts, sure. Yes. Well, you're a character actor.

HT: Yes.

JD: Would you say? I mean...

HT: Yes. Yes.

JD: Maybe...maybe...explain what I think I'm trying to say when I say a character actor.
[Chuckles]

HT: Yes. In fact, while...what's his name again? [Chuckles]

JD: Let's see. Now...hmmm...you're not talking about the...the one that's here now?

HT: Academy. No, the...

JD: Oh, the Academy. Oh, yes. You did tell me, and now I've forgotten, too. [Chuckles]

HT: Oh...

JD: Oh, whatever his name was, the president of the Academy.

HT: Yes.

JD: Yes.

HT: Who wrote on that ticket that I still have, "Good Comedian."

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: But the...after the examination plays, we had a...well, we played in about a half dozen plays then at the end of the year.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And then you'd get your...hmmm...from the various...from the faculty, you know, the different, oh, makeup and...hmmm...

JD: Appraisals of whatever you did. Kind of a report card, hmmm?

HT: Of...from the faculty members. Yes.

JD: Yeah.

HT: Yes.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And the...[chuckles] hmmm, comedy.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And they...

JD: That was, they felt, your strong suit.

HT: Well, they wouldn't...they said, you know, I could come back next year, but because I was not a kid anymore, you know, I was getting long...I...if I were able to and wanted to, I could come back next year.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: But they urged me to actually go ahead and try to make it.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Without coming back to...see, for the senior year.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Because they realized you were financially strapped, and not really in position to continue with the second year.

HT: Mmmm-hmmm. Yes. Yes.

JD: And they felt you had done well enough your first year to try to get employment. Yes. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: They said a comedy...comedy...a broad comedy along the lines even of the grotesque. [Chuckles]

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Did you have a favorite role, H.B.? I mean, anything that you enjoyed playing more than anything else?

HT: Oh, through all these years now?

JD: Yeah. Yeah. Uh huh. Did you...? Can you think of one that kind of stands out or one or two that...?

HT: Well...my biggest role was Grandpa in *You Can't Take It with You*.

JD: Yes.

HT: But it was...it was the most rehearsing, and memorizing, and remember, I wasn't getting any younger.

JD: I was going to say.

HT: And it was difficult to...and that was a time of...I have friends who were actors in stock companies, and for years they have to learn a part, and be rehearsing one play while they played another.

JD: Uh huh.

HT: Rehearsing for the next week. And they'd have to...because they were usually cut versions, they didn't have as long parts. But...they'd have to...have to be a quick study, and...hmmm...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: To remember the parts. I took...took a lot of learning and a lot of rehearsal at home. I'd have somebody cue...

JD: Asking your lines all the time.

HT: Cue me, yes. Yes.

JD: Uh huh.

HT: [Chuckles]

JD: But, hmmm, I remember you in that play. And I suppose I had a particular interest, because when I was in college I played Alice, in...

HT: Oh.

JD: ...in *You Can't Take It With You*. And do you know who was...?

HT: Oh, the writer?

JD: Ah, no, Alice was the...hmmm...the...

HT: Thought she was writing a...

JD: No, Alice was the young daughter, you know.

HT: The dancer?

JD: The romantic...No, not...not the dancer. The romantic lead.

HT: Oh. Oh, yes, yes. Yes, yes.

JD: It wasn't a big part.

HT: Mmmm-hmmm.

JD: But it was...

HT: Oh, yes. I remember that.

JD: And, hmmm, do you know, in that play, interestingly enough, hmmm, this was when I was at the little...in the Little Country Theatre when I was in...at NDSU.

HT: Oh, yes.

JD: Hmmm, ah...Roy Peterson played Grandpa.

HT: Who?

JD: Roy Peterson, one of our city fathers now, you know.

HT: Oh. Oh, yes. [Chuckles]

JD: Roy Peterson. We always say we trod the boards together.

HT: Oh, he played Grandpa.

JD: He played Grandpa.

HT: Oh. [Chuckles]

JD: So that's an interesting play for me. It always is when you've played in it yourself.

HT: Mmmm-hmmm.

JD: Well, that was your largest part.

HT: And that was a big part.

JD: Uh huh.

HT: But one of the parts that I enjoyed the most...doing...would be the small parts that didn't have a lot of lines to learn or, you know, a lot of memorizing to do. But like in the...the play that...the play that...that Dustin Farnham directed.

JD: Dustin Hoffman, yes.

HT: Oh, Dustin Hoffman. Right. [Chuckles]

JD: Yes. Uh huh.

HT: [Chuckles] That's how I remember his name, because of Dustin Farnham, yeah.

JD: Yeah. Yeah. [Chuckles]

HT: Yeah. Dustin Hoffman directed.

JD: Uh huh.

HT: In which I was onstage almost all evening.

JD: Uh huh.

HT: So I had...to be any good at all, I had to be in character.

JD: Yes.

HT: Ah...but...

JD: But you weren't hampered by all those lines.

HT: Yeah. No.

JD: Yeah. Well, now, hmmm...

HT: So I really enjoyed that. I was...I was playing the part every minute of the...of the evening.
[Chuckles]

JD: Sure.

HT: But without any worries about, you know, what was coming next, you know.

JD: Well, was...was that in the middle 1960s? I think...I did not see his plays. And I...that was during the time we were having guest directors, and I...

HT: Oh.

JD: I think that I was away with that...that other war, not the Second World War, but that other war, it was Korean or whatever. [Chuckles]

HT: Oh.

JD: But anyway, I was following my husband around from camp to camp at that time, and I didn't see Dustin Hoffman's productions. But, hmmm, you were lucky enough to be directed by him.

HT: Oh, yes.

JD: And of course he was in his infancy then. He...

HT: Oh, yes. He was...

JD: Yes. Yes.

HT: He had just came out here as a sort of fill-in to get some experience.

JD: Right. Uh huh.

HT: Although he told...he told...

JD: The present director, Marty?

HT: No.

JD: No.

HT: The...[unclear – sounds like the drug man].

JD: Oh, George Nassif.

HT: George Nassif.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Whose right up...and near...near the Fargo there.

JD: Yes.

HT: Ah...and he pointed to the Fargo marquee and he said...said his name...[Chuckles]

JD: Was going to be in lights. [Chuckles]

HT: ...was going to be up there.

JD: [Laughs] Well, he prophesized...

HT: And with...and within a couple of years, it was!

JD: Was. Yes.

HT: But as I think, it was probably *The Graduate*, or [*Midnight*] *Cowboy*, or *The Graduate*, one of his.

JD: Yes. Yes, that's the first thing I saw him in.

HT: One of his...one of his first plays.

JD: Movies.

HT: And he was...there his name, well, it was. [Chuckles]

JD: Well, he's done...he's done mighty well.

HT: [Chuckles]

JD: Well, hmmm, H.B....ah...I think that those of us who love the theatre...and certainly, I think, the two of us could both say that. For us there are not only some high moments, but there is something about the theatre that we get something from. It's difficult to describe, but it is some sort of...hmmm...repayment for the work that's involved.

HT: Mmmm-hmmm.

JD: Hmmm. What is it that we feel so much when this gets in our blood? What is it that we get back? What kind of satisfaction would you say it's been for you?

HT: Well...although...well, it's true that...hmmm...there are people in the theatre...there have been many who are, oh, show-offs, you know, being show-offs.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: But I was always...[chuckles] really timid!

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. So...what did...?

HT: As way back as...ah...well, I'm...the first times in school or anything. Hmmm. If I had something to do, and I...once I got started doing it, I think I got started playing a part...

JD: You could forget, couldn't you, who you were...?

HT: Could forget yourself, and not be self-conscious, but just...you play it. You know, I've heard that about so many famous actresses and actors who are...stage shy or...

JD: They're shy offstage.

HT: Yes.

JD: But onstage they can be so many different people.

HT: Yes. That...yes.

JD: Play so many different parts.

HT: Yes, while they're playing the part they can.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Yes.

HT: Before they go...go on...

JD: But it's got to be a confidence builder, these public successes.

HT: Yes. Oh, yes.

JD: Hmmm, you finally realize that you can do these things.

HT: Yes.

JD: And for some people, they're just shy about public appearances all their life.

HT: Mmmm-hmmm.

JD: Yes. Hmmm. In your then many years of following of the Community Theatre, of...you know that the theatre does something for the community, and certainly the community does something for the theatre. It's pretty hard to divide the two. We're called a community theatre.

HT: Mmmm-hmmm.

JD: Hmmm, and over these years, you have got to have had, hmmm, impressions of people who kind of stand out for you in terms of service to our community through Community Theatre. Who are some of the people that you think of as being kind of the movers and shakers in our theatre that are community members? I'm not speaking now of directors.

HT: Well, you're one of them.

JD: [Chuckles] Well, thank you very much.

HT: [Chuckles]

JD: Hmmm, but aside from the two of us who are, of course, in our own opinions very great, who else is there, H.B.? [Chuckles]

HT: [Chuckles] Oh...well, who is the...? The one who...there is one who did a lot here, and that was John Tilton.

JD: John Tilton, yes, you bet.

HT: And, hmmm, for as long as he was here. He wasn't here very long, was Ed Bigelow.

JD: Yes.

HT: He did a lot for the theatre.

JD: Now they were both directors, H.B.

HT: Directors, yes.

JD: I guess I'm thinking...and of course, and certainly, in John's case, he became a member of our community, because he worked in other places after he was a theatre director here.

HT: Yes.

JD: But I guess I'm thinking of, hmmm, you know, your neighbor and mine, the kind of people that...as you had a love for theatre, played lots of parts, could be called upon to do anything in the theatre...are there some names that kind of stand out for you?

HT: Oh, they are very...[Chuckles] I...

JD: It's hard to remember, there are so many, aren't there?

HT: Yes.

JD: Yes. Well, we'll...we'll just skip by that. Hmmm. Do you feel the community supports the theatre pretty well?

HT: Yes. Oh, yes, I think so.

JD: Uh huh. Uh huh. You feel that there has been lots of community support. Hmmm...well, it's a...I think that we can say that our Community Theatre is probably not only just outstanding all over the United States, and a good example of what can be done, but also is one of the stronger arts groups in the two cities. And, hmmm, I guess we owe that to dozens and dozens and dozens of people who, like yourself, have tirelessly given of their time and their energies to help get this thing going. And there is no question that it's going, hmmm, I think. I understand you go down quite often and talk to present staff. You keep your interest.

HT: Oh, yes. I'm...when I go downtown, I usually just stop in there.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Ah...

JD: Say hello?

HT: Yes. Oh, yes.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Hmmm. I would like whoever listens to this tape in the future to know that Mr. Teichmann will be eighty-nine his next birthday, is that correct?

HT: Oh, no. He was eighty-nine on his last birthday in December!

JD: On his last birthday. You're going to have your ninetieth.

HT: Next December, yes.

JD: I think we're going to have to celebrate that somehow.

HT: [Chuckles]

JD: [Chuckles] Well, it's...hmmm...you've had a long and a colorful life in the theatre. Is there...is there any other experience or any other thing you'd like to tell me about?

HT: Well, just...I thought of one thing.

JD: Okay.

HT: And it connects with the...as to your feelings or...hmmm...on stage of what you enjoy about it.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Hmmm. There was...well, a part I played in *Of Mice and Men*.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Well, it was...well, it was a good...it wasn't a bit part; it was a good sized part.

JD: Good sized then. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: But it wasn't a...what you'd call a lead or anything, it was just a character part.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: But that...that stands out in my mind, because it's one of the things that...that you feel...or that you enjoy doing in the theatre.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Which emphasized itself to me in that part. Hmmm. He's...well, he's a...he's crippled, and lost one hand, and just is kind of a...works around the stables there in this place.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And he has an old, old dog that is...that they are trying to have...get him to do away with, you know, his...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: But he's...he...can't quite do it. And then in the scene in which they try to convince him to get away with this dog, and he...well, he...hmmm...never are hardly any lines [chuckles]...that is, hmmm, I didn't, at that time. I had lines in the play later. But, hmmm, at that time, it was mostly...I was appealing to one or the other of them mostly by looks.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. So you were...

HT: Help me! You know. [Chuckles]

JD: Yes. You were...in other words, body action is so important in acting.

HT: Yes. But...Yes...

JD: And facial expression.

HT: But...and *in* that...but it stands out in my mind because...because it was...it wasn't spectacular, it wasn't what people would call *acting*, you know. [Chuckles]

JD: Hmmm. Well, yes, and really...

HT: You know, there was lines or any...well, it was, yes. But...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: That I...that I felt...

JD: Exactly what that man was meant to feel.

HT: Well...no. No. Well, but no, but...as an actor, I was *holding the audience*.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm. You could *feel* your audience.

HT: Oh, yes.

JD: Yes.

HT: Ah...Schoff[sp?], who was the...

JD: Critic at that time.

HT: Yes.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: He said the scene in which...

JD: H.B.

HT: They were...I was trying, you know, but this...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: The scenes about his dog...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Was the highlight of the evening! [Chuckles]

JD: Well, isn't that wonderful. Isn't that wonderful? Now that's great. Yeah. Oh...

HT: But that...and that...

JD: Yes.

HT: Ah...

JD: When you can feel that, you know...

HT: That I felt *more* than in some of the more...hmmm...

JD: Important parts.

HT: Yes.

JD: But that's...

HT: Or bigger parts.

JD: That was really, in a sense, your high point, actually, in a...in a sense.

HT: Yes. Yes.

JD: Ah, not just because of what the critic said, but of how you felt the audience when you were playing the part.

HT: Mmmm-hmmm. Yes.

JD: That's theatre.

HT: That went on quite a while.

JD: Uh huh.

HT: Ah, it could have been rushed, or it could have been held even longer, but...

JD: Uh huh. Mmmm-hmmm. You don't remember how many...? In those days, how many performances we were playing? Eight, ten, something like that?

HT: Oh...Oh, half a dozen maybe, I think it was...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm. Yeah, well, it's certainly varied over the years.

HT: Not as...not as many as they do now.

JD: Uh huh. Do you remember, H.B., who was the director for *Of Mice and Men*? We've had so many, that I know maybe you can't remember that.

HT: Well...well, it's in my book. [Chuckles]

JD: Sure. Sure.

HT: I had a book.

JD: Yeah.

HT: I could...I could look it up and tell you.

JD: Well, I just thought of offhand if you remembered, it might be interesting for us to know. Hmmm. Well, I think that the theatre's got a long...

HT: Oh it...well...

JD: ...a long ways to go, perhaps. But we've come a long ways, haven't we?

HT: Yes.

JD: Yes. And I've certainly been pleased and honored to be a part of it, and to have known you. And I know you're as pleased to have been a part of the growth of the theatre as I have. Hmmm. I certainly want to thank you for coming out and talking to me today, H.B. I have enjoyed hearing about your time in New York. I had heard that you did go to the Academy, and never have had the opportunity to talk with you about it. And it's been very interesting. Thanks an awfully lot.

HT: Well, but, I've...[Chuckles]

JD: [Chuckles] Yeah. You've got something more you'd like to say!

HT: Well...

JD: Yeah, sure, go ahead.

HT: When...when we were talking about the Academy...

JD: Uh huh.

HT: In my...in my old class...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Well, there were a number of people who...they came on...on after that.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Well, Pat O'Brien was in my class.

JD: Oh, was he?

HT: And his roommate, who was there in school, and that I saw all...there all the time, was Spencer Tracy.

JD: Oh, for goodness sake! Well, this is interesting information.

HT: Yeah. Spencer Tracy, yes. Hmmm. He was...well, and he's...[chuckles] probably the widest known or the best known of any student they ever had.

JD: Yes.

HT: They were...at that time...well even through the years since, well, they...I've been amazed by [unclear]. And the programs nowadays have little bits of it like...like our program does.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: They have for some years now. Years ago, they didn't.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: You know, hmmm, about the principal ones.

JD: The people that...what they'd done and...

HT: A write-up, yes, yes.

JD: Yes.

HT: A little resume or something about them.

JD: Yes, that's very interesting, I think, when you go to the theatre and you can see what experience these kids have had, or if perhaps this is their very first part.

HT: Mmmm-hmmm.

JD: And it helps you to evaluate them and think, hey, we've got a comer here, we're going to see a lot of good things come from this particular actor. Yes. I think that is a wonderful addition that we have now to our programs. Mmmm-hmmm. Well, I hope I haven't hurried you. I hope that there aren't lots of other little goodies that you've got there that I haven't...hmmm...

HT: Mmmm, well, I...from what you said the other day, I thought you would...might have talked more, you know, about the Community Theatre.

JD: Well, we certainly...yes, yes. And we certainly can do that, too. If I am...you know, if I'm not imposing on your time, we're...we don't have any time limit. We can keep on talking. You...hmmm...you did mention a number of the parts you played. Are there some others that you can think of that you could...? I know you said you've played in a lot of things. Hmmm...

HT: Well...oh.

JD: [Chuckles] It's hard to remember, isn't it? Just off the cuff.

HT: No, well...a comedy part I did that I enjoyed doing, well, and it...it didn't get such a big notice or anything, and that was in the *White Sheep of the Family*.

JD: Oh, yes. Uh huh.

HT: Played the absent-minded vicar in that.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: [Laughs]

JD: [Laughs] Did they typecast you?

HT: [Chuckles] Hmmm?

JD: They typecast you.

HT: [Chuckles]

JD: I bet you could think about a lot of things that...little...perhaps little...hmmm...things that maybe you remembered from your father's day. [Laughs] Little mannerisms, perhaps?

HT: Oh.

JD: No? [Chuckles]

HT: Oh...well, I'm not that...or indirectly.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Hmmm...

JD: But I suppose we're a part of everybody we know, so we certainly draw on characterizations and then we...

HT: And then when Bigelow was here, I took a part in *The Millionairess*.

JD: Uh huh.

HT: That...that was...hmmm...[George] Bernard Shaw, I guess, wasn't it?

JD: Yes. Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm. Well, hmmm...

HT: That was a small part, but I...I got it.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. What was...what was your swan song? Or haven't you done that yet? Are you still going to be in another play for us?

HT: Marty is...I have been talking about it for the last year. I don't know if he'll ever get me there before I drop or not.

JD: [Chuckles]

HT: But he wanted...well, he wanted last year, he wanted me to take a part. But...the part itself [unclear] or the play, oh, it didn't appeal to me and it...

JD: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: And I didn't particularly care to make the effort to go through it.

JD: Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: But I said yes I would if he finds a small part for...

JD: A couple...three- or four-liner that you think you could handle?

HT: Mmmm-hmmm.

JD: And it would be fun to see you again. I hope that happens.

HT: Yes. He's...[chuckles] He still talks about it, wanting to get me back on stage.

JD: Yeah. Well, I suppose it's...you know, it's got to be a play that suits and a part that is right for you. But...hmmm...

HT: Well...[unclear].

JD: I hope that happens. I'd enjoy seeing you.

HT: It's...the longer more time goes by, the older I am, and the more difficult part is...the more difficult it is to find a part.

JD: A part. Mmmm-hmmm.

HT: Because there were...[chuckles] there aren't so many parts for older people.

JD: For the older...that's right. Uh huh.

HT: [Chuckles]

JD: Well, we won't give up hoping to see you in the future sometime, H.B. And hmmm, thanks just a lot for...Okay.

[End of interview]

Transcription by Marilyn Olson-Trembl
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