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Liberal Arts and Sciences

William C. Rose Papers, 1923-1962, 1966

"Conversation with William C. Rose" a 3/4 color videotape production for the Biochemistry Department by the Instruction Television Division of the Office of Instructional Resources. 45 minutes. Given to Archives by Prof. I.C. Gunsalus, Chairman of W.C. Rose Lecture Comm. March 9, 1982

1st Interview: E.L. Goldwasser, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; M. Daniel Lane, Johns Hopkins University and Carl S. Vestling, Biochemistry, State University of Iowa with Prof. William C. Rose.

Introduction by Dr. Goldwasser. Prof. Rose had 56 Ph.Ds and 34 masters graduate students. 11 doctoral graduates are deceased. Masters students wrote theses. Prof. Lane will give the Rose lecture on enzymes, fatty acids & lipids and insulin. Prof. Vestling spoke about physics and chemistry.

After the first interview, Tom Jones of the Television service narrated a brief history of Rose's career with still photos of Lafayette B. Mendel, Prof. Knoop, Noyes Lab, W.C. Rose, and awards received. There is a photo of Mr. & Mrs. Rose.

2nd Interview: Harold E. Carter, second biochemist on the Illinois faculty; Carl S. Vestling, third biochemist; L.M. Henderson, fourth biochemist, from Univ. of Minnesota; Minor J. Coon, first Rose lecturer from the Univ. of Michigan; William J. Darby of the Nutrition Foundation, sponsor of the lecture series; and Professor Rose.

W.C. Rose recalls Prof. L.B. Mendel at Yale, whom he met in the fall of 1907 at the age of 20 after an initial reception by Prof. Chittenden. He did well with Prof. Mendel. "he was a marvelous teacher." After a semester, he decided on a career in biochemistry. He moved from Yale to Pennsylvania to Texas to Illinois. Yale, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Illinois had outstanding workers in biochemistry. He came to Illinois because of the Chemistry Department's reputation. He still thinks that it is "the best in the world." Prof. Carter said that he came from Prof. Carl Marvel, but switched to biochemistry after two lectures by Prof. Rose. He inquired about converting Roger Adams to recognizing biochemistry. Prof. Rose stated that a visitor from the University of Zurich in the 1930s insisted on being designated a biochemist, which helped to convince Adams. Prof. Lavell Henderson recalled graduate student days. Prof. Rose said that three hours of preparation were required for each hour of lecture. He listed names of graduate students. Prof. Coon recalled experiences as guinea pigs for experiments on human dietary requirements and asked how the work was taken up. Prof. Rose said that it was 10 years since the work on lysines and that work with purified amino acids was of interest. He said Glenn King's Science Advisory Committee was reviewing proposals. Rose had worked with animals, and proposed working with humans for \$15,000. His request was quickly approved and the

Nutrition Foundation subsequently provided \$100,000. His wife made the wafers and they used wafers, lemonade and yeast. Pills were flavored. Darby inquired about obtaining pure amino acids. Rose mentioned begging for money in New York in the early 1930s. With a Rockefeller Foundation list, he netted \$300. \$50 from the Graduate College and \$100 from the AMA were used to employ students at \$.40 an hour. Threonine was isolated. Prof. Coon recalled ling diets and pining for food. Prof. Rose noted that the loss of amino acids resulted in the failure of appetite for food. He heard few complaints from students who were paid \$1 to \$2 a day to participate. A number did not stay with the experiments. He said Vincent Du Vigneaud's work on pituitary hormones was not anticipated at that time. Prof. Darby quoted Bill Haines' consensus opinion of Rose about his mind, spirit, character, taste and demanding excellence in students - the first of the Illinois biochemists was one of the great teachers and investigators of biochemistry. Rose said that he may have unconsciously imitated Prof. Mendel.