

**Oral History Interview of
Dudley Faver**

**Interviewed by: Bill Tynan
December 16, 2008
Lubbock, Texas**

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Transcript Overview:

This interview features Dudley Favor as he discusses his involvement with the Dad's Association at Texas Tech University. In this interview, Faver describes the Dad's Association, its name change to the Dad's and Mom's Association, and details about its position in the university.

Length of Interview: 00:45:36

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Bill Tynan (BT):

This is Tuesday December sixteenth, and we are at the Carillon community village visiting with General Dudley E. Faver who was born in 1916 in Sweetwater, Texas. He graduated from high school, Newman high school in Sweetwater, in 1933, attended Abilene Christian College and graduated in 1937. After his graduation from Abilene Christian College, he made commitments to work in the U.S. what is now known as the U.S. air force. The Army Air Corps at that time. He obtained a private pilot's license in 1940, entered the Army Air Corps as a flight cadet. Remained in the air force as locations around the world until March 1, 1973. And so what we would need to know is what activities did you pursue after you retired from the military? The details from your military career are on a separate recording in the Southwest Collections at Texas Tech. so after leaving the army, I'm sorry the air force as it is now known, what did you do, to keep yourself busy?

Dudley Faver (DF):

Well, I [clears throat] retired in mid-summer energy crunch, and they were setting up the department of energy and I was selected to head a six state area and my home base was Colorado. And it was Colorado, Nebraska, both Dakotas, and Utah I guess. So it wasn't too long after that they changed presidents. And when I grew up ____ [0:02:34.5] want to grab your desk before you even clean it out. But anyway, I was lucky that the university decided they wanted to, wanted me to come over and to the university and implement a school on administration and personnel that would run on Friday afternoon, Friday night, and Saturdays. And would get the successful completers of that course a master's degree in personnel and administration. So I did that for a while, and then I had an opportunity to come back to Texas Tech to teach. So I moved from Denver to Texas Tech and I taught there for twenty years.

BT:

Do you know what year was that that you moved to Lubbock?

DF:

Well, we could figure it out because I retired, if I remember—last year, my ninetieth birthday so we can back for twenty years, seventieth birthday, when would that be?

BT:

Be around '87.

DF:

Well that must've been about the time I made the move.

BT:

Okay.

DF:

And that's how I came to be back at Tech.

BT:

Okay. Now when did you become involved with the dads association?

DF:

Well, I came back here, and one day I came out of the east—down the east stairs of the administration building and I met Dean James G. Allen and he said, "I've been looking for you." I said, "Well. I'm here" [laughter]. And he said we have an association of parents, a dads association, and I've decided that you would fit that bill very well. And I said, I don't object to doing that, providing I can still teach.

BT:

The business course.

DF:

Yeah. And so he hung a mantle and then there I went. It soon became obvious that maybe within a couple of years that we were going to have to make adjustments because there were a lot of single moms had students. And they wanted a ____ [0:06:36.4] which is right. So we went through the necessary process of changing the association. We went around with a lot of name like parents, dads and moms finally decided that dads and moms was most appropriate. So that's how I became involved with that. And we tried to help chapters in cities that had the most students here. Such as Dallas, San Antonio, let's see, Houston, and so there were about four or five chapters out there. And we were in business as dads and moms. Excuse me, association. And then after a certain amount of time, why, Trudy Poteet was selected as the director of the dads and moms association and I became only an advisor. I couldn't advise much I just check in every now and then. And that's how it went before I went with the dads and moms association.

BT:

When you visited with Dean Allen as you met him in the administration building, now did he turn over the responsibility to you? And did he retire and move on or did he stay in the office and work with you?

DF:

No, he turned it over to me. And I would talk to him always enjoyed him. Interesting thing, always watched when Dean Allen got in his car at the better scene, they better clear the streets.

BT:

Why? [Laughter]

DF:

You'd get run over!

BT:

He was that kind of a driver?

DF:

He was a, he was not the sharpest driver that I ever met. And I didn't ride with him.

BT:

Okay.

DF:

I'd either get in a ride with—

BT:

So I would never ride with you[laughter].

DF:

Either follow him if we were going someplace or have him ride with me. Now he was a Harvard graduate that came to Texas Tech to get some experience and he wasn't intending to spend very long here, but he became so wrapped up with Texas Tech and what was going on, he retired and died here.

BT:

It happens to a lot of people doesn't it so?

DF:

Yeah.

BT:

He helped make Texas Tech the Harvard on the West Texas.

DF:

In the plains.

BT:

On the plains, okay.

DF:

Yup. He was a fine gentleman.

BT:

Did you take over running the programs that Doctor Allen had started like the parents, I guess we're going to call it the parent's weekend okay.

DF:

Oh yeah.

BT:

Rather than dads weekend, it started as the dads weekend and, did you endorse that program and carry it on?

DF:

Oh yeah. We carried it on, I don't remember exactly how many years. One or two years, but we got a clamor from ladies that they too should be recognized, because they were the sole keepers of their students who were here and we agreed with that. So we then changed the name from parents to dads and moms. Well first it was dads association. And a short time it was parents, and then dads and moms.

BT:

Where was your office at that time? At the time you took over.

DF:

Well I think what I did was keep my office over in the college of administration for a while, and then it moved over to another place here on campus.

BT:

In the administration building or?

DF:

Well it was near the administration building, I just don't remember.

BT:

Student union building.

DF:

No.

BT:

Holden hall.

DF:

No. Where you were.

Elizabeth Massengale (EM):

West Hall?

DF:

You go down to the _____ [0:13:23.0] there and we were located at the very end, I know what to say. College of Engineering building. And we were up on the second floor. How we got there I don't know. But that's where they housed us.

BT:

Okay, how many people, who was on your staff? Who helped you?

DF:

Well I had a staff of two. Two ladies who were helping me, both of them were good scenographers, and very good with a computer so it worked out well.

BT:

Do you remember who they were by name?

DF:

I could probably dredge it up but I don't remember at all. I'm sure the records would show who the two of them were.

BT:

Okay, well we can check that so.

DF:

I think one of them, has since married I'm sure. I think that's right.

BT:

How long after you replaced Doctor Allen was it before Trudy Poteet got involved?

DF:

Oh it was a number of years. I don't remember, exactly how long. Maybe twelve, maybe twelve year's maybe. I think we can find out the authenticity of this of my memory.

BT:
Okay.

EM:
I think you're right. I think twelve years is just right.

DF:
I think about right.

EM:
I think you're right.

BT:
And so you reverted back to just working with the college of business administration program?

DF:
Yeah I did. Teaching, teaching full time at the college of business in the area of management.

BT:
While you were heading the dads association, how did you go about recruiting new parents to assist with the program?

DF:
Well of course, we would know the names of the parents from the records of the students and we would try to—we would try to strengthen the chapters we had in certain areas.

BT:
In major cities?

DF:
Yeah. Then we had real good luck with San Antonio, and Houston, and Dallas. And El Paso.

BT:
Good.

DF:
Good group in El Paso.

BT:

Are there any parents that you remember because of something they did or said to you that really stands out in your mind as a memorable parent?

DF:

Well I tell you this friend that she L.E. Crites. C-r-i-t-e-s. Who lived here in town was a very productive member of the organization, and James R. Reardon. R-e-a-r-d-o-n. Was another one. And let's see, I'm sure if I put my mind to it for a while I might think of some others. But I don't at all.

BT:

Did you have a working relationship at all with the presidents of Texas Tech, or did they just?

DF:

Oh no.

BT:

Like you work on your own?

DF:

Oh no, no. I made it a point to become acquainted with the Dean and the president and to let them know what we were trying to do, and what we were accomplishing. The relationship was very good, I knew it had to be. Because they could wipe us out with the brush of a pencil.

BT:

I know that Dean Allen was recruited to assist Texas Tech in projects such as founding the school of nursing, or lobbying the legislature, using the parents to lobby the legislature to increase appropriations for Texas Tech. now that was before you got involved.

DF:

That was before I was involved.

BT:

But did you get involved in any programs like that?

DF:

No lobbying.

BT:

No lobbying.

DF:

No.

BT:

What kind of calls or letters—because those were the primary methods of communicating in those days, telephone calls, letters, and walk in visitors. So if parents walked in or called you, what were they likely to be asking you?

DF:

Well they asked, if there was any assistance that they could receive from our office staff if they ran into trouble and did we follow their students close enough to try to turn them around if they were headed for trouble. And we had one or two of those that were headed for trouble all right. They just didn't go to class. So I advised the parent's one of them snatched them right out of school.

BT:

Cause he was wasting his money right?

DF:

Yeah that's right. So I would get a lot of calls about how well they were doing and what sort of a professor was a certain one because their students was giving them a report and it probably wasn't what I gave them a different report [laughter].

BT:

Okay. So who was some of the more memorable professors that you worked with?

DF:

Well, you can look at the college of business. During that time frame, I work with all of them. John Blair was one. And the next, I have to look at the roster. The roster, I, we have a lot of them shifting around, I don't, but I made a point to let them know that we were available as a tie in directly with their parents if they had a student in class who wasn't going. What he should do, or she. It sort of enhanced our position in the college by helping the parents and the students.

BT:

Lane Einsworth, do you remember him?

DF:

Who?

BT:

Lane Einsworth? He was a vice president.

DF:

Yes, yes I do.

BT:

Did he work with you? Was there any interface.

DF:

Oh yes we knew one another yeah. Yeah. But there wasn't any closer relationship with him than with some of the others.

BT:

With any other. Was Lauro Cavazos president while you were with the association?

DF:

Yup.

BT:

Now, coming from a big family I would expect him to be a big supporter of the dads, or the parents association.

DF:

Well, of course he had other interests. [Laughs]

BT:

Right but we knew that too.

DF:

But, I had a good relationship with the president.

BT:

Did your organization get involved in any way with recruiting students? For the university?

DF:

[Pause] Well, in a sense that we were providing a number—a name of the student from the school files and we were making direct contact with some of the college would like for us to try to work on who were heavier some of the others. So we could do that and we'd have a big parent meetings and the pledges lined again, San Antonio I remember we had some large groups there.

And Houston, was a group there, a productive area for us. And then we tried to work with parents here in Lubbock, but it wasn't—that wasn't as productive as the other areas or, just wasn't as, you know. Parents would talk to whoever they wanted themselves strictly if they had a problem. But we had a good relationship, but it wasn't as strong as it was in San Antonio, Houston, or Dallas.

BT:

Did you have a scholarship program for students?

DF:

Yeah.

BT:

How did that work?

DF:

Well, it depended on what the students grade was, what college they were in, and whether or not the faculty were they were in school, whether they encouraged it or not. So we tried to enhance the program by dealing with outstanding students.

BT:

I think you either created or expanded a program to recognize outstanding faculty, is that correct?

DF:

Well yes we were interested in that, but you know I don't remember the details of how we selected outstanding faculty. I just don't remember.

BT:

Well during your time with the dads association, you were also a Rotarian right?

DF:

Yeah.

BT:

And did you do as much traveling as you did when you were like the district governor, during those days, and if you traveled as a Rotarian were you able to kind of promote the—

DF:

Sure I've been a Rotarian for many, many years.

BT:
Right.

DF:
And if I—well one time I was the district governor.

BT:
Right, okay that's what I'm thinking of I guess.

DF:
And I had the Rotary chapters out to the Oklahoma border, and all the way down to the interstate between Dallas and El Paso.

BT:
I-10 and 20?

DF:
Yeah, that was our area. And we had fifty-six rotary clubs in that group. Which I have visited, every year as district governor, and of course I wouldn't be reimbursed. By Texas Tech, dads and moms association. While I was there.

BT:
Any kind of questions that we haven't asked you yet that you wish we had?

DF:
Well, I don't know.

BT:
What are some of your most memorable moments with the association?

DF:
Oh, one time we were getting reorganized for the next year and there was disagreement among the parents who were involved as to who should be the president. And that was a pretty touchy thing. I don't really remember who the principles were but it seemed to me like that we had one candidate from—no we had one candidate from Houston, and I think the other candidate that was in foremost running was in from Dallas. And I got it started a little on edge. But that's about the only time I remember. And they were trying to do among themselves who was going to be the next president of the dads and moms association.

BT:

Do you remember who won out?

DF:

No. I don't remember.

BT:

Did you let them work it out on their own or was it?

DF:

Oh I kind of pushed and shoved.

BT:

But you used—you had a group of trustees right?

DF:

Oh yeah, board members. So they worked it out. And I as I remember it was pretty successfully, I convinced one of the candidates that they could wait till next year just as well. So it worked out.

BT:

A diplomatic solution.

DF:

Yeah.

BT:

Is the dads and moms association, is that going to continue to be relevant at Texas Tech? Seems to me that with improving technology and everything, kids become a lot more independent by the time they leave high school before they even come to college, where as when the program was started, it probably needed all the attention the guys in state could get until they graduated.

DF:

Well, I guess since I've stopped teaching a couple of years ago, I'll tell you, the young students still might need a lot of help. [Laughter]

BF:

Okay.

EM:

I think you're right about that.

DF:

Yeah.

BF:

So the parents association is needed?

DF:

It is viable to what it could be used if you wanted to use it between the school and the parents.

BF:

Any particular event that stands out in your mind as one of the most important events that you engineered? During your time there?

DF:

Well, I was busy, and I sort of felt like wasn't anything else worth my time was important and I would put all the emphasis I could into it. But as far as any [coughs] particular one, I don't remember any one incident. I had one parent in Houston whose student was heading for failure. He just wasn't going to class. So I called the parent. He couldn't believe his student was that kind of a student. And I, so I sent him his attendance record. Well he couldn't believe that either. [Laughter] And the only thing I could say was, "Well, you probably payed his bill, and he knew he had him eligible before class. But there's no way in Houston you would know whether he's attending or not. Unless somebody told you. And I'm telling you." That's about the last of that.

BT:

Did he follow up with a personal visit?

DF:

Did I?

BT:

No that parent.

DF:

No.

BT:

From Houston.

DF:

No. unless he came into town to see his kid, he didn't want to be involved. But he was a sad case. He missed more classes than he attended. And that's not unique then, or I doubt that it is unique now.

BT:

Did you find many parents of graduate students in the membership rolls? Or where they mostly undergraduate?

DF:

Mostly undergrad. Graduate students where older and their connections with back home had long since been broken. Didn't have much way to tie in with graduate students.

EM:

You know I have the pleasure of working with the parents association now.

DF:

Good.

EM:

And it's been so fun, and it's been fun to look back and see all the history and all the things that you've done. Because there's still all sorts of records of that. So you know that's one of the reasons we wanted to come here and do this, but what I want to know from you is there anything that you think we should be doing? Or maybe that you didn't get around to doing when you were in this role?

DF:

Well I wish I had a stronger staff, wish I had a larger budget, and I believe if a little more money put into it why we can progress strengthening our outreach considerably.

EM:

Well I think you'll be happy to know that our staff has grown a great deal.

DF:

Good.

EM:

We have four full time professional staff, two student assistants, and a graduate assistant.

DF:

Well now that's.

US:

[Laughter] So your wish came through.

DF:

Yeah well that's good.

EM:

Isn't that good?

DF:

Yeah. Most I ever had at one time was two.

EM:

Yeah, we've been lucky.

DF:

Well, that's good.

EM:

And the chapters are still doing good, especially Houston.

DF:

Houston has always been a strong.

EM:

Yes they have. That's what I hear [laughter].

DF:

I remember one time, that they were having a big meeting, and they wanted me there and I said I would get there. So I got into an airplane. And I got to Houston and I told this driver where I wanted to go. He's only been in town three days.

EM:

Oh my goodness.

DF:

And after I knew that, that was the biggest wash out and finally, finally I found some place that I recognized. And then I directed him from there to where I needed to go. But that was the biggest—almost the biggest washout that I had ever made. And I was in Houston. Imagine with all the taxi drivers that you find, that you would pick up one that only been in town three days. [Laughter] And anyway, that was one of those interesting moments.

EM:

I'm assuming you were involved with freshman orientation during the summer with the parents weren't you? Did y'all do something during then?

DF:

[Whispers] Yes. Yes.

EM:

What do you think is the most important thing which to tell parents when they come to Texas Tech?

DF:

Well I'm not sure today.

US:

I bet it's still the same advice.

DF:

What I suspected it wouldn't be the same. I would try to advise them to keep close touch with the association if they had any questions we would get right back to them. If they had any questions or any doubts or any uncertainties, why we would always be responsive, and count me above talking to the teachers if they needed to. Sometimes that helps.

EM:

That it does.

DF:

Yep.

EM:

That's some good advice. I think it's still relevant today.

DF:

Well, I would guess so. I don't know.

EM:

Well you're right.

DF:

Yeah but that was an interesting period in my experience development. [Laughter] Working with the parents, and the students of course. Very good.

EM:

Did you have to do a lot of fundraising for the scholarship program?

DF:

I tried to. Tried to get the scholarships for them, and we did have a few scholarships that were successful and regular but that's all I could guess. I don't remember exactly. But we did have a few scholarships.

EM:

Seems like you had a lot, I gave out fifty-six in the spring.

DF:

Oh howdy. [Laughter] That's good.

EM:

Isn't that good?

DF:

That's good. Fifty-six.

EM:

That's a lot.

DF:

I should have one or two with my name on it in their someplace.

EM:

You do. You do. So we think about you every spring. [DF Laughs] Next to your name, because we have your scholarship to give out to one lucky student.

DF:

Lots of them are deserving.

EM:

Absolutely. It's hard to choose, just fifty-six, as you well know. They all need it.

DF:

It was a lot of fun. And I worked at it.

EM:

We know you did some good. There's lots of programs in place because of you now.

DF:

Well, you like to think that you did some good.

EM:

Oh, I think you did.

DF:

[Long pause] Anything else?

BT:

I think that should take care of it.

DF:

Okay, if you think of something come see me again.

BT:

We'll be happy to do that. We've enjoyed the visit. But I do need to put an annotation on here that the final questions were asked by Elizabeth Massengale who is the present leader of the parent and family relations program at Texas Tech.

DF:

Very good.

BT:

Thanks very much for your time today, General Favor.

[End of Recording]