Southern Voices Oral History Project
Florida Southern College

Interviewee: Emma Rita Figora Powella, Class of 1968, with Harold Powella, her son

Interviewer: Jonathan David Sattele

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Medium: Audiocassette and digital recorder

Transcription: Jonathan David Sattele, April 30, 2013

*Transcriber's note: This interview of Rita Powella [pronounced pow-**ella**] was conducted on April 15, 2013 by Jonathan David Sattele. The interview took place in the living room of her house while her son Harold was present. Both a digital and cassette recorder were used.*

Powella: [When I] worked at Florida Southern you could take classes, but two classes a semester, which would allow you to gather […]. I had been a secretary when I started out. Because we came down right after World War Two my husband was going to go to Florida Southern on the GI Bill and get his degree and I was just going to work then. Dr. Sokoloff was head of research and he said well as long as you're here you might as well …

Sattele: *It's the consent form.*

Powella: You might as well take some classes and you can gather things and eventually start doing some of the research 'cause when I started out I was going to do the secretarial work for the institute and we had two; one was the Southern Bio Institute where we did the Vitamin P work and we searched for new drugs and so forth from molds down in the Everglades, and then the second thing was the A. P. Cook Memorial Cancer Lab which we worked trying to find drugs, anti-cancer drugs, which we found a few from molds down in the Everglades but it was just not feasible to try to get them to a final stage where it would be profit for a company to make them and so forth. So nothing really. Now the Vitamin P, of course, was assigned to Florida Southern since Dr. Sokoloff was working there and there was another doctor with him, a Dr. Redd, who also was on the staff at the college at the time, and they together were working, started out on that. The Vitamin P is made from the grapefruit, the white pith that's on the outside when you peel a grapefruit. So that's what that was and Pasco Packaging Company, which is in Dade City, produced this stuff from when they squeezed the grapefruits and all of that and then US Vitamin in New York is the one who put them on the market and they were on for, I don't know how many years, and it was called the CVP, meaning Citrus Vitamin P, they are bioflavonoids and so forth, and there are hundreds of these reprints of all the works we did, such as certain things with ascorbic acid and vitamin C and everything and that's what that part of it did.

The other thing, Dr. Sokoloff also wrote some books. He wrote books about the story of penicillin and those kind of things and then he also wrote novels. His wife was a writer who did historical biographies

of Wagner and Hadley Mowrer, who was the first Mrs. Hemingway. There is a story that you would really probably like, is the whole thing of Hadley 'cause she lived in Lakeland for a while and a lot of people don't know too much of the original Mrs. Hemmingway (the first one). She is the mother of the first son that they had together who was Jack Hemmingway who had the daughters that a couple became movie stars and so forth.

So as far as the one article that's here it tells I came down going to be a secretary, and then I start taking the classes and so forth, and then I finally did get my degree. We also published a medical journal which was Growth Publishing Company which we did the whole business end of it. Accepting all the manuscripts from different [authors] all over the world and then keeping everything. We didn't do the printing; there was a place up north. Eventually when we did close the lab which was about 1989, we closed the lab and it all was moved to Bar Harbor, Maine and, memory fails me right now the name of the place that took it on, but we had all editors, people would submit manuscripts and various research work then we would go ahead and accept, not only we, but they would pass them out to people who then would determine which ones ought to be published. Then we would get the whole book together, so we did and it was published from the Southern Bio Research Institute and that is what we moved all to Bar Harbor, Maine. It had circulation all over the whole world; every country I think could get it. In fact, I think in the library and at one time they were getting copies of the journal but I don't know if they still do or I don't even know if it's still in publication or anything. You could at least see what is there. If you want to shut that a minute I'll go get those other couple of things. I want to see what this is first [referring to the oral history consent form].

Sattele: *That's just the consent form.*

[pause on cassette; discussing filling out the consent form]

Powella: I was here and as I say I went to school two courses a semester and one course during summer school. I started out when Dr. Spivey was president and I finished up when Dr. Charles Thrift was president. The day I graduated as I came across to get my diploma they said, "Well, you finally made it." Now I have one or two articles here, one says 16 and one says 18. It did take me 16 years to do it. I did it and I never had expected to be able to go to college. I had only studied through high school and at home before we came down and then I had three children. In fact, my son and I both graduated the same time but he went to the University of Florida in Gainesville. My daughter went to Florida Southern also. My husband was killed in a car accident very early in 1971. I worked at the college approximately 40 years. I was there and associated for a good long time. We started out in the basement of … not Allen Spivey … what's the other one next to it? Allen Spivey was the building right in the middle of campus.

Sattele: *I know exactly which one you're talking about. It's a girl's dorm … there's Spivey and then there's the one next to it.*

Powella: It's Joseph-Reynolds

Sattele: *Oh that's it.*

Powella: In the basement there is where we actually started out with the research institute and that's where it was. Then when they built the Polk Science building they moved us over there and then we had more room. In the A. P. Cook Cancer Lab the funds were raised by the people of Plant City because he had been the publisher of the paper over there and they wanted to do something in his honor with

cancer research because I guess he died early from it. He had been a Pulitzer winner in writing or something with newspaper writing so they raised the funds for that and that's why we named it the A.P. Cook Memorial Cancer Lab. I guess Southern just came from Florida Southern. But it was interesting how it started because I was sitting home in my house just typing my husband's papers for school and stuff and Dr. Sokoloff happened to live in the same area and he used to walk by the house. He stopped one day and said to me, "Do you type for other people?" and I said, "Well I never had but I guess I could."

He was writing a book at the time and it might have been *The Story of Penicillin* or *The Miracle Drugs* or something. So that's how we first met to go ahead and start even doing that. That is when he was starting and needed somebody in the place. I did get the job working there. I did so by working through the day and then I didn't take a lunch time so that I could leave at three o'clock when the kids got out of school and then I would go home. We worked six days a week, not five. We worked Saturdays and everything. In research you have to work Saturdays, Sundays, and everything. If you're running an experiment you have to.

My first son was born up in Newport, Rhode Island. That's where we happened to be. My husband was still in the Navy from the Second World War and then we came down here. I don't know how much people know about what Florida Southern had; they had an office in New York City where they were recruiting kids to come down here to go to college and so some people did. I had an older sister who was two years older than me and she and her husband decided to come down to go to school here so then when my husband was going to get out of the service we came down and we never left. After that we stayed; it's a wonderful place to raise kids because you don't have the winters to contend with. I worked there and I also did volunteer work at my church all the time. After my husband graduated he had a music school in town here and he taught music and he had a dance band. He played at the college; they used to have dances and all the students came. There were a lot of older people coming back to college right after the war and they are all ones that are now all dying off because we are all up in years.

The cafeteria was over in next to the Garden of Meditation.

Sattele: *They had a small pool.*

Powella: They did have a cafeteria. My sister and her husband ran it a bit while they were going to school. We all came and all followed each other. In later years my daughter went to Florida Southern. Then I had a granddaughter who went there and graduated. She now has gone on and got her doctorate in pharmacy. My son went for a little while but he wanted to go into more mechanical kind of stuff, not academic. He switched and went over to public high school for that. He took out an associate degree from Polk Community. My oldest, like I said, went up to Gainesville and went to school. There was all kinds of things going on at Florida Southern. A lot was because of the older students being there and they did have all kinds of activities because they were not so much into going into the fraternities or sororities in that it was just everybody wanted to get their education. The war was over, they could get a job and work so it was a different atmosphere here. One time they did have the ROTC here. I don't know if they still have ROTC.

Sattele: *Yes.*

Powella: Once after I retired and I practically worked full time down at St. Joseph's Church as a volunteer and then I went into bereavement ministry there planning funerals and helping people with

grief support and that kind of work. I did not actually have credentials in it but if you take enough classes and so forth you can.

If you want to stop that for a minute I'll go get the other article that might help you. My house was robbed last year and they dumped every drawer and all that I'm still sorting through. I can't find a lot of things that I know I had papers or that. But I got these in the back. I just happened to come across these the other day. I've had a very interesting life.

We used to do psychological studies on rats swimming through a maze and so forth. This was the one; this was my husband's and that's my son, the one you just met, and that's my daughter.

Sattele: *Three point five one. Wow. Three point five one GPA.*

Powella: It was very different because there were many adult students at the college at the time. Because of all the guys coming back who had the GI Bill, an awful lot of them did want to study. We had the exchange program through the State Department that we could have Japanese people over, Japanese scientists, and we had 40-some that came over. Did you put your thing back on?

Sattele: *Yes, it's back on.*

Powella: Oh, okay. We did do a project for NASA; the effects of high altitude on rats and their learning ability and swimming through a maze. We had a big maze built and the rats could swim very well. They had to make it through a maze and did timed things with them. You should have been here then.

Sattele: *The effects of altitude on rates.*

Powella: If you have questions of some sort.

Sattele: *What was your altitude?*

Powella: I really don't remember numbers. We had a big chamber built.

Sattele: *Hyperbaric chamber.*

Powella: Yeah. We could raise the altitude. We just put the rats inside and then could raise the thing. We did different studies and also we had chambers with our CIA. We did a study the effects positive and negative ions on people. People could come and sit in the chamber and we would measure different things.

Sattele: *That sounds neat.*

Powella: If you get a lot of positive ions you become very active and jittery and things. Negative ions have a nice calming effect and stuff.

On the side I also had a lot of friends. The first Mrs. Hemingway who was here and lived in Lakeland, I became kind of like a personal assistant to her, helping her with her writing, write her checks, just to help. She was getting on in years and she had somebody live with her to take care of her but just to help day to day expenses. She did have this one lady who lived with her and took care of her and she died

here in Lakeland and was buried. She and Ernest Hemingway separated and divorced then he had another couple wives after that but it was very interesting to talk with her because you could hear all the stories of when they were in Paris and all this, and she certainly was right there with him during all this part of her life. Her niece lives here in town, she is quite an artist. You know some of the sculptures at Florida Southern, those big metal things, she made those and it was her niece because [ineligible] that's what she did and then she's got some in the city in different places. But as I say, I met more people and all kinds of things. Never thinking … you come out thinking you're going to be a secretary and then you wind up and I got a whole education and I mean I learned to do all the scientific things. Dr. Sokoloff was very much for pushing people to get the education and do everything. He used to be here all the day, all during the school year and that he never taught or anything. He did stutter a bit. But as you can see there is something like 80 publications plus 27 books. He wrote *The Story of Penicillin* and *Miracle Drugs* and things. Then he did write a few novels, they were not big sellers or anything but I guess that was like for him not for all the academics.

But she was also a great musician and had played at Carnegie Hall and stuff at one time.

One of my best friends was Dr. Juliana Jordan who ran … and she is the one who brought the fine arts series to Florida Southern. You know all those concerts all that stuff, and then I know Bob MacDonald was doing it but I don't know who. As long as she was alive, and for a time a little bit after I did, we used to go back a lot, but lately … . [man comes to door]

Where are you from originally?

Sattele: *I'm originally from Pennsylvania. My parents moved down to the Florida Keys to be near family. I graduated high school down there and then I came up here to Florida Southern. I chose Florida Southern because it was a small college and it kind of gave me that same …*

Powella: You know, I say it's one of the best schools for people especially if you don't want all the big football games and all that kind of stuff. It isn't that it's only academic 'cause they certainly have all other things too that you can get, but it isn't that atmosphere 'cause seeing Gainesville like with my son there, but my daughter as I say went to Florida Southern, and she became a school teacher and also did all the drama and the theatre in between. [Harold Powella interrupts to discuss air conditioning]

[small talk about the Florida Keys with Ms. Powella and her son]

Powella, to her son: You went to Florida Southern for how long?

Harold Powella: About four classes.

Powella: He took his citrus and …

Harold Powella: I took some citrus grove caretaking and citrus and wood shop. She had some credits I could use and I took some classes that were hands-on type things. I used to run into a lot of guys that went to Florida Southern that were in the age group and that liked cars, so I got to know several guys over there so I decided to take a couple courses because I could. And the citrus grove caretaking I tell ya, that was probably one of the most interesting courses I ever took in all of them. Cause that's what this area is about.

Powella: This that you have to do, what is this, a class assignment or something?

Sattele: *It's a class assignment to go out and interview past students and find out a little bit about their life, about why they chose FSC, and so why did you choose FSC?*

Powella: Well, my sister had come down first 'cause as I say they got recruited out of New York at the time right after the war when they had the place up there, and they were all just touting all the advantages the weather especially so they came down, and so when my husband was still in the service, and he only had six months to go, and they were gonna ship him out and I had to go someplace 'cause I couldn't stay in Navy housing, I was up in Rhode Island, so I came to stay with her for a little bit and once I was here, then we just got into going so we went there. But they are the ones who first chose to come but as I say they really had a push on with that New York office trying to convince people to come to Florida Southern; a wonderful college in central Florida, especially the weather and all. So that's how we all come and it is a good school. It certainly has all the qualifications.

Sattele: *So you were there when they were constructing all the Frank Lloyd Wright architecture. How was that?*

Powella: Well I mean, Frank Lloyd Wright was quite a character. He used to come to watch the building and stuff. He was a short little man and he would often say the reason the Esplanades are kind of low it was to punish the tall people.

Sattele: [laughs]

Harold Powella: One of the things that most of the people who go to Florida Southern don't know, did you ever notice all the little red diamonds on all the glass windows? Do you know why they're there? 'Cause people were notoriously walking through them and literally getting hurt. They would actually walk right through a glass wall and that's when they put all the little red stickers on all the windows to keep people from walking through them.

Sattele: *I would have been one of those kids.*

Harold Powella: Now that was how many years ago? I was young. I remember that had to be 55 years ago when they did that. That was one thing about the college nobody never knew.

Powella: Then the fine art series became such a thing, well-known around. I don't know how it is now.

Sattele: *Actually it's really thriving.*

Powella: It's still going. I always see what's in the papers and what's going on. Actually having been associated and if I wanted to go to any they always offer us, if we could come, and get a ticket to go but it's too crowed.

Sattele: *It's not that bad. I go to the small stage productions they put on at Buckner where the kids audition for a part.*

Powella: That's what my daughter did over there cause she starred in a couple of shows back, I don't know what year that was, well she just had a birthday yesterday and it was her … about 30 years ago. It has always had a good theatre department and an awful lot of the kids …

Harold Powella: Murder Mystery Watch Theater. Shows like they have in Orlando like the big motels. She does the Murder Mystery Watch Theater thing. She did pretty good with her learning at Florida Southern.

Powella: You certainly can get anything you want; I mean any courses you need or want. During the war they did cater a lot to the GIs that came back. Having activities that they would like maybe better than some of the things. They did have fraternities and sororities but those people didn't really want to get involved too much with that. They had lived part of their life and they wanted to get out and make some money and start living their life. My husband did graduate from Florida Southern because he had music education as his major.

Harold Powella: His name is still in the sidewalk. Do they still have the sidewalk with all the names in it?

Sattele: *Yup. Right there by Miller and Dell.*

Harold Powella: Yup. His name is in the sidewalk. You can find daddy's name in the sidewalk. Yup.

Powella: And right behind the back door of the Polk Science building there was a thing that went around and there were bushes right near the President's house and in there my thing and a typewriter and a little rat. Somebody when they were building the sidewalk did it and it hardened.

Sattele: *Back behind Polk Science? I'll have to go check that out.*

Powella: You'll have to. Now I don't know … they may have had to tear up that sidewalk at some time when they were doing work around Polk Science.

Sattele: *Between Polk and the president's house. I've walked past that trail.*

Powella: It didn't have names or anything but some people have gone at night and I don't even know … I know it was someone from the lab that did it but I don't remember who it was.

Harold Powella: I think it was Poncho.

Powella: No I don't think it was Poncho. We had one who was from Puerto Rico. Poncho was a little bit younger unlike some of the GIs. But they always had an awful lot of dignitaries that come through there. There was a lot of opportunities from people that are associated with Florida Southern.

If you have something in particular?

Sattele: *So you started at Florida Southern and then you were simultaneously doing research and studying? That's neat. Was that all Dr. Sokoloff's pushing?*

Powella: Part of it was because I don't know if I would have stuck with it that much. Once I got going and it got to a certain point, because if you don't continue studying all the time you lose the credits and

you have to re-take some of the basic courses. If they are ten years old and you have not continually been taken things. So I just kept taken that I kept enough that I could just stay until I graduated.

Sattele: *What did you do after you graduated?*

Powella: Just the same stuff I was doing before, I didn't need it for my job or anything but when it's there. And of course to do the research I had to learn a lot of stuff and as I say since he wrote books and everything you keep getting. And I was actually managing editor and I had to handle all the business end and seeing that the people paid for publishing their papers and stuff. And eventually these books will go to the archives at Florida Southern because it's a set that was given to me and I mean where else, I mean what would we do? It's; it isn't all stuff that was done at Florida Southern because Dr. Sokoloff was in Europe. I mean he was in Russia. He was in the government of Russia under Kerensky and so …

Sattele: *That was about that time when, near the Red Scare. Wasn't it about the time of the Red Scare at FSC?*

Powella: He was sentenced to death. He was in a prison in Russia because he was in when they overthrew the Kerensky government over there which was the democratic government after 1917 or that, but then somebody on his behalf tried to convince them that it would be terrible to kill this man just because of that when he could go on doing research and doing things, and maybe he might come up with something. So then they helped him get out of Russia and he went to the Pasteur Institute in Paris and then to Rockefeller. Then he and Dr. Spivey met up someplace either here or in Europe one summer because the Sokoloffs used to go to Europe almost every summer. Now he could not go back to Russia because they still had a death warrant out for him. Later in life he would have loved to have gone back to see his home town and stuff like that, but he never would have taken the chance. He said, "You never know what those people … what they might." He never did go back to Russia. He married and they had two sons and one went into something like a chemist or something but the other one became quite a finance person. He has got a full service and his name is Kiril Sokoloff and he publishes these papers advising people about things. Maybe the older son is still living but I know the younger son still is and he was living in Sun Valley, Idaho for a while. They got the connection with Hadley who was the first Mrs. Hemingway because she married a man who was the poet laureate of New Hampshire later because she and Ernest split up.

Sattele: *It's really interesting to hear about Dr. Sokoloff.*

Powella: She was a real character too. She was at an age; she was retired and living here. She could tell the stories of when they were in France and in Paris and all that stuff. To hear it first-hand from a person that was there was really quite an experience. I had a brother living with me at the time and of course when he would go, he happened to have had a beard, and she always had it in her head that he must be a poet or something so she always wanted to know what was he working on … what kind of a book or something. But of course now the college owns that whole area of the city. When we were here it was the three original buildings, the Annie Pfeiffer Chapel was one of the first they started building and the Polk Science was not an ideal place for science labs because of all the angles and things. When you have racks of cages for animals you couldn't even get them through the doorways. It wasn't designed to be a research institute. As I said, we brought the Japanese over. I don't know just how that started. I was there but they just either heard about it and that we could get these scientists that would come over for two years and work just to get the experience of being in the United States and work. In total, we had about 40 to 45. Some of them brought their families with them, some of them, the male himself and

that was a great experience just being associated with them 'cause a lot of them didn't speak much English but we had to all get along somehow. Of course, they came over and were not too well-received when you went around looking for places for them to stay because it was too close to the Second World War that people didn't want to have the Japanese. Yet they had nothing to do with the war part of it. They all did come over and they stayed the couple of years and then they have to leave the United States after the couple years. They can leave and they could come back but they can't stay 'cause otherwise a lot of them would have loved to have stayed in the United States rather than go back. A lot of them had places that they were associated with a college or something over there in a research institute. It was another whole new thing to learn, their culture, all their things, and so we got everything. We had one from Egypt, we had one from Bangladesh, we had India. On different ones they could bring different scientists they could bring different countries and they would come spend some time working and it was a learning experience the whole time. Because the people, and you always associated with them because you're trying to help them out also. They got as much as they could about the what goes on in the United States.

Sattele: *I know language barriers can be difficult.*

Powella: Well this was it! Well there was one couple came and they had a little girl who was about first grade. So naturally they her put her in school here so she used to be able to interpret because she learned the English quickly and sometimes if they were trying to tell us something and if they didn't know the word somehow she would come up with it and help us.

Harold Powella: She was an amazing child because she actually was able to be in the middle and break down what they were saying and translate back and forth.

Powella: And then they'd all pack up and go home. I'd stayed in touch with a lot of them but of course they have all gotten older and they have left too.

Sattele: *How did you get to campus day to day?*

Powella: I just drove down.

Sattele: *Bus or bike?*

Powella: No, no, no. Bus service in Lakeland is not that great; and it still isn't. It doesn't run on Sundays or anything. Now there is bus service if you want certain things and during the day 'cause the busses stop at like eight or 10 at night. There's no transportation really. I had a car that I always had to go. The Japanese when they came they always would buy a car. In fact they would buy a car and take it back home with them. The American cars became very valuable once they hit Japan. I mean a lot of people that was a status symbol to have an American car.

Harold Powella: You know like your big Chevy Impala. Back then it was not a big deal to send a Chevrolet to Japan. They'd get home and everybody would say, "You got a Chevrolet." It was I remember that part of it. They had where you come by the president's house they had a back road that they could drive right up to the door of the research lab, they didn't worry about parking. So when she went in to work …

Powella: It's still there I think.

Harold Powella: There was a sign that said no parking and she knew it was okay to go around there so she had it made. [laughs]

Powella: But not every day we didn't do it more so 'cause then all the kids would go and park and all that and we always had a sticker so we could always have the first spaces anyhow in the parking lot. You got any other questions?

Sattele: *On here is something to bring up … freshmen rats … what is that?*

Powella: Freshmen rats? When the kids used to come the first year they did have a little skull cap. They called it a rat cap but it didn't look like a rat. Now it kinda looks like the cap from Disney, the ones with the ears like Mickey Mouse. But I know they did have that. I was not living on campus so that it was just mostly the ones that came. Oh, and I mean there were great regulations. The girls couldn't stay out after, only early hours. There was no cohabitations in dormitories. In fact, I don't think boys and girls were allowed at one time. At one time I had one of the handbooks that they gave because they could not go out over the weekend or anything without permission.

Harold Powella: It was a very strict college.

Sattele: *Oh, that's different.*

Powella: It was a very strict college and since it is religiously associated and a lot of the Methodist ministers' kids went to Florida Southern because they got a discount to go to school there in the beginning. Now I don't know whether anything of that goes anymore but they did at the time.

Harold Powella: No alcohol.

Powella: Oh, no alcohol.

Harold Powella: If you were out at a bar and you were going to Florida Southern and they caught you – that was it; you were out. They sent you home. That's how strict it was back then. I remember that was the one thing that then. The girl said, "Be in the dorm by nine," the doors were locked. It was run like a military academy I would say back then. They were very strict about everything.

Powella: See, I came down it was 1948 and you know it was a long time before they got gradually open now I guess open like other places

Sattele: *Now actually … they actually don't have any of that but it's still considered a pretty strict school. They still have a dry campus. You're allowed to have girls—guys in your dorm but it's only until the cutoff hour. After that time if there is anyone staying in your dorm you get in trouble. I got in trouble for it … I went to an on-campus dance event and lost track of time and said let's go back to my room and get some food and then got in trouble. I was like, "Oh yeah, it is late isn't it?"*

Powella: [laughs] Oh, I mean it was very strict in the beginning.

Harold Powella: That was the big thing.

Sattele: *It's still a dry campus too.*

Harold Powella: It's a typical college. No matter what college it is there is there is always somebody going to want to break the rules.

Sattele: *Yup, yup.*

Powella: Well see I was a student but I wasn't living on campus or anything. Now my daughter didn't live on campus either but she did join a sorority which made her feel more of a part of the campus. Even they had all kinds of regulations of what they could or couldn't do. Even like the theatre when they had shows and the like, the last night they would like to have a little party because it's the end of the thing and all, but they were still bound by the rules and regulations. They couldn't stay out later. She came home and we didn't hear, we lived on the west end of town at the time. I don't think it hurt anybody; they just abided by them. If you wanted to go there that's what you did. Amber never joined anything though, did she? Amber is his daughter that went there and graduated. I mean she just took classes.

Harold Powella: She just took the classes and graduated. She graduated and went to pharmacy school.

Sattele: *There is a new rule now that you are not allowed to go down into the tunnels. Did you ever get to go down there into the tunnel?*

Powella: Oh, I've been in every tunnel there is.

Sattele: *Really!* [laughter]

Harold Powella: The entrance to the tunnel was in the research lab. Where the tunnel started was in her research lab.

Powella: Right out the double, because we had stored it there during one of the crises when they had all the food stored in case there was bombing or anything. In fact, when I left I closed the lab when it was done, I closed it up and all that stuff was still there. But you could walk right down from underneath the dome in the basement, the tunnel went and then you went down because there was a big incinerator there because we had to dispose all the animals. They where, they designed it and put it when they burned the animals to dispose of them, the smoke went right to the president's house. So then they never did use the incinerator anymore. [laughs] But then you could come out down behind, I guess, where the chemistry then was later. I guess it went under all or most of biology and then you came out the other end of the science building.

Sattele: *I know there is some underneath Ordway, there's some underneath Polk Science, there's some underneath the girls' dorms there too and there is one underneath Buckner that connects. I don't know where but it's down there because when you go down there you can feel the wind drafts in certain area. I'm like, that feels like a tunnel but I know most of them are blocked off about half way.*

Harold Powella: Some served as a bomb shelter at one time. They had all kinds of rations down there, water and everything in the tunnel.

Sattele: *There was a whole bomb shelter down there?*

Harold Powella: Well it was in case we had a …

Powella: With Cuba as close as it was to us.

Harold Powella: Everybody was always scared of the bomb coming and that was considered an area that would be kind of safe to go. They did at one time. I used to go explore the tunnels. I was not supposed to.

Powella: Well, since we had doorways we could just go in.

Harold Powella: We could go right into the tunnels and on weekends there was nobody around. She went down to the lab on Saturdays and I was bored. I would press my luck at how far I could go before I got lost and I came out one time, I don't remember.

Powella: There were a couple of places where there were stairs you could get up.

Harold Powella: I remember it was a long, luckily the only thing is the only reference point I need was the dome and I knew how to get back above ground. So no matter where I came out as long as I saw the dome I headed there to come back. I was the explorer, I would get through there and just walk.

Powella: That one time they were going to have that big refrigerated area down there but we never did complete all that, they never did, they just used it as storage space and stuff. But I don't know, something to do with some of the animals 'cause that's where we kept the rabbits most of the time in that area. But I mean downstairs under that dome of course, I don't know if had stayed exactly as it had been but there was an exhibition area. We used to put up exhibits around but it is a semi-circle but when you have cages and racks you can't fit them in those kinds of spaces. We had to sit a lot of the cages outside in the, actually, what was supposed to be the animal rooms. We did have monkeys there one time we had rhesus monkeys. We were trying to mate them or see if they would mate and then we would have had some monkeys to work on but they never. It was a male and female. We finally did give them to Busch Gardens because we just couldn't keep them, and it was quite a hazard to have them because people coming down there and we have big signs don't go close to the case because it was just a wire cage and they can stick their arm through it and this one lady, "Oh my daughter will be careful," and all that and the next thing we hear a kid screaming 'cause the monkey reached out and grabbed her by the hair and was pulling her back to the cage. Now he couldn't do anything but he could have scratched her and we said, "We told you don't go over," and in fact, our one fellow had to get a big piece of wood and hit it on the arm to make it release her. We were too much afraid that something would happen. You couldn't be watching them and people did not have to be walking through there for any reason because we just had the whole bottom under the dome all the way down. Upstairs they did have one class that they met and of course they did teach all the astronomy and stuff so then they went into the dome part. I don't know if they still have the astronomy part.

Sattele: *Yeah.*

Powella: As I say, once my friend [Juliana Jordan] she died when she [was] close to 90 and she had been head of all the fine arts thing and she also taught German. She had come over from Germany after the war. She ran into Dr. Spivey, the head of the college at that time, and he offered her if she wanted to immigrate to the United States she could come. He would give her a place. She lived in one of Joseph-Reynolds Hall. There was a little area that they had a couple teachers living so she lived there for like the

first bit when she came over and then eventually she bought a little house. She stayed. She had been in theatre in Europe and they were always running into each other all these people that were somebody and then with Bob and Ingrid MacDonald they were very close friends because she came from Austria. Now is he still teaching or no?

Sattele: *Who?*

Powella: Bob McDonald, he's a pianist.

Sattele: *I don't think so.*

Powella: I didn't know if he was still, you know. But I mean is there anything in particular that …

Sattele: *That's more than enough.*

[END]