

Interviewer: CJ Dunn.

Your tenure at Alabama State University spanned the years from 1925 to 1970. In fact, you spend your entire professional career at Alabama State University. What position did you occupy when you first came here?

Dunn: First, I was a classroom teacher. Either the 7th or 8th grade. The second year I moved over to the high school. Taught chemistry. Later, I'm not sure of the exact dates, I served as principal of the high school.

Interviewer: Laboratory High School.

D: Laboratory High school. Then I moved over to the jun—what was then known as junior college. Alabama State Junior College or something like that. And I served one or two years as dean of the junior college. Taught classes, had a full teaching load. Then the dean of the college, went off to finish his graduate work, doctorate's degree. And I served as dean of the senior college until his return. I became dean of students. Continued as classroom teacher. Served as athletic director and as head basketball coach.

I: Head basketball coach? In 1925?

D: Not in- Oh, 1925?

I: Uh no- you served as head basketball coach in your early days here that would have been what year?

D: Oh about 34.

I: 34?

D: thirty...35.

I: Ah huh. Basketball back then, tell me about the teams, tell me about your equipment, tell me about your travels, some of the experiences you had.

D: We had a very good team. To be frankly honest about it. I'm not sure that I was fully equipped to be a basketball coach because I had very little basketball experience.

I: You were a baseball man yourself?

D: Yeah. But when the coach left, coach Gaston F—they called him Country Lewis—who was from [3:04—inaudible] at [finish?] Wilberforce—left to go back to Wilberforce. I took the team over. I took it over *knowing* that he left a very good team.

I: A championship team?

D: Huh?

I: A championship team?

D: A championship team. And in fact, the [AS IAC?] tournament, conference tournament, I think, started in 1934. Alabama State did not participate because they had made a schedule which took them up to country through Ohio and Michigan and so forth during the time of the tournament. In 1935, Alabama State won the conference championship.

I: This was under whose coaching?

D: I was the coach. The team was probably one of the best teams, I would say that Alabama State had ever had—'course that's a matter of comparison. All of the boys, or most of the boys were from Ohio. The most outstanding player we had, of course, was a boy named Collis Parker from Portsmouth Ohio. And in my way of thinking, if I had to pick the one person that was the most outstanding basketball player that I have ever coached, and perhaps seen at Alabama State, would be Collis Parker.