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1 INTERVIEW OF FELIX ANKELE, 1994

2 MR. HAILEY: Today is February the
3 22nd, 1994. I'm Blake Hailey, and we're pleased
4 to have with us Mr. Felix Ankele, a man very
5 active in the community and has a little bit to
6 do with the osteopathic profession with us today.
7 Thank you, Mr. Ankele for joining us.

8 MR. ANKELE: Thank you.

9 MR. HAILEY: We're making this video
10 In the Biomed Communications Center at the Gibson
11 D. Lewis Library of the University of North
12 Texas, Health Science Center here in Fort Worth.
13 Now that I've said that long introduction,
14 Mr. Ankele, I'd like, if you could, to give us a
15 little background on your life, if you will and
16 feel free to start anywhere you'd like.

17 MR. ANKELE: Well let's start from
18 my working career, which has been the last --
19 well I won't say how many -- but a long time.
20 Anyway, I'm a native Fort Worthian. I attended
21 Central High School. That gives you my age quite
22 readily instead of Pascal. Attended TCU. I then
23 went to work for Continental Oil Company in the
24 offices of Fort Worth. From there I went to
25 Wichita Falls, went to Nocona. I was in the

1 production end of it, by the way. And then out to
2 the Red River on the camp of the Continental Oil
3 Company. Then I was transferred to Midland,
4 Texas where I established a production office
5 where we did our drilling and producing of oil
6 wells for West Texas, New Mexico.

7 And then my home is Fort Worth. My
8 wife's home is Fort Worth. I always used the
9 word, I was conned into leading the oil company
10 and go to work for a flower shop. Gordon
11 Boswell Flowers, that was my father-in-law.

12 So from then on, it became a career
13 in Fort Worth of another era. And it was very
14 interesting to change from blind to ridiculous,
15 ridiculous to blind. I never realized what it
16 was yet.

17 MR. HAILEY: How long were you with
18 the oil company, did you say?

19 MR. ANKELE: I was with them ten
20 years.

21 MR. HAILEY: Ten years. And then
22 you came into the flower business?

23 MR. ANKELE: Came into the flower
24 business, uh-huh. I had a good job, but it was a
25 little intriguing to think I had two children

1 then and I could bring them back to Fort Worth to
2 be educated. And my family, my wife's family
3 were all here. It just looked like an
4 opportunity to reestablish myself and know where
5 I would be the rest of my life.

6 MR. HAILEY: Are your kids also from
7 Fort Worth as well?

8 MR. ANKELE: They're all Fort
9 Worthians. They all finished the same Junior
10 High School, High Schools. Each attended the
11 university of their choice. So they're all here
12 and three live in Fort Worth now.

13 MR. HAILEY: Oh, excellent. I've
14 noticed that you're very active in the community.
15 I would like, if you would, to go into some of
16 the various activities and things that you do for
17 the community. Now how do you have time to work
18 in the flower shop, I don't know, from what I
19 understand, from your other experiences.

20 MR. ANKELE: That was what my wife
21 used to say as well as my boss, Mr. Bosswell.
22 How do you do all that? You're supposed to work
23 here. I did the director of the FTD, that's the
24 major wire association of the world. And I went
25 to Detroit twice a month, but it was always a

1 short stay after a board meeting. I had to come
2 back and I always got my 40 to 60 hours a week,
3 every week at Gordon Boswell's. And I've been
4 active in most everything. The Chamber of
5 Commerce -- I was on the Board Executive
6 Committee of Chamber of Commerce for about eight or
7 nine years. I've shared most every committee in
8 the Chamber of Commerce, including the Convention
9 and Visitors Bureau.

10 Sportsman, I had to hunt and fish a
11 lot. I mean, that's my life too. And I was
12 head of the Sportsmans Club of Fort Worth. We
13 had game dinners. Well I've been a little
14 active in most of everything I've done. I'm past president in
15 fact, I helped organize the South Fort Worth
16 Rotary Club.

17 MR. HAILEY: Oh, you did?

18 MR. ANKELE: I was president of
19 that. And then I've been sectary on the board at
20 the Downtown Chambers of Commerce. Rotary Club,
21 couple of different terms. Still active in the
22 rotary and whatever comes along. And then
23 somehow someone talked me into going to a
24 luncheon. In fact, I've been to two luncheons
25 here to acquaint me with the world of osteopathy.

1 And then someone said come to a luncheon, they
2 said they'd have delicious food. I thought to
3 myself, there are no free luncheons, but I
4 attended anyways and happened to be the formation
5 of the Endowment Board of the Health Care of
6 Texas.

7 MR. HAILEY: Who got you involved --
8 who got you to come to one of those free lunches?

9 MR. ANKELE: Well, I think it's
10 Dr. Beckwith, who's an Air Power Council. I've
11 also been president of the Air Power Council.
12 Dr. Jay Beckwith is the past president so he had
13 a little influence and Herman Stuggy is on the
14 board at the hospital across the street and that
15 free lunch and was said to understand what it was
16 all about. When I found out what it was all
17 about I was on the board.

18 MR. HAILEY: So it wasn't a free
19 lunch, huh?

20 MR. ANKELE: That became a
21 interesting thing. I became acquainted with the
22 hospital, a number of doctors, and I was not
23 aware -- I was aware because I'm a Native Fort
24 Worthian and I saw what had been out on the hill.
25 We used to call this the hill out here, that

1 little thing on top of the hill. And watched it
2 progress. It was not a very outstanding hospital
3 or school to one of the finest I've ever known.
4 I've had my -- I've been a patient at the
5 osteopathic hospital. It was a delightful stay
6 in spite of the troubles I had and I'd become
7 acquainted with the other doctors. I find in all
8 the fields that this has just been a revelation
9 to me.

10 MR. HAILEY: So I take it, then,
11 your physician, or at one time you had some direct experience
12 then?

13 MR. ANKELE: I have, Dr. Beckwith is
14 still my gastrologist. Dr. Brenner, I don't know
15 it he's a cardiologist or not, but he directs my
16 little heart every once in a while.

17 MR. HAILEY: Uh-huh.

18 MR. ANKELE: Dr. Jordan. Let's see, I know a lot of them,
19 they all became good friends and became very
20 close to their medical abilities. I'm still very
21 impressed.

22 MR. HAILEY: What are some of the
23 things that you are able to do and are interested
24 in doing for and on the foundation? Since you
25 had that free lunch?

1 MR. ANKELE: Well, our little group
2 -- when I say our little group, we did raise
3 enough money for the -- isn't this terrible?
4 It's only \$900,000 we raised, put in the
5 hypobaric chamber. So we're fairly active in our
6 meetings to what we can do. And not only are we
7 raising money, that's an endowment thing in life,
8 but also to acquaint people with the osteopathic
9 medicine.

10 MR. HAILEY: So you kind of have to
11 get out and get some community support then it
12 sounds like.

13 MR. ANKELE: We do.

14 MR. HAILEY: What do you have to do
15 in that area to get people to notice -- well TCOM
16 or the Health Science Center?

17 MR. ANKELE: Well.

18 MR. HAILEY: And the hospital as
19 well?

20 MR. ANKELE: That's just, of course
21 I was real proud because TCOM, before I even knew
22 about the hospital coming over Dr. Richards. And
23 many years ago we'd come for acquainting
24 ourselves with the facilities you have here. So
25 I was very pleased when you became the University

1 of North Texas Health Science Center. I thought,
2 boy now that's more than TCOM.

3 MR. HAILEY: It's a mouthful to say.

4 MR. ANKELE: It's a mouthful, but
5 I'm very proud of the fact that I'm within this
6 part. I know Dr. Richards. He's a good civic
7 man also besides heading quite an institution, I
8 see. And the number of places that I attend and I
9 think he does a great job in furthering what you
10 do here and I like to.

11 I'm a Native Fort Worthian, so I've
12 told you. I'm proud of Fort Worth and anything
13 I can do to watch it grow and enhance itself.
14 And I think this is a great thing, our
15 university here.

16 MR. HAILEY: So the community is
17 fairly receptive, then, to the school. You were
18 on the chamber, you said you were on the Board of
19 Directors. Have you been able to give a little
20 influence as far as getting osteopathic name
21 across in that regard?

22 MR. ANKELE: I never failed to drop
23 a name when I have an opportunity. Anytime I
24 could make a discussion on what we had done on
25 where we were going and of course being a

1 name-dropper I like to say, I know Dr. Richards.
2 When he did something or does something -- yes, I
3 did have an opportunity -- I hope I did well
4 enough that they remember. And your North Texas
5 Chancellor President --

6 MR. HAILEY: Dr. Hurly.

7 MR. ANKELE: Dr. Hurly, he's a
8 military man, so we got to discuss quite a bit
9 about our Air Power Council and Carswell Air
10 Force Base. Yes, I've been very happy to be a
11 part of it.

12 MR. HAILEY: What types of things
13 have you -- backtracking just a bit -- have you
14 been involved in with the chamber and other
15 organizations? What other kinds of interests do
16 you have that you kind of put your hand into?

17 MR. ANKELE: Well, of course there's
18 always been the United Way, the Red Cross. I was
19 officer Vice Chairmen of the American Red Cross
20 here in Fort Worth, a chapter. My wife once made
21 a bio for me and I was a little embarrassed with
22 it. She was more proud of me.

23 Now also in my civic affair, not
24 trying to numerate anything, but I was given
25 the honor of the outstanding member of the

1 Florist Telegraph Delivery Association by being
2 a member of that as well as my civic
3 achievements. Out of 26,000 members I felt
4 honored that they recognized my civic
5 abilities.

6 MR. HAILEY: You sound like the kind
7 of person that would probably want to avoid some
8 of that, I bet.

9 MR. ANKELE: Well, right now it's
10 trying to see what can I do without, but it's
11 still a pleasure. I mean, I enjoy people, I
12 enjoy the association. Again, I'm a true Fort
13 Worthian at heart and I love to see where we're
14 progressing and this is one of the things that
15 will help us do it.

16 MR. HAILEY: Where do you -- you
17 mentioned a point that you see us progressing and
18 you'd loved to see that. Where do you see the
19 osteopathic profession going in Fort Worth and
20 what would you like to see the school and the
21 hospital and so forth do? What achievements
22 would you like to see them make?

23 MR. ANKELE: I think watching the
24 growth of the school here, what it has become in
25 the city itself. Watching the hospital, what it

1 has achieved. I've watched it grow into
2 something. I'm proud to be even a patient in it.
3 I think we have a lot of PR or advertising to do
4 so far as the facility here is concerned. But
5 now it's an easy matter to bring that up in the
6 conversation that I have been involved in
7 something of this kind. In other words, I'm not a
8 great explainer of conversation, but when it
9 comes to these I like to talk about it.

10 MR. HAILEY: Uh-huh. What types of
11 things -- do you have any recommendations that
12 you could think of as far as --

13 MR. ANKELE: Well frankly in my
14 business involved in civic affairs is part of it.
15 And I think I like to see the people within the
16 university here, Science Center, become involved
17 locally, civically. I think that's the main
18 thing to be known that you are here and what
19 you're doing. I see Dr. Richards quite often at
20 functions and they participate in the various
21 social activities. And I say social activities,
22 their fundraisers. Jewel Charity Ball, The
23 Symphony Ball, The Ballet Ball, things coming up.
24 There's fundraisers, but the presence of people
25 from here I think will do worlds of good.

1 MR. HAILEY: Well, I guess if
2 Dr. Richards or some of the people go to these
3 fundraisers possibility in return when the school
4 have some kind of fundraiser you would get the
5 same support from those people.

6 MR. ANKELE: Yes. They have to know
7 who you are and what you are. I think your event
8 you had for Gib Lewis, the name of the library I
9 believe is the Gibson D. Lewis library now?

10 MR. HAILEY: Right.

11 MR. ANKELE: I think that was great.
12 It was a good affair. I saw a lot of good people
13 here that will always remember being in your
14 beautiful structure here. A lot of people don't
15 know about it.

16 MR. HAILEY: I guess it's the fact
17 that some people are not in the community. Do
18 you think that the relationship with the city
19 leaders -- is that part of a problem?

20 MR. ANKELE: It's not a problem.
21 It's an effort that you have to make. Business
22 afterhours, two, three, four, years ago may have
23 been. I think I was chairman of the membership
24 at the time and that was good. We had a lot of
25 people, a few substantial people that came and

1 got to see what you have. You have to have some
2 kind of event to show who you are and what you
3 are.

4 MR. HAILEY: Are there any
5 experiences that you can think of in any of your
6 organizations or anything that you're involved
7 in, you'd like to bring up? Some interesting
8 stories perhaps?

9 MR. ANKELE: Oh, I'm not a good
10 storyteller. I've told all the stories I can
11 think of. I've been pheasant hunting the last four days and
12 I'm out.

13 MR. HAILEY: So you do a lot of
14 hunting, huh?

15 MR. ANKELE: I used to do a lot of
16 hunting. It's been slow down, but this was a nice
17 affair. We go to Wisconsin-Illinois border to a
18 beautiful lodge, and we hunt from there; but
19 hunting and fishing, that's been part of my life.
20 Although, I like to travel now.

21 MR. HAILEY: So it's kind of
22 recreational relaxation to travel and that kind
23 of thing, get away.

24 MR. ANKELE: That's my R&R, that's
25 right.

1 MR. HAILEY: I do appreciate you
2 taking time out. Are there any thoughts that you
3 would like to give us before we finish up?

4 MR. ANKELE: Honestly, I don't ever
5 say I'm at a lost for words. Be really to be
6 constructive in it, I just feel like I hope you
7 can be out within the community. And that's what
8 we try to do on the Endowment Board. That's our
9 job is to acquaint people. And I believe you
10 have a board here of some nature that I think
11 should be your spokes peoples for something of
12 that kind.

13 MR. HAILEY: Are there some
14 fundraisers that your board has coming up? You
15 mentioned the one you had earlier. Are some some
16 others that you're looking into?

17 MR. ANKELE: Not at this time. I'm
18 too involved in every fundraiser in Fort Worth
19 now. But that's apart of life. I've been to
20 everything that the National Fundraising
21 Associations have, telling you how to do it and
22 what to do. If you have an Endowment Board here
23 I think they should be a member of it and become
24 acquainted. All we heard was there's a lot of
25 money out there if you can get it.

1 MR. HAILEY: It sounds like some
2 people probably could use some of your advice, it
3 sounds like. Give them a few ideas.

4 MR. ANKELE: No, I don't think my
5 ideas are any good. By the way, I was on the
6 Endowment Board, the American -- The AFE,
7 American Floral Endowment.

8 MR. HAILEY: American Floral
9 Endowment.

10 MR. ANKELE: It's major endowment
11 for the floral industry of the United States.

12 MR. HAILEY: I didn't know they had
13 such a --

14 MR. ANKELE: That's a big one. Well
15 we don't go out into the communities. We do that
16 within our own industry, but we have -- I served
17 on that for nine years and shared it for three
18 years. It has a substantial involvement Endowment, that's where we get all of the
19 research for the floral industry, from that.

20 Each year we allocate 2 or \$300,000
21 for different research projects within the floral
22 industry. So I'm on the Texas State Floral
23 Endowment Board now too.

24 MR. HAILEY: Oh, my.

25 MR. ANKELE: So local, national,

1 state, but I'm not a good fundraiser, but I enjoy
2 doing it because I like the people that I work
3 with.

4 MR. HAILEY: Well it sounds like to
5 me you are a good fundraiser from what I'm
6 hearing and from you and from other people. I
7 think you really have a knack for it.

8 MR. ANKELE: Yeah.

9 MR. HAILEY: You don't want to admit
10 it.

11 MR. ANKELE: No, I think they say,
12 Felix, you're not a fundraiser, you're a fun
13 raiser. So they leave the D off and say that's
14 your profession.

15 MR. HAILEY: Do you ever see
16 yourself going back to the oil business after all
17 of this?

18 MR. ANKELE: No, I still have a
19 little producing well or two out in West Texas I have an
20 interest in. So I haven't lost touch with it
21 yet. So far as, technically I sure have. It's a
22 big different thing that their in now.

23 MR. HAILEY: Well I don't know if
24 you have time to go back into the --

25 MR. ANKELE: Not into the real

1 realities of it. It's just in watching what's
2 happening and the price of oil and how costly it
3 is to drill oil now compared to the way we used
4 to do it years ago.

5 MR. HAILEY: I do appreciate you
6 taking time out of your busy schedule to meet
7 with us. I know when I talked to you a while
8 back about setting this up, you had several irons
9 in the fire. I do appreciate your time. Are
10 there any final comments you want to make?

11 MR. ANKELE: Well no, but I
12 appreciate being an opportunity. If I can ever
13 be of any help within your area, I'd be happy to
14 do it. I'll have a little more time, I think now
15 that I'm not involved in my work completely. My
16 two daughters do that, most of it for me but I
17 appreciate having the opportunity to discuss a
18 little something about it.

19 Again, I'm real proud of what we
20 have in Fort Worth in the Science Center here.
21 And I just hope we can and you can get the word
22 out that we have something that's just not --
23 it's rare in Texas.

24 MR. HAILEY: It does seem like, that
25 is one of the things you always have to keep

1 overcoming is keeping your name in front of
2 people.

3 MR. ANKELE: Keep it in front of
4 people.

5 MR. HAILEY: Again I do appreciate
6 you.

7 MR. ANKELE: Well thank you for
8 letting me be here.

9 MR. HAILEY: And I know that these
10 comments will definitely be valuable in later use
11 and I do appreciate it. And sorry we could not
12 help you also with all of the makeup artists that
13 you requested.

14 MR. ANKELE: Did I do that again?

15 MR. HAILEY: We couldn't find one,
16 but we do appreciate it. Thank you again and
17 have a good afternoon.

18 MR. ANKELE: Thank you very much.

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