

A full transcript of each interview is not available at this time. Please read below for a brief introduction to each interview by Wayne McCombs.

**Interview 01 -
1973 Diamond Baseball Dinner**

The Tulsa Oiler Diamond Baseball Dinner was one of the best big league dinners in the country, organized by A. Ray Smith, owner of the Tulsa Oilers, a farm club of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Baseball's greatest would attend, and speaking at the dinner in 1973 at the Camelot Inn, was Oklahoman Allie Reynolds and Casey Stengel, followed by Joe DiMaggio, who was made an honorary Indian chief.

The first voice you hear is that of the emcee Pat Butrum, known for playing the sidekick of Gene Autry and for playing the character Mr. Haney in the TV series Green Acres.

At the time of the dinner, January 19, 1973, DiMaggio was 59, Reynolds 56 and Stengel 82. The event was broadcast on radio station KVOO, preserved by baseball historian Wayne McCombs. And is now heard on VoicesofOklahoma.com.

**Interview 02 - 31:38
1974 Diamond Baseball Dinner**

The Tulsa Oiler's Diamond Baseball dinner was one of the best big-league dinners in the country.

Baseball's greatest would attend, organized by A. Ray Smith former owner of the Tulsa Oilers, a farm club of the St. Louis Cardinals.

It was a Saturday evening January 27th, 1974 when about a thousand people attended to see and hear Mickey Mantle, Stan Musial, Whitey Ford, Johnny Bench, Allie Reynolds, Paul Dean, Warren Spahn and Satchel Paige.

The MC of the evening was Houston Chronicle sportswriter Morris Frank.

Highlights of the dinner were featured on the special affairs program, Voices of Oklahoma, heard on KVOO, with Alan Lambert, and preserved by baseball historian Wayne McCombs.

Interview 03 - 18:38

1975 Diamond Baseball Dinner

The 1975 Tulsa Oiler baseball dinner was held at the Mayo Hotel. Organized by A. Ray Smith, these dinners had grown to be of the best big-league dinners in the country. Since the Tulsa Oilers were a farm club of the St. Louis Cardinals, they drew some of baseball's biggest names. The Master of Ceremonies for the dinner was Hugh Finnerty, former President of the Texas League. St Louis third baseman and coach, and former Tulsa Oiler baseball manager, Ken Boyer, is heard accepting an award for St. Louis Cardinal first baseman Keith Hernandez. You will also hear from Cardinal outfielder Bake McBride, and the New York Yankees Mickey Mantle tells a hunting story involving Billy Martin. These highlights of the 1975 dinner were produced using the title *Voices of Sports Legends* for local Tulsa radio and preserved by Wayne McCombs.

Interview 04 - 1:06:08

A. Ray Smith

A. Ray Smith was a long-time baseball executive, best known for his ownership of the minor league Tulsa Oilers franchise, which he later moved to Louisville, Kentucky. From 1963 to 1966, he also owned a tenth of the Cleveland Indians. He was a native of Texas but made his fortune in the construction trade in Tulsa. Sports historian Wayne McCombs interviewed Smith as he talked about people.... such as Tulsa personalities Mac Creager, Len Morton and others like Satchel Paige, Gene Autry, Warren Spahn, Winston Churchill, and his secret of hot dogs.

A. Ray Smith was 84 when he died June 28, 1999. Listen to this fascinating man in an interview recorded June 11, 1997 for *Voices of Sports Legends* and heard on the oral history website VoicesofOklahoma.com.

Interview 05 - 1:03:29**Glenn Dobbs**

Glenn Dobbs was born in 1920 in McKinney, Texas. He was a successful running back and punter in high school while playing for the school in Frederick, Oklahoma.

Following graduation, he enrolled at the University of Tulsa, where he played football in the 1940, 41 and 42 seasons. During his senior year, 1942, Dobbs led the Golden Hurricane to an undefeated 10-0 record. In addition to his running and passing skills, he was the nation's top collegiate punter in the 1942 season. Following his professional football career, he became head football coach from 1961 to 1968 at the University of Tulsa. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame as a player in 1980.

At the time of his death in 2002, Dobbs was still regarded as the greatest football player in the University of Tulsa history. He died of cancer at the age of 82. Sports historian Wayne McCombs interviewed Glenn Dobbs, April 24, 1997 for *Voices of Sports Legends* and was donated to the oral history website VoicesofOklahoma.com.

Interview 06 - 59:55**Jerry Webber**

Jerry Webber was one of Oklahoma's most beloved broadcasters. He was a reporter, sportscaster, news anchor, and storyteller. In 1969 he joined Channel 2-KJRH in Tulsa, Oklahoma as a reporter and was named sports director in 1971. His love for news prompted his move to news anchor in 1986. Wayne McCombs interviewed Jerry on October 12, 1998 just two months before Jerry died on December 19, 1998. Jerry was 62 when he lost his battle with cancer. You will hear Jerry talk about the University of Tulsa basketball program, Coach Nolan Richardson, the 1981 NIT championship, also Barry Switzer and Oklahoma football and other topics. Listen to Wayne McCombs as he interviews Jerry Webber for *Voices of Sports Legends* on the oral history website VoicesofOklahoma.com.

Interview 07 - 54:10**Bill Connors**

Bill Connors, Senior Sports Editor of the *Tulsa World*, was known by three generations of Oklahoma sports fans for his incisive reporting and precise writing. He was 11 times Oklahoma Sportswriter of the Year and in 1998 entered the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame.

Connors joined the *World* staff full time in 1953. By the mid-1960s he had acquired a national reputation, contributing to many major sports publications and also *Southern Living*. He was 68 when he died June 2, 2000.

Sports Historian Wayne McCombs interviewed Bill, July 27, 1998. They covered many topics including Glenn Dobbs, Henry Iba, OU-Texas games, Mickey Mantle, the Boston Red Sox's Ted Williams, and more topics. This is a *Voices of Sports Legends* interview heard on the oral history website VoicesofOklahoma.com.

Interview 08 - 50:15**Gary Ward**

Gary Ward was the head baseball coach at Oklahoma State University from 1978 to 1996. Ward won 17 Big Eight Conference championships at OSU, including 16 in a row from 1980 to 1996. He led his team to 18 40-win seasons, and 12 times he finished in the top 10. He later became the head baseball coach at New Mexico State University. During his tenure, he became only the 24th coach in college baseball history to gain 1,000 career wins.

This interview was recorded by sports historian Wayne McCombs on May 4, 1999 for *Voices of Sports Legends* and is heard on the oral history website VoicesofOklahoma.com.