Illinois Wesleyan University
Digital Commons @ IWU

All oral histories | Oral Histories

1949

Roger Rose

Roger Rose '48
Illinois Wesleyan University

Edward K. Waters '37
Illinois Wesleyan University

Recommended Citation
Rose '48, Roger and Waters '37, Edward K., "Roger Rose" (1949). *All oral histories.* Paper 22.
http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/oral_hist/22

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Oral Histories at Digital Commons @ IWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in All oral histories by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ IWU. For more information, please contact sdaviska@iwu.edu.
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

[Wire recording made of a speech by Roger Rose April 1949 at a Los Angeles alumni meeting. Roger Rose was a member of the graduating class of 1948. The recording was made by Edward K. Waters ’37 and converted to a digital format by Media Preserves, Summer 2009. Attempts were made by archives staff to verify spelling of names but some could not be confirmed. These names and some inaudible words are noted by marking the presumed word in brackets.]

Dr. Hubert Hodgens: Now we jump twenty years down to 1948, which was just day before yesterday if we count years, and we have representing the Class of 1948 Roger Rose. Alright, Roger, will you bring us—

[Cuts out]

Roger Rose: —during the Depression and never changed since.

[Laughter]

Roger Rose: This is all being recorded, isn’t it? I think most of us remember such occasions as trying to keep awake in the classroom vigil and not succeeding. At least I remember that.

[Laughter]

Roger Rose: Some Wesleyan wit has observed that if all of the students who slept in class at Wesleyan were laid end to end, they’d be much more comfortable.

[Laughter]

Roger Rose: I think we also—I think we also remember memories which have a more serious note to them, the times when we met together as a student body and faced issues which had to be met and which we decided democratically. In the time that—the last couple of years I spent at Wesleyan, I remember very well our efforts toward getting a student government, a real student government, organized on campus and how the first real, really functioning student union was built in a tremendous campus-wide campaign of speeches and campaigning, the climax of which was—seemed to me very heartening. At least 83% of the student body turned out for the vote for the new constitution and new student union. It seems to me a real indication of growing interest of Wesleyan students in the own affairs. Well, if you’ve been following the newspapers for the last few years, it’s not my place here to remind you of what Wesleyan has done or what has been done to Wesleyan in the field of sports.

[Laughter]

Roger Rose: This past year—I haven’t been following too closely—it’s my impression that we have come up in the world somewhat. As I recall the ’46-’47 season in football, we at least won the homecoming game with Augustana—

[Murmuring]

Roger Rose: But we lost that last game of the season to ISNU six to nothing in a muddy November afternoon in the rain which I don't forget for a long time. Basketball—I remember we didn't do so well either.

[Laughter]

Roger Rose: Baseball—baseball was slightly better because we had a poor season.

[Laughter]

Roger Rose: If you're interested in women's sports, you can come see me after the program.

[Laughter]

Roger Rose: Wesleyan always has done a good job as I recall in the legitimate stage. Such plays I remember as *The Postroad*, *Laura*, the music production *Faust*, and a recent production *The Late George Apley*—were done with superb skill by the Wesleyan Dramatic Department. In the year 1947, I saw some new buildings go up, the beginning of many others. I well—we well—all well remember the barracks built as temporary buildings to house men students along the side of the campus. There was the beginning of the new student union building and of course there was the athletic season again in 1948 and '47. That year in football we won three games and lost six.

[Laughter]

Roger Rose: We also lost to ISNU.

[Laughter]

Roger Rose: Basketball—we did very well. We had an even ten wins and ten losses.

[Laughter]

Roger Rose: One a piece for IWU and ISNU. We also saw the completion—I don't believe I was at Wesleyan when the Pfeiffer Hall and the new men's dorm were completed—I believe they were completed after I left sometime in early 1949 I believe. It's important to me, or it seems important to me, to remark in passing and in closing, something that has happened to Wesleyan in the last few years, and that is the influx of not only of a larger student body, which had its total enrollment, I guess, of last year of thirteen hundred eighty-five, which I was reminded of exactly by Bill Shiner [Mr. William K. Shiner '40], among whom are and have been a considerable number, a considerable percentage of students from foreign countries, from Ethiopia, from Europe, France, [cuts out] England, from British West Indies, China, South Sea, all over the

world, and it seems to me that it is remarkable that in a world which in the past few years has been becoming smaller and smaller psychologically, the outreach of Illinois Wesleyan has gone further than the borders of the United States, reaching people, individuals from countries all over the world, leaving with them something of the tradition of Wesleyan and bringing to the campus of Wesleyan something of the tradition, the thinking, and the outlook of students from foreign lands. I think that today is something well worth noting. I think that is a good point at which I can close. Thank you.

[Applause]

[Recording cuts out, ends abruptly]