

Oral History Interview
with
Billie Jones

Interview Conducted by
Janet Ahrberg
April 23, 2011

O-State Stories
Oral History Project

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O-State Stories

An Oral History Project of the OSU Library

Interview History

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The recording and transcript of this interview were processed at the Oklahoma State University Library in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Project Detail

The purpose of O-State Stories Oral History Project is to gather and preserve memories revolving around Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College (OAMC) and Oklahoma State University (OSU).

This project was approved by the Oklahoma State University Institutional Review Board on October 5, 2006.

Legal Status

Scholarly use of the recordings and transcripts of the interview with Billie Jones is unrestricted. The interview agreement was signed on April 23, 2011.

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About Billie Jones...

Billie Jo Jones was born in the small town of Murfreesboro, Arkansas. She grew up with eight siblings, the closest in age being a sports-loving brother. Being in a small town with a brother and his friends for playmates, Jones never shied away from football, baseball, basketball, and other games or sports that could be invented. She held onto her love of athletics through her youth, and after she graduated high school, she enrolled at Magnolia A&M Junior College where she attended for two years. After teaching science and physical education in her hometown for a year, she enrolled at Arkansas State Teachers College in Conway, Arkansas, where she earned her bachelor's degree in physical education. From there, she entered the University of Arkansas to work toward her master's degree.

Jones taught at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri for two years and then accepted a position teaching middle school in North Kansas City, Missouri. Ten years later, in 1961, she was invited to join the faculty at Oklahoma State University. At OSU, she was the women's advisor for freshman physical education majors, and she taught softball, basketball, field hockey, and an array of other sports. She also coached women's volleyball and track, taking the teams to state and national competitions, which were still very new for women's athletics in the '60s. With women's sports on the rise, and Jones' strong presence therein, she was offered a job at Florida State University to serve as a coach, teacher, and advisor. While there, she earned her PhD in physical education administration, became an associate professor in the Department of Movement Science and Physical Education, and reached the rank of full professor.

At Florida State, Jones served as head coach of the women's volleyball and softball teams, taking both to state and national championships. She has been a dedicated leader in the advancement of women's sports at Florida State, and is credited as one of the main players in the school's ongoing success in athletics. In 1985, she became a service professor, and in 1989 was named a professor emerita. Over the years, she authored and co-authored numerous publications on health and fitness, softball, track, and coaching. A scholarship in her name is awarded each year at Florida State to a female student on the coaching path. Also, former students and athletes established two scholarships in her name, one named the *Femina Perfecta* and one for volleyball. In 1998 Jones was named to the school's Athletics Hall of Fame.

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Billie Jones

Oral History Interview

Interviewed by Janet Ahrberg
April 23, 2011
Tallahassee, Florida



Ahrberg

My name is Janet Ahrberg, and today is April 23, 2011. I'm in Tallahassee, Florida, on the Florida State University campus, interviewing Dr. Billie J. Jones. The interview is being conducted as part of the O-STATE Stories, an oral history project of the OSU Library. Billie, thank you for joining me today. I'm going to start by having you tell me about your early life, where and when you were born, and where did you grow up, your family, your schools you attended. I know you came from a large family of nine siblings so there must be some interesting stories about being raised among so many siblings. Ready to start?

Jones

Yes. I was born in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, a small town in southwest Arkansas, a population of probably eight hundred. There was one paved road, and it was the highway that went through town. There were no streetlights, no stoplights. The elementary, junior, and high school were all on one campus and so forth. I was the youngest of nine children. The one next to me was a boy. There were no girls in my neighborhood when I was very young so he and his friends were my playmates for all of this time. So the opportunity for me to be an athlete was really very limited. The only thing we had was I played basketball in high school.

I graduated and went to a junior college, at that time, Magnolia A&M. Interestingly enough, the reason I went there was that I had a ride (laughter) so that I had a place that I could go with someone and have a ride to get to that campus. Then after being there for two years, I stopped and taught a year. This was in the late '70s where you didn't have to have a degree, or really be certified, to teach. I went back to my

hometown and taught science and physical education and then left to go to Arkansas State Teachers College in Conway, Arkansas, where I completed my degree. Then I went to the University of Arkansas to be a graduate assistant and to complete my master's. I taught at Drury College in Springfield, Missouri, for two years. Then I went to the public schools in North Kansas City, Missouri, where I taught primarily the middle school for ten years. Then I went to Oklahoma State in 1961.

Ahrberg *What were some of your favorite sports that you played growing up? You said basketball was your first love.*

Jones Well, that was the only choice I had to be an athlete in high school. Probably, my sport of choice was football, (laughter) but that was because I played with my brother and his friends. We really didn't have an opportunity to play anything except what we made up ourselves. No recreation program, no athletic program or anything, so it was whatever you can—the pick-up baseball game, the football game. I picked up a tennis racket when I was a senior in high school, because one of the young men in town came home from his college for Christmas break. He was a tennis player so he set up a tennis net in the gym, and that was my first time to pick up a tennis racket and hit it over the net.

Ahrberg *What did your parents do for a living there?*

Jones Well, my mother, of course, stayed home, reared the children, made a garden about the size of two building lots. It was a small town. We had our own cow. They owned pigs. They owned a garden. They owned chickens. My father was a county politician, and sometimes he was in office, and sometimes he wasn't in office. It was sort of an up-and-down thing.

Ahrberg *What part of Arkansas is this?*

Jones This is in southwest. It's about sixty miles south of Hot Springs, and it's noted for one thing, and that is the diamond mines. So it is a state park, but it has the only real diamonds. So that's its notoriety.

Ahrberg *How many of your family members attended college?*

Jones Let's see. The first three went for a year of—I guess there were three, and it was the oldest three, and they made it before the Depression hit. Then the Depression hit, and that changed everything completely. So there was a big gap, and then I went to college. Then, one of my older sisters, after marriage and having children and so forth, went back and completed a degree.

Ahrberg *Okay, now, what brought you to OSU?*

Jones Well, I was with a friend from Oklahoma. She lived in Oklahoma City, her folks did, so I went down, and we went to Oklahoma State campus and met Ms. Colvin. Never could call her Valerie. Met Ms. Colvin and Ruth Lindsey. I guess those were the two that I met, and we talked. I can't remember who—somebody was leaving, and so Ms. Colvin was looking for someone. I struck a chord with her, I guess, so she wanted me to join the faculty in the fall of '61. I think I took a small pay cut to come down from North Kansas City Schools to Oklahoma State.

Ahrberg *So you were hired as a faculty member there.*

Jones Yes.

Ahrberg *What were you teaching? You were hired in the PE program?*

Jones In the physical education program, yes. Whatever Ms. Colvin told me to teach, that's what I taught. (Laughter) It never occurred to her that whatever she said you could do, you had to do it. I have no idea. Looking back, I can't remember what rank I came in as, whether it was instructor, whether it was—I know it wasn't above assistant professor because Ms. Colvin, bless her, she wasn't concerned with money, whether you got a raise or not. That was it, but nothing except that you worked with the students, and that was her interest.

Ahrberg *Do you recall the age at the time that you started at OSU?*

Jones Let's see. That was '61 so I was probably about thirty-three or thirty-four.

Ahrberg *Who was the president of the campus at the time?*

Jones I cannot recall his name.

Ahrberg *Okay, was it Oliver Willham?*

Jones Sounds familiar, yes.

Ahrberg *Okay.*

Jones In '61, yes.

Ahrberg *Is there anything about the president, even though you don't recall his name, that stood out?*

Jones No, all I remember is physical education at that time was in the College of Sciences, and [Robert] Kamm was the dean of Arts and Sciences. I had no direct contact with him, but Ms. Colvin worked very well with him, and she thought he was very good and was very good to the physical education program. She was pleased to be in that college as opposed to the College of Education.

Ahrberg *What courses did you teach?*

Jones Well, to begin with, it was all primarily activities. Taught archery, field hockey, badminton, basketball, softball, flag football. Whatever it was, that was it. (Laughs)

Ahrberg *Was it co-ed, or did you work with...*

Jones At that time it was not co-ed.

Ahrberg *So you worked with the women?*

Jones Worked with women only. One of my assignments when I came in, I was put in charge of the women freshman physical education majors. At that time when you came in, you could declare a major, so those who declared physical education as their major, then I was their mentor or advisor or whatever. That was one of my assignments in that.

Ahrberg *Where did you teach? What building were you in at that time?*

Jones Jeez. (Laughter) We were all over campus. We were in the armory, and then there was—what was it? Oh, man, that little-bitty building in the middle of campus that was really old.

Ahrberg *Old Central?*

Jones May have been, but it was just a small building.

Ahrberg *Gundersen?*

Jones I don't know, but, anyway, that's where the offices were. Ms. Colvin had a private office, but the rest of us were all in a big open room. We tried to divide it off so we'd have a little privacy, and she would have none of it. It was going to be open and so forth. Taught in that. We taught—I think archery was by North Hall. Was there a North Hall or a North...

Ahrberg *There's the Classroom Building, Gundersen...*

Jones I don't know. It was really tough to get across campus to your next class, but that was immaterial. (Laughs)

Ahrberg *You mentioned Valerie Colvin. What were some of the other faculty members that you worked with?*

Jones I worked with Ruth Lindsey, Myr-Lou Rollins, who was the dance teacher who drove everybody nuts because nobody wanted to modern dance. She insisted that, well, they had to. Let's see, Ruth Lindsey, those were the primary women. Then there were some men who taught, but I'm having a senior moment. I can't remember their names. (Laughter)

Ahrberg *You mentioned earlier in our conversation, you did work with, was it Ada Van Whitely?*

Jones Whitley.

Ahrberg *Whitley.*

Jones Ada Van, yes, Ada Van. She and I came at the same time.

Ahrberg *So what do you remember most about Ms. Colvin? You kind of talked about that. What stands out about Ms. Colvin in your mind when you think of Valerie?*

Jones She was a dedicated woman. She wanted to do well. She wanted the students to learn. One of the things she did, at Christmas she would have an open house for the majors, and she would have them come early and late. One of the favorite things was rum balls. (Laughs) She would put out only a few at the beginning because they went so fast. If she didn't, then there wouldn't be anything left for the next group, but you had to dress. You couldn't come like that and whatever. At that time, it was skirts and all of that so you had to dress. I guess she thought God would take care of you because she never talked about a raise in salary, what you've earned, or anything, or a promotion or moving up. It was all about that.

She wanted to do a summer camp so she asked—she told, she didn't ask—Meg Lester and me that we would be the directors of the camp. Well, we said, "Michigan State has a big one. We should go up there and see how it's done." She said, "You don't need to. You just do it." (Laughs) So we did. She did not like intercollegiate athletics because she thought it was not fair to spend that much money on a few but rather spend the money on the majority, which was, of course, not the athletes. So we did have extramurals, and we also had intramurals. But intercollegiate, she was from the old school, not that women couldn't do it, but there was

not the money for it. It should be spent on the masses, not on the very few skilled. Very outspoken, but loved. (Laughs)

Ahrberg *That's good.*

Jones Loved and respected.

Ahrberg *Were you involved in the Women's Athletic Association or later known as the Women's Recreation Association? It was the sponsoring organization for women's intramural programs.*

Jones Not really. I can't remember who did that because most of mine was involved in, I guess, extramurals, so that when we played other colleges then that was...

Ahrberg *Did you know Albin P. Warner? He was the head of the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.*

Jones Not too well. I think about the time he came I took a sabbatical and was gone for a year. Then went back, and he was the chair at that time. Then I left so I really didn't have much contact with him.

Ahrberg *While you were there at OSU, what women's sports stood out from the others, in your opinion?*

Jones For women?

Ahrberg *Yes.*

Jones Of course, volleyball. I was the coach. (Laughs) If you read those articles, you will see that we were the one. I coached volleyball, and then I started the track team so those two of course, in my mind. Oklahoma State, at that time, was the leader in women's athletics. We were good. We held our own so at that time we had a head start because of the people.

Ahrberg *That's interesting. So you were a coach of volleyball and track. Were there any other sports you were...*

Jones Let's see, I think I dabbled in badminton a little bit and also field hockey for a year or two, but volleyball and track were the two primary.

Ahrberg *How were the women recruited for these sports? Did they just sign up? It's a lot different now with Title IX.*

Jones Oh, yes. What it was, you put a notice in the paper or on the bulletin

board, “Tryouts Monday, Wednesday, Friday, three o’clock in the armory.” Those who wanted to try out came, and they tried out. After a short tryout period, they were selected as who would be on the teams, then that was named. It was posted on the bulletin board, and I always went alphabetically so that they would never know who was picked last or first or whatever. So, no, no one was recruited.

I remember there was a really, very good golfer, Mary Kay Hyde, who came from St. Joe, Missouri. She came because she thought that maybe the fellow who coached golf at that time—I can’t remember his name, but he was a well-known golf coach. The Oklahoma State men’s golf team was very good. He wouldn’t have anything to do with her, which was very disappointing to her. She was the only one I knew that picked a particular school because, possibly, of an athletic opportunity. Of course, the women played everything. They’d play volleyball, then they might play basketball or whatever.

Ahrberg *Was there a lot of administrative support for the women’s programs?*

Jones For the athletic?

Ahrberg Yes.

Jones No. There was no money. I guess we had state cars, and we were limited at first. We’d have what we’d call a Sports Day, where you might go to Central, in Edmond. I mean, Central is in Ada, isn’t it?

Ahrberg *Central University is in Edmond.*

Jones Spend the day there and play five volleyball matches. Then it got to where we would go to different places, different campuses for four or five matches, or they would come to that. So it sort of expanded. Then in about 1968, there was a national organization to govern women’s sports at the intercollegiate level, and then that’s when the interest really picked up. The schedules changed, and we played more. They had national tournaments, and the track team went to the first national track meet in San Marcos, Texas. We went by car and packed our peanut butter sandwiches and jammed in a car and had homemade soup. It was interesting, but they loved it. You probably could ask any of them, and they would say that it was, I guess it was like [Charles] Dickens, the best of times and the worst of times.

Ahrberg *Is there a particular athlete that you worked with closely that you recall, that stands out in your mind the most? Are there any other athletes from OSU that you have stayed in contact with?*

Jones Well, yes, there are two or three of them that I still have contact with. There were many of them who could've been very good if they had had the opportunity so I regret that they didn't. None of them went on because there was not the opportunity to go in athletics, but if there had been... One of the women, a very good athlete, was Marilyn Linsenmeyer who was from Stillwater, who would've been a great track person, a pentathlete or whatever the one where they compete at all different activities in that event. Mary Kay Hyde, who would've been a wonderful golfer, probably could've made the golf tour. Most of them were just out there to enjoy and be thankful for the opportunity.

Ahrberg *You mentioned in our correspondence about an OSU graduate named Cynthia Buffington who received her BS in physical education in the late 1960s. Can you tell us a little bit about her? You mentioned that she's recognized nationally and internationally as an exercise...*

Jones She was not an athlete. In high school she was a basketball player, but she was not an athlete. She was, I think, originally a pre-med major. The physical education majors were so happy and having such a good time that she changed her major to physical education. She stuck to exercise physiology and got her PhD at Austin, University of Texas, and now calls herself a scientist. She is well known for her work with obesity, for cancer, and for diabetes in relation to obesity. I think she's just gotten back from Spain. She has to go back to India for a couple of times this year. She has a conference in Germany. She really is a powerhouse in that area, internationally as well as nationally.

Ahrberg *Now, was she on campus when you were there?*

Jones Yes, she was. I think she graduated maybe in '69, something like that.

Ahrberg *So you were familiar with her. What sports did she play?*

Jones She didn't.

Ahrberg *She didn't play any sports?*

Jones No, she was not that athletic.

Ahrberg *Okay.*

Jones But in high school, little town, she was a basketball player, but she was not an athlete.

Ahrberg *And you've kept contact with her through your career, or as part of a...*

Jones Just for whatever reason. I still have contact with a young woman I taught in the '50s, in junior high school in North Kansas City. So for whatever reason, the thread is still there.

Ahrberg *What do you think is the difference between the athletes of today, compared with the ones that you taught?*

Jones They're bigger. (Laughter)

Ahrberg *They're bigger. (Laughs)*

Jones They're bigger. (Laughs) Of course, they're more skilled. They're more talented. It's not because of their innate ability, but it's because of the opportunity they had. Of course, the athletes then were just so happy to have the opportunity to do a limited amount of traveling and participating where, now, sixty games for softball or whatever. They bought their own shoes, their own t-shirts, and now they're given. I can't speak for people like Robin [Ahrberg] and some of the others, which I know they're enjoying, and I know for many of them it's an opportunity to get an education, whereas they would not have that opportunity. But these, they came to school first for an education, and then this was just one of the many opportunities they had. They had a good time, and they behaved. (Laughter)

Ahrberg *I think we brought this up a little bit. We talked about the athletic facilities. You said you taught all over campus. Was there a gym that the girls could...*

Jones The armory was our gym. The armory. Then the Colvin Center was built in the late '60s, I think. It came in, and that was the Taj Mahal. I remember some young man saying that he was going to take his wife on a honeymoon to the best place where there was an indoor pool, and they could play racquetball, and they could do all of this. Of course, they were so pleased to have the Colvin Center.

Ahrberg *Were you on campus at the time the Colvin Center was being built?*

Jones Yes.

Ahrberg *Can you tell me a little bit about that? Do you know how it got started? What was the driving force behind getting it built?*

Jones I'm sorry. I have no idea except it was really neat. We didn't have anything. I mean, there was no space. Gallagher Hall, of course, I know we practiced track some, early in the season, underneath in the cellar, I guess, because it had a dirt floor, so we were in there. (Laughter) There

was really no place. I have no idea what the men did with their classes, no idea whatsoever.

Ahrberg *Did you actually get to move into the Colvin Center and have an office there?*

Jones Yes. I had an office.

Ahrberg *Oh, you had an office? Okay.*

Jones Oh, yes, I had an office. (Laughter) But backing up to Ms. Colvin, she was such an interesting woman. I remember they were talking about one semester she was teaching swimming and for some reason couldn't get the pool so she taught swimming for about six or seven weeks on dry land. She would put them on a bench, lie them on a bench. Then they could do their backstroke and all of this. Nothing was impossible. (Laughter) We needed to move beyond that. Ruth Lindsey was an outstanding—the physical education majors really got a good education, or had the opportunity to, and had very strong programs. The people who coached were pretty good, but we didn't have a lot of time.

Ahrberg *What about fencing? Did you have any fencing?*

Jones Ruth Lindsey had fencing, and she loved it. That was her favorite. Yes, there was fencing.

Ahrberg *I know I had a coach in fencing when I started at OSU. Her name was Winters.*

Jones Pauline Winters.

Ahrberg *Pauline Winters, that's right.*

Jones Yes, she came after. So, see, the names are coming back. (Laughs) Yes, Pauline Winters, she came after I was there in the middle '60s, I guess. She came from Pittsburgh, but, yes, she taught fencing. So many of them, like, Pauline died. Ruth Lindsey died. Ms. Colvin didn't want to retire. When she was sixty-five she was forced out because of the age limit or something. I don't blame her. She resented it, because she still had a lot of life and a lot of drive. They brought in Dorothy Coleman who was a very poor substitute.

Ahrberg *Did the coaches have any input into how the Colvin Center would be built, as far as the facilities?*

Jones No, that was not to be—athletics was not...

Ahrberg *Involved.*

Jones Involved. No. So that wasn't it. It was all to be learning and recreation.

Ahrberg *When the Colvin Center was built, did it really affect the programs there? Did they get stronger? Did they take off? Were you able to do more with the facility? Because you had this state of the art facility, so...*

Jones They probably could offer more classes, but you still had only so many faculty to do that. It was just that the venue was much better so you didn't have to move around. You could have your archery out. You could step out into the fields and have your golf driving range and all of this. I'm not sure that it added more programs, but it added to the programs.

Ahrberg *Did you see a lot more participation, though? People wanting to...*

Jones Oh, yes. Well, it was widely used. It was centered so that the money was well spent.

Ahrberg *Let's go back and talk a little bit about your impression of the OSU campus in Stillwater when you arrived. This is the early 1960s...*

Jones Yes.

Ahrberg *...and we know Stillwater is kind of an isolated little town.*

Jones Yes, it was. (Laughter)

Ahrberg *Tell us what it was like back then, in the 1960s. Probably even more isolated, but...*

Jones Well, I came from a small town to begin with. The town where I grew up had about maybe eight hundred people. Didn't have a stock law or whatever and so forth, so Stillwater was really a cut above that, but it was down from Kansas City. I had seen someone in the summer before. I was taking a class at Central in Edmond and met someone who was a student at Oklahoma State. Walking on campus with him, and he said, "Now, at Oklahoma State, we don't walk on the grass." (Laughs) He said, "We always stay on the sidewalk, and you don't cut across the campus." I thought, "Man!" (Laughter) It was a pretty campus. It was a nice campus, and it was small and friendly and warm. I know it was sort of isolated, but it was pretty around there. I don't care—the wind blew all the time, and I missed it when I left. The wind would blow across the fields, and the color would come out in the grasses. The dirt in the sunset

made for beautiful sunsets. There was just a feeling there, and, of course, we all hated OU, (laughter) so that brought us together. I was very impressed with the campus and with the people.

Ahrberg *Well, this is the early 1960s. How were the students? Was there a lot of talk about Vietnam, the times?*

Jones I look back, and I must have slept through most of that. I remember some about integration. I know there were more, but I remember only one black woman, and she was on the field hockey team. Her name was Brenda Neil. She wasn't physical education, I don't think, but she went on to become a broker and did quite well in New York. When you traveled, you weren't with any other ethnic group. You were still with just the white population. I don't remember there being—like, at Florida State at that time, they had sit-ins. They had all that, and I don't remember any of that happening at Oklahoma State.

Ahrberg *Very calm campus.*

Jones Very calm campus, yes. In the Midwest it's different anyway, so the people are like that.

Ahrberg *Did you know any of the guys in the rodeo club or the gals in the rodeo club?*

Jones No, but I used to go and cheer for the goat. (Laughter) I felt so sorry for the goat.

Ahrberg *Cheer for the goat? What was that?*

Jones You know they had goat tying? Oh, and that poor goat! (Laughter) My favorite sport to watch was wrestling. Loved the wrestling. Loved it. I thought it was the best sport.

Ahrberg *Was Henry Iba on campus at that time?*

Jones Yes, he was.

Ahrberg *Okay. What was your impression of Mr. Iba?*

Jones Well, of course, I knew he was a great basketball coach, and he did a good job, but no contact. No contact with him. It was just two different worlds. Physical education and women, sports from the men.

Ahrberg *Did you use the Student Union? Did you go into the Student Union?*

Jones No. No.

Ahrberg *What about the library? Did you ever go to the library?*

Jones Some, but not a lot. But some.

Ahrberg *Did you read the student newspaper, The O'Collegian?*

Jones Yes. Yes, I did. I had forgotten the name of it.

Ahrberg The O'Colly.

Jones *The O'Colly, yes.*

Ahrberg *Did you live on or off campus?*

Jones Lived off campus. First was a little garage apartment on Husband Street. Let's see. Then I lived on Gray Street. There was one other, but I can't remember.

The students were so different. You'd get up one morning, and they'd papered the door so that when you opened the door to go out, they had been there during the night and had papered the door. (Laughter) Or you'd start to get in your car, and it'd be filled with balloons. (Laughter) So they always found you.

Ahrberg *What was your mode of transportation back then?*

Jones A car, had a little car.

Ahrberg *You had a car.*

Jones Yes.

Ahrberg *Okay. What places did you like to visit in Stillwater? Were there any establishments that you visited? I mean, there was Katz Department Store. (Laughter)*

Jones I was trying to think of what...

Ahrberg *There was Swim's Campus Shop.*

Jones Yes, yes.

Ahrberg *Did you visit there?*

Jones Yes, yes. Of course, I'm trying to remember the name of the dress shop that one of my landladies worked for.

Ahrberg *Bonnie's?*

Jones Yes.

Ahrberg *Worked for Bonnie's?*

Jones Yes. (Laughs) Of course, anyway, there was a little lake north of town, not Carl Blackwell. That was west.

Ahrberg *Boomer?*

Jones Boomer, yes. Boomer was a good place for picnics and things like that.

Ahrberg *So on the weekends were you primarily in Stillwater? Did you stay there, or did you travel outside of Stillwater?*

Jones No, really didn't travel. Usually, during volleyball and track season, we were always gone traveling on weekends so the weekends were taken up in that way. In track, we had a track meet at Ozark Christian College in Springfield, Missouri, very conservative campus. We didn't have any money so the young women stayed in the dorm, (laughs) and they were so amazed. They said they had never seen anybody so poor. They were so austere. Sometimes the jumping pit would be, like, tires with a tarp over it. When you high-jumped and you went over the thing, you're on sawdust. No wonder they didn't jump high. They had to come down.

Ahrberg *What was your reason for leaving OSU?*

Jones Well, had a job offer from Florida State. At that time, women's athletics was just beginning. Title IX had been passed. It was not enforced, but it was passed, so they needed someone who would advise students, teach, and coach for little or nothing. Anyway, it was a change of venue, and it was an opportunity to come. I had been here, and I liked the campus and liked the people. It was another opportunity. I really missed Oklahoma State because I loved the people. They were all so nice and so down to earth and everything, but I tell you, after Ms. Colvin left, it just wasn't the same. (Laughter) It was just too different.

Ahrberg *Billie, I know you continue your involvement in athletics by supporting the Florida State University softball team, much to their great appreciation. Can you tell me what you personally have gotten out of supporting these athletes after your own career has ended?*

Jones Well, I know that it helps keep my mind young. It can't do much for my body, but it helps keep my mind young and reminds me of a lot of things and keeps me updated, I guess, to be more accepting of some things, to be more understanding, not necessarily liking it, but more understanding, more accepting. Also, to sort of, maybe, let me know that I am playing a minor role in making a difference for them.

Ahrberg *Billie, I certainly appreciate you taking the time today for this interview to discuss your life and your career while at Oklahoma State University. It's been my sincere pleasure to interview you, but before we close, I'll just ask you. Is there anything else you would like to comment about?*

Jones Well, I'm pleased to be a part of this, and I appreciate your asking me. It gives me an opportunity to talk about some things, some very good memories, some very good memories, and, also, to bring some of my pictures that, for whatever reason, I can't...

Ahrberg *Yes, tell us about the pictures you brought.*

Jones ...so that I know where they're going because they're history.

Ahrberg *These are pictures you're bringing to us that you took while you were there, and they're of the women.*

Jones Yes, they are primarily of women's volleyball, track, a few field hockey. At one time, we got a lot of ink in the *Stillwater*—what's the name of the...

Ahrberg *NewsPress.*

Jones *NewsPress.* We got a lot of ink in the *NewsPress*. I tell you, they were good. They'd come out and take pictures. They would write stories and all of that. You will see, also, with this. Brought this in. The track team went to the first national intercollegiate track and field championships in '69. It says who was there, but, also, the names of the young women. We have pictures of those who won, and the same thing for the first trip the volleyball team took to the nationals in Miami, Florida, in '72, I guess, with that. So just some articles and some pictures and whatever.

Ahrberg *I'm just kind of curious, did any of your teams, while you were a coach, are there any titles you won or awards you won as coach?*

Jones Of course, we beat everybody on land and sea in Oklahoma on whatever it was. We were by far the best in this, and then our others, as far as nationals, the two with which I was connected, the volleyball team, in pool play, we won two and lost three. Ms. Colvin was just having a fit

because we spent all that money going down there and blah, blah, blah. The track team, I think we finished fourth in the national track meet with that.

Ahrberg

Well, thank you again for joining us. It's been my pleasure to interview you. Thank you for coming.

Jones

Thank you. It's been my pleasure. I've enjoyed it.

----- End of interview -----