Memories
of
Dr. Pat Ireland Nixon

AN INTERVIEW WITH
MRS. A. G. (NATHALIE) GRUM

Mrs. A. G. (Nathalie) Grum was interviewed on December 18, 1992, in her home at 441 Donaldson Avenue, San Antonio, Texas. The interview was conducted by David LaRo on behalf of the FRIENDS OF P. I. NIXON MEDICAL HISTORY LIBRARY.

Mrs. Grum was the long-time librarian at the Bexar County Medical Society and, in that capacity, worked closely with Dr. P. I. Nixon in his role as collector and overseer of the Bexar County Medical Society's Rare Book Collection. This collection now resides at the P. I. NIXON MEDICAL HISTORY LIBRARY, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and formed the nucleus of the P. I. NIXON Library.

The audio tape is lodged at the P. I. NIXON Library and the interview has been reduced to narrative form, also available at that location.

Readers of this oral history memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word and that the editor sought to preserve the informal conversational style normally found in such historical sources.

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW WITH: Mrs. A. G. (Nathalie) Grum.

DATE: December 18, 1992

PLACE: Mrs. Grum’s home, 441 Donaldson, San Antonio, Texas.

INTERVIEWER: David LaRo

I am interviewing Mrs A.G. Grum who was the librarian at the Bexar County Medical Society for many years. Our purpose today is to record Mrs Grum’s impressions and memories of Dr. Pat Ireland Nixon and of Dr. Nixon’s very significant role in both writing and preserving facts and evidence of the history of medicine in Texas.

I am David LaRo, interviewing on behalf of the Friends of P. I. Nixon Medical History Library at the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio.

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L: Mrs. Grum, are you a native Texan?

G: No. I was born in Arkansas - Little Rock, Arkansas. I moved to Texas when I was about six years old. I lived a year in Del Rio [Texas], I lived a few years in Uvalde, and I went to Austin in time to go to college at the University of Texas. From there, I went to New York. I went to school in New York after I finished the University. I worked in New Jersey, right out of New York City, for four years. Then I married and came back [to Texas], in time. When my husband was retired for physical disability, we came to San Antonio and made our home there, for all these years.

L: You came back to San Antonio about what year?
G: Thirty-eight [1938].

L: I imagine you’ve traveled a bit in your years.

G: Not as much as I would have liked to, because most of my time was running back and forth to Texas.

L: And in what year did you come to the Bexar County Medical Society Library?

G: I came to the medical library in 1953, six weeks after my husband died.

L: Under what circumstances did you show up there and interview for a job?

G: I overheard my children offering to babysit with me, and I decided it was time to get up and get out. So, I started looking for a job. I went first to the San Antonio school system and was told I was too old. I was 49! I thought, "Well!" They [the San Antonio School District] suggested, since I had done social service work in the East, that I go to the county – that they needed me. But I started down, and I thought, "Hmm. I must not bring those problems home to the one child that would be at home with me."

G: So I got a little further along and I thought, "Hmm! I'll just go over to St. Mary's Hall." So I went there and asked if they had a job.

"Yes." They'd take me. "What class would you like?"

I said, "Oh, the second grade is the easiest class to teach." So they gave me my books and I walked out. I got halfway to the street and I thought,
G: "I am a fool! I don’t want to teach school." So I went back in and handed them their books and told them I was sorry, but I believed I’d better not. That very night, a friend told me there was an opening for a librarian over at the Bexar County Medical Library. I went over and had an interview with Dr. [Pat] Nixon’s son, Robert. After talking with him, he asked me if I could go to work the next day. So I started to work the next day. And that’s the way the story starts.

L: And you worked [for the Medical Society] for how long?

G: Seventeen and one-half years. And I worked with a promise to the children that it would only be a temporary job; if they would just let me do it until I got used to being alone, that I thought it would be helpful for all of us. And they’ve often said, "Mother, if you’d taken a permanent job, how long would you have worked?" (eyes sparkling)

L: (laughing) That’s a good story, Mrs. Grum. While you were at the library, would you say you had one boss or many bosses?

G: Well, the Medical Library was not alone, of course. We were in conjunction with the Medical Society and we had different people there. There were the Executive Secretaries; we also had different boards. I had different library boards, and they changed from year to year.

L: So the people changed and the boards changed, but in one year you still had several different boards that you worked for, and with, and supported.
G: Well, we had - you had - to work in conjunction with the Medical Society. They sort of were the bosses, even though we had our own system and our own board of directors. We only had to have one meeting a year whereas the Medical Society met every month.

L: How did your job change over the seventeen and one-half years?

G: Well, of course, you grow in a job. And as you grow in a job, you naturally draw different people into your working circle. And, when we started out, I don't think any student ever came into the library. But - I used to go - every term, I took [classes] down at the Junior College, just to be doing something. You could get Medical Ethics; you could get Medical Terminology; you could get any number of courses that were interesting to me. And, I got to know the students and I made it known that we would be glad for them to use our library.

As a result of that, we were never without students in the afternoon.

And then, when I first started, even one of the wives - I had been asked to check a paper - and the wife very nicely said to her husband, "Are you sure she knows enough to do it?" (laughter)

So, it took a little time for me to learn the ropes and for them to learn that it was alright. The most fun I had in the library was going back and forth with the doctors on the papers they were going to write.

And checking! Lots of times, I spent all morning getting the background for
G: somebody for a talk or for a paper they were working. I remember very well one of the men came in and asked what was on the table. I said, "Oh, one of the doctors is going to write a paper and I’ve been running down the original work for him."

He said, "I didn’t know librarians did that!"

And I said, "Well, I do. If I can save a doctor two hours time, I think that’s wonderful!" So, your job grows with your interest in, not only your books, but the people you’re dealing with.

L: That’s a very good observation! When you worked with Dr. P. I. Nixon, how did you address him? What did you call him?

G: (softly) I called him "Dr. Pat."

L: "Dr. Pat." Well, for the interview, I’ll refer to him as "Dr. Pat" also. That way we’ll both know whom we’re speaking about. When did you first meet Dr. Pat?

G: Over there. At the library.

L: Shortly after you went there?

G: Yes. I didn’t know any of the Nixons. Now, I knew a great many of the older doctors, but I never had run into Dr. Nixon or the family, and so I didn’t know any of them until I got over there.

L: To start at the very beginning, what did Dr. Pat look like? What was his physical appearance?
G: Well, when I first knew him, (hesitates)...hmm.

L: Well, was he a little man, a big man?

G: He was not six feet tall, he was not that type of a man, but he was well-groomed, a perfect gentleman, and he carried himself well when I first knew him. And of course, ravages of the disease and the age took place over the years. He became a different person entirely, physically.

L: What was Dr. Pat’s main interest in the library?

G: Oh, rare books! I don’t think he cared whether there was a journal in the library or not because he figured most all the doctors kept the journals they were interested in...in their own office. But, he was - he knew every book that was in that library in the rare book room. He could spot 'em across the room. And he knew - he could remember - what he had paid for them, where he got them, and from whom he had to beg the money for them (laughing).

L: Incredible. Would you - could you - describe for us a typical work experience with Dr. Nixon? He'd walk into the library: what would he say and what would he do?

G: Well, in the later days, I always tried to keep something on my desk that I thought would interest him because his time at the library was limited. And, he never knew how long he was going to be able to stay. So, if it was nothing more than a current list of books that I had found that I thought...
G: would be of interest to him - or sometimes we found a variance in the price of books, and that always interested him. And...things of that nature. And then, if I had had a problem of any kind, Dr. P.I. always had a good ear. He'd listen to anything you wanted to tell him. And he was most understanding.

I remember one particular time he asked me to write a letter of condolence, and it happened to be to someone that I knew didn't have any faith at all. I said, "Dr. P.I., I have no idea how to write a letter of condolence to somebody who doesn't believe in the Lord Jesus Christ."

He said, "That's all right, Miss Nathalie, I'll do it."

L: I understand the Medical Society's library had its beginnings around 1919. Do you know what part Dr. Pat played in the founding? I know you weren't here then, but you might have heard him talk about those early days.

G: I just remember them saying that just a group of them got together and began. I believe each one put in $10 a year, maybe. That was for journals, primarily. And I believe that was the beginning. But that probably was not the beginning of the love of a rare book so far as Dr. P.I. was concerned.

L: That was just the beginning, but not the end, for his interest, was it?

G: No!
L: Over the years that you knew him, did you see his primary interest in the library change?

G: No - not change. Dr. P.I. was not sold, at the very beginning, on giving the books [to the Medical School]. I don't think Dr. P.I. really ... wanted to do anything that would take from the Medical Society itself, and he felt that was a big portion being given. This was all before the Medical School. You see, we had to build the Medical School and that was one way - they were promised our library from the very beginning.

L: I see.

G: And I think that was like giving your right arm - if you're going to give away something that meant your life to you.

L: I can understand that. When you first started in 1953, where was the library housed?

G: The rare books were in one room on the second floor of the Bedell home...the old building. It was a beautiful old home, but it was of a structure so that we were limited even in the number of men that were allowed (Mrs. Grum chuckles) to come to the meetings on the second floor because it wasn't built for a big room. So, that was it. Books were just shelved. That was all I can say for them when we first started.

L: That was at 205 French?

G: The same location, but it was the old Bedell home. I guess it had been a
G: bedroom, probably, upstairs. The rare books were up there, and the journals were downstairs in what would have been their [Bedell family’s] living room.

L: When did it move? Did you actually move from the premises?

G: I packed every one of (chuckling) those books, except for a few that were taken down to Robert Nixon’s office which I carried one at a time, almost, for fear something would happen to them. He held those for a year, but the rest of the books all went in storage, and I had to pack every (chuckles, again) one of them and all the journals. And we packed them and they stayed there while we were building. And then, that was before the onslaught of the new Medical School.

L: Did Dr. Pat take a personal interest in moving the books?

G: He would come every day and he’d say, "Miss Nathalie, how are you coming?"

He watched me very carefully (chuckling again) when I was packing some of them. But he soon found out that I had - being an Army widow - I had moved before.

L: By the time you were hired, Dr. Pat had already served as President of the San Antonio Medical Society; he was a longtime member of the San Antonio Board of Health; he had been President of the San Antonio Historical Society; he had even served as President of the Texas State
L: Historical Association and the Texas Surgical Society. Add to this the fact that he’d written several books and a multitude of articles for the medical community, we begin to see - to sort of get an idea of - the variety of his interests. Do you know much of his medical practice itself during the years you worked there?

G: No. I’m sorry I didn’t. I don’t know, but to me, he was my best buddy in the library.

L: I read that, in 1944, Dr. Pat became the "Permanent Director of the Old Books Department." Was that term still around in the fifties and the sixties?

G: Not that I knew.

L: How much time did he find, on a weekly basis, for actually working with the rare books?

G: Oh, there were some days he’d be there - never very long at a time - but enough to see what was going on. He wanted to know what was happening. And, if something needed mending, he was there to either help do it, or do it himself. If for nothing else, he’d go down there and...polish some of the books.

L: Polish them?

G: Well, rub ’em. Take care of the leather. And he’d just - that was his love.

L: In his book The Early Nixons of Texas, I learned a lot about his family.

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L: Did you ever hear him refer to his people?

G: Nooo. The only thing - the thing that I think of often - he came to the library one day and said, "What kind of weekend did you have?"

And I said, "Oh, a wonderful one, Dr. Nixon. I re-read my husband's letters. I cried, I had a good time, and I tore them all up."

Dr. Nixon looked at me and said, "Miss Nathalie! You had no moral right to destroy those letters."

I said, "Dr. Nixon, those letters were written by my husband to me. And they were for me. And I read them. And I destroyed them."

And he said, "And your children?"

I said, "They weren't written to my children."

Shortly after that, he handed me a book. In it were letters - published letters - of his and his wife's. And then I knew why he thought I was terrible to have destroyed something [like that].

L: Bless his heart! That's a wonderful story, too. From Dr. Pat's words and his actions, did you ever get any hint of what had transpired to cause such a deep, abiding, serious love for old books and history?

G: No. I thought it was something innate in his character. And certainly - oh, it became part of him, almost - his love of books. I appreciated it because I had a brother who had the same feeling toward books.

L: It's probably reasonable to assume that someone of Dr Pat's wide interests
L: and intensity would be expected to inspire some of his colleagues, to irritate
a few of his colleagues, and then fail to make an impression on many
others. Would you comment on that general statement?

G: That was really true about some! And he didn't mind saying that he
couldn't understand saying how some of the doctors wouldn't give five
cents for a book [but would] go out and do some fool thing and spend their
money otherwise.

L: Could you remember any particular colleague that he really inspired - that
he had a profound effect upon?

G: Well, I was going to say all those men who were members of the group that
he invited for their "birthday parties." I am sure, over the years, that they
learned to appreciate Dr. Nixon as much as I did.

L: We'll talk about his "birthday parties" a little bit further down here, I think.
In general, how would you characterize his relations with his medical
colleagues?

G: Well, there were some who didn't care for Dr. Nixon. They didn't care
for his love for the books. And Dr. Nixon would tell you, "Well, they
probably never read a book!" But those who knew him - and over the
years I have run into people who were patients of his - and there's where
you get the true test of what a man really means. A relationship to patients
over the years tells you more about a doctor than anything I can think of.
L: Dr. Pat must have been an extremely dedicated worker - a tireless worker - in his chosen field of books in addition to medicine.

G: Oh, yes.

L: Did all his activities and his interests (and the time it required) have an effect on his family relationships? Did it keep him away from home a bit?

G: I don't think so. I think he and his wife were very, very close. And, of course, two of the boys were doctors. One was - I believe - one was a farmer. [I'm] not sure, but I believe one of them was a farmer. And he talked quite freely about his family and his relationships. I remember telling him one time - I had such a cramp in my leg and my foot - and I said, "Dr. Pat, if somebody ever finds me in bed, dead, with a [high heeled] shoe on, just know I've had a cramp."

"Why, Miss Nathalie," he said, "I thought only my wife did stuff like that; she insists on - if her foot cramps - to go back and put a high heeled shoe on. That helps the cramp."

I said, "It does!"

L: Did Dr. Pat have a sense of humor?

G: Yes, but I don't know whether I'd say 'a sense of humor' or not. He had a wonderful sense of judgment. I'm not - I guess I didn't know the lighter sense with Dr. Nixon that lots of people did. To me, he was someone I looked up to so highly, 'til I didn't even think of him as anything except on
G: that level.

L: I ask that question because I read a couple of his books recently, and, in the most unusual places, you see a little shining humor come through that was not really appropriate, but it just, apparently, overcame him and he did that. I thought he must probably have had a sense of humor.

G: Well, I imagine he did, but we were on serious subjects (laughing)...yes. You know, I was not a librarian, so I was there to learn everything I could from Dr. Nixon from the word 'go' and he was a wonderful, wonderful teacher.

L: Did you ever disagree with Dr. Nixon and let him know it?

G: No, I don't - I might have disagreed, but I knew enough to keep still.

L: (laughing) Okay. Do you recall any individual, physician or not, that Dr. Pat really, sincerely admired and looked up to?

G: Well, I didn't know Dr. Nixon through the early years, so I don't know who was back in his history. I don't know his personal life. I knew Dr. Nixon only in the library and the books. (laughs)

L: From my readings of his [books], he was something of a visionary. He could see things that were problems, going to be problems, or going to be of some serious impact. He wrote things back in the twenties and thirties that are of interest and are timely today, having to do with socialized medicine and inept politicians, and how politicians were intruding in our
L: everyday lives. He had a social conscience then about problems that we still see today. I guess I could go on and on about what I read that strikes me as...

G: Well, in the seventeen and one-half years I was over there, we did 'socialized medicine' the whole time. I mean, I don't think there was ever a day or a week that went by that the subject wasn't brought up. So, to start reading the papers now, and all [they write] about socialized medicine. They ought to go back and re-read the history of it.

L: In August of '39, he wrote an article for the Medical Record and Annals entitled, "Medical Boat Rockers." Apparently, he thought he was something of a 'boat rocker.' In 1935, he wrote an article entitled "Health Insurance." He was discussing those topics. He had varied interests. He was interested in - and published on - the topic of minimum standards for physicians back in the thirties and forties. Apparently he had long been a very interested - and interesting - individual. Knowing him the last 25 years of his life, what of his early years - of that fire - that zeal for life, was still burning in him those last years?

G: Well, the mere fact that Dr. Pat - with all his trouble at the last - would still say, "Miss Nathalie, I'm ready. Come get me!" showed that the fire never did go out.

L: Good. He was ready for you to pick him up and bring him to the library.
G: He never bothered to say "Is it convenient?" It was just "Miss Nathalie, I'm ready."

L: Again, my 'reading' of what Dr. Pat wrote was that he was educated far beyond college and medical school and that he was probably what you would call a 'self-educated man.' He was a reader, a thinker...

G: He was well read over many, many different subjects, I would say, and, as a result of it, he stayed interested in life in general.

L: That all fits in with your knowledge and your impressions of Dr. Pat as a person. That was his person.

G: Yes. That and his - well, he was so interested in human beings and in the progress that they could make, if given a little help along the way.

L: His interests and accomplishments were pretty wide-ranging. I noted that his interests ran from medical history to Texana, from politics to public health, and government to cattle breeding. He seems to run the gamut. From your time at the library with Dr. Pat, did you happen to come across any other interests? Did he mention other interests that would be significant to folks?

G: Well, I think his interest in nature was beautiful. Maybe because I love birds and bees and animals and trees and whatnot, but Dr. Pat told me one time with a great deal of interest, "Do you see that vine growing up that house? I brought that over here and I started that." He said, "I don't know
G: that everybody likes that but I think it's beautiful!" And...things of that
nature.

L: I'm going to ask you - let's see - his writings over the years, from his early
writings to some of the later ones, seem to carry and retain a very profound
reverence, a consciousness that there was a Supreme Being, a God. Did
that show up in daily work, his life?

G: Oh yes! Dr. Nixon was a true gentleman. I don't believe that you can be
a gentleman without a sense of a higher being. And to me, he was...he
was brusque if he needed to be, but at all times he was a gentleman. And
even though he was adverse in feeling toward a lot of things - and let it be
known - he didn't go off [half-] cocked, as it were.

L: Well, I was going to ask you to describe Dr. Pat as a person. You have
just, probably, done that. You said he was always a perfect gentleman; he
might be brusque at times. What else can you add to that impression of
him as a human being?

G: Well, I think he was very understanding. And I remember - I didn't even
know how to type. I'd never used a typewriter in my life. And I got over
there [Medical Society library] and found a typewriter on the desk, and I
said, "Good gracious! Do they expect me to type?" I don't know whether
I thought I was going to have a secretary or what? But, as result of it, I
went to Trinity and I took typing over at Trinity.
G: I was pecking away at a typewriter one day and Dr. Pat walked up and he said, "My goodness. You almost sound like you can type!"

L: When Dr. Pat gave his personal collection, and I read that it was some 1200 books of Texana - quite a bit of it valuable Texana - to Trinity in the early sixties, it became what is now called the "P. I. Nixon Collection."

Now, collectors of Texana...

(interruption)

Well, I know that giving the books to Trinity benefitted [many] people for a long term, and made sure that the books had a home where they would be taken care of environmentally, and security would be there...

G: That's right. And it's a beautiful collection.

L: I've not been there, but I need to go. From your contacts with Dr. Pat, do you know anything of his work with the Texas Historical Society's [Texas State Historical Association] group called the Junior Historians?

G: No, I don't. I don't know what that is. I know only one instance of the Historical Society. I know my brother came down to talk - to make a talk - and he talked too long. And Dr. Pat told me the next day.

I said, "Dr. Pat, how'd you like Jimmy's talk?"

He said, " Entirely too long."

L: (laughing) That's some of that frankness we spoke of earlier. Well, I don't know if you ever encountered any mention of this, but did you know he had

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L: a real serious interest in the [Spanish] Bexar Archives that were housed in Austin? He wrote in several of his writings that he was trying - he sounded rather disgruntled - trying to get those people to translate the things, to protect them. Did you ever hear that mentioned?

G: No, I don’t believe I did.

L: Well, you probably, by now, have characterized him as a thinker and a doer. He didn’t just think about something; he acted, didn’t he?

G: Oh yeah! And he knew how to do it. That was the amazing thing to me, the number of things that he really could do! And if he couldn’t do them, he knew how to get somebody else to do them.

L: A successful person. He said once in his writings that his most important contribution to organized medicine was through the Bexar County Medical Association Library. Would you agree with that?

G: Well, I’m sure that, when you think of the number of people that a library touches in their lives, and what it means... I had several graduate students who came to me in later years and told me that if it had not been for my interest in what they were writing, and because I let them use some original material from the library, they could have never gotten their degree.

We had one - let me think - one blind student who used to come with a reader. [There were] some things he wanted on his grandfather, and I could hear them just in hysterics. I’d go into the room and say, "Hey.
G: That’s not fair! I want to know what the joke was."

And they’d say, "Just sit down here and listen to what these old people are
telling you - and how they did things. It’s remarkable that some of the
patients lived!" (laughter)

L: That’s good. Well, I think I would agree that probably that was his most
important contribution. Can you think of any other contributions that you
feel like were important - that may not have been recognized at the time?

G: Well, I think he - as a citizen; what he gave to San Antonio just by being
"Dr. Pat"; his interest in the welfare of the community; his interest in the
people and his knowledge of what was needed to be done, in some
instances.

L: He was, as we’re finding, an unusual man for the time, perhaps. He had
an interest in a lot of areas and a concern.

Do you recall approximately when the Medical Society placed their books
at the University [Health Science Center]? We mentioned that: around
1970, wasn’t it?

(delay while Mrs. Grum looks in scrapbook)

G: The latter part of 1970.

L: What was the impetus behind that move? I believe you’ve said that was
part of an agreement to get the Medical School to come here [to San Antonio].

G: Yes. We gave not only the rare books, we gave our journal collections. I collected journals from every place coming and going for several years in anticipation for the move and we gave our entire library. We kept only - I believe they still have what they consider a library [at the Bexar County Medical Society]. You'd have to. But all duplicates were sent over [to the Medical School], and we had a section in the library of - well - lives of the different doctors and the history of different sections of the Medical Society and of medicine. Books of that nature - they went over there, too. What they did with them I don't know. I mean, they didn't go in the rare book room and I don't know. You see, over the years, the library has changed so. I remember, at one of the first meetings we had, one of the older doctors said, "I want to feel the book. I want to read; I don't want to read something off of a scanner." And I think that's true of a lot of people. You don't want to crook your neck trying to read off of one of them. It's a lot more fun to crawl up in a chair and have a good time.

L: Yes it is. Well, if the book collection - the library and the rare books - played a significant role in attracting the Medical School here, I guess San Antonio, in general, has a lot to be thankful for. How did the doctors of the Society feel about this? Was it pretty well accepted and supported?
G: Of course, there was a great number - I’ll tell you one thing: John Smith came to me one Friday afternoon and said, "Mrs. Grum, I have a little job for you. Will you do it? I want to know where the doctors’ offices - where they live - charted on a map." Of course, in that day and time, I don’t suppose there were three or four hundred doctors in our association. I think now they have some three thousand.

But I took one look at it and I said, "John, you’re...crazy!"

He said, "No, it’s not going to be so hard, Mrs. Grum. I’ll give you the map, a great big map, and then for every ten doctors, you’re going to put a pin."

Well, I came home and it so happened my son was here for the weekend and he said, "Mother, what are you going to do this weekend?"

I said, "What am I gonna do? You want to see?" The two of us spent the weekend....

He said, "Mother, you’ll never get it done."

We spent the weekend and we located every doctor’s office in San Antonio. That showed - that was the beginning of - the battle of whether [the medical center] would be downtown or out where it was [ultimately] established: the same battle that they’re having right now over the new Children’s Hospital.

And the same group of doctors who didn’t want [to move] way out there are the ones who are fighting for the downtown.
L: History repeats itself. Dr. Pat was gone, though. He was not there when the books went in 1970, right?

(Delay while Mrs. Grum finds date in scrapbook.)

L: Okay, ... Dr. Pat was gone when the books actually made the move.

G: I guess that's the reason Dr. Robert [Nixon] took care of it. The ones he considered the 'rarest of the rare' he took to his office and he was then the chairman of the Library board, so he took care of them - that one year that they were stored.

L: I can understand his concern; he knew his dad would have wanted them protected. Now, let's go to what we touched on earlier. Can you tell me some of the ways Dr. Pat exerted such influence over colleagues that were generously giving of their money to buy these books?

G: I don't know whether you mean 'generously' or not. They had to give generously (laughter). Dr. Pat, quite frequently, told me, "Well, you just know it's so-and-so's birthday, so we're going to have a birthday party. And whoever's birthday it is...is responsible." "So we all meet together," and he said, "then we ante up! Because there's always a book that has to be bought."

L: Did he have more than one birthday party a year for some people?
G: (laughs) I don’t know. He had a great - it wasn’t hard for him to contact people. And they loved him, and they loved giving to him. Not only the doctors, Dr. Pat had such a wonderful group of outsiders who were generous in their giving to the Medical Library. And then too, people gave for memorials. Right up to the last, I was getting money given to me for memorials and we put it - not many people gave enough to buy a book at that time - but it was set aside and when enough money was gotten together, then Dr. Pat would get a book. But we always notified everybody of their gift and all, and it wasn’t hard to - you have to be a person, though, who can do that. There aren’t many people who can get money--

<side one of tape ends>

L: You were saying that you had to be a special person...

G: Yes. Otherwise, if you didn’t have that ability, people would run from you if they saw you coming. Dr. Pat had friends who were always glad to - you might say - to humor him in his desire for another book.

L: There are people who have that knack - that gift of human relations, and relationships that can inspire that kind of loyalty and affection. He was one.

G: Yes. And there are other people that just turn you off.
L: People like that [with that special gift] today, that I know, run volunteer programs - also for the University. There are some who call and say, "Will you come down and do . . . ?" And you can't refuse them - I don't know what it is. You just can't refuse them.

The [phrase] 'roundtable' is another way, possibly, of saying 'birthday parties' or was that another group altogether?

G: No, I think that was more or less the same group of people who just took different terminology. I think the 'roundtable' was the same group that came and it was the doctors who loved Dr. Pat, loved the library, loved the books, and were glad to be associated with him.

L: It's good that there are people like that. People that he inspired - and I believe we met and spoke with one the other day - I see a lot in Dr. John Matthews that was, probably, inspired by Dr. Pat. And I've seen some 'tracks' that Dr. Matthews has made with his generosity in [the field of] history of the [local] area and of the state, also. And I'm sure there are a lot more folks out there that [Dr. Pat] inspired.

But finally, as we get down to the end, what is your lasting memory of Dr. Pat?

G: A very loveable gentleman who put up with me, and my ignorance of some of the things that he loved, and of his ability to inspire in you the same love

*INTERVIEW WITH MRS. GRUM*
G: for those books that he had.

He didn’t ever say, "Mrs. Grum, you just don’t know 'something'." If I didn’t understand something, he had all the patience in the world to go back and start from the beginning and try to help you through a problem.

To me - because of the situation in my own life at that time - it meant an awful lot to have somebody who understood that I was not a librarian when I went over there. I went to library school after I worked there and my library experience up to that time, was going into - mostly - into the Children’s Library. I had to go through that polio epidemic in San Antonio where we spent our lives going back and forth getting books for the three children at home that couldn’t get around. They had to spend their time mostly at home, because of the polio scare. But Dr. Pat was so understanding - you just couldn’t help but love Dr. Pat.

L: I think I’ve developed some of that same feeling from just reading his stories and talking with you: seeing him through your eyes.

G: He could put your ears down, if they needed it. I remember well mis-pronouncing one of the doctors’ names - one time - and he told me that was "sheer ignorance." (laughing) And, I guess it was. But I just hadn’t even thought about it; I just blurted out something and it wasn’t the right way to say the name.

L: This has been a very interesting project. Mrs. Grum, thank you very much.
L: for your participation and your help and your interest.

G: Well, you’re so welcome. It was seventeen and one-half years of my life that I would not have gotten through very easily without the interest that I had in the books.

L: Well, it’s through your help that a little more of Dr. Pat will be preserved. And I’m sure he would appreciate and enjoy that, if he’s looking down on us now.

G: Why, I’m sure he is!

L: Well, is there anything you’d like to add that I’ve not had the foresight to think of?

G: No. I, of course, went through the battle to get these books to the Medical School. Now, there were not all doctors who wanted that school. And so, we battled through that. But, it was such a wonderful thing for San Antonio, for the community in general, and for the people. It has proven what it was worth. And to have given those books where they can be appreciated, where they have been taken care of, and where they have been added to, I think, proves that, maybe, some of the reluctance some of the doctors had at first, has been overshadowed.

L: Well, this concludes [the interview]. I thank you again for your time and your patience with me. You’ve been so nice. Thank you very much!