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TUSCALOOSA | I am excited about the Town Hall Sean Shore and I did on location at Bryce Hospital last week -- there are a lot of fascinating things from Bryce historian Steve Davis in it that I had never heard before and bet you haven't either.

Sean, our chief multi media and Town Hall video producer, and I spent about an hour at the historic, antebellum mental health institution. He shot Davis and me sitting on a bench talking about some of the history before Sean, Davis and Alabama Department of Mental Health spokesman John Ziegler and his wife, who drove up from Montgomery, and I walked around the grounds for more shots and conversation.

The Town Hall segment, which is now in the video player at near the top of this web page, was prompted, of course, by the proposed sale of the mental health department land on which it stands to the University of Alabama, which has indicated it will not tear down the main domed building for which the cornerstone was laid in 1853.

I've written about some of the history of Bryce and the state's mental health system before, but never with the detail provided by Davis, who, after a long career in administration at Bryce, is now the official historian for the state department of mental health.

Davis also sent us some spectacular historic photos from Bryce that Sean incorporated in what I think is the most interesting Town Hall we've done yet. One of them is also included with this post.

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Posted By: Lib D (18/06/2009 11:35:35 PM)

Comment: I think the interview was wonderful. I hope you'll follow up with more interviews like this.

Posted By: Mama Faye (17/06/2009 9:40:29 AM)

Comment: I look forward to your article on Bryce Hospital. I retired 9 years ago after 25 years of service. It is indeed a very interesting historical landmark and has a very interesting history, if one takes the time to look and listen.