

Brubaker: I'm really trying to think and I'm not sure I know exactly.

Blum: I have heard, but I think it needs to be verified, that Todd Wheeler had met Edward Durell Stone during a hospital project that Stone had designed at Stanford University that Todd was called in to consult on.

Brubaker: Oh, I've seen the hospital at Stanford and it's a very nice hospital—it's romantic and it has arches and all the wonderful things that you associate with southern California. It looked like a mission. The thing that I remember more vividly is the fact that Ed Stone had this line of baloney that he talked about—he took the Standard Oil team around and he said, "I really love my building, my white marble building, here. I just like to come down here in the evening and just sit across the street and look at it." He came up with all sorts of garbage like that.

Blum: Which of his buildings was he talking about?

Brubaker: He was talking about the General Motors building in New York. That was when they were on the verge of hiring Stone for the Amoco building. That sounds kind of complicated, but it really isn't. Ed Stone got the job and he invited us to be the architects of record. He didn't have much of an office. He had a promotion-type office and he really couldn't do the job alone. He'd either have to hire numerous consultants or he'd have to hire a big firm that could follow through and he chose to hire a big firm to follow through.

Blum: Did he chose Perkins and Will because he had had a previous connection to you, perhaps through Todd?

Brubaker: About that I have no idea. It sounds authentic, because it is a handsome hospital and not many hospitals can be considered humanistic and warm.

Blum: Well, according to what I have read, building that hospital was going way over budget and Todd, as a hospital expert, was called in by Stanford to