

Interview with

ROBERT FAVOR  
Texas Ranger, Retired

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Project: Texas Rangers

Interview Conducted at the Favor's Home  
Clyde, Texas  
Friday—September 5, 2008

Interviewed By: Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray  
Longview, Texas

Present At Interview: Robert Favor, Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray



## Introduction

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**ROBERT FAVOR  
TEXAS RANGER, RETIRED**

**NANCY RAY:** My name is Nancy Ray and I'm visiting with Ray Favor of Clyde, Texas

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Robert Favor.

**NANCY RAY:** I am so sorry. It says Robert right here. Robert Favor of Clyde, Texas, and this is Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> (2008), and we are visiting in the Favor home. I'm assisted by Eddie Ray. And the purpose of this interview is to discuss Ranger Favor's career as a Texas Ranger. Ranger Favor, do I have your permission to record this interview?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yes, you do.

**NANCY RAY:** Ranger Favor, do you understand that this videotape will belong to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, Texas?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yes.

**NANCY RAY:** And, Ranger Favor, do I have your permission to present copies of this tape to various historical organizations such as museums, libraries, schools, and once transcribed, to place on the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum's website?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** You do.

**NANCY RAY:** Thank you. OK, to begin, let's start talking about your family.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** OK.

**NANCY RAY:** And, where were you born?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** I was born in a place that no longer exists, called Eagle Cove, Texas.

**NANCY RAY:** Eagle Cove, Texas. And in what county is that?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** This county here, Callahan County.

**NANCY RAY:** Callahan County, OK. And, your parents' names?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, my father was Robert Dickson, he went by Dick. And uh my mother's name was Winnie, her maiden name was Russell.

**NANCY RAY:** Winnie, Winnie Russell. OK. And what is your full name?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Robert Charles Favor.

**NANCY RAY:** Robert Charles Favor

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Named after my two grandfathers.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, how nice. And when were you born?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** *Long* time ago.

**NANCY RAY:** Long time ago (laughter)

**ROBERT FAVOR:** March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1934.

**NANCY RAY:** All right. Um, did you have brothers and sisters?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** I have an older sister and a younger sister and then I have a brother that came along later in life. So there were four of us.

**NANCY RAY:** There were four of you, and what are their names?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, my oldest sister, she's two years older than I am, her name is Evelyn Cranfill. She and her husband live in Abilene. She's in a rest home now.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, and what was the last name?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Cranfill, C R A N F I L L.

**NANCY RAY:** OK.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** And as I say, she's in a rest home in Abilene, disabled with a stroke. Uh, I have a sister two years younger than I am, uh, Peggy. She was my buddy growing up, she was the tomboy in the family. And, uh, she could ride a bucking horse that would buck me off (laughter).

**NANCY RAY:** You did that a few times, huh?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yes, yes. And uh I, she lives out about ten or eleven miles southwest of here out on her husband's family's old homeplace. And she's married to John Allen, a fellow I've known nearly all of my life. Great person. And then I have a younger brother, he's eleven years younger than I am. His name is Joe Wayne Favor and he's in the insurance business in San Angelo.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Very good. And where, uh, where did you go to school?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, started out at North Park in Abilene in First Grade but then we moved out to Eula which is in this county, nine miles south, southeast, southwest of here. Uh, went out there in uh should have went into the Second Grade, but the Gilmer-Akin Bill came in effect at that time and they raised the school from 11 grades to 12 grades.

**NANCY RAY:** Now, what bill was that?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** The Gilmer-Akin Bill. And uh so, I for some reason, uh, I don't know if it was alphabetical or what, I was chosen to skip the Second Grade and went to the Third Grade. And uh, not that I was that brilliant a student but that's just the way... guess I just drew the black bean.

**NANCY RAY:** Black bean. Well, did that cause you any problems?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, it was rather awkward you know because, you need... the Second Grade is a very important... helps you with your foundation in getting started anyhow, so we just went in flying by the seat of your britches in the Third Grade. Not only that, I had a teacher that wasn't the most popular person in the world and she and... none of the students got along with her too well. That's neither here nor there. But anyway, yes, to answer your question, I think that I'd been better if I could have went through the Second Grade and not been... My wife was not selected and she wound up the Valedictorian.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Not that I would have been a Valedictorian candidate, but she went through the Second Grade and she was, when we graduated, she was a year behind me then. She was the Valedictorian. I like to say I graduated in the top seven in my class because there was only seven of us in my Senior Class. So, at least...

**NANCY RAY:** Did you say you went to school with your wife even in grade school?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh, gosh, yeah. I met her in 1942 and her mother was one of my teachers in grade school.

**NANCY RAY:** Not the Second Grade?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Not the Second Grade, oh God no. Not the Second Grade. No, no, no. She was a wonderful person, uh, uh, Fifth Grade, and uh, but then uh, matter of fact, her mother was also my mother and my father's teacher at one time, when... down in grade school.

**NANCY RAY:** My goodness.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** She was born in 1900 and my dad was born in 1908. And my mother was born in 1914 so uh her mother was several years older than my parents. But good family. Real good family... We were just raised up together. Just seemed like the thing to do was make a go of it.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, did you have any uh favorite subjects in school?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** History was what I always enjoyed more than anything. And uh I always did pretty good in that even when they got into uh, after I got out of the service, and I uh took some history courses in college and uh, which I enjoyed those real well. That... sometimes you have a knack for things, remembering dates and things and... I don't remember anything anymore. Uh, uh I enjoyed it, enjoyed history.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, so, when you finished high school, what did you do then?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Uh, Korean War was going on and I knew was gonna be cannon fodder before long for the Army and I had two of my two best buddies were one year behind me, they were in the same class with my wife so I went to work, at several things, uh, driving a truck at a wholesale grocery warehouse for a while, then uh started frying donuts and I fried donuts for several months, and then whenever they got out of school uh and, well they graduated in May of '52 and then in September '52, we joined the Navy together on the Buddy Program. That lasted until Boot Camp was over then we never saw each other again, we all went to different corners of the world, and uh, never saw each other again until four years later when we got out of the service.

**NANCY RAY:** Let's go back to the frying donuts. Where did you do that?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** At Abilene, at a place called Abilene Pastry. I uh, I remember the uh most we ever fried was something over 1600 dozen one day and it was, our donut-making machine was an air compressor deal and it would pop pop pop pop two donuts at a time, put 36 donuts on the screen and we just, whatever these stores would order, and customers would order, we'd make a tally sheet and we'd know how much dough to mix up and how many... but that day was something over 1600 dozen. Pretty good load.

**NANCY RAY:** They were really healthy too?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah, oh gosh they were (laughter) and I could eat half, half of them. Never did get burned out on fresh, hot donuts.

**NANCY RAY:** I'll bet not.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** And we made a lot of special-order cakes, uh, and that was the end of my cooking career until many, many years later when I started cooking on a chuckwagon.

**NANCY RAY:** Ah, we'll talk about that later. Don't forget, OK? Well, let's go back to the Army.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** No, I went in the Navy.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh, Navy!

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, we went through Boot Camp in uh San Diego, California. Started off out at, out at Camp Elliott, it was so crowded that uh they moved us out in the desert at an old abandoned military base out there.

**NANCY RAY:** You said Camp Baggett?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Camp Elliott.

**NANCY RAY:** Elliott. OK.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah, Camp Elliott. And uh, we stayed the first six weeks out there and uh, then we moved on in to the main side there at downtown San Diego. Got out of there, went through Mine Warfare School, and then went on a minesweeper and I stayed uh 42 months on three different minesweepers and uh they uh... One of them, the first one, was an old ship that had been conscripted by the US Navy in World War II from a tuna fleet out of California. And they converted it into a minesweeper. And it was a wore out piece of junk.

**NANCY RAY:** A tuna boat to a minesweeper.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah, right.

**NANCY RAY:** That's quite a change.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah, and we stayed out to sea 93 days on that dang old tuna boat. It was a total miserable... and uh refueled every few days you know, and, had to take on supplies, and so forth.

**NANCY RAY:** Were you over, were you in the Korean area?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** I was in uh, I was in Europe, this 93 days we were preparing, we had taken on all the ammunition, uh hedgehogs, and warfare, the stuff of that nature that we, the ship would hold and then we went up to the Arctic and uh, went into some minesweeping operations up there calibrating our minesweep gear to the cold water of North Korea. And while we were up there, they signed the uh peace treaty to stop the war. And so, therefore, we did not have to take that rust bucket over there. I'm not too sure it would have held together. Put it in the mothball fleet and that was the end of that thing. Then we caught another, I got another minesweeper and uh we cleaned out... the United States mined all the harbors during World War II and had charts where all the mines were laid so that when the ships needed to come, would know how to get in and out without getting blown up. And then what we did, is we went in and we cleaned the mine fields out, floated the mines, recovered the ones that we couldn't blow, we'd bring aboard the ship, take the detonators out of them and uh, I don't know what they did with them, bring them into port and haul them off the ship and never did see them anymore but...

**NANCY RAY:** Well it sounds pretty dangerous.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, gosh, they paid us \$50 a month extra for that, yeah! (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** Well, did you ever have any uh mishaps, or near misses, or...

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, the only mishap I had, I got hurt. It was where we were bringing a mine aboard, uh, a cable broke and uh I got a pretty good lick and wound up in the hospital eleven days over that. Other than that... oh you kill a lot of fish when you blow them up. I imagine the Sierra Club would raise thunder over that. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** Is there anything else about your military career you'd like to talk about?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh, it was just uh bobbing around... that last ship was a wooden ship. And uh, there haven't been many people in this lifetime that still crossed the ocean on a wooden ship, but uh, it was a smaller ship. It was 160 foot long, 30 feet wide, and uh we went to Europe on it and uh, rough seas, why that wood just bobbed around like a cork. Extremely rough, and uh... but it was, enjoyed it, it was a good time and uh you know, then we didn't know any better. I was looking for adventure.

**NANCY RAY:** And you got it?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah.

**NANCY RAY:** So, what year did you go in?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Went in in '52 and got out in '56.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Well, were you married at that time?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Got married during that time. Beth and I married on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1954. And we put the ship... put that first ship in the mothball fleet in Orange, Texas, and uh I didn't know where I was going, I thought I was going to wind up in Norfolk, Virginia. So we got married, I went on back to the ship, was in Key West, Florida, at the time and uh, so I went on back down there and found out I was going to stay there for a while so I came back up here and we bought a 1950 Ford, 4-door sedan, flathead V-8. Everything that we owned went in the trunk of the car and the back floorboard and we made a pallet in the backseat. With two of us driving, we'd drive and sleep. We drove from out here at Eula which is where we, she was living with her mother. Eula is just right out of Abilene. And we drove to Key West, Florida. Got in there Easter Sunday morning at 4 o'clock in the morning. I had rented a house with another sailor and he had gone to Maryland to get his wife. I had never seen her, he had already gone back to his ship. I finally woke her up and I told her who I was. So I work Beth up, I went in and got my, put my uniform on because it was 6 o'clock Easter Sunday morning and we were pulling out going to sea. And I said, uh well I don't remember this girl's name, uh Vicky, I said Vicky, this is Beth, Beth this is Vicky, I gotta go, bye. Two weeks later, we came back. I had no idea she was even gonna be there, I'd left her the keys to the car (laughter). But, being the good woman that she was, she had gotten a job and she was making a go of it.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, good for her.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** And that's been our... we've been making a go of it all these years now. But I felt kind of bad just dumping her off but I had to go.

**NANCY RAY:** You had no choice.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** I had no choice. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** Well, did you have children?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Uh, yes, not, naturally not at that time but uh we have, we have a daughter that was born while we was in the service, uh, we wound up with four girls. And uh, they have been an absolute joy... they've been such good, good girls and they've got wonderful husbands, and uh, just great grandchildren, uh, not *great* grandchildren but wonderful grandchildren.

**NANCY RAY:** What are your daughters' names?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well the oldest daughter is named Vanissa.

**NANCY RAY:** And how do you spell Vanissa?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, like most people would not spell it. We spell it V A N I S S A. And she is married to a..., I guess you'd say he's a Swede, his name is uh, Micklathwait.

**NANCY RAY:** And how do you spell that?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** M I C K L A T H W A I T. It did have an E on the end of it but that made 13 letters and they were superstitious so they dropped the E off of it.

**NANCY RAY:** How interesting.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** And they still have relatives over in Sweden that they visit on occasion with. They have two children, the oldest one is a daughter and she teaches school in Austin. The uh, and they have the boy, he graduated from A&M, went into the Navy, he uh, all I will say about him is he, he is somewhere in the world. And he flies a spy plane in the Navy and uh that's why we have the dog, his dog here in the yard. We don't know where he is most of the time and don't want to know, you know. Uh, then we have our number two daughter, name is Lynn, uh she is married to Dr. Charles Priess, P R I E S S, they have one son, he's in the building, homebuilding business in uh Austin. Uh, Dr. Priess was hurt a few years ago in a hunting accident and had to retire and sell his practice. They're living at Lake, Lake Travis. Our baby daughter, uh, lives in Midland and uh her husband had uh two sons that came with the marriage, wonderful young men, one is finishing law school this Spring, and the other boy he graduated from Texas Tech with his MBA this year also. Uh then they have a boy and a girl, and uh the boy is a Senior in Trinity, a private school in Midland, and the girls is in the Eighth Grade at the same school. Uh, she is married to Paul Latham. Paul Latham is the uh Chief Executive Office and Chief Operating Officer for Clayton Williams Industries and Energies. And uh, so they have a very busy life, they have a good life. The girls did a lot better than their mama did, I think. (laughter) Then we have, we have a daughter, a fourth daughter, a handicapped girl that lives up here at Abilene. She has her own apartment and she functions, we see her on a regular basis and talk to her every day, but she's very independent, she and her little dog Misty, they just do their thing. So anyway, everyone is happy and everyone is getting along great.

**NANCY RAY:** I believe you must have a very nice family, you should be proud. Should be proud. Well, OK, now you have a family, you've been through the military, and you started into the law enforcement career sometime. Did you have other jobs before that?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, when I got out of the Navy, I, you know, having, we had... Beth and I had Vanessa that was a baby, so I didn't have the luxury of just taking off and enjoying, laying back. I never was one to do that anyway. So, I was, one week exactly from the time I got discharged, I was working for the State of Texas Highway Department with the engineers. And I worked in the road building business for nearly two years. And I always had a desire to go with the DPS, at that time the Highway Patrol, I thought that was the only way to go. And the Rangers hadn't even entered my mind at that time. So, I made a lateral transfer, I was accepted into the Academy and made a lateral transfer from the Highway Department to the DPS, so I did not lose

any time in service or anything... my, my tenure just continued on. That was in uh '58, December of '58.

**NANCY RAY:** And which school, what was the name of your school? Was there a Camp Mabry, was that

**ROBERT FAVOR:** No, Camp Mabry had, had... I was in the second school after they closed Camp Mabry. I went to the new Academy, DPS Academy. Started there on December the 3<sup>rd</sup> of '58 and I graduated on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> of '59. And went to Seminole.

**NANCY RAY:** That was your first duty station?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** First duty station. Topped the caprock at Gail, went in, drove into a solid wall of blowing sand that crystallized my windshield, frosted my headlights, took all the paint off the front of the car, and the chrome off, it was... I thought, boy, this is life, this is great... Then, for two years out there, the wind never stopped blowing. They was plowing all that old country up and they didn't know how to control it and uh, sand would drift up and they had, the Highway Department had snowplows on their trucks to keep the sand pushed off the roads it was so bad. And uh, I stayed out there two years and then came to Abilene. Stayed in Abilene on the Highway Patrol.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, while you were in Seminole, uh, can you describe some of the work that you did or cases, what

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well (laughter) main thing is that you remember is some of the terrible, terrible car wrecks that just killed people just right and left. Just way too many for what you'd like to get involved in. Uh, had some humorous things. We had uh, I won't get into that because that's uh might be people think that was racist to talk about that so we won't get into that. Uh, one time I got a call about a shooting up at Sea, Seagraves. I was working by myself and they gave me a description of the automobiles. And uh, I met the doggone thing... back in those days, they, the State of Texas, did not furnish you handcuffs. If you wanted handcuffs, you had to buy your own. Uh, they only gave you enough ammunition to fill your pistol and the twelve loops on your gun belt. If you needed any more, you had to buy that yourself. And uh, anyways, the state was very poor to equip you. But anyway, I met this car and, and there were five uh Black people and that's what I was looking for. I stopped them, they had shot another Black man up there at Seagraves... an argument came up, and uh... When I searched the four men, didn't find the pistol. I didn't search the female but uh I stacked, I had a 1958 Ford, two-door.

**NANCY RAY:** Did they provide your car?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** State provided, yeah, that car cost \$1100. And uh, I stacked those five Blacks in the front seat with me, I didn't want them... I had no handcuffs. I didn't want any of them sitting behind me, it was night, by this time and getting dark, and I had a set of thumbcuffs

so the one that I really thought was the shooter, I set him in the seat and I put this very , bosomy Black woman in his lap, put his arms around her and then put the handcuffs on him. And then to the jailhouse in Seminole we went.

**NANCY RAY:** Now, were they in the front seat with you?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** We, we were all, there were six of us in the front seat. We were rather close.

**NANCY RAY:** I guess!

**ROBERT FAVOR:** So we get I guess to the jailhouse in Seminole and I get them all out of there and uh I had the woman, she, the jail matron, she searches the woman and the woman opens up. And uh anyway the woman told me that the gun's in your car. And uh... one of the guys had sneezed, I remember, and I thought it sounded like a funky sneeze but she said what he did was reached in my bosom and got that pistol out. That's where she had it, tucked in there. And one of them sneezed and he managed to drop that, you know, pick that pistol back on. I went out there and that's where it was, under the, under the seat or wherever it was, where they were stacked up. But uh, anyway, uh that was the main thing that we were just stacked in there like cord wood in that car.

**NANCY RAY:** What did you do with them?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Why, I put them in jail and the Sheriff's office took it from there and they filed, they filed some sort of charges against them, I don't even remember what... this was back, this has been nearly 50 years ago. This was in '59 so next year it will be 50 years ago this happened.

**NANCY RAY:** My goodness. So you stayed in Seminole two years?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Two years. Came to Abilene. And uh, stayed in Abilene two years and I came to Baird.

**NANCY RAY:** Now was, was Interstate 20

**ROBERT FAVOR:** No, no, no. It was just a wide, two-lane highway. And uh then, the bypass around Baird did not exist, you went right through, right through Baird on the wide, two-lane road run right through there. And while I was in Baird, they opened up that bypass. When I was with the Highway Department, I was on a survey crew. We made the original survey of the bypass to go around Abilene... Went through there and cut a brush line through there, drove, shot our angles, and drove stakes and so forth on the original survey through there. And then, I don't know who did the work on the bypass around Baird because I'd already left the Highway Department at that time. But anyway, I stayed there in Baird five years. Uh, I still had never, I

still loved the Highway Patrol and never had give it any thought about getting into the Rangers, uh, and I got involved... the Sheriff there was a real good friend of mine.

**NANCY RAY:** And what was the Sheriff's name?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Homer Price.

**NANCY RAY:** Homer Price?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Homer Price. And just an old cowboy, and uh, I just thought the world of Homer and Mrs. Price. And uh, they uh, he had, he'd always would get me involved whenever they had any type of shenanigans going on and so I got a little taste of some criminal work that way and I kind of got to like it. And uh, caught a few outlaws on the highway just simply because I was looking for outlaws more than I was speeders.

**NANCY RAY:** When you say outlaws, what made them outlaws?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, I... just people that didn't look like they fit an automobile. I guess you might call it profiling. We didn't know the word at that time and you'd, the road was a two-lane road and so therefore you got a closer look. Out on Interstate now, the driver goes by so fast and so far off you can't do it. But there, you just meet them you just, you could look and there's t a loaf of bread up behind the seat or maybe the car was uh a little more classy than what the occupants looked like they were, uh, so anyway I, I caught a good many stolen cars that way and also, it would... I caught three people that broke out of the Altoona uh, state prison in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Situations like that

**NANCY RAY:** What made you, was the car that raised your

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah, the car, they passed me and when they went around me, they had, they, there was a loaf of bread hanging, sitting up there behind the back seat. And uh, the back license tag was wired on. You know, that's, that's not normal. So I stopped them. And here again, we had, the only red light we had in those days was a spotlight, where they had a little old plastic shield, shield that, with a spring-loaded deal, that I clamped on there and I turned that spotlight on to get them to stop. I got the driver out, I saw right quick I had something. Just, intuition said, hey, this is not right. So I got the driver out and I uh put him in the, I had, by that time I had acquired two sets of handcuffs and I handcuffed him and I put him in the uh backseat... I had my uh car was running. You had to leave the motor running back in those days because those old radios were not, they had the big crystal-type radios but boy they pulled, they'd drain your battery down in an instant. And I went up there and I got another one out of the car and I put his, put his arms through the doorposts and handcuffed him to the front door like that and I was getting the third one out when I realized that my car was not running. And I looked back there and the door was standing open, this was nighttime, so I handcuffed this one to the other..., I had several pair of cuffs then, and I handcuffed him through the doorpost. ...They

weren't going anywhere unless they tore the doors off. And about that time... they were building Interstate 20 at that time, and all of a sudden, this was down between Baird and Putnam, and I heard this brand new barbed wire fence wire stretch and the old boy was squalled like a panther (laughter). And he was running in the dark and he didn't know that brand new 5-strand barbed wire fence that was tight as a fiddle string was (laughter)...

**NANCY RAY:** You enjoyed that, didn't you?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah, but he, I lost him. It was dark, I came on in and brought these two on in to jail and this is a long story

**NANCY RAY:** Go ahead. Yes.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** I brought those two on in to jail and got, notified other officers, and uh went on up there... and finally found him about two or three hours later. Aw he was scratched up and everything but he didn't have any handcuffs. And he also had the keys to my patrol car but he had thrown those away. Well, morning, it got daylight I went and woke my next door neighbor up, Hugh Norman. Super guy, bless his heart he's dead now but he was a Federal tracker. Hugh Norman was an Indian from Oklahoma... I believe he could track a possum across this glass top right there and show you every toenail track that sucker made, and he was a fantastic tracker. So I told him, Norm, uh Hugh, I said... told him what I got involved in.. he said, yeah, I think I can probably help you there. So, I carried him out there and showed him... it was obvious where he hit that wire because half of his shirt was still hanging on the fence (laughter). So he went on through the fence and started going through that heavy brush and everything and just had his head down and kind of in a running walk and he just stopped all of a sudden. Picked up and handed me my handcuffs. We kept going down through the creek bottom and went across another road, got out in a wheat field and he said, here's your car keys, what else do you need? Well, that's all so... in 15 minutes after I got Hugh out there he'd found my handcuffs and my keys.

**NANCY RAY:** He was a handy man!

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh, he was a dandy, he was a dandy. I just thought the world of him and uh, but anyway, these guys had broken out of the state prison there at Altoona, Pennsylvania, and.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, walking up to a car like that, uh, especially at night, were you ever afraid... or what kind of precautions did you take?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, we, first of all, this was before the days of, of uh vests, nobody had even thought about a vest. You uh, you generally, what you tried to do is stay a little bit back where they're in a position, they're having to look back like that... they're in an awkward position. Of course if they had a gun, they got... You... it just didn't happen. People, first of all,

you didn't have near the volume of traffic that you have now. And I just don't believe people were as sorry then as they are now. One thing, all your, all your Federal courtrooms... all you gotta do is just watch TV and all these smart-mouthed outlaws and how they sass and talk back, verbally abuse officers, that did not happen in my day. Uh, they got an education in a hurry in manners and I don't, won't go into that anymore but that... you just didn't have that... now, they send these officers to school now on how to absorb physical abuse and smile and just go on and let them vent their frustrations at you and cuss you and spit on you and all that mess.

**EDDIE RAY:** People back then had more respect even, even the outlaws.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** If they didn't, they learned it real quick.

**EDDIE RAY:** OK.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah, they learned it real quick. And uh, so but time changes everything, but, so therefore, we never really... ever now and then an officer would you know get hurt or get killed but not anything like it is now. People know they can do it and get by with it and know that you can't do anything about retaliating, .... Uh to warn them...

**NANCY RAY:** So some of your training there at the Academy though prepared you for how to approach the car, things like that?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh yes, yeah, yeah... and uh, and also how to handle a physical confrontation, you know, without hurting yourself or really hurting the individual.

**NANCY RAY:** So what, what would you do... to handle a physical conflict?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, uh, there was just, there was ways (*short break*)

**NANCY RAY:** OK, you were going to explain a little bit uh about how you would handle a physical conflict?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, uh

**NANCY RAY:** Safely, of course.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yes. Well one thing, uh, a handful of hair and a finger in the right place, can

**NANCY RAY:** Pressure point?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Pressure point, pressure point. That's the word. Yeah. That works real well and no one is really uh, really hurt. You know they might pull my hair before it was over with...

but it's not uh uh, not beating them over the head with uh, with an iron pipe or anything. You know, it's just... I don't know... without just going into all the details... there, there are just different ways in which you can handle a situation and

**NANCY RAY:** And that's something you learn

**ROBERT FAVOR:** It's something that you learn, uh huh, through training and everything and also through experience.

**NANCY RAY:** So that stresses the importance of proper training.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yes, right. Um hum.

**NANCY RAY:** So you stayed in Baird for five years

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Stayed in Baird for five years.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, and then what?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** That's when I went in the Rangers.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, and what prompted you, other than your sheriff friend?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, uh, one thing uh... I stopped the car one time and had three old ring-tailed tooters in there from Philadelphia, Mississippi. And they had the car loaded down with burglarized, stolen stuff and I talked to them a little while and they admitted to all these burglaries. So I called the Sheriff's office in uh Philadelphia, talked to the jailer, and he said, yeah, we know about those boys. Uh, matter of fact, we've got warrants already issued for them. I said, well, you want to come get them? Well, we will but I don't know just when. I said, well, any idea? Well, not really. The sheriff and the chief deputy's in jail over in Jackson right now. I thought that was rather odd (laughter). And so I, I said you want to explain that a little... He said well, you know these civil rights workers, these civil rights workers that's missing? Said the FBI is uh, they think the sheriff and the chief deputy had something to do with that and so they got them in jail. I said, well we'll hold them a little while but uh you, we can't hold them indefinitely. We talked to them two or three times over a week's time and finally, OK, they're out of jail and they're gonna come get them. So they drove in from Philadelphia and, and picked up the boys. They called us from about Cisco and said have them boys ready, we're gonna just turn around and just go back as soon as we get there. So we had them, Sheriff Homer Price and I had them all, their bags packed and all ready to go and signed, and signed their papers... we'd already gone through the extradition procedures and so forth. So these two guys, officers, went back and then when they went back the FBI in the meantime had, through an informant, found out that these three civil rights workers had been actually had been murdered and buried under a tank down there... and they had dug up their bodies. And the chief deputy wound up going to

prison and the sheriff was never tried. He was, he was not implicated in it. Anyway, I thought, I thought that was kind of odd then they made this movie, "Mississippi Burning," that was uh based on that. I thought was pretty neat. But then, I had uh, I got a call on an accident, that's the way it as reported to me. And I got up... that's when we had just the telephone operators... that... she called and said Bob, we had an accident reported out there on Highway 36 and 283. So I got up and drove out there, it was about 11:30 at night. And, actually, it turned out that we had a guy shot through the eyeball, place was robbed. And my sergeant, we had a Ranger named Earl Stewart at uh, at Brownwood, came and helped the Sheriff's office. And the Sheriff's office just didn't have any skills, investigating. So the Ranger took over the investigation and uh I was cut loose for 30 days to work with him on this investigation. And so I really got some hands on work on that and I, I liked that. Well, of course, there wasn't, there was very seldom ever an opening came up in the Rangers but I went ahead and wrote a letter and told them I'd like to be in there, get in the Rangers if a job ever came open. Two years later is when I was called down to uh Austin for the oral interview board and I was accepted. And uh, so

**NANCY RAY:** And what year was that?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** That was in uh December '67. And uh, I stayed in 25 years.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, I understand that a lot of times to get in to Ranger, into the Rangers, you have a sponsor. Did you have one? (laughter)

**ROBERT FAVOR:** *You heard right!* But no, I did not. I, I knew people that had sponsors but for me, I always really hacked me off that people would stoop to try but they were wanting to get in so bad and panic set in and they just thought if they could put enough pressure on the Colonel, Homer Garrison, that he'd just cave in on it. When they got this old interview board, there was eleven of us called in, three jobs had come up. And we're sitting there in a little anteroom and there was a sheriff from Galveston, he was there. And he's very confident. Said well, my sponsor is Babe Schwartz, Babe was a senator at that time. But said Babe, Senator Schwartz is my sponsor, said he's already promised, promised me. Said this is just a formality I'm going through here, I'm, you know, uh... I said OK that's one job... there's ten of us left for two jobs. And then there's a Highway Patrolman out there at uh Midland, he was in there. And he was already dressed up in his Ranger suit and his hand-tooled gunbelt on and everything and uh he looked the part and he'd driven the old uh ... Harding, he's the old Ranger that retired, he'd driven his car down there to Austin and he said, who's your sponsor, and I said, I don't have one. He said you gotta have a sponsor or you won't get anywhere. I don't have a sponsor, you got one? (He said) sure I do, Captain Probst, he's a Ranger Captain, he's my sponsor. OK, that's two jobs is gone, that leaves nine of us for that one job. And about that time, they started calling us in to the interview board. When I get in there, the interview board consist of Colonel Garrison, Lieutenant Colonel Speir, the assistant director, Clifton Cassidy, he was the uh he was the chairman of the board of DPS commissioners, John Peace, a member, and Garrett Morris, who was a member of the board. And boy I'm telling you what, that, that was a bunch of heavyweights I'd... this country boy had never been around that many heavyweights before. And they said sit down. Yes

sir! And uh I went and... didn't know if I was permitted to breathe or not. First thing Colonel Garrison said, one thing I've noticed that you have not been having every influential Tolitician to call us and warting us to death to put you in the Rangers. Why is that? I said well, I'll tell you Colonel, the way I look at that, if I've gotta depend on someone like those people that you mentioned to get me this job, I'm gonna have to depend on them to do the job for me, or keep me in this job. And if I can't get this job on my own, I don't want the damn thing. They all looked around and I thought, oh God, I've messed up here you know. Well anyways, that kind of set the tone as we went on through the interview and everything. And they, they came in after it was over with and they's all sitting there in the room and, and uh Colonel Speir is the on that came in. He said, all right gentlemen, you've all been interviewed. Three of you will be chosen. Three of you will get a telephone call tomorrow. If you don't get a telephone call, try again. And that was... So I just got in my patrol car... I was down there in my uniform I didn't even have any decent clothes to wear to something like that. So I drove back to Abilene, told old sergeant to give me another ticket book partner, I've had my day of glory. Next morning, I'm up in the district attorney's office there in Abilene and the phone rang. The DA said, Bob, phone for you. I picked up the phone, he said... Bob, this is, this is Homer Garrison. Well, I thought goldang I remembered what they said the day before, and still didn't want to believe it. He said you remember being down here yesterday? I said yes sir, I sure do. Well, you indicated you uh might want to get in the Rangers. Yes sir, I sure did, I hoped ya'll got that impression. He said, well we talked about that after you was in here. And we kind of like the way you handled that situation. Said, if you still want the job, you got it. OK. Thank you very much. He said, now go over there and tell Captain Morohan that you're working for me now, you're not working for him anymore.

**NANCY RAY:** Now your captain was, what was his...

**ROBERT FAVOR:** G. L. Morohan. Tushhog Willy (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** How do you spell Morohan

**ROBERT FAVOR:** M O R O H A N. Aw, Captain Morohan, he was, he was something else. He went to work on the Highway Patrol in 1930 and uh, but uh, so I went over there. Whenever the Colonel tells you to do something, there's no question, you do it. So I went over there and he said, he was talking, *come in here*. I said... I (Captain Morohan) got one too. And then he said you don't work for me anymore, get your ass down there to Baird. Get all your uniforms and get them back up here and dump them all on my desk because you don't work for me anymore. I said OK. Well I got down there to Baird and I took out all my uniforms and boy that was the emptiest closet I ever saw in my life. (laughter) Anyway, we uh, I took them back up there and of course that's just the way he was. He wasn't mad, that was just his gruff nature. And he and I got along, got along fine. And uh, then when I turned all that stuff in and I said well, you know I'm not gonna get sworn in until the 6<sup>th</sup>, and today is December the 1<sup>st</sup>, what am I to do? He said I don't give a damn what you do, you don't work for me (laughter). And then he said no, said, they had a Ranger there in the, in the uh Abilene office, Sid Merchant, and uh he said why don't you go in there and talk to Sid and said you can probably kick around with him a little while you

know, something to cover your... I had to do something to cover your time, you know, to account for your time. But uh anyway, Captain Morohan was something else.

**NANCY RAY:** So, on December 6<sup>th</sup> of what year you started

**ROBERT FAVOR:** December the 6<sup>th</sup>, 1967, was when I was sworn in.

**NANCY RAY:** And that's when you started the school, the Ranger school

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh no, no, that's when, that's the day I got my education. I was, we got sworn in and I was sent to South Texas to go to work for A. Y. Allee. Captain A. Y. Allee... and before I got down there, I got into a damn gunfight. And shot a fellow and uh I thought this is a hell of a way to get started. And uh so anyway things kind of smoothed out after that.

**NANCY RAY:** So that was your first case?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** That was my first day.

**NANCY RAY:** First day? (laughter) Well, can you tell us a little bit about that? Most people don't start that fast.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Normally, well, as I was driving, I had never been further south than San Antonio. But I knew, I had a map and I knew where I was going and I was going to Carrizo Springs. That's where headquarters was, was in Carrizo. And I started getting in the neighborhood of Uvalde, I started picking up on the old 37 ... county radio frequencies and talked about a manhunt that was going on, a shooting and uh, kidnapping, and just a bunch of, and then it got more intensive the farther along I got. I got to Carrizo, I stopped by the Sheriff's office and uh the woman in the Sheriff's office said, in response to my question about where the Captain was, she told me they were at so and so's ranch south of Asherton... that a deputy had been shot and they had a search going on. So she gave me directions on how to get down there. Well I drove down through Asherton and I got off down there and I saw the gate and went through there and back up in the pasture... saw this deputy sheriff's car sitting out there in a garden and a door standing open, and windshield shot out, and right front glass shot out on right front door and then there was an Oldsmobile Tornado uh behind this house and smoke was just pouring out this durn house. And uh I walked up there and I saw, I'd never seen Captain Allee and never even seen a picture of him. He'd been described and I saw the meanest looking man that I'd ever seen in my life and said hell, that's gotta be him. So I walked up there and I offered him my hand and uh I told him who I was and wanted to know if I could be of any help. That old man, a cigar stuck in his mouth and God his eyes would just cut a hole through you... just, didn't say hello or nothing, just get your ass over in the pasture and find them son of a bitches. And that's the extent of his instructions. Yes sir.

**NANCY RAY:** It was pretty clear!

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah! Yeah. So I got in... I turned around and I went and got in my, my car and of course there was a Ranger there with him that I knew and had known for years and I'm wondering why doesn't send Tol with me, or me with Tol?

**NANCY RAY:** What is the Ranger's name?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Tol, T O L.

**NANCY RAY:** T O L

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Tol Dawson. And anyway, he kept Tol there with him. So I headed off down in the direction where he pointed and as I was driving off down in that pasture, there was a deputy sheriff walking down there and he was carrying a shotgun. All I had was a .45 pistol, I hadn't been issued anything, it was just my personal pistol. And uh, picked this deputy up and kind of howdied and shook with him and uh he's as lost as I was, you know. And he was several counties away. And we knew there was a crop duster plane, we'd been hearing it fly around and I had found out that the Captain's secretary, or I think I found this out later, that the secretary, Captain Allee's secretary, her husband was a crop duster and he got hold of him to come over there and fly around to see if he could spot these people. We drove up down to that pasture, drove up to a set of cattle pens, pipe, good cattle pens. Got out and we were looking around and we'd hear this airplane... Well first of all, this airplane, when I picked this deputy up this airplane came over and he just leaned out the window and waved like that for us to follow him, and pointing. So we started following him off down there in that pasture. That's how we got down there to those cattle pans. That's where the road ended was at the pens... why we stopped there. The plane went on past and we could hear gunfire. We get out and we were looking around there a little bit and man, about that time, I... bam bam bam... and I wound up with three bullet holes in the uh in the, right front fender of my car. And then I saw the shooter, you know he was in a little wuishachee bush, and uh and uh

**NANCY RAY:** What kind of bush?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Wuishachee.

**NANCY RAY:** And what is that?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** That's, that's a South Texas particular brush. W U I S H A C H E

**NANCY RAY:** OK.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** And don't ask me to spell it again.

**NANCY RAY:** I won't. I got'cha. (laughter)

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Anyway, uh uh I saw him in that, kind of crouched down in that wuishachee brush and I pulled out my .45 pistol and then I , I could see past that brush and I saw some women and kids running down a cow trail. And uh so I uh couldn't just shoot at him because they were right in line, I moved over a little ways and shot and knocked him out of the brush. And the deputy, in the meantime, had spotted the other one and he shot him with his shotgun. And uh, then we rounded up the women and kids and uh, it was just a mess. And uh, uh, they's out of the Ozarks of Missouri.

**NANCY RAY:** Gracious. So this is Day 1 on the job.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Day 1, day 1, day 1, yeah.

**NANCY RAY:** Um um. Well, did you ever, didn't you go to some kind of training?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh yeah, yeah. We went,... went to, yeah for 25 years. At least one week every cottonpicking year you go to what's called in-service training school. And then went to additional specialized schools. Oh, we had, we had lots, lots of schooling.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, did you have a specialty or, or not?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Rangers don't have a specialty. They may have now but back then, we just did it all.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, investigation, isn't that one of

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah, of course you learn on how to collect evidence and how to find... You know you see crime scene investigators now, you know they, they come out there and with all the commercials, in still in less than 30 minutes they solve everything and got them in jail. Uh, back... we were our own crime scene investigators.

**NANCY RAY:** OK.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Now, just a few years...(end of disc 1)

**NANCY RAY:** OK, we're back.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** As far as a specialty, in fact, when I was in, we, we just did whatever... whatever crime occurred, we did it. We did the investigation. Crime scene investigators now come out from Austin and, well I believe every region has a crime, crime scene investigative team. But, in my day, we were it. Uh, we did our photography, we did our own fingerprint lifting, we did our own uh, tire impressions with the

**NANCY RAY:** Plaster, like a plaster?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Uh, Lord a mercy uh... this is terrible, it's terrible when you get so durn old you just can't remember things.

**NANCY RAY:** You'll think of it in a minute.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, tell me, where were you at this time. What was your first duty station.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** My first duty station in the Rangers, I was in Corpus Christi. Uh, I worked, we did not have a Ranger in the Valley. So I worked from Laredo, well I went across from Corpus to Alice to Freer to Laredo all the way to the, to the Valley. And then I followed up, up the coast line to Victoria and there's another county over there between, past Victoria, and I don't even remember the name of it. Basically what we did up in those areas was gambling. We uh raided gambling joints. The sergeant, he was, he *loved* to raid gambling joints. And we, seemed like every time we turned around we was, we was raiding ...

**NANCY RAY:** Well, talk us through raiding a gambling joint.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Do what?

**NANCY RAY:** Talk us through (laughter)

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Uh, Victoria. Victoria was I guess it was about the, may still be, but at that time it was a gambling capital of Texas. And the uh, the country clubs, they thought they were immune, not only in Victoria but all in that surrounding area there. They all thought they were immune, they could just run, set their own rules and regulations pertaining to, to gambling. And they'd have a, well they'd have dice tables and they'd have slot machines and crap tables, just, just like anything they got out there in Vegas they'd have it set up out there. I know we raided a country club one, one night there in, in Victoria. We rented a uh a bobtail U-Haul truck to put everything in and, and, and those uh, the dice tables, you know they're long, narrow, they only got a crib about so high you know to keep the dice from jumping out. And they have a slate, about an inch thick, slate bottom on that thing, so I think that dice will bounce better or whatever. So we done, we raided, we got that dice table and we took it to the community center and we... we trashed the crib that the cage was around. We just trashed that out but we donated the dice table to the uh community center. And they were tickled to death to get it because a lot of old folks sit around a dice table... had that good slate top on it. And all the di..., all the the uh slot machines, they had, they were loaded down with coins so we broke into all the slot machines and there were several hundred dollars in nickels, dimes and quarters, and we... Boy Scouts of America were the benefactors from that. They were thrilled to get that. And then, I can imagine now what the cry that would come up... We stopped that truck right on the bridge there in

Victoria and the Guadalupe River, I believe is what runs through there, and it was way down there. And there was a sand bar down there. We threw all those slot machines over the bridge and onto that sand bar down there. And, you know where they'd hit pretty close to each other. And then we got a, a molotov cocktail and threw it down there and of course it splattered and exploded and we burned all those slot machines (laughter) on that sand bar in the Guadalupe River in downtown Victoria. (laughter) As I said, time changes everything. (Laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** It surely does. Well tell us about some other cases then.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh, we went... this other county that I can't remember the name of that county... We went over and we raided that thing and we knew the uh county attorney, he was the head papa of the thing so we, when we got through raiding that thing, uh, John Wood, he's still living, he's the oldest living Ranger, 95 years old... I've known John, he was the first Ranger I ever met. But anyway, John said all right boys, we're gonna go in here and I'm gonna call the county attorney and invite him down to have lunch with us. How he had not got the word, I don't know. But John called him and said come on down here, we're, a bunch of us are in town... we'll have to visit with you, have lunch with us. Yeah, I'll (city attorney) be right there. That old boy came in there and he looked around there and he knew something was up because that many Rangers, about half a dozen of us, they don't just show up for the heck of it. And, and uh he was looking kind of pale and John said, by the way, I wanted to tell you while, since you're down here, we just got through raiding, raiding the country club and seized all the gambling paraphernalia (laughter), and we're taking... gonna be going to the Grand Jury... That old boy, you could just see all the color draining out of his face (laughter). He, he lost his appetite. He didn't even stay to eat. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** I guess not.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** And then we had there at Victoria, there was another comical thing about that... I like to try to remember the funny things though. John, as you know, was tall, ramrod, about six-five, six-six, and there was a little old lawyer there at Victoria that might have been 5'2" if had high-heeled shoes on. And, oh, he was just ranting and raving while we was seizing everything, and yow yow yow yow yow, and John was laughing telling about, we was sitting around there that night later. He said you know that little old lawyer walked right up to me and he looked me right straight in the belt buckle and told me we couldn't do this (laughter).

**NANCY RAY:** Right before you did?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah, right before we did. (laughter) He just set him over to one side and went ahead with other business.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, you just said that you liked to remember the humorous things. And, in your career there had to be some, you know, very serious crimes and things you prefer not to remember. How did you, did you deal with those with humor? How did you deal with them?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, the way I handled it, and the way a lot of people handled it, you, when you get into a situation like that, where there was just so much gore and, and the human beings had been so mangled and... you don't look at them as, oh my God, that's somebody's mother or that's somebody's sister... you have to look at them, or I did, as they're an inanimate object. That may sound cold, but uh, I just, if you start dwelling on it, it messes up, it messes up your thinking and your reasoning ability, so I, when I was on a scene like that, they were just, they were just... I've had bodies laying in a murder scene for four, five, and six hours while I conducted a scene. And you're working in and all around them. But, you just have to look at them that way because if you start dwelling on, on it, taking it as a personal issue, it just, that can mess your mind up. And uh, not to say that later on you don't have some feelings about it, but at that time you just have to, you just have to look at it in an entirely different light.

**NANCY RAY:** And how did you separate your career and, you know, events like that from your personal life... from bringing, from bringing all of that home with you?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** You know, I never had a problem with that. Uh, I, it just, I, I never talked business with my girls. And that's one reason why I went ahead and wrote my memoirs. The girls said Daddy, where were you all the time we were growing up, you were never there? And I, but, now Beth, I, sometimes I'd have to unload on her on some, some things, to just, to vent a little bit. But the girls never, they never had any of the foggiest idea. They, and they were always aggravated... all the kids in town would know what was going on and they'd be pumping my kids for information and they don't have any idea what's going on. And uh, but I didn't want them, I didn't want to put them in that position.

**NANCY RAY:** So you pretty much kept them separate?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** I kept them separate and apart, yeah.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, this is not a normal 8 to 5 job, so was it pretty much seven days a week, 24 hours...

**ROBERT FAVOR:** When I went in the Rangers, we worked six days a week. Saturday was a work day just like anything else. Sunday afternoon, we'd go to church on Sunday morning. Sunday afternoon, I was at the office writing reports. And uh, you... the Rangers was your, was our life. It just, it just took all your time. Now there'll be some, some Rangers that would take issue with that but they never did amount to anything. They never got involved in anything. If, if you were gonna get into a, get into stuff, you had to, you had to give it everything you had. I have, I have completed an investigation in Houston, Texas, at nine o'clock at night and drive back to Brady because I had something I had to do the next, the next morning there at Brady. The way, you know, we're talking about a 6-hour drive from Houston back, back to Brady to you get a couple hours sleep then you're going. Uh, I've been on manhunts, one particular, I got up on a Monday morning and I never took my britches or my boots off until Friday night.

**NANCY RAY:** Tell us about this manhunt.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** (laughter) Well, this hunt's took 18 years. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** Oh wow, that's a long one.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah. Yeah, I, this particular individual... I dealt with him for 18 years. I caught him any number of times. He was a, he could have taught Houdini some tricks. He was the durndest escape artist you ever, that I ever had to anything to do with. And uh

**NANCY RAY:** Why were you chasing him?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh, he, he just had ... ways. He uh, he was a burglar primarily, a burglar and a thief. Uh, uh he pulled some armed robberies in Houston and I made on him but uh, uh, I never had any, I never had any reason to think that, that he was a dangerous individual. Uh, I uh, first time I caught him, he'd broke out, he'd escaped out of jail at Richmond, Texas, in 1970. And uh he was in an, one of his aunts' houses up there in Baird, in Brady. And we went up there to get him and uh, I was assigned the backdoor and that just happened to be the door he was gonna run out. And uh, when he did, I just horse collared him and took him to the ground and cuffed him and, then 18 years later, I went to his funeral and uh, and uh in the meantime, I'd uh I'd caught him in Albuquerque, I'd caught him in Shelby, Montana, caught him, ran him down with prison dogs in Mason County, uh, I don't know just caught him and caught him and caught him. Shot him in Huntsville and uh a few things like that. And...

**NANCY RAY:** What, you, how long were you at your first duty station?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** I was in Corpus Christi 22 months. And I loved Captain Allee to death but I hated Corpus Christi. I had stayed on that water for 42 months when I was in the service and salt water was not my idea of where I wanted to be. Brady came open. Brady was more my kind of country. I've been about a halfway cowboy all my life and, and that was all ranching country up there uh, and all those surrounding counties, is primarily, there's a little farming up there but primarily it's all ranching country. And uh, well I applied for it and was lucky and got it. Stayed there exactly 13 years and promoted, made sergeant and went to Midland and stayed the last ten years at, was in Midland as sergeant then was lieutenant there.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. All right, what about your uh, at Brady. Can you tell us about any cases there, anything stand out in your mind?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, yeah there were some of them there that do and some were gruesome and some were funny. I like to remember the funny ones (laughter). Oh gosh. Had an old gentleman, you know how kids are, they'll pull pranks. We had a gentleman, had a little old service station and lived in the back of it. He had a, two pumps out front. And uh, one day, one

night the sheriff called me and this widow woman, over at Rochelle, called and said a naked man was on her front porch. And wanted to know if I'd go over there with him. We got over there, and... it was in November, it was kind of cold. And he's sitting on a porch swing wrapped up in a, in a quilt. She had pitched a quilt out through the door because he'd told her said ma'am, I'm freezing to death. I've been hijacked and stripped of my clothing, I'm freezing to death. (laughter) So anyway, the Sheriff and I got over there and we, sure enough, he was naked as a jaybird except this quilt... sitting there just swinging away on that porch swing. And uh, he said, what happened to you and he said well, I got hijacked. People came in my station and they just took me out, put me in the car, and uh carried me down the road here and, I can show you exactly where they took all my, made me get out of my clothes. Said it was in a low spot and said you don't every want to get out there naked in that low spot. It's cold! I (Ranger Favor) said well you're right, I don't believe I'd want to do that. So anyway, he showed us a spot and sure enough there wasn't anything left there but he showed us a spot. So we go to his service station and there all of his clothes are, folded up real neat on the counter, and his shoes... no, they had left his Brogans on him, he kept his shoes on. Well, old ... and I looked at each other and we said, wait a minute. Uh this doesn't ring true and we'd been hearing stories about this guy's lifestyle. You know, so we said I think it's time you told us what the samhill happened here. Said, well, all right, he said, I have a peephole from the, my living quarters to the men's room. And said these boys, and he told us who they were, he knew them and we knew them and of course everybody knew everyone in Brady. And he said, they drove up and wanted the keys to use the men's room and said, one of them did. And so I gave them the key and then said I uh, I waited until they got in there and then I waited just a moment and then I went on and I pressed my eye to the peephole and he was really giving me a show. Next thing I knew, I'm being roughed up by his buddies and they dragged me out of there and that's when they took him out there and they stripped him off. So we went and talked to the boys and uh, they laughed about it... and you know we tried to be serious as we could (laughter) about it because they had actually kidnapped him but it's (laughter) kind of hard to keep a straight face. But they promised never to do it again and they. And he promised he'd plug up that hole and we told him we promised him we was gonna check by from time to time to make sure that hole, his peephole was plugged up. (laughter) Oh, but that was kind of a hum... you got to have a little humor in things and uh. There were some of them that wasn't so humorous. Uh, we had a one-legged woman that was uh, uh well she and her boyfriend, a guy picked them up and give them a lift and uh was taking them out, was supposed to take them to where they lived. But uh he took them out on an old county road and, and he, according to her, she said he said he thought he had a flat. He told the boyfriend to get out and look that back tire out and he'd do the other one. He walked around there, he had a pipe, a monkey wrench and he knocked her boyfriend in the head with uh that monkey wrench, just cold cocked him and then drove on off with her in there. And he threw her crutches out in the uh, in the uh bar (borrow) ditch and he got on up the road there a little ways and he of course started attempting to do what he intended to do and, uh in the process she pulled her knife out of her purse and slipped it in between his ribs and punctured his heart. And, he falls on the floorboard and she couldn't drive and this leg is cut off right in the joint, and uh, her crutches wasn't there so she had to scoot about a half mile down that gravel road. And poor thing, her rear end was just blood raw the time she got down there. And got to where he was at,

and he was still kind of addled you know and, but she managed, and she'd found her crutches in the meantime and uh, they walked on back into town and uh... that old boy laid out there in that car and that morning somebody went to work and wondered why that drunk was parked in the road and that night he was still there, so they found him and the undertaker started embalming and found he was leaking right there. But one thing led to another and made the case on him but uh we felt like he needed killing so we got her no-billed on it.

**NANCY RAY:** Did the uh couple report the crime?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** No, no they didn't. Well I told her I wished she had of because we worked about two weeks trying to figure out what, who killed him you know. And uh, but, that lady was a very, very, very poor lady and I had never seen a pair of teeth like she had. Only heard of one other set and George Washington had a set of teeth made out of wood and she had a set of wooden teeth that had been whittled out and uh, she didn't have a tooth in the head except they'd whittled out these things... she said they worked pretty good.

**NANCY RAY:** Uh uh. So did you have to go to court with her or

**ROBERT FAVOR:** No, we just, we just went to the Grand Jury

**NANCY RAY:** and no-billed?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah. Went to the Grand Jury and there... there's a certain amount of killings that need to be done. You know, just, just there are some people need killing.

**NANCY RAY:** Were those easier to get by with in years past than they are now, do you think?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh, you know, it depends on where you are, and uh, and who is involved and everything. That particular, I worked three murders that summer with a total of four dead people and I got a no-billed on every one of them. They all needed killing. And uh, one of them was a uh a son-in-law killed his father-in-law, and he was just way overdue, just... And the other one was a Mexican, he'd killed two bully-boy Mexicans, he was an old crippled up old man, he was on his way to a hospital in Galveston for back surgery and they liked to brutalize people and they had these old thick-soled shoes that, that, they fought with their feet. They kicked, they just kicked you to pieces with those old shoes. And they, they just decided for the fun of it, they, they didn't have to have a reason, they just liked to hurt people. And uh, so anyway he just happened to have a pistol in his pocket and he wound their clock right there. And I, prettiest sight I'd seen in a long time when I went down there to that emergency room at the hospital (laughter) and they was already dead and they'd covered them up with a sheet and those old brown slipper, no heels on them and soles were about that thick, and the toes curled up... and that's what I saw, those old toes turned up. And I said boy, that's a pretty sight. Won't have to worry about those anymore. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** Oh goodness. So, you worked a lot of homicides and burglaries and

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Livestock theft and drug cases and uh, anything that came up. Whatever came up.

**NANCY RAY:** What about the drug cases, were they, were there many during your time?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** No, there wasn't all that many, thank goodness there wasn't. Uh, uh, they just uh... about the biggest one was just before I left there and it was uh, some people at Austin had bought a place up there on Brady Creek and they had put up a great big tent. And was irrigating out of Brady Creek. They had uh uh, this was a big, big, big tent and they had lots of good quality marijuana that they were growing in there and harvesting. But I, I just got there, on the raid, and seized the stuff and that's just about the time I left so I don't know anything or what the outcome was.

**NANCY RAY:** So marijuana was the major thing at the time?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah, um hum.

**NANCY RAY:** Did you have any... I'm sorry...

**EDDIE RAY:** When you were investigating, you did your own crime scene investigations

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yes.

**EDDIE RAY:** And uh, do, do you remember any clues that you found or whatever that kind of stood out that helped you to solve cases that uh... I know you just have to take a lot of evidence and...

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, uh, plaster of Paris is what I was trying to think of. Uh, had a murder in Mason, uh, this was back in the early '70s, and a lady failed to show up for her babysitting job. And the next day she still didn't show up so the family knew that something had to be wrong because she was just too dependable. And they went over there and saw her car was gone but they went ahead and went in the house and they could see that things weren't right in the house. Called the Chief of Police and he in turn called me and uh we got down there and we started going to make a thorough search of the house and we found her body in the closet with two wire coat hangers wrapped around her neck and twisted very tightly. Uh, she had on a, she had on her nightgown, she had on crocheted booties, boot-tees or whatever you want to call them, and uh sleeping with, the electric heating pad was on the bed and it was still on turned to low. But the door had been shut on this closet and uh, so I knew whoever killed her... bound to have put her in there. So I, I got a lot of smudged fingerprints off of that, the house had been painted freshly. It was an old, old, old sandstone, this house was well over a hundred years old. Those Germans down there in Mason, they were masters at chiseling big rocks out of, square sandstone rocks and

building houses out of them. Uh, so there was no heat in the house and she had been uh probably three or four days dead in there. But her body was in perfect condition because of no heat in the house, it was bitter cold, and uh, but several fingerprints on the uh in and around the door but... down here like this right at the floor level, ... the door drug and he got a hold of it and he pulled the door open. These fingers smeared but this finger here, we got a perfect fingerprint, on the left little finger... Well, I said, we didn't have AFIS back then, AFIS is Automated Fingerprint Identification System. If you get one fingerprint, put it in AFIS and it'll tell you whose it is. So what you do, you say all right, here's Jack, Jim, Joe, Bill and Bob. Check it against theirs. That's how you did it then. But we knew that she had, had had a male visitor there that was supposed to have been her son. And her car was gone so I started checking on him and I found out that he was an escapee out of state prison in Kansas. They sent me the fingerprints. Sure enough, he, he had been in that house visiting for several days but the fact that her body was in that closet and that door stuck, that's the way... you, you pull down there at the bottom, leads to assume he was the killer. So anyway, 14 months later I found him. He was sleeping in a car in a truck stop up at, up in Amarillo. And uh he pled guilty to it and uh went to prison, stayed 17 calendar years and then I was notified he was gonna be released and he was going back to Kansas and serve the rest of his sentence there. But uh, he told me that yeah, he killed her. I had no remorse whatsoever, said she was not my mother. Said she stole my daddy from my mother when I was, I think seven or eight years old, when I was, when a boy needed his daddy the most, said she came in the life and stole him away from my mother. Said I swore I'd kill her if I ever got a chance. And he broke out of that penitentiary, he just laid up there in that penitentiary in Kansas, hatred and anger seething all that time, and his one goal in life was to kill her. And he came down there and, big buddies with her, he wined her and dined her and everything but when the time got just right, he just wrapped those two coat hangars around her neck and like to cut her head off. Just, I can still see all that durn flesh in her neck twisted up in that durn coat hangars. And uh, but anyway, that was pretty gruesome old... and there were some others.

**NANCY RAY:** Sounds like it. Um. So, other than fingerprints, and using plaster of Paris for tires and things, what are some other techniques?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, of course in that time... uh uh uh, fingerprints is your, is one, outside of, well fingerprints is even better than eyeball witness. Because eyeball witness, people can get so confused on what they think, think they see. They'll see someone who looks similar to it and make the wrong... But if you get fingerprints, that's, that's some good positive identification. Uh, I always, I always really worked hard on fingerprints. I, I, I even learned how to lift fingerprints by using smoke.

**NANCY RAY:** And how did you do that?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, it's, just uh under certain conditions, with a, with a little flame which is generating smoke, you can, you can hold it under the object and it will, the smoke will adhere to the uh, to the prints. And then there was some, uh, there was a chemical that we used and boy it was hard on your lungs. You couldn't, I don't remember now what they called that but you

couldn't, you sure didn't want to breathe that stuff. And that stuff would eat your lungs up. But it was real good on... Superglue was another good thing. It was the fumes off of Superglue, you could lift prints with it. But I enjoyed working with, with fingerprints. And uh, I made a lot, and on checks. Nowadays you can't do it because checks is destroyed as soon as they hit the bank. But used to checks would come back to the customer, and and, say that's not my signature on that check, I never saw that check before. We used, you could check fingerprints... I've lifted fingerprints off checks that had been a dozen different people had handled the thing but still, luckily, you can find a little identifiable fingerprint on, on the thing. And uh, so anyway, that, that helped a whole a lot and worked out real good.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, did you ever have any cases that you never, that you could not solve? That they were...

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh yeah, you're gonna have those. Yeah, yeah.

**NANCY RAY:** Is there one that really particularly bothers you, that...

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, what really bothered me, it was not that it wasn't solved, it was solved, the jury just didn't, didn't uh... It was a triple murder that we had and I will say this, it was as much our fault as it was, was the jury. Uh, there was a suspect was developed, and without going into all the reasons and how he was developed, and who was involved in developing, I want go into all that. But anyway, a suspect was developed. And we wound up with an indictment and went, went to trial. And I just never had a solid feeling that he was the proper person. And the jury turned him loose. Well, two years, and, and I have no fault with that jury, I think that was what should happen. Two years went by, and one of the boys came in my office one day with a shotgun. And it was,... I had the shotgun and I had been looking for that I knew was the murder weapon. And he told me where they had found it. It was, anyway, long story short, we tied it to the person that was the killer. It, all the evidence, everything showed that he was the killer. I was satisfied he was the killer. Went to trial. Went back to the same county on a change of venue, 25 months later. Super-dog, hot-dog lawyer out of Dallas, and I don't fault him, everybody needs a good lawyer. If I ever get in trouble, I would want a good lawyer. But he, he tried the old case because, you know, who, you know, we all got this and we tried Donald and you didn't get him now you got ... and gonna try him. So we try him and not guilty, who they gonna try next? You know, that sort of deal. But anyway, the argument was that we're just grasping for whoever we come up with and the jury bought it and turned him loose. And he's just as guilty as sin. Uh, he's dead of cancer now so I guess it's neither here nor there, but uh, that was always uh, that was really a sick feeling when... I couldn't help but believe that that lawyer was so good and so smooth and he was such a salesman, I, I, I tried to prepare myself for not guilty but when that word came back, I still nearly threw up. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** Well, you showed me a picture earlier on your wall. It is an old picture, uh tell me a little about that picture.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, I think the one you're talking about is that one that uh that rancher that found the log cabin...

**NANCY RAY:** The Terry's...

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Terry's Texas Rangers. Yeah. Uh, a gentleman bought a ranch in uh San Saba County and on this ranch was and, log cabin. This was in the early '70s. And it was beginning to deteriorate and fall down. When I first went there, there were a lot of old log cabins on different ranches down there but they have since, nearly all of them that's left is the old stone chimneys. But in that house, there was a chiffarobe which is a form of a closet. And he was digging around in there and he found, pulling this chiffarobe away from the wall and this old picture was back behind the chiffarobe, had fallen down there. This picture, probably what, about 18, 20 inches long, long, narrow picture, a panoramic view of old, old gray-headed men. It was at a hotel in Houston in November of 1908. And the reunion of Terry's Texas Rangers. And Terry was a uh, in the Rangers and he was well loved by a lot of the Rangers that worked for him. And whenever he went into the Civil War in the Confederacy, a lot of the Rangers left the Rangers and went with him and fought under him. And this is a picture of them and their wives and supporters and friends. But they all had, all the old Rangers, they had, they had a ribbon on their, on their chest on their coat or their shirt and that was in 1908 and they were all old gentleman then.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, you mentioned one was Charlie Miller.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Now, this is a different picture.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh! I'm sorry.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** This was at, the other picture is uh is made in 1922 at uh at Denison at a train strike, a railroad strike. And there was, Frank Hamer was in the picture, Lee Trimble was in there, Charlie Miller, Captain Will Wright, and I don't remember now the other names. Morton Kuntzman(sp?) was another one, I knew him. Uh, Charlie Miller, whenever he retired out of Mason, that was when I took that vacancy in uh in Brady. Charlie was in the Rangers from 1918 to 1968. And uh,

**NANCY RAY:** That's a long career.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah, and he was not in there constantly because during Ma Ferguson and her tenure, he, he did like all the rest of the good Rangers, they just quit in mass, they weren't going to work for her. And Charlie, he quit and went, quit two or three times and then he'd go back in the Rangers. But he was back in 1918 and 1968, during that 50-year timeframe, he was in the Rangers most of that time.

**NANCY RAY:** Did you ever have any direct contact with him?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh, my God yes, yes. Yeah, I, I, I'd go down and drink his boiled coffee about once or twice a month and uh, that... well that's some of the best coffee I ever chewed. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** A little thick?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. No, I, I, I saw Charlie just on a regular, regular basis. In fact, it was just standing instructions to go by and visit Charlie and see if he needed anything. And uh he was getting on up in years and actually, about how old I am now, but uh uh yeah I visited with Charlie.

**NANCY RAY:** What did you learn from Charlie that you can put on record?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh, I don't know of anything that can go on record. (laughter) He was a tough old codger, let's just put it that way. And, and uh, uh, I just wish that I could have been as strong an individual as he was. Uh, pain didn't hurt him, he had a high tolerance of pain. Uh, he uh he, he got shot, a Ranger captain shot him, one of Ma Ferguson's Ranger captains shot him in a bank down at Kerrville. Shot him right through the chest and then through the arm and broke his arm. And yet he was able to draw his pistol out and kill that Ranger captain. Charlie also killed a chief of Police at uh Galveston.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what Ranger captain did he kill, do you remember the name?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** I don't remember his name, it was just... Ma Ferguson, she hired a bunch of just sorry cronies...

**NANCY RAY:** So that was one that needed killing?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah, oh yeah. Yeah, yeah. Good killing helps to balance nature. (laughter) But anyway, uh, yeah, I'm sure he had a name but I don't know. I don't know what it would be. Uh, let's see he killed him, he killed a guy in Childress, the chief of Police in Galveston... Charlie was one of the, probably one of the only Rangers that didn't have to go, back in the '50s when Will, was it Will Watson? Will somebody... Will, whatever his name was, he was the Attorney General for the state and he was raiding all the gambling joints down there at Galveston. They wouldn't let Charlie go down there because there were still a few hard feelings among them... they thought the chief didn't need killing, but he did. And uh, so, uh, yeah Charlie was something else. And that stud horse kicked him that time and broke his jaw and broke his leg and broke three teeth off flush with the gum. And he called me and wanted me to come down there and he had also called Steve King, a local veterinarian, to bring his portable X-ray machine down there and... So Charlie raised, he had brood mares and raised very good quality horses so he just figured well, he got a horse hurt he needed to take a picture of... x-ray a horse. He got down there and Charlie was laying up there in bed, his leg broken, and uh so he had Steve bring his portable machine

in there and x-ray his, x-ray that leg and he did. And he said, Charlie, hell you did a good job. Said that bone lined up... Well OK, that was it. And then he told me to go get a pair of pliers. I went and got a pair of pliers and he got a mirror. Told me to hold this mirror and he worked around in there with those pliers and I held that mirror and he pulled all three of those broken teeth out... with those pliers.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh, goodness.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** And I said, Charlie... that was more than I could handle, just watching him. And he said, you know Bob, I've been blessed. Pain just doesn't bother me much. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** That is a blessing.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** Well, let's go back to your career. Is there anything else that stands out in your mind that, that you would like to talk about? Any other case?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh, you know, probably tomorrow I can think of any number of ones but I, I... there's so darn many of them you just don't really know uh, uh, really which ones you want to talk about. Here again, I like to go back to the ones that I think is humorous. That... had an old boy from Dallas that he was really a good burglar and, but he burglarized automobile dealerships and steal inspection stickers. And then he'd sell them at used car lots that had these old junker cars and they'd stick an inspection sticker on these cars and sell them. Well, he, even though he was living in Dallas, he was working all down there in my country down there at Goldthwaite, Mason, Llano, oh, all through that area. I got to watching and noticing his pattern, and I... all right. I tell you where he's gonna hit. He's gonna hit the uh, he's gonna hit the uh Chevrolet dealer in San Saba, Thursday night, if he's running his pattern. So, I go in there Wednesday, I knew I wasn't gonna be back in there Thursday so I was down there Wednesday. I said, let me have the, let me have the keys to your place of business because I'm gonna spend the night in your dealership Thursday night, catch this sucker. Next morning he called me, said whoa, you're a little late. Said he hit me... when I went down there this morning, said he'd got me. Well, one thing led to another. I got a search warrant and searched his apartment up there in Dallas. And got a bunch of stuff back including the answering machine off of this Ford dealership in Goldthwaite and still had the Ford dealership's message on, on the phone. We go to trial. He is a uh, he's a very, he's a Black man. Very much a gentleman, very much a businessman, and he had a Black lawyer that was sharp as a tack. And I, he came to trial, he had a pair, he had a brown, three-piece brown suit on. He had a, hat that I wouldn't have been caught dead in. And he had a pair of Acme boots with his pants stuck down in the top. This is, San Saba's all ranching country, so he's gonna feel out... boy this is gonna be a piece of cake. All these old White, red-necked cowboys in here and this guy dolled up like that. So, now he's ready, get the jury seated, the defendant comes in, and he has with him the most beautiful, Black, young Black woman... she was so pretty it just hurt your eyes to look at here she was so pretty. Very well endowed, holding a baby. He comes with a diaper bag over his shoulder and a burp bag and he sets them down... right ... here's the

jury... there she is, right there. And he goes with great fanfare getting her all nestled down with the baby and everything. And, I've got twelve old gray-headed gentlemen from about 55 to 70 in the jury box, and they're all taking that in you know. And, all right, testimony begins. About the first piece of short testimony, critical testimony takes place, out jumps an enormous breast and is popped into that baby's mouth. Twelve arthritic necks popped in unison and their heads jerk to the right... they never heard a word that was... and that scene was repeated at least a half a dozen times. Every time a little damaging testimony come out, *eek*, out it come. And I'm wondering in the meantime... she's feeding that baby bottles and it dawned on me, that silicone, there's no food value in that silicone. (laughter) Not guilty. Not guilty. (laughter) I tell you what, we laughed over that deal there. That, you talk about a city slicker lawyer putting a... (laughter). Oh, gosh, yeah. I, I, I had to write this, I put this story in my book. That was so humorous... I've had so many comments about it, and... (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** But, you had a long career. What year did you retire?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** '92.

**NANCY RAY:** '92. And what prompted you to retire?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** I'd been there long enough.

**NANCY RAY:** It was time?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah. I'd been there long enough and uh, it's a young man's game and there were a lot of things going on that I didn't like. Times were changing, the wage and hour law came in effect uh, uh, the Fair, FLS, FLS, FLS, Fair Labor Standard deal. Uh, when I went in, when I was a Ranger, we worked whatever it took. Now, they have, they keep up with all their hours, they can only work so many hours, and then you gotta send them home, you don't have any overtime to pay them, they just stop whatever they're doing right there until the work cycle passes and another cycle comes in. Kind of that and a lot of other things. It was just change... all change is not necessarily for the good. And it was just time for me to get out.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what would you like to be remembered for? Uh, when somebody looks at this information, you know, 25 years down the road, and they say... Bob Favor, he was...

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, I'd like them to think that I was dedicated and I wasn't afraid to work. And I did whatever it, whatever it took as far as time uh to uh, to get a case solved. And uh, uh, I probably neglected my family more than I should have simply because I was on the road and gone so much. I know one time I was gone for 11 days. I came home, my wife had dinner on the table that night and we was eating and the phone rang, it was Sheriff Barnard. He had a big deal came up... we gotta have you now. I said dang, I just got home, eating supper, been gone 11 days. Never will forget what he said. Well, if you didn't want to work, you shouldn't have hired out. So anyway, I was there. Stayed down there all night

long on that deal. Next morning, on a Saturday morning, I was coming back when the sheriff from Brady called. They'd had a cow butchering case. Went over there and worked with him on that until 5 o'clock that afternoon and got that all solved. Got the guy in jail on that deal. But that's just the way it was. You never even would have thought about keeping up with time. It was just whatever it took, we did it and never complained about it. It was just a way of life.

**NANCY RAY:** If you were gonna offer advice to a new Ranger, what would that be?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Try something else.

**NANCY RAY:** All right. Is there anything else that you would like to share and, and have captured about your history?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** God, I don't know what it would be. Like I say, there's a lot of things that will probably come to mind tomorrow and the next day... I will say this. Since I have retired, I have done, I have worked security on some uh movie locations and I found out how synthetic the movie industry is. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** What do you mean?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Well, what you see is not, what you get. (laughter) No, it's interesting and I met some good people and I met

**NANCY RAY:** So, who have you met?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh, James Garner, Sissy Spacek, and uh God.. Richard Denehey (sp?), and uh, I don't know. There were several of them, in uh... We worked on two movies, uh *Streets of Laredo* and *Dead Man's Walk*. They were, they were uh, followed *Lonesome Dove*. Larry McMurtry wrote both of those, they never amounted to nothing. Any, anything that tried to follow a movie as good as *Lonesome Dove* you know, it had got a prayer of a chance. And, these didn't. But I also have, since 1997, I have been working for Clayton Williams on a contract deal when they have a personnel problem or thefts or anything that needs investigative work, they call me. And I've been quite successful in uh in taking care of those affairs for him. And just recently, two days ago, I just got through working three weeks on some stuff out west in Pyote, Freer, Dilley, several other places down there. And then over in Ruston, Louisiana.

**NANCY RAY:** So you still stay busy?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Try, try to. Try to stay young. I'm just 75 years old and I want to keep kicking as long as I can.

**NANCY RAY:** Was there ever a time in your career when you were really frightened about something?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Gosh yeah. Like that first day. I thought, my God what have I got myself into? Will I ever see my family again, you know. Yeah, and uh, yeah and, anybody says they don't get uptight every now and then, they're full of bull. Yeah.

**NANCY RAY:** If there was something you could go back and do over, and do it a little bit differently, what would that be?

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Probably that murder that I was telling you about that I was, may of uh, tried, been more assertive on that first defendant. Uh, well, I don't want to sound like I was second guessing and sour grapes or anything, but things could have been handled uh... You know, these people, they're dead and gone, they can't defend their actions, so I'd just rather not.... It's just not proper to go into it.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Well, Eddie, do you have any other questions?

**EDDIE RAY:** I don't guess. Uh, I was just sitting here thinking about this is the west and cattle rustling and oilfield, and I'm sure you had some interesting experiences there.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Sure did. Yeah.

**NANCY RAY:** Probably still do.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Oh, yeah. Yeah. Yeah, I had one interesting, I don't know if you have any time left, but I had a cow theft over in Coleman County which is not my territory. But the Ranger that worked it, he was gone when it came up and uh, two people were in partnership and they had had a falling out and having to get rid of, disperse the stuff. Each one of them had a brand but none of, neither one of them knew how to do an acid brand and they botched the brand real badly on most of them. It was the Spring of the year after a bad Winter and the cattle had not wintered well and they was real, had a lot of hair on them. So, uh, I said bring all your cattle to the sale barn and I, I'll look them over. They brought them because they gotta sell them. Set up three pens... this is your pen, that's your pen, and that's my pen. I'm gonna read these brands, the way I call them, that's the way it's gonna be. And I was having to read most of them by Braille, just feeling them and rubbing, and some of them I had to get the clippers and cut the hair off. But uh, anyway, I wound up with more cows in my pen than they had. But I sold them and then, said you, ya'll split the check 50/50. They could have worked that out themselves but they wanted someone else to uh, you know make that decision for them. I spent all day long rubbing, rubbing, shaving, shaving nasty-haired, long-haired cows. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** Well, Bob, thank you very much for your time, we learned a lot about your life and thank you for your service to the state.

**ROBERT FAVOR:** Yeah. Yeah. Well on this.... (*end*)