

Interview with

GEORGE FRASIER

Texas Ranger, Retired

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Project: Texas Rangers

Interview Conducted at the Coleman Church of the Nazarene

Coleman, Texas

Thursday —September 25, 2008

Interviewed By: Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray  
Longview, Texas

Present at Interview: George Frasier, Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray



## Introduction

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## **GEORGE FRASIER**

### **TEXAS RANGER, RETIRED**

**NANCY RAY:** My name is Nancy Ray. I am visiting with George Frasier of Coleman, Texas. Today is Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008, and we are at the Coleman Church of the Nazarene. The purpose of this interview is to discuss Ranger Frasier's career as a Texas Ranger. Mr. Frasier, do I have your permission to record this interview?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes.

**NANCY RAY:** And Mr. Frasier, do you understand that this video will belong to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, Texas?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes ma'am.

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

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes ma'am.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Let's start by learning a little bit about you. Uh, state your full name and where you were born.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** My name is George Cole Frasier. I was born in Eastland County just outside Gorman, Texas.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. And when were you born?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** 1938.

**NANCY RAY:** What's your birthdate?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Next Thursday.

**NANCY RAY:** My birthday is October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Really?

**NANCY RAY:** It really is.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** How about that.

**NANCY RAY:** It really is.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** We're the same age.

**NANCY RAY:** We are.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** You're a lot better preserved than I am. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** We oughta celebrate, huh? What were your parents' names?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** J. D. Frasier, name was John D., they called him J. D. And my mother was Annie Frasier.

**NANCY RAY:** ANNIE?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** And she later became Annie Tate. My Dad was killed in a car wreck in 1968 and my mother remarried an old retired Nazarene minister and uh she became Annie Tate. He moved her to Coleman.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Is she still living, is she deceased?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** No, she's not. We lost her in '05.

**NANCY RAY:** '05, OK. All right. Well, what about brothers and sisters?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I've got them.

**NANCY RAY:** You've got them.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I'm the oldest one and I have a sister named Betty, Betty Kirk, who is three years younger than I. And then Tommy Frasier is three years younger than she. And Jimmy Frasier is three years younger than he is.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Do they all live around here?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** No ma'am, none of them do. Tommy lives in East Texas at Kirbyville. Uh, Betty lives just a little east of that in Missouri, Granby, Missouri. And Jimmy lives in Houston.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Pretty widespread then, OK. Umm, where did you go to school?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Started in Gorman and finished in Odessa. We moved to Odessa when I was seven years old.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, did you say Gorman?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Gorman, GORMAN, south of Eastland.

**NANCY RAY:** OK.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** And then uh, when I was in Second Grade, my dad moved us to, to uh Odessa to work in the oilfield. He worked in the oilfield and we moved out there in a 12'x14' tent... cleared off a lot and put a tent on it and all five of us moved into that tent while he and my granddad built a house out there in Odessa.

**NANCY RAY:** Um mmm... and how was that?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** It was fun.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh, was it really?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** It was.

**NANCY RAY:** For your Mom?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Uh, well I don't know about that. She uh never said it was fun but she never complained so I guess she did all right.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, and where did, did you graduate from Odessa?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Odessa High School, 1957.

**NANCY RAY:** 1957. What about subjects, did you have any that you liked?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Any what?

**NANCY RAY:** Subjects, courses that you liked.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** That I liked in school?

**NANCY RAY:** Uh huh.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Believe it or not, I excelled in English and uh I liked history better than English, liked just about everything but math.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, didn't like that.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Had a hard time handling it.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. What about other activities, like sports or band or anything else?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Well, I played uh sports through junior high and when I went into high school, I got a job and I made good enough grades they let me out at Noon and I worked from Noon until 8 or 9, during high school years so I wasn't in sports. I was in the National Honor Society the first year and then after that I wasn't quite that sharp. You know, I had other interests, I got a car and I noticed girls and kind of slacked off. But, but I still graduated in the upper part of the class, but not as high as I could have.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what, where was your first job while you were in high school?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh, my first job was way before I was in high school. I was ... I was selling newspapers on the streets in Odessa when I was about ten and when I turned eleven, I talked them into letting me have a paper route. You're supposed to be twelve but they let me go ahead and take a paper route and I ran that on a bicycle and then a horse, motorscooter. And then I went to work in the bowling alley setting pins in Odessa when I was about fourteen. They didn't have automatic pin setters they just had five other guys and me and uh, so I set pins. I'd go to work at Noon and work until sometimes one or two in the morning setting those bowling pins. And then I went from there to a service station, sacked groceries. I've been working somewhere since I was a little boy.

**NANCY RAY:** You certainly have. Well setting those pins, did you set them up and then have to move out of the way for the ball or...

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes ma'am, you better move out of the way.

**NANCY RAY:** I didn't know if there was a barrier or what.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Uh, no there's not any barrier or anything in between. There's a cut away in between the two lines so you worked two lines. You could set the pins in one, put them in this uh thing that set them up and then you'd jump over to the other lane and they'd bowl in one while you were setting pins in the other one and it, it kept you pretty busy if you worked two lanes like that. And uh only one time I didn't get out of the way fast enough and the ball caught my foot between the ball and the back pad and uh it was pretty painful. I limped up to the front and quit and I never did set anymore pins.

**NANCY RAY:** That was the end of the bowling alley career, huh? Well, what about when you graduated? What did you do then?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I was working in the Humble service station, it would be Exxon now of course. And uh I worked in that for, well I was still working there when I married and I was all of nineteen then and my wife was sixteen. I was going to Odessa Junior College and working in the station in the evenings just like I'd done through high school. At mid-term my first year, I decided I needed a wife more than I needed an education. So we got married and I dropped out of school and spent the rest of my school money to buy a mobile home and we lived happily ever after... or have so far.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, tell us about your wife then, what's her name?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Her name is Ona Faye.

**NANCY RAY:** ONA?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes, but she hates that name so she goes by Faye.

**NANCY RAY:** And that's FAYE?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** FAYE, Pruett... that was her maiden name. They moved to Odessa from Arkansas a short time after we did and I met her in church at a youth party at the Church of the Nazarene in Odessa.

**NANCY RAY:** You had your eye on her in a hurry.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh, well yeah, she looked pretty nice. She was, she was just twelve the first time we dated.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh my!

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I already had a car and uh her mother played it real safe though in letting her date me. I had to call in every 30 minutes and tell her where we were ... what we were doing,

you know. Just like she could trust me to be totally honest and she could but she didn't have any way to know that.

**NANCY RAY:** What, when did you marry?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** We married the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 1958. We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, congratulations. That's a big accomplishment.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** We're really proud.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what about children?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Got those too.

**NANCY RAY:** Got those too, all right.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Uh, we lost our first little boy. He was born with spina bifida. Uh, we'd been married about a year and uh he passed away exactly one month old. He was born February 8<sup>th</sup> of '59 and uh passed away on March 8<sup>th</sup> of '59. My wife wasn't supposed to be able to have any children so we were thrilled to have a little boy and then we lost him and uh then we had three more after that. And then adopted a little girl. I have a boy that's forty...

**NANCY RAY:** something?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** ... seven (47), I think. Maybe 48, he's 48. And his name is Russ, his name is Russell Wade Frasier. We called him Rusty until he got too old and then we shortened it to Russ. He pastors a Gospel church in San Angelo. And then we have a son Johnny that's two years younger who lives in Fort Worth, his name's Johnny O. Frasier. And he's married and has three kids. Rusty has two daughters. And Johnny works for uh, used to be Dallas Stove Company. I don't know what it is anymore. The larger companies have bought them out you

know and it's a Fortune 500 company he works for now but I don't know what it is. But he repairs uh grills and clam shells and things like that in fast food restaurants. He managed in fast food for a long time and then he got this job and he lives in Fort Worth. And then our youngest boy is a state trooper in Bronte. He's 42.

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

**GEORGE FRASIER:** In Bronte.

**NANCY RAY:** How do you spell that?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** It's BRONTE ... thirty four miles north of San Angelo. And uh, he's in Highway Patrol over there. Should be in the Rangers and probably could have been a long time ago but he has a little daughter that's two years away from graduation. She'll graduate next year and he didn't want to move her until she graduated. So he hasn't even taken the promotional test or anything.

**NANCY RAY:** I admire him for that. I surely do.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** It's a good thing. He's, he's a good man through and through. And uh I don't bother him about the Rangers. I asked him about it and my friends in different places asked me about him, you know, and I tell them that he, he's waiting on her to graduate and then he'll run at it. He'd be an excellent Ranger. Of course I may be a little prejudiced but I've heard a lot of other people say the same thing. I went to a ballgame the other night and he had on a white tee-shirt that kind of explained it. He has four kids and on the back of his shirt, said "Being a good dad is child's play." And that's his, the way he looks at life.

**NANCY RAY:** Sounds like he has his priorities set on his family.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes, he does.

**NANCY RAY:** That's great, that's great. All right. OK, anything else about your family before we move on?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Well, we had one little girl that we adopted. She was just one year younger than Scotty, uh she was forty years old. She was killed in an automobile accident last month.

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

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Uh, 15<sup>th</sup> of August. She was in a wreck the 15<sup>th</sup> of August and passed away on the 18<sup>th</sup> in Forth Worth. They kept her on support for three days. She was an organ donor so they kept her alive until they could get all that lined up.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, you've had some sorrow in your family but also sounds like you have a lot of things to be proud of too.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** We do.

**NANCY RAY:** That's great. Well, when did you start your law enforcement career?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** 1960. *(pause)*

**NANCY RAY:** Were you still at the Exxon station when you went to the law enforcement?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I was on the Odessa Police Department seven years before... believe it or not, a motorcycle officer.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, let's talk about that first before we go to the Highway Patrol.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** January of '08, uh as soon as I turned 21 years old, three months after I turned 21, I went to work on Odessa Police Department.

**NANCY RAY:** Now January of what year?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I'm sorry, 1960.

**NANCY RAY:** '60, all right. We missed a lot?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** That's a long way from '08, wasn't it. 1960. And I worked at the police department in Odessa for seven years, the last uh four years or so I rode motorcycles. And uh, I always loved riding a motorcycle so they paid me to do that so it was a good job. I really enjoyed it. And then I went through the uh patrol school in 1967, two weeks behind Joe Hunt. We were all there at the same time but he started in "A" school and I was in "B."

**NANCY RAY:** Well, let's go back to the police department. Is there anything that really stands out in your mind that happened while you were a policeman you'd like to talk about?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** You know, I have a hard time remembering a lot of the things that happened, I should have written them down. The main things ... it's not gonna sound much like a Ranger. The main things that stand out to me are not the tough guy things or, or fighting roughnecks or ... you know that went with the job all the time. But the thing that I remember the most about working on Odessa Police Department was about my third or fourth day on the job, night on the job ... back in those days, we had no training. I went to work and I sat in the captain's office and read a book of city ordinances for one morning. And that afternoon, they gave me a badge and I pinned it on the wrong side of my shirt and went to work in a one-man unit in Odessa. And not long after that, first time I got on nights, still working a one-man unit on the Andrews highway out north of Odessa, green as a gourd, and uh I was passing by... is this a long tape?

**NANCY RAY:** Sure.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I was passing by a bar out there and there were a couple of cars in front. It was closed, long since, about three in the morning. And I was driving by with my lights out,

watching for burglars ... we had a lot of them in those days, in those bars. And one of the doors was slightly open, the passenger side, on this old car. So I went down and cut my brake lights, eased up the other to sneak up on the bad guy and I came rolling up pretty close and got my flashlight in one hand and my pistol in the other, and started walking up there and I saw movement in the car. I thought sure I had me a burglar cold. And I went walking up there and just when I got beside the car, a big white Leghorn chicken flew out the door right in my face. I wish I had a picture of it, unfortunately I don't. I just...

**NANCY RAY:** Of your face or the chicken?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I just... I didn't shoot up the neighborhood. I don't know why I had the pistol in my hand. That's probably the most scared I've ever been in my life. If I ever write a book, that'll be the things that will be in it.

**NANCY RAY:** That should be, right.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** You know, the humorous that happens in law enforcement. And it, I made a lot of friends ... it was a lot of fun. It was hometown you know and it's a good place to learn to be a policeman in Odessa, Texas.

**NANCY RAY:** But you learned by doing, it was on-the-job training, right?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Right. And I was ... the first training school I ever went to was seven years later when I went to the DPS Academy.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, well let's talk about the DPS Academy. It was uh, you said, "B" school? In 19...

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes, ma'am. '67.

**NANCY RAY:** '67. OK. And who were some who made it with you? Do you remember any who, any of the others who were in the uh class with you?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh, yes, I remember several of them. There were uh ... We had four motorcycle officers in Odessa and three of us quit and went to the DPS Academy. I, because they cut off between some of them and me alphabetically, I got to go to the "B" school. Another one named Gene Jackson who rode motors on Odessa PD went to that same school with me. Uh, he later went back. He dropped out of the school and later went back to Odessa Police Department and retired there. Bill Webster, who was a good friend of mine, uh graduated from a school about three or four weeks behind me in "C" school. And uh served as a DPS Highway Patrol and went into Narcotics and worked Narcotics a good long while and resigned and ran for sheriff in Sonora and he uh retired as sheriff in Sonora, Texas. Jam up good sheriff and learned it all at Odessa PD, I'm sure, and the DPS Academy. But I remember a lot of them. There were a few more from Odessa, some from uh Abilene Police Department were down there, uh who went on in the DPS and... One named Wylie Flynn who bunked right next to me because our Fs were right together and uh Wylie died not long after we graduated from the school, a few years uh in the DPS. He got cancer or something and passed away. Uh another one, and I can't remember his name, from uh Abilene PD was ... uh saw his partner run over and killed by a drunk driver over in Callahan County and he had a heart attack and uh died there. His partner was killed and then he had the heart attack and died as a result. Uh, Wylie just called him Sarge and I ought to know his name and I can't remember it. He and I were two of the older guys in the school. Uh...

**NANCY RAY:** Well, in the school, were they still doing motorcycles?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh no.

**NANCY RAY:** No. You were through. OK.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** You know, I thought that might be the one thing I might excel in down there was riding motorcycles and they'd already gotten rid of them.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh my, that was, that was not good for you.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** No, I don't excel at anything.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what about monitors, do you remember who your monitors were at the school?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes ma'am. I, well I said I do. Now since I'm thinking, uh Charlie Andrews was one of them. Uh he went on, I think his last job in the DPS was an inspector. And uh Charlie was a real good man. His brother, Robert, was in our school and he retired in San Angelo the same day I did. Ed Dickson was a trooper in San Angelo and he retired. We all three retired the same day. We started together and finished together, one as a trooper, one as a lieutenant, and me as a Ranger, all in the same office. Uh, Jimmy Rose who was a Drivers License sergeant out in Midland was one of our monitors.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what was the role of a monitor?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I guess drinking coffee and watching us do push ups. (laughter) No, they were uh, I don't really know what their job description was. What they did, they just walked around amongst us and when we did physical training and all, well they were the ones that kept us going and poked us up if we got too slow ... and hollered a lot. And uh in the classroom, they generally were just there, you know. I don't know what they did when we weren't around. They may have been doing a lot of work when we weren't around but they were just kind of supervisors for us when we were in the training part.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, thinking about the training... what was probably the most important thing you learned, the most valuable thing to you?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Actually, one of the most important things I learned was the first day when they told us you guys who are here from some other department who have been officers before, forget everything that you think you know and we're gonna teach you how to do it right. And that's probably was one of the most important things I ... because I, I did that. I kept a low profile. I kept my mouth shut. And ... but some of them couldn't do that, you know. And they had to tell them how we did it in Podunk you know and those guys got in trouble and some of them got run off. Uh, so I learned, I guess I learned that there, at least if I didn't they reminded me of that. We had a lot of discipline. Uh, they'd get us up in the wee hours of the morning and we'd have to suit out in ties and everything and march down to the classroom and take a spelling test and then march back up and go back to bed you know and sleep two more hours and get up do PT. And I don't, I don't think they do a lot of those neat little things anymore, like they used to.

**NANCY RAY:** And so what did you learn from that? To do what you're told? Is that what the purpose...

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh, I don't think I learned anything from that. I don't know if they expected us to except that if anybody had any objections to discipline, it would have probably come out.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what about driving, did you spend a lot of time driving or learning about uh traffic stops, or what did you learn?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Not much. We uh, as far as driving, we did have driving training but it wasn't anything at all like it is these days. We didn't have any pursuit driving or anything like that. Uh yes, they taught us about traffic stops, how to stop people and, and uh when to give warnings and when to give citations. And they taught us a little bit of defensive tactics. Al Stone who just recently passed away was our physical training instructor down there. And uh he taught us Judo, I guess, something.

**NANCY RAY:** Was uh Tommy Walker in your class, do you know that name?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes he was.

**NANCY RAY:** Because we interviewed him and he talked about Al Stone.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** What I remember about Al Stone was that little sadistic laugh that he had, he seemed to enjoy seeing people get hurt, you know. There was one time we were in a semi-circle in front of Al Stone and he was gonna show us some kind of a defensive maneuver. And I was in the front of the circle facing him. And so he got through telling us how to do it and said, you know, I'll show you how to do and he pointed at me and he said you're about my size. I don't know where he got that, by then I'd lost a lot of weight. He said, you're about my size and he got me by the tee shirt and flipped me around and I ended up flat on my back on the gymnasium floor. And uh the lesson I learned from that is, don't get on the inside of the circle. From then on when Al saw me, it was looking under somebody's arm.

**NANCY RAY:** So you learned.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I'm a quick learner when it comes to being...

**NANCY RAY:** Well, where was your first duty station?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Andrews, Texas. In those days, uh, I think it was captain's policy more than DPS policy that they would not let you return to your home station ... and certainly not if you were an officer in your home station. I had a home that I owed seven years on in uh Odessa and they had vacancies in Odessa. Sergeant Brookshire was there ... My wife's from Arkansas, I told you that. And when I went to that school, she said this is the ideal time for me to get you to East Texas and you'll see what Arkansas is like. And I told her I'll try to get stationed over in the Piney Woods. So I went down there ... so the sergeant who had recruited me, Bob Brookshire in Odessa, came down and whispered in my ear and told me you know if I would put in for Region 4A and get back in 4A, he would get me in Odessa. Said he would talk to the captain and get me right back in Odessa. So I put in for 4A and he talked to the captain and he sent me to Andrews. So I sold my house in 34 months and my wife hasn't forgiven either me or Bob Brookshire.

**NANCY RAY:** She's still not in the Piney Woods, is she?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** But Bob died and I'm still listening to it.

**NANCY RAY:** That's true. All right, let's talk about Andrews. What happened, anything stand out in your mind?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I had the best Highway Patrol partner in the whole world.

**NANCY RAY:** Who was that?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** His name was Buff Angel.

**NANCY RAY:** Buff?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Named Edward E. Angel. His nickname was Buff, had it since he was a little boy. But he was ... we worked a whole lot alike. You know I had seven years experience and I could work accidents and things but old Buff and I were just ... we worked just about alike

and I really enjoyed working with, with him. In fact, I didn't even finish probation before they sent me to a one-man station in Seminole. I was still on probation and was the only trooper, only Highway Patrolman, excuse me, I never was a trooper, but I was the only one in Seminole and I was still on probation working a one-man unit.

**NANCY RAY:** Well now, was, were you, you didn't go as the lead driver did you? Were you the lead from the beginning or was your partner?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** No, every other week.

**NANCY RAY:** Every other week. (laughter)

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Buff would lead one week and I'd lead the other. Yeah in those days, you know, they just put you to work ... it, it was a lot different then than it is now. And uh the two guys in Seminole both transferred out of there and uh we won't go into that but they had a vacancy in Seminole and Buff and I were in Andrews and... Sergeant Brookshire, again, came up and whispered in my ear telling me, you know, I need a man in Seminole... I got nobody in Seminole, got two good men in Andrews, sure wish one of them was in Seminole. So I fired in a request which means that I paid for my own move to Seminole. And old Buff and I covered, on his days off I covered both counties. On my days off, he covered both counties so we were on 24-hour call all the time. But in those days, overtime was unheard of you know. When I went to work, they said we'll pay you \$440 a month and, every month, and you just do whatever you need to do. And that sounded good to me. It was about a \$35 a month cut from Odessa PD but, more than that, but uh that's the way we worked until '83. We just worked whatever we needed to work and we got the same size check every month.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, did you stay in Seminole until '83?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh no, I didn't stay in Seminole until the water got hot. They uh, Seminole... they, they changed the sergeant areas around and made a new sergeant area with a sergeant in Lamesa. Bob Brookshire came up to Seminole and I wasn't working for him anymore...

**NANCY RAY:** But he whispered in your ear...

**GEORGE FRASIER:** He said, I got a nice little one-man station down at, at Kermit and I sure would like to have you down there. Got an old car with 100,000 miles, fixing to get a brand new one, be a one-man station. I had trained two new hands while I was in Seminole and he said this will be a little one-man station, you won't be responsible for anyone else. I'll get you a new car. I asked for the transfer which means I paid for it again and moved to Kermit. And I'd been there about a month when they sent me a rookie and it was no longer a one-man station. But I did get the new car and uh I stayed in Kermit about a year, I guess. And Kermit's a jumping off place, you know. There's not any traffic much through Kermit unless you're going to Jal, New Mexico, that's about it, and not many people want to go to Jal New Mexico, you know. So I ended up writing tickets to people that I went to church with and saw in the grocery store the next day and my kids and their kids played football together. You know, if you're on the interstate you write a guy a ticket and you're probably not ever gonna see him again. But in Kermit, you write a guy a ticket and you're gonna see him tomorrow in all likelihood and so it was kind of a tough place to be. Fortunately, the guy before me didn't hardly write any tickets at all so it was real easy for me to look pretty good. But uh, there just wasn't that much to do. It was really, really a dead station traffic wise. And otherwise, there just wasn't much going on in Kermit.

**NANCY RAY:** So, what did you do?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Well, I uh put in for an opening in Eden, Eden, Texas. I had a friend, two friends down at Junction and one of them called me and said we got a vacancy in Eden. And my partner and I in Kermit were not getting along real well. He came to me when he was 20 years old, he was almost 21. I'm not gonna tell you his name but, but he was from San Diego, California, and he didn't even shave yet and he had a cocky little way of wearing his hat down over his eye, and a cute way of walking that those roughnecks never did learn to appreciate. And I spent half of my time between him and them telling them, no you're not, you gotta whip me first, you know. And our theory... we didn't agree on very many things and I'm not that difficult to get along with. But the vacancy came in Eden and, and there's more trees and more water and Mama liked the sound of that and so this old boy called me and told me we got a real good little station in Eden, why don't you put in for it and come down here? And I did, and I worked down there about a year with a real good partner and I liked him. It was a good town, didn't have a jail, it was kind of like a page out of the Old West. Had a good old sheriff and working conditions were good. *(pause)* One night about midnight, close to midnight, I had a, a drunk driver in, running him on a breathalyzer test, and low and behold I got a call on the radio and uh.... We had a radio there in the office and I answered it and it was Sergeant Brookshire out at Odessa. He and another sergeant, Oscar Armstrong, were on the way to Austin for something and Sergeant Brookshire stopped and talked to me. He said I'm having a real problem with rookies in Odessa. I've got a vacancy and we changed captains and I think that if you would consent to move to Odessa, the captain would let you come to Odessa. I told him I doubt it, we've tried that before. So he called the captain on my phone, woke him up, told him I'm standing here talking to George Frasier and I'd sure like to have him in Odessa, what do you think? And he said if you'll

move before we the assignments in Austin, they were just about to assign the new recruits... he said if you can get him moved before they make the assignments in Austin, I'll let him move to Odessa. I moved the next day. The next night we were in Odessa, Texas.

**NANCY RAY:** Now, what did your wife think about all this?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** She didn't mind. I have the closest thing to a perfect wife that there is. She says where you go, I go. When we moved to Eden, Texas, we moved about the same way. We got there, it was night, we couldn't turn on any utilities, it was cold, and she and my four kids... we adopted Debbie, our little daughter, when we were in Kermit. She was real little and Scotty was a year old, two years old. We spread those quilts that you use to cover your furniture with, we spread them out on the floor of that house and slept on them the first night we were in Eden, Texas. And got the utilities turned on the next day. She'd go with me wherever I go. And uh, I appreciate it enough that I'm living where she wants to live now because I'd lot rather be in San Angelo.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, that's a good tribute to your wife.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** She's a sweetheart and she deserves to be where she wants to be.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, but you went to Odessa. What goes on in Odessa?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** The lieutenant called me to Midland the first day that I was in Odessa. Joe Mladenka called me to Midland, he was my lieutenant.

**NANCY RAY:** How do you spell Mladenka?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** MLADENKA. Uh, one thing I can do is spell. I missed one word in all that 16 weeks in the DPS Academy and that was liaison. I never will forget it, that's the only word I ever misspelled. Anyway, his name is Mladenka with an "l" right after the first M. He

called me to Midland and I was standing in the front of his desk and he said uh... I'll leave out a few of the words but the gist of what he said was... OK now, you've been wanting in Odessa all this time... here you are, you're in Odessa and I want you to tell me that you're gonna stay in Odessa, Texas. I don't want you jumping around anymore. In fact, what he said was I want you to burn that teepee that you've been wagging around all over the place and stay in Odessa. And I told him lieutenant, I promise you that I'll stay in Odessa until I get cinco peso, that's the Ranger badge. I get the cinco peso, I'm going wherever it leads me but I'll be here unless, or until, I get the cinco peso. We had a gentleman's agreement on that and he left before I did. And uh I tested for the Rangers, I don't know, seems like it was two years later, in '72. I tested the first time for the Rangers, I came out second, Al Mitchell beat me. He's one of the retired over at Midland. Al was the first and I was second and they put me number one on the list and a year later I died number one on the list. The next year I was kind of upset over all that so I didn't even take the... no, I did take the test, I need to back up.

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

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I'm gonna take back the part about being upset but it was more about me than anything else. But the next year I took the test... The first year they took twelve to the interview board and I finished second. In '73 they took, I think 40 to the interview board and I didn't even make the cut, didn't even make the list. '74 I wasn't gonna take the test and then I got some encouragement from some people I really respected and I went and took it and made it that year.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, let me ask you. When you say you died on the list, does that, what does that mean exactly?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Eligibility list, when they give an examination for promotion, if they have one vacancy they promote the top man. Uh after they get his score and his composite which includes years of service and education, military time, some things go into it. Uh they consider all that and the top grade out of all that gets the promotion. And then they grade them from there down based on the oral interview and the written test and all. And to make an eligibility list, and it's good for twelve months, if an opening occurs during that twelve months, the next man on the list promotes and if you don't have a vacancy within that twelve months, the list runs out and you start from square one. Uh, one guy retired a month after my list ran out. I didn't call him and encourage him to retire or anything else, I figured that was his business, you know. And uh he retired just about a month after the list ran out. The second time, I didn't even come close. I'll tell you about that in a minute and then the third time I made it outright. And that's when I sold Joe Hunt my house, begged him to take my house... you know that story so I won't tell (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** He told us that story. And he laughed.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I sold, actually you know, I sold him that house because I thought I was gonna make the Rangers. And I died on the list and Joe had my house and I, I was living in a rent house.... I had been told by people who should know, uh the old senior captain introduced me to his wife and said this guy is gonna be the next Texas Ranger, you know. He really had me built up. My captain said you know, you'll be gone to the Rangers. They had me believing it. I sold Joe my house, got him to take it, and uh I died on the list and bought another house and then the next year I had to sell it to another trooper, another Highway Patrolman in Odessa when I made the Rangers.

**NANCY RAY:** You had trouble with houses.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh, I'm a financial wizard, I tell you. If you want any financial advice, don't ask me anything ... because that's what got me where I am today.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh goodness. Well, before we go into your Ranger career, is there anything else that stands out in your mind during your Highway Patrol days.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** In the Highway Patrol?

**NANCY RAY:** Um hmm.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh, probably uh the main thing overall... stands out in my mind, is my Dad was killed in a car wreck when I had been in the Highway Patrol a very short time, and still in Andrews, in fact. Uh, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1968. Uh, my Dad was killed in a car wreck over by Toyahdale and what I remember the most about the DPS is the way they turned out for the funeral and ... their respect and all that... (*emotional moment*)

**NANCY RAY:** And it's still...

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I'm sorry, I...

**NANCY RAY:** That's fine. It still continues today the way they show their respect.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh, yeah, yeah. Yeah, we lost our daughter last month and, and uh she didn't know many people at all and she lived in Eastland and we had her funeral here and they had the second largest crowd down here than they've ever had at the funeral home. I ... a lot of them were DPS and various law enforcement. (*emotional moment*)

**NANCY RAY:** That speaks very well for your character, the reputation that you have.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Well, it speaks, speaks better for their character... you know the guys who turned out.

**NANCY RAY:** Sure. It's, it's a two-way street. Surely is. OK, well let's go back to your Ranger days. How do you finally get in?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Uh, *(short pause)*

**NANCY RAY:** OK, we're back. Now what was that story you were about to tell?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Well, that was back to the Police Department days. I, I never have considered myself a tough guy, still don't. Uh, I figured I could take care of business but beyond that you know... and uh when I was on the Police Department well I locked up a lot of people but I never did fight anybody. I never did need to fight anybody you know, they... I treated them right and handled them like I would like to be treated and I just never needed to do that. And I asked my wife one night, when I was still real young in it, and I said do you think that those guys think that I won't fight if I need to, because I don't ever because I work with a partner all the time who did that all the time. And she said, well do you feel like you've ever really needed to? And I said no. And she said, well, wait until you need to and then we'll all know. So uh wasn't too long after that when I had to, had to go to the city with a guy and I won't go into the details of that but he was in front of the captain and the lieutenant and uh I told him to open the door and he wouldn't. So I helped do it it and they knew that I didn't mind doing whatever I needed to do after that. And we didn't have an elevator upstairs, we had stairs, so we had to drag them up or walk them upstairs. Good old days. But anyway, when uh... got some things that I'd like to tell you but I better not because of the... *(laughter)* You understand, I worked on the Odessa PD when all the police were White males. There were no Hispanics, there were no females, there were no Blacks, and my nickname was "the Gomez." And the reason they called me that, this is not the story I was gonna tell you but this one's probably better. Uh, the reason they called me

that is because I'm dark as you can see and, in those days, my hair was jet black. And I smiled a lot and the Lord blessed me with a good set of dentures and so uh the Federal government was making noises like we were gonna hire a minority, you know. So the captain called me in front of the group and introduced me as, and of course they all knew me, they worked with me all the time... he told them this is Señor Gomez, he's gonna be our Mexican. And he said I want you to smile a lot and don't say anything. You're gonna be our minority. That name stuck and ever time I'd get a pair of gloves or a pair of pants or shirt or anything, they had Gomez stenciled on the inside. And most of the guys in Odessa still remember me as Gomez. That wasn't meant to offend anybody you see, it was, we were just all White males in those days.

**NANCY RAY:** Did you speak Spanish?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh no. They, DPS, a few years ago sent me through the Border Patrol Spanish school and I still don't speak it. Uh, but anyway, what I was gonna tell you about ... when Sergeant Brookshire went to interview my supervisors for the Highway Patrol, I guess because I was always smiling and never tried to be tough or anything, I don't know, but Sergeant Brookshire asked my captain, will he fight if he needs to? And he told me later what my captain said and I loved, and I loved him for it. And I can quote it directly. He said "don't let that smiling make a fool out of you."

**NANCY RAY:** And what was your captain's name that said that?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** It was uh,

**NANCY RAY:** If I had not asked...

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I can't remember his name. I can see his face. He's gone now, but uh

**NANCY RAY:** You'll probably think of it in a little while. That's fine.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** But anyway, Brookshire told me that and it meant a great deal to me, that the captain uh said what he said, “don’t let that smiling make a fool out of you,” he’ll do whatever he needs to do. And so I tried to build my career around that, not being pushy and not being a tough guy, uh but to treat people the way I would like to be treated as long as they allowed me to. But they called the music, you know, and if... sometimes people that you deal with are not really smart and sometimes they confuse kindness for weakness. And if you treat them good and call them sir and treat them like gentlemen, sometimes they mistake that for weakness and they think they can walk over you. And that’s the only times I’ve ever had any real problems. And, and that never happened.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, when you were still with the uh Highway Patrol or DPS, before you became Ranger, did you ever work on any criminal cases, or ... what, how come you were interested in becoming a Ranger?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I guess, really I never dreamed of being a Ranger. I can’t tell you that when I was a little boy I wanted to be a Texas Ranger. I probably wanted to be a fireman like everybody else, you know. Uh, never even thought about the Rangers until... I knew some of the Rangers and I was impressed with them, Sid Merchant is one. I need to talk to you about him in a little bit. Uh, Charlie Hodges was one. Captain Jim Riddles, my first captain, was one. I knew those guys and, and I worked with them just a little bit you know, they’d, they’d come out and ask me if I’d sit and uh, keep surveillance on something, keep an eye on something for us for... and just make sure they don’t move but if they do, call us. But I never worked any criminal investigation. In fact, that was really discouraged in those days. We worked traffic, we didn’t work criminal stuff. If we stumbled onto something criminal, we passed it on to someone else.

But uh I knew some of those guys and I respected them but I guess I never really thought about being a Ranger myself until the captain, the sergeant came up one night ... no it was the captain, Captain Riddles, had asked Buff Angel if he would like to be a Ranger, my old partner in the Highway Patrol. He's in Andrews and I'm in Seminole, we're still partners you know. Captain asked Buff about it. I didn't know that, I was sitting in the coffee shop and, and Buff Angel called me and he called me Son, he's ten years older than I am, ten years and ten days or so. And he called me and said Son, I need to talk to you and I told him OK, we'll meet somewhere. And we did and he said I got a problem. Buff's an outstanding Highway Patrolman and I said, what's the problem? And he said I've got a chance to go in the Rangers, be a Texas Ranger. And I said, what's the problem with that? And he said well, I'd have to move my family and I don't want to do that. And he said uh Captain Riddles talked to me about it but he said his wife was vice president of a bank in Andrews. He had two kids in high school and they were playing football. His house was paid for. He had every reason not to do it. And I couldn't see any of those reasons at that time you know. And I said well, are you going to take it? And he said no I'm not. Well he didn't tell me that then, he told me I don't think so, and a couple or three days later he told me no I'm not gonna take it because of the reasons I just told you. And so a couple of weeks later I'm on patrol out there in Gaines County out of Seminole and Sergeant Brookshire called me. I need to meet with you. So I went and met with Sergeant Brookshire and he said I got a problem. I said what's your problem? He said I'm about to lose one of the best Highway Patrolman I ever had. And I said who is that and he said Buff Angel. And I tried to look surprised and I said what's Buff gonna do? And he said well I know that he's been offered a Ranger's job and he'd make a good Ranger so I, I imagine he's gonna take it. And I said what would it be worth to you to know

that he's not gonna take it? And he said why, do you know something that I don't? And I said evidently I do. He's not gonna take it and he said how do you know? And I said Buff told me, he's not gonna take it. And so he was relieved at that and sure enough, Buff didn't take the Ranger job but Sergeant Brookshire... I said I don't understand why he's not taking it, you know. Most guys would give anything to be a Ranger and now here's he been asked if he wants the job... it was in Pecos and he didn't want to uproot his family and move them to Pecos. He told them that if they would leave him, let him work out of Andrews he'd take it but of course they couldn't do that, or didn't. I told him I think he's making a mistake. If I thought there was any way I could be a Ranger I'd go for it. And he said, why can't you? He said if Buff can be a Texas Ranger, you can. You guys are as much alike as anybody I ever saw. I told him I, I would if I could that I'd love to be in the Rangers. And it wasn't long after that until he talked to Captain Riddles and we went from there and I took the Ranger test.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, this might be a good time to ask you ... who is the person who had the most influence on you as far as your career? I know the name I keep hearing but I don't know if that's the person you name or not.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Well, from end to end, probably my overall career I was influenced most by Buff probably. When Buff got ready to retire several years later, he was in Andrews from 1955 until about '83... I think '83 or '84. When he got ready to retire, uh you know they have a Special Ranger commission that you can take when you, when a DPS employee or trooper or such retired, they can apply for a Special Ranger commission and they get a Ranger badge but it says Special Ranger on it and they can keep a commission that way. And uh most of them do that, it's a good thing. And Buff applied for that and they sent me his badge, his Special Ranger

badge and asked me to do his retirement service... somebody did. I don't think Austin did but somebody at Andrews did... and asked me if I would do his retirement ceremony over there, MC it at Andrews. So they had it at the National Guard Armory and they had to because there was a lot of people there. And so I MC'ed Buff's retirement and I was a Ranger then. So when I got ready to give him that Special Ranger badge, I made him stand in front of me and raise his right hand and swear under oath that he wouldn't be out there writing tickets and arresting drunks with that Ranger badge. Because he stayed in the Highway Patrol and kept doing that when he could have really been a Ranger you know. So I, I made him swear that he wasn't gonna be wearing that Ranger badge out there chasing speeders and everybody got a good laugh out of that. He probably was the best influence on me. I watched him write his best friend in the whole world a ticket one night. He hunted with him in Colorado and they were just like brothers. And Buff stopped him for speeding and he was standing tall and Buff starting writing him a ticket and the guy said are you gonna give me a speeding ticket? And he said yes, I am. He said don't you understand the reason we write these things is to impress you to slow down and maybe save your life? He said of all the people in the world that I don't want to see killed in a car wreck, it'd be you. Yeah, I'm gonna write you a ticket and I hope you take it for what it's worth and slow down.

**NANCY RAY:** I wonder if he did?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I imagine he did. If he did speed, he probably did it somewhere outside of Andrews County.

**NANCY RAY:** He wasn't getting any favors there, was he?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** No, and you know, he was probably stricter than I was in that but I had to admire him for that because he just, he was straight as an arrow.

**NANCY RAY:** Is that what makes the biggest impression on you about Buff?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes, it is. If he tells you something, you can take it to the bank. I uh, when I moved to Seminole, he was still in Andrews and I'm in Seminole, a guy came to my office one day and I was in the Highway Patrol. I was writing reports and the man who was later to be the county judge, and reminded me, but he came in my office one day and he had a ticket folded up real small ... and uh stuck in his billfold. And he pulled it out and he said I want to talk to you about something. I told him OK and he pulled his ticket out and thumped it on my desk. And he said I got this ticket last night uh for 65 miles an hour in a 55 zone and I wasn't running 65 miles an hour. So I unfolded the ticket and it said 65 in a 55 and down at the bottom was the old familiar E. Angel. So I folded it back up just like he had it folded and I thumped it back to him and I said, you're right. If you, if Buff wrote you a ticket for 65 you weren't running 65, you were probably running 70 or 71 or 2. Best advice I can give you is go pay that ticket and try to hold it down. I made an enemy uh but you know I can use that kind of enemies. If Buff put his name on the bottom of that ticket, it was a good one and that was all I needed to know.

**NANCY RAY:** Umm umm. That's a good recommendation for Buff.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** It is. He should have been a Ranger.

**NANCY RAY:** Should have been a Ranger ... just made Special Ranger.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** (laughter) He should have been a real Ranger.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, let's go back to Ranger then. All right, you finally get your chance to become a Ranger. Do you ... tell us about the interview board.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** It was fun.

**NANCY RAY:** It was fun?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I enjoyed the interview board. It was made up of some really good people and uh speaking in front of a crowd or in front of a few people is no problem for me. That's one thing that drives some people up and that's what I do. But there are other things that bother me that don't bother other people. Interview boards don't bother me any. I talk to them just like I'm talking to you and uh so it wasn't any problem. They asked me... one guy on the interview board asked me uh, if I would move. He was a captain, Highway Patrol captain. He said you know they have your personnel file and they look through it before you go in there and I knew that. Highway Patrol captain from Beaumont said uh you're in your hometown now in Odessa aren't you? And I said yes sir. He said you really like working in Odessa and I told him I love it. And uh he said let's say that you make the Rangers and you're gonna move to Beaumont. We give you two weeks to go to work in Beaumont, will you move? I said, I will. He said when was the last time you were in Beaumont? I told him I'd never been there in my life. And he said how do you know that you'd move to Beaumont? And I said well you got my file there, you can see that I can and will move ... and I want to be a Ranger and let's get that done then we'll worry about where I'm gonna live you know. And that satisfied him, uh, that was sincere. That's the way I felt. I didn't care if it was Beaumont, I didn't care where it was you know at the time. I... wherever the Rangers needed somebody is where I needed to be. I didn't make the Rangers, by the way, but it worked pretty good. I was right behind old Al Mitchell, he was just a little sharper than I was. That's the breaks. I enjoyed the interview board, I enjoyed all the interview boards that I ever went to. I didn't handle them all real well you know. I said some things I wish I could

take back uh and I didn't say some things that I wish I had told them but I, I enjoyed going to the board.

**NANCY RAY:** All right, what year did you make Ranger?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** 1974.

**NANCY RAY:** 1974. Where was your first duty station?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Big Spring.

**NANCY RAY:** Big Spring. OK, do you remember your first case?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I don't. I remember my first bunch of cases. We uh, when I got to Big Spring, that's the first time they'd ever had anybody I think stationed in Big Spring. They had worked it out of Midland all those years so they opened a new station in Big Spring and put me in it. Uh ... we were having a lot of problems with people stealing cassette tape players, those little eight-track tapes, you know? You remember when they used to bolt those cassette players under the dash, everyone had one ... and some speakers. Well, we had a lot of trouble with people stealing those. That was a big item up there, uh, in Andrews. And so I decided along with one other guy, DA's investigator, we were gonna put a stop to that and you know and kind of get my feet wet. So we got us some cars and set them up you know, leave the window down a little bit where they could... wouldn't have too much trouble getting in and set a can of beer on top, back off and watch them break in and steal those things so my first case was several cases. Actually, we had a ... using that old bait car getting that stuff. I don't remember what my first uh sure enough case was. They sent me with Al Mitchell uh over in Odessa one time ... probably one of the first things. They, they walked me into a pool hall over there to observe some guys playing poker with some dominoes with card faces on them. They looked liked dominoes until

you looked close then they had card faces on them. They were gambling and old Al Mitchell and one or two more ... I, I was brand new so I stripped off my hat and my pistol and went in there and stood around and watched them gamble for a while you know and made myself comfortable and then walked back out and they went in and raided the place. I ... the first, I just remembered the first big case I worked, pretty big, was a murder. And I worked with the chief of police and his name was Vance Chisum.

**NANCY RAY:** Was this at Big Spring?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes, and he had come from uh, well I can't remember where Joaquin was, down...

**NANCY RAY:** Alpine?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** No, before that.

**NANCY RAY:** Uvalde?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Uvalde. He was chief in Uvalde and he had come to Big Spring and was chief there. He and Joaquin were long-time friends. Of course I didn't know that and it didn't matter. But a guy had uh gotten off a Greyhound bus there. He got in an argument with another guy over a female that one of them made a comment about or something and he shot him in the head with a .25 automatic and we had to go roust him out of a house there in Big Spring and arrested him. That was the first murder or anything like that I worked. It didn't amount to much.

**NANCY RAY:** How did you find this person? *(paused to change discs)* OK. We're back and you were just about to tell us about your first murder case in Big Spring.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes, and I don't know how much of it I can remember. But this guy was, he was a piece of work. He had on a black hat with a real fancy hatband, dressed all in black.

And uh somebody gave us a description of him and told us a house that he had gone to. I don't really remember how we found out. I think Vance probably did with one of his informants or something. But we found out where he was holed up and we went to the house and he wouldn't come out. And we had to get permission to search and went into the house and got him out of the house and he told us his name was Johnny Dancer ... (laughter) you know in all of his black and all ... I'm Johnny Dancer. He's a bigshot. But anyway, he pled out to the murder and got some time for it but... he shot the guy in the head, that kid, 17 or 18 years old because he made a derogatory comment about some female that this old boy knew. I don't remember what his name was now but he certainly wasn't Johnny Dancer. He'd seen the movie or something you know and picked up that name.

**NANCY RAY:** But he did get some time?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh yes, he pled out. He'd been there before.

**NANCY RAY:** It wasn't his first time.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** No.

**NANCY RAY:** All right, you mentioned something a minute ago about uh instructing classes. Now where did you do that?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh, when I was in uh San Angelo, before that when I was in Eastland.

**NANCY RAY:** As a Ranger?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes. I told you, you know, that I didn't finish my education, I got Faye instead. So when I was in Eastland, I went, I worked in Big Spring for about two years and they decided to put a Ranger in Eastland. There'd never been one stationed that I know of, they'd worked it out of Brownwood, Lefty Block worked it.

**NANCY RAY:** Let me ask you a question because that's twice you said uh you went to a new station ... you had to start it. How did you ... how did you build up the relationship to work with the other law enforcement agencies?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I never have been anywhere yet that I didn't know some of the law enforcement people already that were there, you know, because West Texas is my bailiwick. And so I knew people in all those places. And anyway, it's no problem you know, I didn't know the sheriff but ... but you just walk in and pull your hat off and say I'm George Frasier, I'm the new Ranger, you know. And you go get coffee or whatever and you're off and running. I, I've never had any problem you know making a place for myself or anything. Uh,

**NANCY RAY:** So you're at Eastland now?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** OK, Eastland County is where I was born and uh so when they decided they were gonna put a Ranger in Eastland and I heard about it I put in for it. Transferred down to Eastland and I stayed there four and a half years ... and I really enjoyed working there but I found out you know that Eastland County wasn't the same Eastland County that I had left 30 years before. Things had changed a lot but I had a favorite old uncle down there who was two years older or younger than my dad who was so much like my dad that I really enjoyed associating with Cass Frasier. He was well known in those parts. He was tougher than a pine knot ... he was big and strong and tough, he wasn't one of these little guys they say so tough, he was, he was a horse. I enjoyed being around Cass and some other people I knew at Eastland County I had known, you know, generations before my folks had known their folks.

**NANCY RAY:** And how do you spell his name ...Caz? Is that what you're saying?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** CASS. Cass Frasier. He uh, I could tell you a lot of stories about him but we'd be here a week. Anyway, at Eastland, uh I hired on over there and made a deal with Ranger Junior College in Cis ..., in Ranger, to teach law enforcement courses over there, criminal investigation courses at Ranger Junior College. And what I did was, I taught classes two nights a week, criminal investigation courses. And then I attended classes two other nights a week, English and things that I needed to finish out my degree. So, two nights I was professor and two nights I was a student every week. And I graduated from Ranger Junior College with an associate's degree and that's all the education I have. But the reason that was important to me is because they had raised the requirements, DPS had raised the requirements, to two years of college, or an associate's degree before you could go to work for the Department and I wanted to have at least that even though I didn't have to you know. With all these years, I just wanted to do it so ...

**NANCY RAY:** So your associate degree is in what?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Criminal Justice, of course.

**NANCY RAY:** Of course. And that's what you taught.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Well, you mentioned something about one of your students and some of the questions that they asked.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Well, this was years later in San Angelo. We're gonna have to quit taking these breaks because that sets us back. But in San Angelo, I was teaching uh courses out there, same kind of courses for the uh police academy, for the Council of Governments. You know they have an academy for the police and sheriff's offices and whoever's interested in

sending people to the police academy training. So I was working for uh the Council of Governments, wasn't actually working for them, I wasn't getting paid I was just going out and teaching courses. And what we were talking about, you and I was, that we forget you know that things that I have forgotten that are so basic that we just don't pay any attention to it and we forget that not everybody knows those things. When they formed sniper teams back in '74, '75 maybe, I was one of the youngest Rangers in the state and one of the newest. So they took the six Ranger companies and made three SWAT teams. And Lubbock and Midland were together, Company C and E went together, and made a SWAT team. And uh in the training uh, I've always been interested in shooting about whatever and so I was interested in being a sniper. They had some fantastic sniper rifles, they were ... and drivers Anyway, I was gonna see if I could be a sniper and Leo Hickman, an old-time Ranger up at Childress, Texas, good Ranger, good Ranger ... but when he was a trooper, when he was a Highway Patrolman, excuse me for saying trooper. I never was a trooper and Leo wasn't either. Leo, I apologize to your city. Uh, he wasn't a trooper, he was a Texas Highway Patrolman. Got shot in the eye and he lost that one eye. So it came time to shoot out for the sniper's job it came down to Leo and me. And I always accused him of cheating because he didn't have to squint one eye, you know, and I did. So he outshot me and he was the sniper, I was the backup. And in that training, they teach you ... of course I was also trained as a hostage negotiator and I was taken hostage one time and I had no negotiator... Uh, your goal is to get out without anybody getting hurt you know. And I guess the secondary goal is to get the hostages out no matter what happens to the bad guys. And you don't want to hurt anybody unless you have to but you know but sometimes it comes to that. So they taught us uh how if you have to shoot somebody and make a kill shot ... how's the best way to do it is to

shoot him right under the nose. And we always used to say in the middle of your mustache, you know. And so one of these guys asked me as a sniper, uh if somebody's holding a gun up to a hostage's head, uh and they're, they have this hostage as a shield and they're holding the gun on them, where can you shoot the person and take him out? He's gonna kill the hostage and I say no, he won't kill the hostage if you shoot him dead center in his mustache. It'll paralyze him and he won't be able to fire a shot. Sounded good to me but it didn't sound too good to him. He said what if he doesn't have a mustache? I looked at him and kept waiting for him to grin or laugh or something but it never happened so I didn't know whether he was serious or not. I told him just shoot him in the head and hope for the best.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh goodness. All right, we're back at Eastland then. Who was your first ... is that where ... did you have the same captain? Your first captain and sergeant, do you remember who they were?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh yes, Captain Jim Riddles was my first captain and I only got to work for him for about five months. Uh, he was almost 65 and they had a mandatory retirement age of 65 and Captain Riddles was worried sick over that. That was all that was on his mind those last days was that ... In fact, the day before he died, he and Sergeant Lynch, who later was to be Captain Lynch, he followed Jim Riddles as our captain. They were taking some furniture up to Snyder for Dee Vickers. Dee's a retired Ranger. He made captain and retired as captain in Dallas. And uh, Dee made it off of the list when I made a Ranger. And they were taking uh his furniture up to Snyder to set up his office and the captain said, told the sergeant to drop me off in Big Spring and he had a cup of coffee with me while he went up there and he could pick him up on the way back. Captain Riddles and I got along real well so ... So he dropped him off and we

went and we were drinking coffee and Captain Riddles was, was really concerned. In fact, he had tears in his eyes and he said, George, I don't know what I'm gonna do. They're gonna make me retire in June, I'm gonna be 65, and I haven't made any plans. I don't have anything set up for retirement. All I ever wanted to do was be a Ranger you know. And they're gonna put me out to pasture ... that's the words he used. They're gonna put me out to pasture and I don't know what I'll do. And he was ... it was a major thing for him. Anyway, we just went on and talked about other things and got off of that and he went on home. And later that night my brother, who was a License and Weight patrolman in Midland, called me and he said are you sitting down? And I said no, but I will and I did. He said your old captain just died. I thought he was talking about my Highway Patrol captain. And I said no, surely not, not Captain Shaw. And he said no, I'm not talking about him. I'm talking about your Ranger captain, Riddles. I said no, I just had coffee with him a while ago, you know. And he said, well he died. And uh he, they said he just pushed back from the table. He ate supper and pushed back from the table and fell out of the chair. Al Mitchell, I think, was with him. When you talk to Al, he knows more about it than I do but old Captain Riddles went to the hospital in Midland or Odessa and they pronounced him dead. And uh, see you asked me a question ... you ask me what time it is and I'll tell you how to build a clock. If you want me to quit doing that, just tell me.

**NANCY RAY:** No, you're just doing fine. OK, in Eastland, did uh...

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Captain Lynch is captain now.

**NANCY RAY:** All right, did you have any major things happen there that you want to talk about?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh yeah. I worked some good cases at Eastland.

**NANCY RAY:** Is there something you can tell us about?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Ah, well the biggest murder investigation I worked in Eastland, I guess, was a guy named Carlisle, who had gotten a divorce from his wife and married a young thing. And uh I hadn't been at Eastland but a little while and the District Attorney called me about two or three in the morning and asked me if I wanted to go out to Scranton with him, which was a few miles uh south and west of Eastland. Actually, at Cisco, still in Eastland County and we went out there. And uh I was new there, I wasn't a new Ranger, I'd been in Eastland about two or three months. So I went with this DA out there and when we were getting out of the car, there was an old justice of the peace over there, I hope I'm not being disrespectful to him, he'd been a judge a long, long time. His voice carried real well at night and I could hear him from the inside saying, well I guess this is the last time this so and so will ever beat up on her, you know. And we got inside and the man was in the middle of the floor in a fetal position and he was really bloody. There was a lot of blood everywhere. And uh he was kind of on his stomach a little bit and he tried to crawl up under a little table there in the bedroom and died in his effort, looked like, to get under that table. And uh the woman who had shot him was his wife and she had been out somewhere and come in at that hour of the morning and they got in an argument and uh she had shot him with a shotgun ... and said that he was beating her up and said that she got loose from him and got in the other room and got the shotgun and shot and killed him. Well I got to looking the scene over and, and evaluated what I could see and uh the window, he had been shot standing in front of the kitchen sink, and he was shot from the back side because he had a lot of damage to the back of his arm and the back, side of his back there next to his arm and his arm was broken, his right arm was broken. But he had a lot of ... that's where all the damage seemed

to be. And the pellets had come out through the kitchen window, broke the glass and went out through the kitchen window and there was a broken glass in the sink that he had obviously dropped when he was shot. So he was shot from the back. And I went and checked the bedroom and only one side of the bed was turned back and that was his side of the bed and his clothes were piled on the floor on that side. And his pillow was indented so he had been in bed and gotten up when she came in. Uh, I'll try not to be too long in the details.

**NANCY RAY:** No, go ahead, you're fine.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Uh, I went with what I had, you know, that he was shot in the back ... still believing that possibly she'd gotten loose from him because there was so much blood. And she had a cut on the back, top of her head and had been bleeding some from the back of her head. She had long, black hair and it was bloody and uh so I went in and uh did my crime scene sketch and all that ... first time I'd ever done one, but I didn't have anybody to do it for me so I had to do it myself. Anyway, just hitting the high points, we arrested her and took her to Eastland. The District Attorney was up by then. We took her in to talk to him and uh she had a reputation of being wild. She wasn't all limited to civilians. And uh, trying to find a way through here that won't make anybody look too bad... But anyway, it was a deputy sheriff with me who had been there when I got there and he was one of the investigators. And the District Attorney, I told him that I thought that the man had been murdered. Maybe it was later when we had this conversation, it probably was. But anyway, he said do you want to file murder charges on her? He asked the deputy first, do you want to charge her with murder? And he said no, I don't think it was murder, I think it was self defense. So he said Ranger, do you want her to be tried for murder? And I said I never have had a District Attorney to ask me if I wanted to file murder

charge on somebody but I believe that's what it is, and yes, that's what I would like to do. Anyway, we were taking her back to Cisco, back to Scranton, and uh she asked the deputy, she called him by name ... and she said she was in the backseat behind him. She said would you promise me that you'll do everything you can to get this taken care of, you know, in the best we can? And he said yes I will. She leaned forward to me and she said uh, George, will you promise me you will do everything that you can to get me out of this? And I said, Mrs. Carlisle, I promise you that I'll do everything in my power to see justice done. And she leaned back against the seat and I was Ranger Frasier from then on, I wasn't George anymore. Uh, what had happened was, the evidence showed that what had happened was, from looking at his hands, he, he was right-handed and his right hand looked OK. His left hand, the knuckles were skinned up and peeled back so he was beating her on the head with his left hand which wasn't right. He was a right-handed person but his right arm was broken. And when she had shot him, he had turned around and there was blood splattered on the floor showing he was pumping blood from an artery, and he went by an outside door and he pumped blood out on the door at the height of where that gunshot was so he had a severed artery. And no use of his right hand. And in fact, I'm convinced that, that she shot him when he was standing at the kitchen sink getting a drink of water and he ran her down to the bedroom and tackled her ... and was in fact beating on her with his left hand, and uh caused some damage. Split her head a little bit but blood analysis at DPS showed that all of this vast amount of blood that was on her clothes was his blood, it wasn't hers. He was on top of her and all of the blood he was losing was soaking her clothes and she was getting all the sympathy because she was so bloody. Nobody thought to, that maybe that was his blood, not hers, and was in fact his. And he had bled out while he was hitting her with his left hand. I had

no support on that. I had nobody working with me on it. I won't go into that but early on, I, I became the only investigator on the thing. And I worked it alone and I drew my own scale diagram and presented my own case in court and carried my own evidence ... and, and did it all myself. And I guess that's why it's one of the most important cases I ever worked because uh, there were some other people involved that, that could have really shaded things up. And I told one or two you know that this is a murder case, this is not some misdemeanor like spitting on a sidewalk. And I'm gonna work it as a murder and I'm gonna see that justice is done with her and if somebody gets in between and they have to get burned, then they're just gonna get burned. And I found myself working it all alone. And uh, she got, I don't know, 30 or 40 years by jury. There were some mistakes made during the trial and uh, the attorney and the district attorney got together and hammered out an agreement that they wouldn't appeal it on any of those things that they were gonna appeal on and she got nine years I think it was, nine or ten years to do. And she went and did it and got out a long time ago. I had a lot of satisfaction in that case because uh if there was a lone Ranger, in fact, I was, I was him.

**NANCY RAY:** You were it. Right.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** And it turned out good and we got her done and so I was real pleased with that. I worked a lot of cases in Eastland, there's a lot goes on in Eastland. In fact, in that whole county, you know, there's a lot goes on there.

**NANCY RAY:** Why is that?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** And uh...

**NANCY RAY:** You said it was different when you went back from when you had grown up.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Well, different for me means that I was just a little boy when I left and the kinfolks that I knew that, that were young then were old were like me, getting older. And ones that I knew then that were old were gone, you know. And that's what had changed, I don't mean the work, I don't know anything about the work years before. But the problems started back in the Ranger oil boom, I'm sure, back in the '20s and '30s, when they struck oil over there and people came in from all over. And, and it just got to be a rowdy place and never has really gotten over it. You know, they still have a lot of, a lot going on in that country over there.

**NANCY RAY:** Sure. Well, how long were you in Eastland?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Four and a half years, roughly.

**NANCY RAY:** So, in... anything else you want to talk about in Eastland?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh, everything was pretty much routine, I guess. I uh, that's where I was taken hostage that was in ...

**NANCY RAY:** Ah, let's hear about that.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** That was in Abilene. I was a hostage negotiator, a trained hostage negotiator. But uh, I was sitting home eating supper one evening, got a phone call ... that's when they usually come, you know. And uh, I was in Eastland and somebody in law enforcement called me from Cisco, ten miles away. Said, a man's got a couple of hostages over here and he's in a house and we need your help. So I got up and went over there. And I got there and the uh, there were two young guys, two young officers. I believe they were sitting on the front porch at that time. I could see the bad guy moving around inside the house, a lot of traffic you know, police had come from all around ... cars and pickups parked around. I got my .45 out and was waiting, watching through the windows and seeing what I could see. And another officer, a Cisco

police officer, came up and said I want to talk to you a minute so I went over there to talk to him, over behind a pickup. And he kind of ran it down a little bit to me what had happened and ... and so then I went back up there and resumed my position. And when I got back there, the bad guy and the chief of police, whom I knew, were coming out the front door. Side by side and, and the bad guy had his hand behind his back. They stepped out on the front porch and I'm seeing the chief of police standing there and this guy that I didn't know, a big dude, standing there beside him and his hands are behind his back and I *assumed* ... that's something you learn better than to do ... but I assumed that he had handcuffs on those hands behind his back. But in fact, he had a .44 magnum in his hand. And uh, so they stepped out on the front steps and I holstered my .45 and started walking up there and when I got on the sidewalk, I ... this chief of police was kind of giving me a little motion with his hand down by his side so I stopped. And when I stopped, the guy came out with the .44 and told me to come on up there. And I went up on the porch and there were people standing all around, just like sheep, like there always are at things like that. And uh so he, these two officers that were sitting on the front steps, he had them sitting out there in case anybody rushed him, they had to come past them. And he had told them, I think, that he'd shoot them if anything happened to ... So they're sitting there and the chief is hostage. So I'm on the front porch and he turned them loose. He turned, he told those two guys to get up and hook 'em and uh he turned the chief of police loose and he said come on inside with me, talking to me. And he, I told him I don't think so and he said I hear you Texas Rangers are tough so and so's ... and I said I don't know about that. And uh so he was waving the gun around, never did point it right at me but he was waving it around and he said, come on inside with me and I told him I don't think that's a good idea. And he said you're coming in with me so I decided maybe it was a

good idea. (laughter) We went in the house and we talked a long time and I used all of my skills that I had been taught as a hostage negotiator and talked him out of his pistol. He handed it to me. And uh what I was scared was, he was gonna accidentally shoot me because it was a single-action cowboy type of a gun.

**NANCY RAY:** OK... all right, we're gonna finish with the hostage story.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** OK, I'm gonna try to make it a little more brief.

**NANCY RAY:** That's OK.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** This guy's a whole lot bigger than I was but he was a whole lot drunker too. He had shot his drinking buddy in the leg and uh he died four or five days later. That's why they were there, gone out to investigate that. I talked him into handing me the gun, I was afraid his fingers were gonna slip off the handle because he kept cocking it and letting it down, you know. And he was standing right in front of me and I was afraid he was pretty *unknown word* and I was...

**NANCY RAY:** Say that word again.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** And I thought his thumb was gonna

**NANCY RAY:** What was that word?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Drunk.

**NANCY RAY:** No... OK.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I thought his thumb was gonna slip, I was afraid his thumb was gonna slip off the hammer and accidentally shoot me, you know. So he handed me his gun and I got him in one hand and his pistol in another and I started walking him out of the house. And he stopped in the living room and he said let's go in here and have a cold drink first. Said you're

arresting me? And I said yeah. He said let's go in here and have a soda water first, that's the word he used. And I'm not too smart but I know most people don't keep soda waters in their bedroom, right? So I told him no, you're coming on out with me and he jerked loose of me and lunged through the door and uh got a little .380 automatic off the chest of drawers, just inside the door, and swung that around in my direction and instead of shooting him with his own gun, like John Wayne would have done, I dropped his gun in the floor and grabbed his gun hand and waltzed him around, both of my hands on his gun hand, and I waltzed him around and out into the other room and finally got him down on the floor. But he's face down and the gun's under him and a .380 is not gonna shoot through him and he weighed about 250... But I couldn't get him, you know, and I was tired, and I ... and he was big and I couldn't do anything with him. And I told him to give it up, told him to give it up. There was just one other guy and his wife inside by then. They had come in doing their business. And uh he wouldn't give up the pistol. And uh so I told this other guy that was inside there to go out front and tell some of those officers to get in here and help me. And he ran out there and he came right back and said nobody's out there, Ranger, they're all down in the next block. So I pulled my .45 out, he never disarmed me, so I pulled my .45 out and stuck it up where it would do the most good and I told him, you know, I'm tired. The game's over, you're gonna let me have that gun or I'm gonna really mess you up. And uh his wife went to screaming and he turned loose of the gun and I got it out from under him ... and took him in custody. That was one of the most exciting things that ever happened to me, I guess. But...

**NANCY RAY:** Was that the most afraid you had ever been or...

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh no. I wasn't really afraid during that time. I got a little nervous after it was over. But while it was going on, I was amazed at how calm I was.

**NANCY RAY:** Really.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I talked to him like we're talking here, you know, until the situation was taken care of and then I got a little uneasy. But the newspaper tried to make a hero out of me... they said you know that he had the chief and two officers hostage and, and he turned them loose and took the Ranger. Well, actually, that's not what they said. That's what happened but what they said was a Ranger came on the scene and went inside and about 30 minutes later, he came out with the bad guy in custody. And I had to tell them, you know, he had three city officers and he just decided he'd trade them three for me. And I didn't go in there to be a hero, he got the drop on me or I wouldn't have been in there, you know. Uh I had no intention of trading myself for anybody. I wouldn't trade myself for them now you know (laughter) ... all three of them, they're good guys you know...

**NANCY RAY:** *but..*

**GEORGE FRASIER:** (laughter) That would be a bad trade on my part. Anyway, it worked out. And then they uh ... I had told Lieutenant Lynch, uh Sergeant Lynch who was now my captain, that Arthur Sikes in San Angelo, was the oldest Ranger in Company E, when I went in the service ... and I told him if Arthur ever leaves, I'd like to have San Angelo because my wife liked Eden so much and it was real close. So when it came open, well he called me and said I remember you telling me one time, said years ago or something like that, that you wanted San Angelo if it came open, and it's open. And I called Joe Hunt, I'd decided that I didn't want to move and Joe's up at Shallowater, and that's his hometown. So I called Joe, told him San Angelo

is open if you want it, put in a request. He said I just built a new house and all. I'm not ready to move. So he sat there a few days and I decided I'll just go myself, then. So I called the Captain. I went to San Angelo and then Joe decided he wanted to go but I already had it done then. So he had put his off until I retired and he took my place when I retired.

**NANCY RAY:** So you went to San Angelo but that was an established station.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes ma'am.

**NANCY RAY:** All right, how is that different?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** It was a bigger town and I had more country. I had seven counties that I worked alone, out of San Angelo. That county and six more. It was different because there was more going on all the time. And they had a good police department and a good sheriff's department and I don't mean that the small places didn't have good ones, but they were small ... and usually one or two deputies you know. And San Angelo had a good sheriff's department and a good police department. They didn't really need me that much but in these outlying counties, like Brock and Robert Lee and Sonora and Eldorado and Mertzson around like that, I had all the work I needed to do. And really enjoyed it.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what did you enjoy the most?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** In San Angelo?

**NANCY RAY:** Um hmm.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I think I ... the most I enjoyed ... course I enjoyed just being the local Ranger and working with the other law enforcement agencies and all. But I think most of all, San Angelo, I just liked the town and I liked the people. San Angelo is comparable in size to Midland and Odessa but it's not like Midland and Odessa. It doesn't seem like a big town, it seems like a

small country town. And the people are the friendliest and uh, I just love San Angelo. If I could pick out a place on the Texas map this morning, if you spread one out here and said you can live wherever you want to, where do you want to ... put it right there in San Angelo. But I let my boy, I sold my boy my house out there that I was gonna retire in. He's living in it now, had an acre and a little place and that was my dream to retire there.

**NANCY RAY:** So you did retire in San Angelo?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes ma'am.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, before you retired, let's talk about some of your cases. Do you have anything that really stands out ... in your mind?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** No, I just kind of fooled around. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** I don't quite believe that.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Uh, there was a lot going on. Uh, I'd like to talk about my ministry sometime in this.

**NANCY RAY:** We definitely want to do ... as soon as we get you retired, we're gonna do that.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I don't want to use all the tape on San Angelo.

**NANCY RAY:** If there's nothing outstanding that you want to mention about San Angelo...

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Let me think. I worked a lot of good cases in San Angelo and some of them were pretty big time cases. But every one of them that I remember, I was working with the police department investigators or with the sheriff's office investigators. Uh one I guess that I remember as well as any ... I never worked any undercover you know. I was Highway Patrol, a motor jockey and then Highway Patrolman and then a Ranger. I never worked undercover. Never figured I could you know, because I don't like long hair and I don't like big mustaches and I

don't like dopeheads and I couldn't see me walking into a room full of users and my lip not curling back and the hair getting up on the back of my neck ... giving me away. So I never worked undercover. I got a, a detective came to me, a police detective I believe ... maybe it was someone from the DA's office. We had a bunch of oilfield stuff stolen, all in one bunch. And uh they wanted me to pose as a buyer, an equipment buyer, and uh work up a deal for a guy to buy this oilfield equipment. So we got a buyer together for this oilfield equipment and one city detective and I, who was a great guy. He's dead now, he's been gone a long time but... Our plan was we were gonna go out, we were gonna meet them at a little old place down on the Concho River, out of the way place, and they were gonna bring the stuff out there, you know. And, and we were gonna meet out there and make a pay off so ... another guy was gonna pay them off and so Emert and I, this detective and I laid down in the back of the pickup. And our plan was, we had shotguns, flashlights, and he was gonna drive us in amongst the stuff and then when the guy come to exchange the oilfield equipment, we were gonna say April Fools, you know, and jump out of the back of the pickup and capture them. So there were about, I think, three of them. They had stuff hanging in trees out there. They'd hoisted it up in the trees, some elevators and stuff, big heavy stuff. And we got out there, there were some tongs and some elevators and other oilfield stuff. And when we got out there, the guy driving the pickup went and they made their deal and all and Emert and I lay in the back of that pickup for, seemed like forever, you know. And finally they walked up there by the pickup and we raised up and pulled our shotguns and took them in custody and all. And uh, that was probably one of the high points because it was a little more exciting than knocking on doors and asking questions and following tracks you know. The Rangers are not all exciting you know.

**NANCY RAY:** Right.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** There's lots of, a lot of routine stuff that's just not all that exciting. That was fun and then I worked with Narcotics and we kicked a few doors and uh ... After I went into the ministry full-time...

**NANCY RAY:** Was that after you retired?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes.

**NANCY RAY:** And what year did you retire?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** In '93.

**NANCY RAY:** '93, OK.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Uh, I told you there were three of us retired there at the same time. We'd gone through school together. I felt a call to, to the ministry. I wasn't old enough to retire and I loved working in the Rangers and everything was good, but I was going to this little ole small church there. Uh, it was just about taking their last breath. I was teaching an adult Sunday School class and that's about all the people that came were in that class. So they got to calling me their pastor and I would tell them I'm not your pastor. God has not called me to preach. I'm a Texas Ranger and that's all I want to be and that's all I'm gonna be. I'll keep teaching your class and that's all I'm gonna do. But they persisted and I told them I'd pray about it and that was my mistake. Because I did pray about it, and I felt like that's what He did want me to do. Well, this was on down the road though. I tried to pastor that little old church, or preach for them, because it was a group of people you know that I knew. And uh so I was just trying to kind of hold the church together. I preached for them on Sundays when I could and I was a Ranger the rest of the time. The district superintendent for the Church of the Nazarene in San Antonio called me one

night. And he said George, I've got this little church over at Ballinger that's just about to fold and I need somebody real badly just to go over there and just hold services. Preach in the morning on Sunday, go back in the evening ... I didn't know anybody at Ballinger. He said, would you go over there and uh preach for them? And I told him, Doc, I'm not a preacher. God hasn't called me to preach, I'm a Ranger. And he said I know that. I said I didn't go to school, I don't have any credentials. He said I know that ... doesn't make any difference. He said I was praying about it last night and he said don't hear me saying that God told me you're the man but he said I was praying about it last night and you came to mind. He had been sitting in my class a lot, him and his wife both. He said you came to mind and I think you'd do a good job. So I told him OK, I'll do it with the understanding you know that I'll just go over there and hold service for them on Sunday morning and Sunday night and then I'm gone. I did that a couple of months and they fired me (laughter). Got fired from my volunteer job, how's that for credentials? Anyway, there were two factions. As little as the church was, there were two factions. I'd get them all to the altar on Sunday morning and they'd pray and hug each other and slap each other on the back and by the time I got back to San Angelo, they were .... So one side called me one Sunday right after I got home and said Brother Frasier, we have come to the point that we feel like we can make it OK without you and we just won't need you to come over anymore. And I told him that's fine with me, wasn't my idea to begin with you know. So I called the district superintendent and told him I just got fired from my volunteer job and he asked me what happened and I told him just what I told you. They can't get along except on Sunday morning and uh he said would you consider if I just give you full authority over that church to do whatever you want to do, would you consider just doing it for a month? And I said no sir, I won't

even consider it. I've already been over there and this is what happened and God has not called me to preach and I certainly can't work any miracles. So, no, I won't even consider that. He said OK. Lo and behold, the big church, San Angelo First Church ... a lady called me, the secretary, and she said Brother George, I know that you're preaching over at... I'm still a Ranger, full time. She said Brother George, I know that you're busy over at Ballinger but our pastor has resigned. I wonder if you would fill in for us until we get a pastor? I told her I'll talk to the Lord about it. I ended up filling in for them, they quit looking for a pastor and months later, I'm still preaching to them on Sunday doing the Ranger work all week and I'd just preach on Sunday morning, that's all. But they wanted to call me to be their pastor and I told them the same old thing you know, God has not called me to do that. I'm not a preacher, I'm a Texas Ranger, that's all I want to be. Well, they finally ... I told them I'm gonna have to quit coming, it's just too involved, you're gonna have to call you a pastor and they did. They called a wonderful pastor they should have had months before. And he came in and lo and behold, the next week the secretary from my home church, Trinity Nazarene Church, where I had been teaching before, they called and they said Brother George, we know that you're busy over at First Church but our pastor resigned and we wonder if you might share your time between First Church and our church. And I told them well their pastor, they got a pastor and he's gonna be here next Sunday and I'll be glad to fill in for you for a while. Same thing, they didn't, they quit looking for anybody and they started calling me Pastor George and so I was still holding them at an arm's length. I think everybody that I knew, knew that God wanted me to preach except me. So, I'm gonna get emotional here (*emotional moment*).

**NANCY RAY:** That's OK.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** So I was holding them at arm's length and telling them you know, I'll preach for you on Sunday, as long as the Lord wants me to ... but no I won't be your pastor, you need to call somebody. Finally one Saturday, I was reading the Bible and getting ready for Sunday. A little lady in the church called me and she said Brother George, I, I was reading a magazine, the church magazine, and I ran across something that I feel like the Lord wanted me to share with you. I said OK, let's hear it. She said uh it went like this, and I can't quote it, I got it in my Bible. She said that God called men to the ministry by different means. Some, like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, he called them while they're in the womb and they know when they come into the world they have been called to the ministry. Others are more like the Apostle Paul you know, they go on about their business and God blinds them with a light and strikes them down and calls them in the ministry, which I guess is something like what I'd been waiting on. And she said most of the time, she was reading the article and it said most of the time, men are led into the ministry just by a gentle leading of the spirit and opening and closing of doors that just seem like they just led into it. That was more than I could stand. I knew that's what I'd been waiting for (*emotional moment*). So, to make a long story as short as I can, I retired from the Rangers and took this... well, I didn't retire then, let me back up. This was in June, no it was in February. So I didn't retire then, I told them... I don't remember exactly at what point I told them I would be their pastor, I think that was June. I had been involved in that Waco fiasco down there at the Branch Davidian, driving back and forth, and I was preaching for them then but I hadn't accepted the call, that's right. This was over in June, all that behind us, and that's when she read me that. That's when I knew I needed to do it and so I resigned and, I mean I retired. And I told the church board, I will consider being your pastor if you will call the district

superintendent and let him bring whoever he has that's looking for a church and present them to you and you introduce them and me and let God show you who he wants. So he brought the names down and, and was in the church board and I'm sitting outside (*emotional moment*) ... one of the church board members stuck her head out the door and gave me a thumbs up. She said we're gonna get you, George.... So anyway, that's the way it turned out. They voted unanimously to call me to be the pastor. So the old church was in bad repair, had one old swamp cooler in the back window and a carpet that was wore out. Everything was in bad repair. I'm still drawing a Ranger's salary so I didn't need the money so I told them... we started talking about salary and I told them we're not gonna talk about salary, you don't pay me anything as long as I'm a Ranger. And when I retire, then you can pay me but up until then, you promise me that you take whatever you were gonna pay a preacher and put in this old building. And they did and God blessed us. We were in an old building built in 1949 and those pews were still there and they were peeling on the ends. And the old carpet was worn out and when you're sitting out there ... if you get bored with the preacher and look at the ceiling it would scare you because the tiles were getting loose you know and sagging. And the Lord blessed us with the money to put new ceilings and central heating and air conditioning and new carpet. And I got the church board and went to Brownwood and we paid cash for new padded pews throughout that church. No credit to me. They didn't have any money and I didn't have any money and I still don't know where it came from. But it came and we paid cash as we went and we did that old church and just had a ball. Our attendance went up from 15 or 20 to a hundred over four years. We were going great guns and then a church in Austin called me there to a bigger church in Austin. And so I said goodbye to Trinity Church and I still second-guess myself now and again about that you know. I

prayed about it and I felt like it was the thing to do. And it was all settled in my mind, I can leave it, it's in good shape. We got money in the bank and somebody else can come in and they can just take it and run with it and I can take this other church, which had been a big church, but it was down to nearly nothing. And I can go and the Lord will do it again there and we'll have two good churches. But that didn't happen. I never did uh make it big time in Austin. We gained some but not a whole lot. And I stayed there two years and I really was out of my element because I couldn't go visit people and make chili and take it to them when it was cold you know. Uh someone would come and visit my church and I'd call them after church and say you know, we're sure glad to have you in service this morning, when would be a good time for me to come by and get acquainted with you and visit with you? And one man told me this straight out, man and his wife and two or three little kids. I called him and I said, I identified myself and I said we were sure glad to see you in church, when can I come by and sit down and visit with you and get acquainted? And he said there's not a good time to do that. He said I get up early in the morning and I, it takes me an hour and a half, two hours in that traffic to get to my office downtown and I sit in front of a computer all day and then it takes me that long to get home in the evening. And I get my shoes off and lean back and have a cold one and I don't want to talk to you or anybody else and there's no good time to do that. And he didn't say it hateful, he just told me that's they way it is. And I got to looking and that is the way it was and that's the way it was with just about everybody I associated with. So I told that church, they had just given me an extended call, and I told them you know I'm out of my element here you know. You need somebody that, that knows how to work in this kind of situation. And besides that, my mother was in this church right here and she's getting old and she was diabetic and I'm running to Coleman and taking her to the

doctor all the time because I'm the oldest and the closest one of the kids. So, another church down south tried to call me and uh, in Uvalde is where it was, they had a really good active church. They called me and I went down and looked at it ... wanted to go and prayed about it, got a dull thud ... called them and told them the Lord didn't want me to go to Uvalde. They called me again, they said it's a mistake, come on down. I went down, interviewed again, prayed about it, the Lord just ... just didn't feel anything. So I'm standing in front of a mirror shaving one morning and I was talking to the Lord while I was shaving, I do that a lot. I hope you don't think I'm crazy. I was standing in front of the mirror and I was telling the Lord you know, where I'd really like to go is Coleman. They don't have any money, they don't have any people and the little old church is about ready to close and, but I know that's selfish of me because my mother's there, and she needed me there. And I know that's a, a selfish idea. And just as clear as if you'd a told me you know ... go to Coleman. So I went down with half a shave and picked up the phone and called the district superintendent. Told him, asked him are you sitting down and he said no, I will be in a minute. So he said OK, I'm sitting down and I said Dr. Blankenship, I, if the Lord will allow it and if the people will allow it, I want to go to Coleman. I just turned down a big church down there twice and he knew that, what seemed like a good deal. He said George, I know they'll take you but he said why don't you pray about it tonight and I'll pray about it and you call me back tomorrow. And I told him, Dr. Blankenship, if you need to pray about it you do that but I've already taken care of that ... and I want to go to Coleman. So he said OK, if that's what you want, let me make a phone call. He called and asked me, when can you be there? It was really funny because he said that old church in Coleman is nearly a hundred years old, we'll celebrate next year. He said that church is nearly a hundred years old and there's nine people left

in it and when you get there, you're gonna swear that all nine of them are charter members. It wasn't that bad, I didn't have anybody a hundred. But my wife and I were the youngest couple in church, and I turned 60 that month. Uh, so I pastored here four and a half years and we had been successful, believe it or not the old building is not much but it is a whole lot better than it was one time. But the important thing is we haven't filled it up with people but it was a time when it just about was and I had some physical problems and I turned 65 and I wanted to retire in San Angelo, like I told you, and I had a place paid for. Ten miles out on some acreage and I'd remodeled it, had a fireplace and everything we wanted in it so I, I resigned and I was gonna move to San Angelo, take that house ... I had let my boy have it, my youngest boy, and he transferred to Bronte and it was rented out and he was losing money on it every month and needed to get rid of it. I wanted it so I went back and took it back from him. Moved into it, remodeled it, spent all I had on it, sold my Jeep, gonna retire in San Angelo. Couldn't sell my house here in Coleman, property doesn't sell very good here. Put my house up for sale and it didn't sell. In six months, I signed another contract and it didn't sell in another six months. My son was pastoring a church in San Angelo at that time, oldest boy, never owned a house because he'd been a preacher all this time. So I told my wife, she wanted to be in Coleman, no secret. She'd go wherever I wanted but she ... So I, I prayed about it. (*emotional moment*) I've learned to do that about everything and uh so I talked to the Lord about it and I decided... and I told my wife, I'm gonna do like Gideon did in the Bible. I'm gonna put out a fleece you know and uh I'm gonna put a "for sale by owner" sign in both yards and whichever one doesn't sell, is the one we're gonna live in. She said OK. So the next morning I was in a meeting with my son Russ, the oldest one, he was pastoring Trinity Church where I used to be. So I told him what I just told you

and he said, OK Dad. You know, I sure wish I could afford that house at Crib Creek. And I told him, you can. So I owed a little money on it at the credit union so I told him, you go down and talk to the loan officer down there and tell him if he'll transfer it from my name to your name, and you just take up the payments, I'll move back to Coleman. And he did and I did so he kept the place that I really wanted to retire in. And I guess I was kind of whining to the Lord about it after I got back to Coleman, you know, because it looked like He had it all set up where I could retire where I really wanted to be on my conditions you know. The house I wanted, the place I wanted, the town I wanted. I had it all together. And then I moved back to Coleman and I was talking to the Lord about that and, like I said, I must have ... probably whining a little bit about why did you let me get set up so good and then end up back here. I don't know if He told me or if I just figured it out but I came to the conclusion that that move wasn't about me, it was about my boys. Scotty had a house that he needed to get rid of, it was eating him up. And I took it off of his hands and did a lot of work, remodeled it, fixed it up. Rusty didn't have a house and he needed one. He got it and I'm back where I started from. I'm a few dollars poorer than I was ... but that's just like the Lord told me you know, this is not about you this is about your boys, so...

**NANCY RAY:** So that's how you are here.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Here I am.

**NANCY RAY:** Here you are.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** So we had a great young pastor here with a beautiful and talented wife and three of the sweetest little kids you ever saw in your life. And uh they got called to another church. The good ones don't stay long generally, you know. And he's a young man with his whole future in front of him ... Bible college graduate and uh they called him to Baytown. So of

course he tells me the DS wants to know would you fill in until they can get somebody? Well I just live three blocks away you know and...

**NANCY RAY:** Here you are.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** So I told him with the understanding that you will get somebody, that you'll interview people, that you will hire them a pastor, I'll preach until you get somebody. That was in April and they uh interviewed a couple and didn't call them. And finally one day he called me from... he was getting on the plane somewhere to go somewhere else, the DS, and he called me and said George, I hate to do this to you. I know you didn't want to pastor full time but would you consider taking that church back full time? Said you're what, you're who the people want, you know them and they love you and you love them and uh sure looks like the best thing all around. So I told him sure will.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, you're making a difference.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Here I am.

**NANCY RAY:** Here you are.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** And I love it. I'm having a good time.

**NANCY RAY:** That's good. Well that also fits in though, you're also the chaplain for the Ranger...

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Yes ma'am. Chaplain for the Rangers was kind of an honorary position. And the guy who was chaplain, no disrespect to him, he's a neat guy and I like him OK but Homer Garrison, Jr. gave him his chaplain badge back in the '50s and he's been chaplain ever since. And I had never seen him in all the years I've been a Ranger, once or twice, and never in the role of a chaplain. And so I told the senior captain when I retired, I told him you know, this

old boy must be getting on up in years and I think the chaplain for the Rangers probably ought to be a minister. After all, that's what a chaplain is and uh a minister who has been a Ranger can do more good with other Rangers than someone from the outside. That guy'd never been a Ranger. He was just a preacher all his life you know. So the senior bought that and made me assistant. Uh, just made a place for me as assistant and the guy retired and I became full time chaplain in '94. And then the other group down here, the former Texas Rangers, asked me if I'd be their chaplain and I did and so I'm chaplain of the whole thing. And now Clayton is working with me.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. So, you are, I also heard you are very good at marksmanship, is that right? Is that something else that keeps you busy?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Oh, I wouldn't say that.

**NANCY RAY:** You wouldn't say that?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I shoot just enough to qualify once a year to keep my commission.

**NANCY RAY:** That's good. Well I want to ask you, briefly, if uh someone looks at this video or reads this document you know, down the road in the future, uh what would you want them to hear from you... what is your legacy to them?

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Uh, I would like for my role as a chaplain and as a minister to at least have equal time as a Ranger because it's ever bit as exciting and it's ever bit as rewarding as what I did in the Ranger service. I'd like to be remembered as the Ranger who was a preacher.

**NANCY RAY:** I would say that's a good one. I want to thank you for your time and we both thank you for your service to the state.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Thank you.

**NANCY RAY:** And I've enjoyed it very much.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** I've enjoyed it. I talked a lot more than I ever thought I could.

**NANCY RAY:** You have a lot to say.

**GEORGE FRASIER:** Probably way too much.

**NANCY RAY:** No, thank you very much.