

Interview with

Ted Poling
Texas Ranger, Retired

©2015, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum



Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum
Waco, Texas

2013



Sponsored in Part by a Grant from the
Texas Ranger Association Foundation

Copyright 2015, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. All Rights Reserved. This file may not be changed, re-distributed, sold, rented, or modified without the permission of the Director_Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, PO Box 2570, Waco, TX 76702.

Transcript edited for clarity and abridged for relevance.
Full transcript on file at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, Waco, Texas.

Interviewer: Thank you for visiting with us today; may we have your full name and where you currently live.

Ted Poling: We will go with Ted W. Poling, Dallas, Texas.

Interviewer: Where were you born?

Ted Poling: I was born in Hollis, Oklahoma, but this is a long story. My mother went into labor and went not even 3 miles across [the Oklahoma state line] to the closest hospital which was in Hollis, Oklahoma, Jackson County, instead of going to a Childress County hospital. I was only there 3 days but I have been marked with being born in Oklahoma, it hurts, I have tried to get it changed, they won't do it, it's really expensive.

Ted Poling: I can't even say I am a true Texan!

Interviewer: Who were your parents?

Ted Poling: My parents were Bill Poling who died when he was [57], great man. My mother [is] Goldie Poling.

Interviewer: How old were you when he died?

Ted Poling: He was 57,... I was 38, there is 19 years difference between me and him. It is. My dad and I were best friends; in fact he was the best man at my wedding.

Interviewer: Do you have siblings?

Ted Poling: I have a sister.

Interviewer: Where does she live?

Ted Poling: She lives in Washington state.

Interviewer: Have you always lived in Texas?

Ted Poling: No, I lived in Iowa for four months, I got back as I could.

Interviewer: Where did you go to high school?

Ted Poling: Childress High School.

Interviewer: Did you like Childress?

Ted Poling: Not after I moved to the city. I liked it when I was growing up and didn't particularly care if I stayed there, but it seems like I crossed with that town several times.

Interviewer: What subject did you like in high school?

Ted Poling: I liked math, I liked Texas history but I cared less.

Ted Poling: I did take it and I did like it.

Interviewer: You know William Vickers?

Ted Poling: Yes, I do, he is one of my captains.

Interviewer: Texas History was his favorite.

Ted Poling: Oh! my goodness, he is a great guy.

Interviewer: Yeah, what did you like about him?

Ted Poling: Vickers? Honest upfront, sit down and talk to him, he would listen to what you have to say, he asked me about a person called Diamond, I said no, I don't think you want to ask me, I am the wrong person because I am going to tell you the truth, he said that's what I want. I said I don't think you can handle the truth, captain. He said, I can, and I told him the truth and he said, right. Very, very good guy.

Interviewer: You are not just stamped out as far as Rangers but all of you seem to have the same qualities, humility, strength and character and honest and loyal.

Ted Poling: I don't know, if you can see that when they are interviewing you but yes you are right, lot of strong personalities.

Interviewer: Have a kind of aura about them when they walk in the room, there is something that kind of makes the conversation stop.

Ted Poling: Right now I am doing some security work ... Stratco Security because I am managing 307 guards, and lot of them are police officers and I walked in and this guy says 'you are not a guard' I said what. He said, 'you are not a guard, you are somebody. I don't know why he said it.

Ted Poling: We don't obviously on each other, that was shocking he said that and then you said this.

Interviewer: Yeah, there is just a difference, [it] is clean-cut, there is a 'I am here to take care of things, you don't have to worry about anything' that runs through the whole organization.

Ted Poling: You are right.

Interviewer: And I wonder if it's a certain type of person that's attracted to the Rangers or if the Rangers weed out people who are not like that ...

Ted Poling: I don't know, when I was a little boy Texas Rangers was big with me and I got an old book and I had it signed by all the Rangers and in service, it's about that big and it's a regional book and stories of Texas Rangers; I guess it will pass –

Interviewer: Do you have children?

Ted Poling: I do. Three.

Interviewer: And they are how old?

Ted Poling: The eldest one is he will be 40. Middle one is my assistant in the businesses we have now. The middle one is 37 and he is in DPS narcotics.

Interviewer: Does he want to be a Texas Ranger?

Ted Poling: I don't know.

Interviewer: How long do you have to be in DPS?

Ted Poling: Eight years, I believe.

Interviewer: And the third one?

Ted Poling: And the third one is 33 and he is an ordained minister.

Interviewer: Three boys.

Interviewer: I understand that. Did you go to college?

Ted Poling: Yes, I did. That time it was West Texas State University and now I think it's West Texas A&M. It's in [Canyon]

Interviewer: We need to talk about all of those things. Were you involved in extracurricular activities in high school?

Ted Poling: Everything that had to do with sports.

Interviewer: What's your favorite sport?

Ted Poling: Football.

Interviewer: Who is your team?

Ted Poling: Right now?

Interviewer: Uh-umm.

Ted Poling: College football.

Interviewer: College football and pro.

Ted Poling: In high school?

Interviewer: Just college and pro.

Ted Poling: College, I guess I would probably go with Texas University, really the old Southwest Cowboys team, have a love for it and I keep up with them.

Interviewer: I am so happy about them doing the southwest.

Ted Poling: Damn it, I keep up with TCU, Rise, even Arkansas, I am telling you and yeah, and the pro team is the Cowboys

Interviewer: Do you play baseball?

Ted Poling: I played baseball but not in high school.

Interviewer: College?

Ted Poling: No. One of the guys that roomed with me in a dorm, wanted to start a team and wanted me to part of it. My playing days are over.

Interviewer: Were you in DPS for a while then before you went into being a Texas Ranger?

Ted Poling: I was a trooper for 13 years, highway patrol sergeant for 12 years.

Interviewer: Where?

Ted Poling: In Childress for 12 and I was in Ennis, Pampa, and Corona. So out of that really no one thought that I would come out of highway patrol being there 25 years.

Interviewer: What made you decide that?

Ted Poling: You are not going to believe it. Captain says I want to be here. And I said Leo, I got kids and they are all in school and they are going to – they might not even survive if they can't go to school here in Childress. Oh! I tell you what I am going to do, I am going to retire at this day, he said, I want you to get to studying, when you retire you can just slip right in here. Well, then I did that and got on the list and it's coming up time for him to retire and me to be promoted to Ranger and he has me over for this little cookout and I think that's great. He says get your beer and come on, and so we get out there and he says, I got to tell you something, I am not going to retire, if they try to make me I am going to civil. That's the transition, he was the first one to challenge to get to work past 65 and I don't blame him and here I am on the list and

one of the things I would have never done is taken the test probably if I had known I didn't have the good chance on Childress but then my honor was at stake and I would not turn down at the motion, so anyway.

Interviewer: So, where were you? Where did they send you?

Ted Poling: They sent me right down, well, it's Hurst, Texas, that's where the office was. When he said Hurst, Maury said your station is going to be Hurst and I said, where? You don't want to go there? I just don't know where Hurst is. Fort Worth, go to Fort Worth. When you are from the country Panhandle, you don't know the difference, that's Dallas and Fort Worth, you know, we took our vacations to come down here, go to Six Flags and if we got enough money we would go watch baseball. Anyway, that's how I ended up there, stayed for 12 years.

Interviewer: 12 years in that area.

Ted Poling: You know what? 11, at 12, was highway patrol sergeant in Childress, 11, I did 9 years in Corona. I guess if I ever get into place, I hate to leave.

Interviewer: Well, Keller is a little like Childress, isn't it?

Ted Poling: Keller, no, ma'am, Keller right now has four 5A schools.

Interviewer: It's north of the airport.

Ted Poling: No, it's south – it's kind of barely southwest of there, when you go on Interstate 35 and you go outside Fort Worth, there used to be nothing on the right and now you see thousands of these huge homes, that's just a part of it. They are out there are and there four 5A schools and a 4A school in Keller, Texas, unbelievable.

Interviewer: That whole cosmopolitan whatever you want to call it has just exploded.

Ted Poling: Yes, it has.

Interviewer: Keller used to be like Childress. It was a nice little town. What was your first case as a Ranger?

Ted Poling: The first case?

Interviewer: The first one you remember.

Ted Poling: The first murder I investigated, he had committed several murders and had been in penitentiary for some time.

Interviewer: And he did it again.

Ted Poling: Charlie Wood, he did, he killed his dad as a matter of fact, and I get called over there, this dude, Oh! Mercy, I worked with Leo in some cases and stuff like that. This is one of the sorriest ones, cold blooded and when you kill your dad you had to be pretty cold blooded

Interviewer: When you work on something like that who taught you how to investigate that, or did you just learn?

Ted Poling: They send you to schools and stuff, but that probably doesn't prepare you, lot of it, you just accumulate a lot of knowledge as you are going through law enforcement, whether you are a patrolmen, whatever you are doing and then the interviews and stuff like that you do as a highway patrol because you are interviewing people that have drugs, some have criminal history, some of them are want and you learn how to interview without being sent to interview schools and that's what's something they really need to do.

Interviewer: Maybe that's one of the reasons why they have people spend that much time in DPS.

Ted Poling: Yes, 8 years of experience, you got to have that.

Interviewer: You know when people are lying to you?

Ted Poling: Yes, ma'am I do. My kids hide it.

Interviewer: I bet they do.

Ted Poling: I went to school, I said, I am not – if you write me something down, I said I am going to be able to tell if you are lying, Oh! this is not fair, dad, this is not fair. Anyway, I love them to death but they provided me four granddaughters and I have got one on the way.

Interviewer: Nothing like being a grandparent.

Ted Poling: Oh! my gosh, they are so spoiled.

Interviewer: Of course that's what grandparents are for.

Ted Poling: The oldest one is – her dad is in DPS, went over to see him, she said, I sat down beside her, she used to call be Baba, she said, do you have any chocolate chip cookies? I said you don't, how come, she said, we are poor. Oh! my gosh, my kid in DPS, he didn't get her chocolate chip cookies, I bought her now, all kind of cookies and ice-creams and I told him you can't have any, this is just for her.

Interviewer: She loved it, right.

Ted Poling: Yeah he is typically Poling, Oh! you can't have any, of course we are poor.

Interviewer: You have a great sense of humor, does that help as far as stress relief?

Ted Poling: I guess so, you deal with it when you are there, and if you can't laugh about it later on, it will build up and it will explode.

Interviewer: Was that murder case one of the worst you handled or were there others that were?

Ted Poling: I was in Waco for that [Branch Davidian] deal. I did the first initial body cam, ITF and there is a lot of ITF and FBI people, they had some problems and they brought in some psychiatrist and they were going to help us get over it and I interviewed some of them, it is cold blooded, Oh! my gosh, they said, if you need help call us. Well, that part they didn't understand, when you go to work in DPS, you immediately start dealing with death, some of them die right there where you are at because of automobile accidents and death – if you couldn't have dealt with that, then you couldn't have been a highway patrolman, the number of deaths you would have to deal with.

Interviewer: When did you decide you wanted to be a Ranger? I know you took the test, you went in there and out of honor you took the job.

Ted Poling: Well, I took the job because I really wanted to be a Ranger all the time. I was raised – my parents raised me, they didn't go anywhere that they couldn't take their kids and we pretty well passed that on as we were raising our kids and I felt compelled not to take them where they couldn't be successful and in a smaller town, I felt at that time, hey, I would get them the best chance I could afford for them to be successful. After I finally took the test and moved I had one that was going to be a freshman and he excelled when I moved, and I am thinking what have I done? I could have – the 12 years, when I was highway patrol sergeant, that's when you want to promote when you are around 30 and I was for long time the youngest person that had ever gone through patrol school because they did my investigation on me when I was 19 and 14 days after I turned 20, I was in patrol school, when I got out, it was hard, couldn't get beer, Oh! my gosh, it was terrible.

Interviewer: Absolutely terrible.

Ted Poling: They ID'ed me.

Interviewer: I was in HEB the other day and the cashier ID'ed me.

Ted Poling: That's funny.

Interviewer: And I hugged him and he turned to the person behind me and said 'works every time.'

Ted Poling: That's cool.

Interviewer: What was the funniest case you worked on?

Ted Poling: [Some folks thought that] the headquarters for Rangers ...and we were all the time getting calls from people. [There was a] woman with aliens [extraterrestrials], and she has – they have got another alien, we got those all the time but this one wanted us to come on her roof and they will only come at 12 [midnight], so she was persistent. Anyway we had to go chase off the aliens.

Interviewer: So did you go out there at midnight?

Ted Poling: Yeah.

Interviewer: Sat on the roof?

Ted Poling: I went up there. We told her that they wouldn't be back, that enough communication was there, they promised they would not come back and she never called me, I don't know if she fell off the roof when she was up there watching or whatever happened.

Interviewer: Maybe you convinced her, kind of like telling the child that the monster under the bed is not coming.

Ted Poling: They get a deal that they want to bond with you, calling on all kind of creatures.

Ted Poling: You were asking [about] one of the difficult [cases], it was difficult because we had two bodies that were dragged into Wise county and the Sheriff there was a retired Ranger, great friend of mine, so they had dragged two bodies and dumped them in a creek and he was convinced it was Fort Worth is where they were killed and they dumped him over there, he accused me of dumping. Anyway we started investigating and we got off on a lead and it led into the gangs in Como and Fort Worth. Como is a bad part of town and we got off on that and we were arresting all kinds of gang men, we had a book of people, one person would lead to another who was a criminal and a crook and through the whole thing I don't know it was multiple arrests, and finally we had one, we were kicking rear ends for two months and there comes a clue and they found out who it is, we weren't even close, we were in the gang, one of our gang members they hated our guts, we would drive up there, they are I know you are, you are the hats, of course we wore these black hats, Oh! mercy, that was pretty difficult, ended up we did get them.

Interviewer: Como kind of sits in the middle of Camp Bullis.

Ted Poling: It's exactly right.

Interviewer: And that whole area and here is Como and they are really rough and tough and then right next to it is Ridgmar.

Ted Poling: Yeah, that is right, how do you know that part?

Interviewer: I lived off of ---- Road.

Ted Poling: Really?

Interviewer: The condominiums, across the street from the really rich houses.

Ted Poling: It's craziness, one area is just specular and then Oh! my gosh you don't go there.

Interviewer: Right across the street, they are there.

Ted Poling: Unbelievable and that's where we were, right in the middle of Como.

Interviewer: How did you teach the men underneath to be the very best they could be?

Ted Poling: As a highway patrol sergeant I led the men, I encouraged them to offer suggestions of how to better their area and act on those that were good. I found that a lot of supervisors didn't do that and to me the confidence of the men became stronger and stronger and they know what's going on out there and when you are telling them and you are listening to them, as they give you back the information you ask you get some pretty good ideas and I was very successful as highway patrol sergeant. D. Vickers did that stuff too. In fact you find out most of the Ranger captains they are not micro managers the expect that Ranger to go out there and do that kind of job and I think that's what they kind of look like when they are doing investigations and stuff, to see who can function out on their own and who can do certain things.

Interviewer: Is that how you deal with your kids?

Ted Poling: My kids? Yes ma'am, would not tell them what they would do in life. That's like one end or the other.

Interviewer: What does [your wife] Vickie think about you being a Texas Ranger?

Ted Poling: She loves it?

Interviewer: Why?

Ted Poling: I don't know because basically – because I guess I am not as private with her as a lot of people, she knew mostly what I did, she is Texas girl. One of those Texas ladies, they are very special.

Ted Poling: She was right there with me.

Interviewer: Kind of velvet hammer kind of stuff or steel magnolias or whatever you want to say about that...

Ted Poling: There is another Ranger down here, Larry Gilbert and he married a woman that has been with him through the hard times.

Interviewer: There are some, aren't they?

Ted Poling: Yeah, there are some.

Interviewer: Yeah and I would think that they would be worried more than the average person about –

Ted Poling: The women?

Interviewer: Yeah, about their husbands.

Ted Poling: Truthfully, my wife worried about my son [more], and she said [when] was talking to him I never worried about your dad, I just thought he was up there and no one is going to do anything to him.

Interviewer: It's a little different when you carry the son.

Interviewer: Tell me little bit about a case you did with Vickers?

Ted Poling: I never worked with him other than he was the Captain when he came down there and we didn't cross over, he didn't come and intervene in any cases, we could go over and discuss and stuff like that, actually I didn't investigate.

Interviewer: He seems to be very gentle, very firm.

Ted Poling: He is firm but when you talk to him he is gentle.

Interviewer: He comes across that way.

Ted Poling: He is a “mess”; you better not believe everything he says.

Interviewer: He just told me the most important thing was honesty.

Ted Poling: He is right, he will be playing with you.

Interviewer: of course.

Ted Poling: He has got that temperament embodiment, I think he would have run off with my wife if I had let him but I won't let him!

Interviewer: She might run off with him.

Ted Poling: She probably will. He is a charmer. He is a great guy.

Interviewer: What did you learn from him?

Ted Poling: D, you learn you evaluate do I have that much trust in people that I am instilled trust, I say hey, you know, I need you do to this and let them to do it, and never question them and he had a tremendous amount of that, would ask you to do this and this, would not tell you how to do it and then he expected you to get it done and be there yourself.

Interviewer: And in doing all did he also ever say when you came back when you were done, did he ever correct anything about it?

Ted Poling: No, of course D I think went on in '67 or '68 and we had both have a lot of experience. He had me go in and do investigation and he was so cautious, somebody hadn't done, so I do know that he did correct it and anyway, he would never knew what he ever corrected anybody but he put enough confidence in you that you went out and you did it.

Interviewer: I would think that would want to make you do it even better.

Ted Poling: Oh! yeah.

Interviewer: As opposed to micromanaging, what did people learn from you?

Ted Poling: When I was a supervisor or a Ranger?

Interviewer: Ranger.

Ted Poling: That when I came in that I expected them to be forthright and honest and that I would not show that I was upset or anything, ... because it destroys the case if you get personally involved and I never got personally involved. You try to interview [like] "hi, I am your friend, we can talk and personalized you and you will have a good interview and – “

Interviewer: How did you keep from getting personally involved, how do you keep them from taking it home with you?

Ted Poling: You just can't do it, I just felt like I couldn't do that, when I walked in, we didn't talk DPS. My kids were in sports and band and all of that, we talk that, we didn't need to talk my job, so you had to lay it down. Sometimes you would lay there and think and think and think and that is when you are by yourself, you can't take it away from your family, I think that's kind of what you have to do to be successful, don't take your family time for DPS time.

Interviewer: So you were able to compartmentalize it.

Ted Poling: Yes, ma'am.

Interviewer: That's a gift, lot of people can't do that, very few people can do that.

Ted Poling: Right. You can't think about it all the time.

Interviewer: What would you change about the Rangers? How different are they now from when you were a Ranger?

Ted Poling: You will find through the history of Texas Rangers that the Rangers do change all the time and that's how come we stay ahead of the ball game. From the time I have retired, they have through the times and things that are happening, and it being invented, the Rangers are the leaders there and using everything, we are the top there is and having people qualified and get their expertise of doing certain things and they send you and educate you where you can function.

Interviewer: Who chooses the Rangers? In other words, let's say someone applies to be a Ranger

Ted Poling: They setup a board.

Interviewer: Of Rangers?

Ted Poling: No, not of Rangers and I don't know how they do it exactly now, but [it was] like three Ranger captains, and one of them being assisted are the senior Ranger captain, and then you have a civilian and then you have a uniformed [officer] like highway patrol, and then I think there is somebody else also. You get a wide variety of people sitting on that board and you take your tests score and your interview score, and then you have your college points and you have military and stuff like that, it all comes together and you have a final score.

Interviewer: And yet so many apply and so few are accepted.

Ted Poling: They apply, [if they are looking for] 5, they will [interview] at least 15 people..., if not 20. 900 people [could apply] but only 20 of them go to the interview board. [Those are] the top scores on your tests, so there are people that miss because they didn't study or didn't do certain things right to get there. But once you get there, then it's the [oral] interview itself makes you a Ranger or not a Ranger.

Interviewer: You ever sat on one of those boards?

Ted Poling: Not a Ranger board. I sit on highway patrol boards all the time for motions and stuff like that.

Interviewer: What's the question you ask the most often when you sit on a board like that?

Ted Poling: [They have questions] they want you to ask, and you are able to ask some of them. ;We had a quite a variety of questions that weren't [on the formal list] that we were asked;I don't know what you are allowed to do now.

Interviewer: When you think back what was your favorite case?

Ted Poling: It's a good question. There was a gang, people that we got into for burglaries and we ended up [finding by] following their crimes. In confessions and [through investigation] we solved a rape of one woman, it was like three or five of them broke in and they all [raped] her, completely destroyed her life, some things you would never get over it. To me to see those people get sentenced was one of the happiest things. I mean I think the suffering she went through; ...I don't think she could ever get over that, I have not seen her since then but to know [what they did]... they could have killed her and it wouldn't be as bad as that. There could never be a day she did not think about that. I mean it was hard, That was one of the most satisfying cases that I had a judge say 'it gives me great pleasure, I would have wished four of us had been there to sentence that one, [the Judge was] John Forbes up in the panhandle. He was a good judge.

Interviewer: Who was the toughest judge you ever worked with?

Ted Poling: Ortiz. He was tough. No. I take that back. His district attorney at that time and his name was Dan McBird, this guy he came in there and said 'my client will plead for 15 [years]' He said 'no, it's 20.' He said 'he is not pleading for 20.' He said, okay, the next day he walked right back in there and he said, okay, my client said he would do 20, and he said, no, that was yesterday, today it is 25. We are not going for 25, he walked out again and he came back, he said okay, my client will do 25, no he won't, it's 30. He said well, take it. So they got him to plead for 20 he got 10 more years but he was tough. He was tough and anyway.

Interviewer: Do you have a hero in the Rangers?

Ted Poling: Inside the Rangers or was a Ranger?

Interviewer: Was a Ranger.

Ted Poling: I got respect for all of them, that's why they are doing what they did and did what they did and as far as one particular individual, I don't know, putting one over another, I have got a lot of them that I am great friends with. I had lot of closeness with the Rangers you just don't have one best friend.

Interviewer: Why is that? Why the camaraderie?

Ted Poling: I don't know, you know if it comes down to die with you, he is going to die with you and there is going to be no running.

Interviewer: They don't leave you out.

Ted Poling: That's exactly right.

Interviewer: It just seems that there is that since, when you meet a Ranger, and another Ranger meets another Ranger, it's like when you are overseas and you see another American it's like, yes, kind of thing and you all feel that

Ted Poling: Feel it real well, I don't worry about another Ranger. One time we were [serving a arrest warrant] on this guy. We ...discussed it [with the officers assisting from another agency] and I said, okay, I will take the front door and [you; the other officers] ...take the sides, you will be responsible for anything happening on the sides and on the [back of the house]. I get out of the car and we, *I say we*, I go up to the door. [I] look back and they are, all way back there [safely] behind the cars.

Ted Poling: Anyway, things like that happen but it wouldn't have happened with a Ranger, trust me.

Interviewer: When you were a Ranger what was the most obvious threat to Texas? Was it drugs or immigration or what was it?

Ted Poling: Lot of criminal cases involved some type of drug activity and there is no doubt that's the problem.

Interviewer: Still is.

Ted Poling: Still, Oh! mercy but yeah you have the illegals coming over and they are having a lot of trouble right there inside of Mexico and you got it coming through, the drug problem is the big problem right now, and that's part of why illegals are coming over, they are bringing in drugs and [carrying] them with them.

Interviewer: Got any idea what to do about it?

Ted Poling: No, until they will establish a control on that border, movement and they have the technology now to see a lot more than they did, and they could see movement coming across and identify one figure from another and it's going to take some manpower and it's going to take the people from United States to say, hey, we want to have it done.

Interviewer: Lots of money.

Ted Poling: Lots of money. There are so many of them over here now, I don't know.

Interviewer: Odessa is 52%, most of them illegal.

Ted Poling: It's really sad.

Interviewer: What do you do in your spare time?

Ted Poling: Right now I don't have any, the time I have I am with my granddaughters

Interviewer: Do you have a hobby other than the granddaughters?

Ted Poling: I used to love to fish, I am serious; this job I have got is taking up lot of time.

Interviewer: If I had to say, Texas Ranger, Ted Poling is a what?

Ted Poling: An honest man, if you die and that's like my dad, they say Bill Poling was a good man. And then lot of people said that and if you leave behind that legacy that you are a good man and you are honest that's about what you can leave, different people have other, I want them to know that I am a godly man too but all of that comes in if you are a good man.

Interviewer: When did you make that decision?

Ted Poling: To be a good man? Probably when I was being raised by a good man.

Ted Poling: I tell you what my little younger son, he is a great preacher, I have no idea how he got that but he has the ability and he came and he said –I went to one of his first sermons, and he said, what do you think I could do to improve ? And I said, you remember always teach them something they didn't know and then you got them listening and then you can explain to them what they need to do and he is so good at that, it's unbelievable, he will say something out and I will be like, I didn't know that.

Interviewer: Where did that come from?

Ted Poling: Oh! my goodness, he is really good at that, I have never heard that anybody that's heard him, that hadn't heard him before, just say, I can't believe that, he is really good. I don't think there is saying that about me.

Interviewer: What else, would you like to tell us anything, anything about your cases or just life in general?

Ted Poling: I will say this, I am where I am and successful as I have been because of this little lady, Vickie, she is a killer strength.

Interviewer: Where did you meet her?

Ted Poling: I was a highway patrolman in Shamrock, Texas, she was just a little Shamrock girl.

Interviewer: Speeding or what?

Ted Poling: Actually her mother owned a restaurant and she was waiting tables up there the first time I saw her and we were on a man hunt, and I stopped in there and we were looking for some Indian people, American Indian people and I got in there and she has got this little shorts and the jean look and had on sandals and stuff and I said, you might be who we are looking for. She said, I don't think so, and just walked on, she stalked me from then on...! I will tell you it's true, she has been right by me no matter what.
