



A Texas Ranger Hall of Fame E-Book™

INTERVIEW WITH

CAPTAIN JIM RAY
TEXAS RANGER, RETIRED

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PROJECT:
TEXAS RANGERS

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED AT THE HOME OF CAPTAIN JIM RAY
BULLARD, TEXAS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1997

INTERVIEWED BY:
ROBERT NIEMAN
LONGVIEW, TEXAS

Present At Interview: Captain Jim Ray and Robert Nieman

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Captain Jim Ray
Texas Ranger - Retired

ROBERT NIEMAN: ...(tape starts in middle of sentence)...your Texas Ranger career. Mr. Ray, do I have your permission to video tape this interview?

JIM RAY: Yes you do.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Mr. Ray, you understand that this videotape will belong to you and to me?

JIM RAY: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And finally, Mr. Ray, do we have your permission to present copies of this tape to various historical organizations such as museums, libraries, schools and etc.?

JIM RAY: Yes you do.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Would you please give your full name.

JIM RAY: My full name is Jim Ray.

ROBERT NIEMAN: No middle initial?

JIM RAY: Well my mama, when I was born that's what she told me named me Jim Ray.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

JIM RAY: And during the years I used James M. Ray as an official name.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Does the M stand for anything or did you just make it up?

JIM RAY: No, it's just an initial.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. And when were you born and where?

JIM RAY: I born 1914, December 15th and about three miles from this house here, east on 344 is the old home farm that I was born on.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Maybe when we break for lunch we'll drive down there.

JIM RAY: Okay, that would be all right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What....what is your current address?

JIM RAY: It's 406 E. Henderson St., Bullard, Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what was your fathers name?

JIM RAY: His name was James M. Ray.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What did the M stand for in his name?

JIM RAY: He said it stood for Monroe.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And ah.....was he from this area?

JIM RAY: Yes, he was.....he was born on the farm that I was born on.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And ah....what was your mother's name?

JIM RAY: Mary Etta Walker.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And was she from this area also?

JIM RAY: No, she was from ah....Navarro County and I don't remember the little old town over there that she was born in.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And do you have any brothers, or did you have any brothers and sisters, and if yes their names chronologically?

JIM RAY: I had two older brothers, the oldest one was named A. G. Ray and the middle one was named G. P. Ray and I have a young sister.....younger sister, named Maureen.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Are any of those.....are they all still living?

JIM RAY: Maureen and myself are the only ones living.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah.....during your.....ah.....where did you attend school, grade school and high school?

JIM RAY: Grade school at Oak Grove High School, a country school out east of Bullard here about five miles and

ROBERT NIEMAN: And college?

JIM RAY:and.....part....part in Bullard, attended Bullard High School.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When did you graduate?

JIM RAY: 1933.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And if I remember right at that time eleven grades was all you had.

JIM RAY: Yes that's right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And ah.....where did ah....where did you go to college?

JIM RAY: Well I started at East Texasno, started at Stephen F. Austin.

ROBERT NIEMAN: In Nacogdoches.

JIM RAY: Nacogdoches and I finished in East Texas State.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And that's in Commerce?

JIM RAY: Commerce, Texas, yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What did you major in?

JIM RAY: Business administration.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you got out of college in?

JIM RAY: 1940....'41-40, in the summer of 1940.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did ah.....well I want to ask one thing ah....New London is not far from here, and of course the terrible school explosion over there. Do you have any remembrances of that?

JIM RAY: I do some ah..... I was in school at Stephen F. Austin and had a cousin named Barwick, Debs Barwick.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Debs?

JIM RAY: Debs Barwick.

ROBERT NIEMAN: D E B S?

JIM RAY: D E B B S. He and I were riding around and we heard the announcement over the radio about the explosion and we drove up to New London, got there about eight o'clock I guess at night. Of course the workers were working real hard around there trying to locate the bodies and you know, the victims of it. It was kind of misty rain and very disagreeable and we stayed around there oh an hour or so and finally we left and went back to Stephen F. Austin, in Nacogdoches.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did.....did youwell do you remember your thoughts when you was looking on that?

JIM RAY: I knew it was a terrible thing, yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did ah.....okay, when you got out of college ah.....what did you do?

JIM RAY: I'd made application for a school teaching job and I got a job at Lindale High School and I taught there for awhile.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And before we go on any farther, and what.....is your wife still living?

JIM RAY: No, she died in 1984.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what was her name?

JIM RAY: Her name was Kathleen.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And where was she raised?

JIM RAY: She was raised here, out west of Bullard.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Out west of Bullard?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did ya'll have any children?

JIM RAY: No, no children.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, were you teaching when.....on December 7, 1941?

JIM RAY: No I was in the Highway Patrol recruit school.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you....when you were growing up did you want to be ain law enforcement?

JIM RAY: Yes I suppose I did. I probably..... I always thought, you know, a person was kind of born to be what they usually turn out to be and I always had a desire to be in law enforcement.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did.....even back in those days did you ever have any thoughts about being a Ranger?

JIM RAY: No I didn't.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And when did you join the Highway Patrol? Well in 1941 it was the Department of Public Safety.

JIM RAY: Yes, yes. I I went to recruit school on November the 1st 1941.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And where was that at?

JIM RAY: Austin, Camp qqq Mayberry, Austin.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember your monitors?

JIM RAY: Yeah ah.....Shans was monitor of the platoon that I was in. J. D. Carls was one of them, I can't remember the other one.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What.....what did your training there at Camp Mayberry consist of in 1941?

JIM RAY: Just about everything to do with criminal law and traffic law and other, you know, things like public speaking. Had about a two year equivalent college course down there in about two months.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how.....that was my next question, how long was your school then?

JIM RAY: It was two months.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did it.....was it mostly class room or field training or split between the two?

JIM RAY: Oh physical.....physical education, class room.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did ah.....

JIM RAY:driver training.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about motorcycles?

JIM RAY: Motorcycles, fire arms training.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who.....who else was in that class with you that maybe we would recognize later on?

JIM RAY: Pat Spier was one of them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He would go on to become Homer Garrison's successor as Director of the DPS.

JIM RAY: Yes, right. There was lots of them, II'd have to get a photograph and go over it. But he was one of the main ones that I recall.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....when....when did you get out of school?

JIM RAY: December 26, 1941.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And did you become a patrolman then or was you.....did you go in the service?

JIM RAY: Became a patrolman.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And where was your first duty station?

JIM RAY: McKinney, Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And that's up above ah.....

JIM RAY: Collin County.

ROBERT NIEMAN:northeast of Dallas.

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you use a car or was you on motorcycle?

JIM RAY: We was on motorcycles.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Had you ridden motorcycles before?

JIM RAY: Never had ridden one, never had ridden a motorcycle til I went to recruit school.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What kind of motorcycle was it, do you remember?

JIM RAY: Indian.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Indian?

JIM RAY: Mine was an Indian motorcycle.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how long did you ride that motorcycle?

JIM RAY: Well, my Indian broke down on me and drove a Harley Davidson motorcycle, one of those old seventy-four Harley Davidson's. We rode that thing almost a year, until I was drafted.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you went into the Army?

JIM RAY: On into the United States Army.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what were you in the Army?

JIM RAY: I was a Private.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

JIM RAY: As old Lewis Riggler says, 'I was a private Private'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But.....but you went.....whatwere you in the infantry or artillery?

JIM RAY: Well of course we were inducted and went to Camp Walter there at Mineral Wells to the induction center for the, you know, the indoctrination shots and all that stuff. And after we left there well I went to Miami Beach, Florida for basic training, stayed in the Betsy Ross Hotel

in Miami Beach and we was there for about eight weeks. And from there we went to Macon, Georgia to Camp Wallace, and at that time, Warren Robbins Air Force Base and we did some training there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: In infantry or....?

JIM RAY: Well it was infantry training, but actually it was a military police company that I joined there, 1128th Military Police Company. And aviation.....had the aviation company on it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what.....what did that distinguish, that aviation company?

JIM RAY: Well....

ROBERT NIEMAN: The designation?

JIM RAY:it was aapparently it was a new type of service for the Air Force, United States Army Air Corp. at that time. And they were organized to do air strip security and secure engineering battalions building air strips and more or less just security work.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how long were you there and then where did you go?

JIM RAY: Well we were there about a month and we shipped out to Camp Pendleton, California.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That wasn't a Marine base then?

JIM RAY: Well it was a kind of a disembarking base. Nearly every soldier that went down through there went to Camp Pendleton. You got additional shots and stuff like that you know for the theater that you was going to. Of course from there welet's see, we rode a barge down the river to Matison.....Matsonia is the ship that we went over seas in.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember how you spell that?

JIM RAY: MA....MATSONIA, it was with Matson Lines, it was a luxury liner really is what it was. About 5,000 troops on it. Big ship.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Were you still a private?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And did you have any choice or were you given the option of requesting the European theater or the Pacific theater, or were you just told?

JIM RAY: Didn't have any choice, just went where they sent me you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well was this MP's in the air service designation, was that strictly Pacific or did some go to Europe?

JIM RAY: I think it was strictly Pacific, I don't believe any of them went to European theater. About.....I believe it was five company's, 1127th, 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st that went to Pacific theater.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And so you went where in the Pacific and about when are we talking about?

JIM RAY: We went to Brisbane, Australia is where we went to first and we was there about three weeks before they shipped usshipped us to New Guinea, Fort Moresby in New Guinea.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And about when is this?

JIM RAY: That was in the early part of '43.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

JIM RAY: At that time Fort Moresby was the only place in New Guinea that we still have, the Japanese held the rest of it. And they were just about to, you know, take Fort Moresby. As a matter of fact wewhen we landed there we had to land at night because the air raids and stuff like that was going on. And we marched, oh, about twelve miles back up into the jungle and the foot ofthe foot of a trail that went over the Owens Stanley mountain range was called Cocono Trail.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I've read this Owens Stanley mountain range was just really hellacious.....

JIM RAY: Oh it was.

ROBERT NIEMAN:that it was so jungled.

JIM RAY: That was about the only place that you could get across it on foot was on that trail and the Australian Army had the Japanese about twenty miles up that trail into the mountains.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I remember reading, about this time maybe you can enlighten me some, that the Japanese landed a significant force and they come across those mountains and there wasn't but a handful, I think it was maybe a full battalion, maybe a whole division, and there probably wasn't a company left by the time they made contact with them.

JIM RAY: No, no there was a.....they ah....they had a big air base across the mountains there, the Japs did, called Buna that they had all sorts of troops and Air Force and Marines and just about every thing, it was a big base that they used to, you know, cross over the mountains there, that Cocono Trail. And the Australians had 'em stopped up there but they was having trouble. There was an old boy down at Ward's Air...(unintelligible)...there at Port Moresby, he was in the Air Force, but he developed this cluster bomb that they used extensively as an anti...(unintelligible)...bomb and he developed that thing there to specifically use up there on that trail against those Japs, which was very effective.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Are you familiar with the ah....Apaches, Air Apaches of World War II, Peppy Blount an attorney over at Longview flew one, they were B-25 with the front end taken off and they had fourteen forward firing .50 caliber machine guns and Peppy said....told me one time the highest he ever came in over a target was sixty feet. And they'd drop these little cluster

bombs too. Were you familiar with any of that? They had the highest casualty rate of any air squadron in the war.

JIM RAY: No I'm not to familiar with it. I've flown in some of those B-25's.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Any.....

JIM RAY:over there but.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Any exceptional, or ah.....experiences you had while you was in the service that really stand out in your mind?

JIM RAY: Well

ROBERT NIEMAN: That you want to talk about.

JIM RAY:there's lots of 'em. I may.....after all I was on six landing's where we went in, you know, on the beach.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, what were they?

JIM RAY: Well taking, you know, we aid hop up the coast of New Guinea and over into....let's see the last little old island I was on was Noonfore Island, it was in the Shooting Island group and it was off the coast of New Guinea, the west coast of New Guinea, between New Guinea and the Selabees Island there, it was a small island.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Were you actually in on the first waves that went ashore?

JIM RAY: Yes sir.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Can you describe some of those?

JIM RAY: It was a hair raiser. Yeah, it wasit was might scary to me.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well it must.....to me it would be, you know, sitting out there in that boat coming ashore and not knowing what's waiting on you there, that would just be

JIM RAY: Tough. But you know, beforeafter we got up in New Guinea there about three weeks I got assigned back to Brisbane to officer's candidate school and I went through officer's candidate school at ah....Camp Columbia, which was out in Brisbane there, about ten miles. And after I became a second lieutenant well I rejoined my MP company there at Lae, New Guinea, 1131st MP company.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lae, how do you spell that?

JIM RAY: LAE. There's lots of crazy names, there's Dobadear and Oravey and Lae.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well a lot of that I ask for the spelling for my transcriber when she gets to doing this.

JIM RAY: From then on I was more or less kind of a platoon leader and ah....as a 2nd Lieutenant and ah.... I was usually first off the landing barge you know, when we was landing on the different places. We went to Alandia, that was in Dutch New Guinea at that time, Sadar.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What ah....most people and I know my dad and I've heard Glen speak this, they had.....when they were in the service they made special friends, one or two, that no one could ever replace, they were just....they had their own.....

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN:did you have.....?

JIM RAY: I had a certain bunch, you know, in my platoon you know that we went everywhere and shared everything.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who were some of those men's names?

JIM RAY: Oh, Washington, had a Sergeant named Washington.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where was he from?

JIM RAY: It was somewhere in Ohio, I forget where.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember his first name?

JIM RAY: No I don't, just called him Sergeant Washington. I can't think of....

ROBERT NIEMAN: I know Glen had one that was his best friend in the service from Birmingham, Alabama. He had this infatuation with Shirley Temple, that ah.....Shirley Temple this and Shirley Temple that.

JIM RAY: I had one man in my outfit that was an ex-highway patrolman too.

ROBERT NIEMAN: From Texas?

JIM RAY: From Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was he?

JIM RAY: Boy named Charles Lewis.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And where was he stationed in the DPS?

JIM RAY: He was stationed in Livingston and I don't know where all he was stationed, but Livingston was one of them. Matter of fact he took my I was stationed at Livingston one time and he took my place there and I moved to Conroe.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, well through the war then you worked.....did you have contact other than the beach landings, did you ever have the Japanese trying to infiltrate to where you had contact with them?

JIM RAY: Oh yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What methods would they use?

JIM RAY: What message?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Methods.

JIM RAY: Methods?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

JIM RAY: Well one thing they dropped paratroopers on us and we had ground troops infiltrating (unintelligible)....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Were they, you know, to the death?

JIM RAY: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You ever catch any of 'em alive?

JIM RAY: We captured six one time when we was on Nunfore Island there, but that's the only ones that we ever captured.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But when you interrogated 'em would they talk or would they.....?

JIM RAY: Well we didn't interrogate 'em, we'd carried 'em to the intelligence.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh okay.

JIM RAY:people, you know, we.....the stockades that we had, they had intelligence people to question 'em, interview 'em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well where were you VJ day?

JIM RAY: I was back in the states, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When did you come back to the states?

JIM RAY: I believe it was in May of 1945.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And....

JIM RAY: I was in the Army/Navy hospital in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Had you been wounded or sick or....?

JIM RAY: Well I'd been sick, I had pneumonia and dysentery and malaria and cancer on my lip.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hmmm.

JIM RAY: So.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well they said malaria stays with you forever. How long was it before you finally got over

JIM RAY: About ten years.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Would it flare up on you during the.....

JIM RAY: About every.....once a month. I had the recur malaria you know and thatapparently the egg or something hatches out in your blood stream. About every month you'd have about two or three days of

ROBERT NIEMAN: Bad time.

JIM RAY:you get weak, you know, weak and

ROBERT NIEMAN: Sweat?

JIM RAY: Sweat and didn't feel like doing anything.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So when did you muster out and where?

JIM RAY: Ft. Sam Houston, I'm going to have to look at the book.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Go ahead, go ahead.

JIM RAY: I think I've got it. November theNovember 24, 1945.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, before we move on past your military, World War II military, we're going to come back to the military a little later, but anything else you want to talk about or discuss?

JIM RAY: Oh there's a bunch of things you can talk about. I was.....we went to the Philippines well I was a police Provo office there out at Clark Field. Had about three or four, maybe five towns that I was police commander of. You know I had some interesting things to happen there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well any of 'em you want to talk about let's talk about 'em.

JIM RAY: Oh I don't want to talk about it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

JIM RAY: We had, you know, Jap's still promenade around there and they'd infiltrate into these towns and we'd have to go root 'em out.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well when they'd infiltrate were they there.....well were they just there to kill and destroy or what.....what were they

JIM RAY: Well usually they'd come and try to find something to eat, you know, and they were kind of surrounded in the mountains there around Clark Field there and they got hungry. They'd come in little small areas or in the towns you know and try to find something to eat. But they were armed you know, they kept their weapons and everything.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, well you're out of the Army now and you immediately go back into the Highway Patrol?

JIM RAY: Yeah I reinstated as soon as I could.

ROBERT NIEMAN: About when was that? In '45 or '46?

JIM RAY: Yeah, 1945.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And where were you stationed?

JIM RAY: Stationed in Houston.

ROBERT NIEMAN: On still patrol work?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Motorcycle?

JIM RAY: Motorcycle.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how long were you in Houston?

JIM RAY: Oh I wasn't there very long, I could..... you know it was hard to find a place to live down there and everything at that particular time and I finally got the Captain to transfer me to Livingston.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well speaking of the Captain, who was your first Captain, let's go back a little bit?

JIM RAY: Sid Gilbert.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Sid Gilbert. And then in Houston, after you got out of the service?

JIM RAY: Glen Rose, Glen Rose was my Captain down there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then after you left Houston where did you.....?

JIM RAY: I moved to Livingston, from Livingston I moved to Conroe, I worked three years out of Conroe and from there I moved to Athens.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And, at least through your highway patrol days, who were.....who were your other Captains?

JIM RAY: Well, as I mentioned Sid Gilbert was the first one and ah.....Glen Rose out of Houston and Tyler wasyou know my mind is not very good, I can't.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was it Guy Smith?

JIM RAY: Guy Smith, yeah he was my Captain there in Tyler.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Glen speaks ofI was going to say, that was Glen Elliott's first Captain, Guy Smith, and he speaks very high of Guy Smith.

JIM RAY: He was, he was a fine feller.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah.....did.....how would the Captain's.....you know, you have individuals, you have individual personalities, how did you find the different.....working under different Captains?

JIM RAY: Well at that particular time I couldn't see too much difference. I liked Glen Rose probably better than any of them. He was a fine feller too. Of course Guy Smith was a good man, I liked him, he let us get away with lots of stuff that we shouldn't have.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Such as?

JIM RAY: But, you know, we were a big family is about all it was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well about how many highway patrolmen was there in 19.....between the wars, World War II and Korea?

JIM RAY: They got pretty slim, I doubt if it..... I don't imagine there was over 100 highway patrolmen during World War II. Cause all of 'em, you know, they went into the service and they didn't replace any of them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well when you.....when did you come to Athens?

JIM RAY: 1949.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how big a territory did you have?

JIM RAY: Well at that particular time we had just the one county, Henderson County, but we did work into the surrounding counties because we was still short men.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember all your partners in the highway patrol?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What were their names and where were you at?

JIM RAY: Well my first partner was an old boy named Brandon and I worked with Eddie Campbell out of Houston. Dave Hicks out of Livingston, Fred Burns out of Conroe. When I moved to Athens I had a patrolman named McIntire.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember his first name?

JIM RAY: Yeah, I do but I can't recall it right now.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's all right.

JIM RAY: Lonnie McIntire.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lonnie McIntire?

JIM RAY: Then I had a young man named Ryan Henderson, then I had a Henry Riser and a young man named McOliver. You know these recruits come out of school.

ROBERT NIEMAN: McOliver?

JIM RAY: Yeah, they'd assigned 'em to the older patrolmen to kind of break 'em in.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember Brandon, your first partner's first name?

JIM RAY: Everett.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Everett?

JIM RAY: Everett Brandon.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And let's see, well you were in ah.....down in Henderson County, there at Athens ah.....wasn't that Benny Krugers' area, was he a Ranger then?

JIM RAY: No, Benny was stationed down at Comanche I believe at that particular time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was the Ranger in Athens then?

JIM RAY: We didn't have any, we had a Ranger in Palestine that was supposed to of worked it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Remember who that was?

JIM RAY: A man named Odom.....Odom.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And his first name?

JIM RAY: I don't remember.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I've seen his name too and I can't think of it. I know, once again using Glenn Elliott for the example, he remembers the first Ranger he ever saw, who would be a close friend of yours later on, named Selwin Denson. Do you remember the first Ranger you ever saw?

JIM RAY: No I don't.

ROBERT NIEMAN: To know it was a Ranger at least? Okay, now this Highway Patrol period in here is going to get interrupted again in 1950.

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Can you explain what....?

JIM RAY: Well during the Korean war I was reactivated, put on active military service.

ROBERT NIEMAN: At what rank?

JIM RAY: Captain.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you.....was that your rank when you come out of World War II?

JIM RAY: No I was Second Lieutenant.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

JIM RAY: I moved to Captain during my reserve time. And ah.....when to Lackland Air Force base, I did.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's in San Antonio?

JIM RAY: Yeah, did some officer training down there, about eight weeks of it. And from there I went to Smoky Hill Air Force base in Salina, Kansas. They reactivated an old base up there, had old tar paper shacks and stuff like that, World War II vintage. They was flying B-52's and those old propeller driven bombers out of there, you know, training. And I was a police officer there, air police officer. We had 420 men in the squadron, there was one Major and two Captains and one Second Lieutenant was all the officers in there trying to run that outfit.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you answered only to the Major?

JIM RAY: Yeah. He was Provo Marshall.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then you was in the Provo Marshall's department?

JIM RAY: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then did you spend the whole Korean conflict up there?

JIM RAY: Yeah I did, stayed a year up there. Of course when they was negotiating peace over there well they started letting a bunch of us old retreads out.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And when did you leave the service?

JIM RAY: I don't.....it was in 1952 I believe.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then when did you.....did you stay in the reserves?

JIM RAY: Yeah, I stayed in the reserves, oh two or three more years and finally ah.....you know, the department kind of frowned on reservist at that time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The DPS?

JIM RAY: Yeah. So I finally resigned my commission.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what was your rank when you retired?

JIM RAY: Captain.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay now, in 1952 you come back and you go into the Highway Patrol again?

JIM RAY: Went back to Athens.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how long did you stay in Athens?

JIM RAY: Well until I was appointed a Ranger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what made you decide to become a Ranger?

JIM RAY: Well I just got tired of the Highway Patrol. You know after about twelve or fifteen years of highway patrolling you get tired of it and ah.....you know you couldn't make any rank so I just.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: You was still a private?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Still riding a motorcycle?

JIM RAY: No, was in an automobile, I finally graduated to an automobile.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But you didn't have heaters or air conditioners in 'em did you?

JIM RAY: No, we had to buy our own heaters, never did have air conditioning in one.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Any special thoughts before we leave the D.....the Highway Patrol ah.....incidences or anything that happened?

JIM RAY: Oh there was lots of those. I guess ah.....the most active Highway Patrol days was when I was stationed in Conroe. I was stationed down there three years and of course at that time, that was before interstate you know and that Hwy. 75 was kind of like a funnel from Huntsville into Houston and just about everything in the world came down through there. Also, Montgomery County, Conroe, it was a wet county and they had those honky tonks, you know, at the county lines and stuff like that. And we had lots of sports on the weekend at those.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Any out.....anything.....incidents that really stick out in your mind that happened back then, or any of your DPS experiences really?

JIM RAY: Well we captured lots of criminals down through there, murderers and just about anything, robbers and stuff like that, stolen automobiles. If we didn't catch but four or five stolen automobiles a month we was disappointed.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You know, today ah.....it.....you very seldom see a Highway Patrolman by himself, they.....things have become.....you know so many people you never know.....did you have a lot of fears then walking up on a car, I mean to me that's one of the most incredibly brave things anybody can do is walk up on a car.

JIM RAY: Well you know you worked out aespecially if you was working with a partner, you worked out a procedure that ya'll would use in approaching a car like that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Describe that.

JIM RAY: Your partner would usually cover you, you'd walk to the right rear where he could see the activities going on in the car while you went up to the driver's side of the car. And ah....you know, you're protecting each other like that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you ever have any incidences that were or could of very easily become deadly?

JIM RAY: Well no, notnot particularly. I was pretty quick myself back in those days you know and I stayed ready you know to protect myself if necessary. Of course we had lots of, you know, tussles and stuff like that up and down that road, of drunks.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Would want to fight?

JIM RAY: Want to fight, yeah. Those old boys come out of the woods out there, been hauling those logs and working at those saw mills, they'd come to town you know on Saturday to have fun and you know they was big and tough.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And if you didn't believe 'em just ask 'em uh?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The more they drank the tougher they got.

JIM RAY: I mean they would.....they'd be bad.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Any regulars? I've heard some of the guys talk about, you know, every Saturday night I'd get old Joe.

JIM RAY: Yeah, yeah you.....you have those kind. I remember one time that we was working there in Conroe and over at Trinity County it had a wet area over there in Trinity County and wasn't anybody but the Sheriff over there, he didn't have a deputy or nothing else.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You remember his name?

JIM RAY: No I don't remember his name.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

JIM RAY: But we had those honky tonks on each.....on each side of the county you know, where this road come in there was two or three honky tonks over between Groveton and Corrigan, a little stretch of road in there about 30 miles, it had some bad honky tonks then. They got to killing and shooting each other every weekend up there. Got so bad the Sheriff couldn't handle it, so he requested help and there was two units went up there. Old Dave Hicks and his partner out of Livingston worked the east side and my partner and I worked the west side and we made the Sheriff the jailer, we told him just to stay in the jail. So the first weekend we worked up there we put 70 drunk drivers in jail and you nearly had to fight every one of 'em. We had a liquor board man named Stanfield working with us, he was about 5'5", kind of heavy built and he wore a big old .45 thumb buster, hung out from under his coat about that far. And we'd arrest those drunks out there and they'd get to fighting and he'd hit 'em with that pistol, you could hear it clank. He wore that thing out. But we stopped.....we stopped some of the stuff that was going up there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Pretty raggedI know I'm going to..... I was going to ask you, I'll jump ahead a little bit here, did you know ah....a lady up in Longview....or Kilgore named Mattie Castlebury, had Mattie's Ball Room and Mattie's Palm Isle. During the boom year....they had a

short boom down in Conroe in the early '30's and she had a honky tonk down there for a short time.

JIM RAY: Never did know Mattie.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah.....

JIM RAY: Knew of her you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. Okay, it's ah.....you're getting ready to join the Rangers, when is this?

JIM RAY: Oh this was about 1954, somewhere in there I got to thinking about trying to transfer over.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you tran....want to transfer to the Rangers or just transfer out to the I don't even know if they had an intelligence and all that back then.

JIM RAY: The Rangers mostly. I'd kind of got disgusted, I went toI'd been to Austin twice to take the Sergeant's examination you know, on the Highway Patrol. Well the last one I went down there to I thought I had a pretty good chance, you know, to get promotion out of it and of course when the list came out I wasn't on it so I said well I can't make it in this I've got to move somewhere. So I went to Tyler and wrote a letter requesting.....requesting an appointment, you know to the Ranger service.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And who did you send it to?

JIM RAY: Sent it to Colonel Garrison. Got Guy Smith to kind of approve it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay at that time Henderson County was part of Guy Smith's territory?

JIM RAY: Yes, yes it was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Which was district headquarters in Tyler.

JIM RAY: Of course back in those days when.....when I went on the Rangers, you know that Ranger appointment business was pretty political.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I understand that if the Captain wanted you, you were a Ranger.

JIM RAY: Well usually that's right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And who would of been the Captain over in Athens at that time?

JIM RAY: Bob Crowder, up there at ...(unintelligible).....but ah....and I had to use a little politics, you know, to get my appointment, but it wasn't much.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you know Crowder fairly well?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How did you.....how and what developed your relationship with Crowder to where he would support you to become a Ranger?

JIM RAY: Oh, every time I'd get around Dallas I'd go by and visit with him you know and let him know that I was interested.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What kind of man was Crowder?

JIM RAY: He was a good man, I liked Bob Crowder.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was he easy to work for or hard to work for, was he strict or....?

JIM RAY: He was easy, easy to work for.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was he the type that would just tell you, this is what we want done and you go do it and don't....

JIM RAY: Oh yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN:you know just.....

JIM RAY: Oh yeah. He was the Captain, everybody knew it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And who was.....who was the Sergeant?

JIM RAY: Well Lester Robertson was the Sergeant.

ROBERT NIEMAN: This will become later on for the transcript, the Lieutenant.

JIM RAY: Oh yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Years and years later.

JIM RAY: Jay Banks.....Jay Banks was his Sergeant.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And ah.....so when did you make Ranger?

JIM RAY: Well let's see, May I think May 15th, I'll have to look at my record again.....April 15, 1957.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And where would your duty station be?

JIM RAY: My duty station was in Tyler but I lived in Athens and stayed there for almost about six or eight months before I moved to Tyler.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you move to Tyler or back down here to Bullard, we're just about five or ten miles south of Tyler here at Bullard?

JIM RAY: Moved to Tyler. Long about that time we had a reorganization, the department did, you know, made it into regional command areas and ah.....Athens was put into the Waco regional command office.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Which would be Company F in Rangers.

JIM RAY: Yeah and ah.... I didn't want to, you know, have to leave Company B so I moved to Tyler in order to stay in Company B.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you.....did you have a choice, could you of stayed in Athens and went to Company F?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was the Captain of Company F at that time?

JIM RAY: Clint Peoples.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Ah....did.....what kind of training did you have to become a Ranger, once you were assigned?

JIM RAY: Well we....we did attend a criminal investigation school, maybe two of 'em, in a... you know, in a six month period.

ROBERT NIEMAN: At Camp Mayberry in Austin or....?

JIM RAY: Well no, we went to the academy at that time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh okay.

JIM RAY: Had already built a headquarters down there you know. But ah..... I suppose the training that, you know, my highway patrol work wewe worked everything in the world you know. We worked criminal cases just like a....you know, a regular Deputy Sheriff did or a Ranger did, you know. If it happened in their area well we worked on it. We already had plenty of experience as a criminal investigator.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember your first case?

JIM RAY: First case, as a Ranger or Highway Patrolman?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yes.....well either one, let's say both.

JIM RAY: Well the first case I ever worked on was out at Collin County up there, Brandon and I worked a case that.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: This is in the Highway Patrol?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

JIM RAY: We were Highway Patrolmen. But there was a man found shot to death out on the highway, laying out on the highway. And ah....Brandon and I worked it out, the old boy had been shot through the head with a .25 automatic.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Top of the head?

JIM RAY: Right through the top of the head. And he was one of these drivers for one of these ah.....buses, little old buses you know, that hire out, move people you know around over the country, wasn't a regular bus service, it was a car for hire kind of deal you know. And the old boy was out of San Antonio, we found out who he was and he was out of San Antonio. And we went to San Antonio and found out who he had picked up and left with, you know, and from then on it was just a matter of finding those people, one of the occupants of the car.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How did he shoot him in top of the head?

JIM RAY: Old boy was asleep and they pulled over, you know to rest, and was laying on the back of his seat there and the old boy just reached over and shot him through the head.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Robbery or....?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then ah.....so you solved this case and then ah.....what was your first Ranger case?

JIM RAY: Lord I don't remember.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what's your first Ranger case that youof significance that you do?

JIM RAY: Oh we worked many.....lots of burglary cases after we moved to Tyler there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Safe peeling was still a big deal then.

JIM RAY: Oh yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Can you describe how a person would peel a safe?

JIM RAY: Well I probably could peel one, I saw plenty of them that was peeled. Use a sledge hammer and a pry bar and you'd beat the safe door in the corner and peel the corner back and then use your pry bar to get in under it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And different peelers, or different safe crackers had their own methods?

JIM RAY: Yeah, yes sir.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I heard one say that he would always.....one Ranger told me, said that he could always tell when so and so had been there cause he left a can of Old Miller I think it was, or Miller High Life, his calling card almost.

JIM RAY: Yeah, yeah. Use, you know, nitroglycerin on it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you ever run into anybody that used nitro?

JIM RAY: Oh yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how would they do that?

JIM RAY: Well it was kind of a touchy situation.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I bet.

JIM RAY: Had an old boy over out oflived out ofoh a little old town between Longview and Overton over there. He lived in there, the old boy was a expert with explosives and he burglarized mostly post office safes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Would it be Liberty City?

JIM RAY: Might of been in there.....no it wasn't Liberty City.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh well, it's not that.....

JIM RAY: But anyway, he'd blow those doors off, he knew just how.....just how much to put in there and he'd just blow those doors off about four or five feet and they'd hit the floor and they'd get in the safe. He used dynamite and nitroglycerin.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about ah....well kind....what brought an end to the safe peelers? You don't hear that very much any more.

JIM RAY: I really don't know, I guess.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Could it of been the night deposits with the.....at banks?

JIM RAY: It was work trying to burglarize banks every once in awhile, especially those that had vaults in 'em. Ben Wheeler.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ben Wheeler.

JIM RAY: Ben Wheeler was a big.....was a bank that they'd burglarized three or four times when I was working.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Now your territory as a Ranger.....let's.....before we get into this, what did your territory consist of when you came to Tyler as a Texas Ranger?

JIM RAY: Well we had ah.... I believe Red and I had about twelve counties.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Be Red Arnold? And he was stationed?

JIM RAY: In Mt. Pleasant.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

JIM RAY: We worked.....we worked thirty.....thirty counties.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Thirty counties!

JIM RAY: Yeah. Went to the Louisiana line, Trinity River on the west and to the Louisiana line.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And up to Oklahoma.

JIM RAY: Into Oklahoma and Arkansas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did.....between you and Red did it go all the way to Texarkana?

JIM RAY: Yeah, Red would.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did ah....

JIM RAY: We shared Gregg County, we didn't have a Ranger stationed in Gregg, they wouldn't station anybody there, until Glenn came along.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well who was Harrison County, was that you or Red?

JIM RAY: That was my county, Panola County, Harrison County.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about Shelby, or was that Company A?

JIM RAY: That was my county.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Nacogdoches?

JIM RAY: No.....yeah, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Rusk and Cherokee?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You had an interesting case down at Cherokee, we'll talk....well I guess we just as well talk about it now. Ah.....it's written up in books as one of the most famous Ranger episodes of all time, when Bob Crowder had a situation down there at the Rusk mental institute. Could you talk to us about that?

JIM RAY: Well it was one of the patients down there. He was a big black man down there that went kind of berserk, he killed one of the guards there. You know he was a great big strong man, I think he just killed him by power, muscle power, really. And he hadwell he had hostages in this criminally insane ward.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was he armed by this time?

JIM RAY: Well he had some knives, he didn't have any firearms, but he had knives. And ah....it went on there for a couple of days and they finally.....he was wanting to see the Governor about, you know, the situation down there. They finally.....he finally settled on letting Bob Crowder represent the Governor there and talk to him. So we was all gathered up down there and Bob

.....the man agreed to come down to the porch you know and talk to Bob Crowder and the warden. Well they did, and....but the only part I played, I kind of..... I had a sniper rifle, you know, trained on this person in case he tried to do anything.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How far away were you?

JIM RAY: Oh about fifty yards.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what was the results of Crowder's negotiations? Was Crowder armed or unarmed?

JIM RAY: He had a pistol but he told him he wasn't armed. But ah....as a result of it, you know, the man gave up and ah.....you know, everything got back to normal.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you.....since you had ah.....Rusk and part of Gregg County, you had to work a lot of oil field?

JIM RAY: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Could you describe some of the.....some of that.

JIM RAY: Well that was.....are you talking about the slant hole drilling?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well slant hole, yes.

JIM RAY: Yeah. Well there was a good bit of oil field theft you know and stuff like that, that went on that we worked on. But this slant hole business was something else, I worked about a year.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Describe.....let's kind of detail on that, describe what slant holing is and how you got involved and what happened.

JIM RAY: Well there was an old.....one of the independent oil men over there named Barber, you'd have to know.....you'd have to know how the geological terrain was up there in that oil field because on the east side it stops abruptly, there's a fault in the ground over there that caused

this oil you know to stop there. Of course there's no oil well on the east side of that field. But anyway, some of the independent people got the idea of using awhat they call a deviation.....deviator.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Whip stock.

JIM RAY: Whip stock on it and drilling the well on the adjacent lease you know and running it into the oil pool.

ROBERT NIEMAN: On a horizontal?

JIM RAY: On a horizontal and they've got to be some expert drillers you know to do that. And it got to be pretty rampant and they were stealing so much oil from Humble, Texaco and those people that they got concerned about it. And they tried to make an investigation of it and they got in trouble, I think one of the investigators killed a driller over in Henderson in a motel over there, that he was trying to interview. And ah.....let's see.....it went on there for a long time and it got pretty political and we got involved in it, you know, they went to Colonel Garrison you know and the Governor and people like that you know, get the Rangers involved in the investigation, which they finally did. And since it was in my area I drew the straw to make the investigation. So they assigned me and ah....one of the intelligence agents named George Reed, who worked, you know, with me on it. And ah....we had to do lots of studying and learn how to drill, how to use a whip stock and all that stuff.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well now.....well describe a whip stock, exactly what it does.

JIM RAY: Well it's ait's a....it's a tool that they put on the drill stem, it slips up and down and they can stop that thing at any point on that drill trim down there, but it has ahas a slant on it. They can drop that bit in there and of course when they start drilling well that drill stem will follow that slant. And some of 'em got so expert they'd could put it in a 100 foot circle a

mile away you know. They got to know how to drill those things. But anyway, we had to study a lot, me and old George did, to learn how to do all that, how to drill the oil well and had to study the topographical map of the oil field to find out where all these wells were. But ah....the main thing was that ah.....they had tothe Railroad Commission men over, some of them were taking pay off's to falsify reports that they kept on those oil wells. And ah.....of course they were getting money out of it. As a matter of fact they were getting.....they was getting part of the lease when they falsified, you know, the report on it. And those independent oil drillers they had all sorts of methods of getting oil out of an oil lease. You know the Railroad Commission had a certain amount of oil that can be taken out of an oil well each day and some of those drillers got the idea of setting a bunch of 50 gallon barrels around on the lease and setting the pump on 'em and just circulating the oil through that barrel. But they'd get a certain amount of oil allowances you know on that well and the old main well over there would be making the oil. Soand they had it underground pipes and stuff like that all over those leases that they could....they could claim you know the oil from some of the wells that those pipes were hooked up to.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So in other words, they're taking wells even that are closed down and technically reopening 'em and showing that oil is coming out of them, and in fact it's just coming out of this main well?

JIM RAY: Yeah, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And of course the Railroad Commission, somebody had to be on the take.

JIM RAY: They might have one well over there that was slanted you know that was making big.....lots of oil out of it, but they may have twenty other wells around on the lease that they'd have some way of manipulating that to, you know, claim their oil.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And of course the only way they could do that, somebody had to be on the take?

JIM RAY: Yeah. But it was.....you know it was a pretty hard job there. It finally got to whereof course those people were threatening those commission men that were straight, you know, that would come out there to try to check their oil wells and stuff like that, they'd run 'em off and all that stuff. But ah....finally they got the.....those independent we got so hot after 'em that they got to going out to the oil wells and unhooking thatyou know that sucker rod and just dropping the whole thing down in the oil well, they was junking those wells. And it got to be pretty bad and of course Colonel Garrison, you know, finally let us use more Rangers up there to kind of protect those commission men.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you request these other Rangers to come in?

JIM RAY: Yes, to protect those commission men out there that were surveying those wells.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I understand just about every Ranger in the Statethat these Privates was up here at one time or another.

JIM RAY: Yeah, they were at one time or another.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did any of the other officers come up like an Allee or Peoples or anybody like that or did they just.....?

JIM RAY: No, just the Privates. Bob Crowder....it was Bob Crowder county you know, they came in they reported to Bob.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And is Jay still the Sergeant now or is Lester Roberts?

JIM RAY: No he's gone, he was gone.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what, Lester Robertson?

JIM RAY: Lester, yeah, was the Sergeant.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Robertson, not Roberts.

JIM RAY: Robertson.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. So what was the outcome and how long had this been going on?

JIM RAY: Oh for years.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And....but how long was your investigation of it?

JIM RAY: About a year.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what was the outcome?

JIM RAY: Well we filed numerous cases you know on those people and ah.... I think we tried one case. And that's kind of like working a strike you know, you can file on everybody but they won't ever try 'em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did anybody do any time?

JIM RAY: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about thosethose ah.....Railroad Commiss.....Railroad employees, Railroad Commission?

JIM RAY: They were dismissed naturally. We.....we tried one up in Upshur County, the District Engineer, the head boy, that resulted in an acquittal.

ROBERT NIEMAN: On what grounds?

JIM RAY: Didn't have to have any grounds I don't expect, cause it was pretty well cut and dried that he was on the take you know. And we did get the chairman of the Railroad Commission to resign.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did it go that high?

JIM RAY: Yeah. Run him on polygraph.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He didn't pass?

JIM RAY: No. Old boy named Bill Murray.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Bill Murray?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He was a Railroad Commissioner?

JIM RAY: Chairman of the Railroad Commission.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Chairman, hum. But he didn't do any time?

JIM RAY: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well.....and this was going on.....this was what year?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: 1962....'63, in there wasn't it?

JIM RAY: I..... I don't remember. I got the report over there, it's about a yard long.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Ah....well you mentioned strike ah.....the '57 Lone Star wildcat steel strike, was that yours or was that Red's?

JIM RAY: Both of us.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You want to describe it for us?

JIM RAY: Well....

ROBERT NIEMAN: What caused the strike and what happened?

JIM RAY:they went on a strike up there naturally and of course Red and I we heard about it and we went up there, we were..... I don't think we was even assigned, we just went up there and went to the Sheriff's office. And there was about three thousand people more down on the road there in front of the steel mill, you know, shouting and hollering, with their placards and all.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Now this is a wildcat strike, it's not sanctioned by the?

JIM RAY: Well, it's a wildcat strike but naturally the I think it was sanctioned maybe by theoh let's see....

ROBERT NIEMAN: United Steel Workers.

JIM RAY: Yeah, union. Cause they had union representatives down there from all over the country. Anyway, Red and I showed up over at the Sheriff's office and ah....of course the way they was acting out there, was under the state law, was illegal you know. They were permitted to strike and put out a certain number of pickets and a certain number of captains, you know those different gates, but there was about three thousand people out there raising a fuss. So Red and I talked to the Sheriff and we said....well I said, "We need to go down there you know and tell 'em to go home, that they're breaking the law and violating the state law against strikes". And so Red said, "Well let's go". And so he looked over at the Sheriff and he said, "You going Sheriff". He said, "No", he said, "I got some business out at the farm". He said, "I've got to run out to the farm".

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember this Sheriff's name?

JIM RAY: I can think of it, it'll take awhile, let me think.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh okay.

JIM RAY: But anyway, Red and I went on out to the plant and he took one end and I took the other and there was two gates up there that they was using.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You was down on the south gate was it?

JIM RAY: What?

ROBERT NIEMAN: You was on the south gate?

JIM RAY: Yeah. And about that time I think Lloyd Webb and two or three Highway Patrolman.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Glenn Elliott.

JIM RAY: ...Glenn and another one or two showed up, up there where I was. And I believe that Lloyd had one of these bull horns you know that amplifies your voice. And I told him, I said, “You take that bull horn and tell these people there in violation of the law and for them to go home and leave their legal pickets out”. Well he did, he got up there, he had a good voice you know, to talk. He told ‘em he said, “You people are in violation of the law”, said, “All of you need to go home and picket captain and pickets out”, and said, “If you don’t we’re going to have to arrest you”, you know and could you believe arresting three thousand people. Anyway you know, they finally started drifting off and leaving, no problems.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you stay there that whole time or did you have to go get some papers or anything?

JIM RAY: No I stayed there the whole time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how long did the strike go on?

JIM RAY: Lord I don’t remember.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I mean was there any.....

JIM RAY: It was....it was several months.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was there violence with it?

JIM RAY: Oh yeah. Yeah they was dynamiting pipe lines and they was throwing dynamite in people’s front yards and shooting through the houses and beating ‘em up if they caught ‘em out there somewhere.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Anybody killed?

JIM RAY: I don’t see how even if they weren’t, but there weren’t anyone killed.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what brought the strike to a conclusion?

JIM RAY: They finally settled it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well didn't they blow up a pipe line that furnished the city of Pittsburg that really turned public opinion against 'em?

JIM RAY: Yeah, Daingerfield.....Daingerfield and Pittsburg, yeah, that did, that turned a good bit of public....public opinion against 'em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then again in.....a few years later in '68 they was going to strike again and this one was really going to make the '57 one look small in a way.

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you work that strike?

JIM RAY: No I didn't, I was in Lubbock at that time. I did..... I did visit you know, with the men just I was on vacation and I went over there and stayed two or three days with 'em, just to visit.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But during that visit there's going to be a tragedy, could you describe that?

JIM RAY: That's right, I was working.....Ben Krueger and I were working at night out there, we had a patrol area that we was working. And while we was out there well the radio called us and told us that Ben's wife had died there in Athens.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, Ben is stationed out of Athens?

JIM RAY: Ben was stationed in Athens. So Ben and I left there and I carried him back to Athens that night.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well you were out in Lubbock, were you still a Private or were you a Sergeant?

JIM RAY: I'm a Captain.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, you was a Captain. Okay now, let me ask you, when you went up there to visit that three or four or five days and you worked some up there, were you working as a Captain or was you working just as a Private?

JIM RAY: I was just working as a Private, I was working with Bob Crowder.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. So I mean you.....the Captain bars basically meant nothing on that?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You were there as a Private. Okay well.....okay let's come back down and talk some more about ah.....some things in ah....while you're still in Tyler. Ah.....the Norris and Humphrey's, were you a Private then or were you still in Tyler then?

JIM RAY: I was a Private, yeah I was..... I had been a Ranger about three months.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Tell us about Gene Paul Norris and Carl Humphreys, what they were.

JIM RAY: Well I really..... I really don't know to much about 'em other than, you know, what I read and heard. That Gene Paul was kind of a hit man and was a robber.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how many people did they.....was it that he had killed, or had killed?

JIM RAY: Well they claimed that he had killed about 35 people.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And whatwhat brought about his down fall and describe that?

JIM RAY: Well he had planned to rob a branch of the bank at Barksdale.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Carswell....Carswell.

JIM RAY: At Carswell Air Force Base/

ROBERT NIEMAN: In Fort Worth.

JIM RAY: Yeah, and ah....had an informant, you know, that passed the word on that he was planning this and that certain days he was going to track his get away route, which went out by the lake out there and there's a road that's called Meandering Road, that went out to Carswell,

kind of following this lake area. And we knew of this and ah....through this informant, so Captain Banks at that time, he was Captain....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Jay Banks.

JIM RAY:called me and wanted me to come up there. And after I got up there he told me what was fixing to happen and wanted me to go along.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Why did he call you?

JIM RAY: I don't know, I asked him that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What did he say?

JIM RAY: He said, "Well I thought you'd do the job". Well, we were supposed to set up and catch him or either you know, apprehend him or do something, whatever needed to be done. And ah.....we worked out our plans andand I was driving the Sergeant, Arthur Hill was the Sergeant there at that time, and I was driving Arthur's car.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And who was in the car with you?

JIM RAY: Ah....a man named Andy Foreigner, who was the Chief of Detectives at Fort Worth at that time. And Jay and the Sheriff and the Chief of Police

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Johnny Klevenhagen.

JIM RAY: And Johnny Klevenhagen.

ROBERT NIEMAN: A Ranger from Houston.

JIM RAY: Yeah, the Captain there out of Houston.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what was he doing up there?

JIM RAY: Well about three weeks prior to that well Johnny and the Sheriff down there at Houston had a run-in with old Gene Paul down there. Gene Paul had gone down below Houston down there around Kema somewhere and had went into an old retired gamblers home that was

supposed to of had lots of money there and jewelry and stuff, he and his wife had jewelry. And they went in down there to rob 'em, he and Bill Humphreys and Rita, Rita Norris which was Gene Paul's wife. And while they was in there well they killed this man and his wife and of course robbed 'em. And as they were coming back through Houston, Houston police department got after 'em for some reason and caught 'em and they'd drawn a gun or two out of the car while they was being chased there. And they had 'em in jail down there and they called the Sheriff, Johnny Klevenhagen, down there you know to interview 'em. And I think old Gene was kind of, you know, pretty self confident, imprudent type of person. I think old Johnny Klevenhagen told him that he'd see him later. And ah.....of course Jay knew all about this business that went on down there in Houston. Of course when this other business down about him trying to rob that Carswell bank out there well Jay called Johnny and asked him if he wanted to come up and join us, which he did. And ah....on this Meandering Road where it intersected with the Jacksboro highway there, it's a pretty big intersection, and back up from this intersection was a little old carnival, park, play ground thing andand ah.....what the plan was that me and Arthur Hill and Andy would hide out in this park out there and when old Gene Paul and Bill came in down there, on this Meandering Road, that we was supposed to get in after 'em and chase 'em into this ambush down there below this park.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And waiting in ambush would be Jay and Johnny?

JIM RAY: Jay and Johnny and the Sheriff and the Chief. Anyway, we could see thissee Bill drive in on Meandering Road and he started down the road and this.....he....you know he was kind of like an animal, I guess he got suspicious.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay now, who's driving, Norris or Humphreys?

JIM RAY: Norris.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Norris is driving, okay.

JIM RAY: He had a '57 Chevrolet, souped up car, you know he'd out run every officer in the country in that thing. Anyway, we saw him kind of stop down there and I guess he had thishe had this informant in the car with him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Besides Norris.....I mean besides Humphreys?

JIM RAY: Yeah. Anyway, he stopped and this informant got out and run back and got into another car that was following there, I imagine he knew what was happening and that made old Norris suspicious. About that time well I was driving old Arthur's car and of course I run down there toward the road, which was about 150 yards down there and old Norris saw us. Well instead of going on out Meandering Road, he turned off the street and run uprun up this street coming over a hill and of course I was right after him. And as we went over the hill crest well he had pulled up in a drive up there and he was backing out of this drive. Well we got on the radio and you know, called Captain Banks and those men down there and told 'em that he had spotted us and you know, was running. Anyway, I turned around down there as fast as I could and just as he went back on Meandering Road I topped that hill up there, and of course Jay and them by that time got back in the car and just as he pulled onto Meandering Road well there come Jay and his group.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And they're on Meandering Road?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: They're going east, west, north, south?

JIM RAY: Well at that time it was kind of in one locale, but ah.....Meandering Road went west from the Jacksboro highway. Anyway, Gene Paul and Bill Humphreys, they went back to the Jacksboro Highway and of course Jay and his group were right after 'em. And about that time I

got back on theback on Meandering Road myself. But as we got back on Jacksboro Highway, I turned on the wrong lane, I turned on the lane facing traffic. Of course Jay and his bunch was right behind old Gene Paul and the race was on. Well we was going up that road wide open and I was driving up the wrong side of the road, wide open.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How fast were ya'll hitting?

JIM RAY: Oh around 100. That's about as fast as the car would run you know. Anyway, Jay couldn't catch Gene Paul, Gene Paul couldn't out run 'em and the race was on you know. And we was kind of running parallel to him and I got up there a piece and I decided I'd better get back on the right side of the road. So there was a cross over up there and I had to slow down some and when I slowed down of course they got ahead of me. And we ran up that road through ah....Spring Branch I believe is the name of that little place, into Parker County.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is this paved or gravel road?

JIM RAY: It's paved, this was a divided highway at that time. But we got up there out of Spring Branch when we went through there, it was on Saturday afternoon, I can remember that, lots of people in town you know and we were running through there wide open. And ah....about five or six miles, I guess it was west of Spring Branch, well there was a turn off on a dirt road and old Gene Paul turned off on that, and it'd been raining.

ROBERT NIEMAN: To the right?

JIM RAY: To the right. Old bridges up through there you know, they were shackling, old drop off on each end of it and mud.

ROBERT NIEMAN: This was a dirt road?

JIM RAY: Dirt road.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, okay.

JIM RAY: And the road kind of made a circle back through the country and came back out to the Jacksboro Highway several miles up there. Anyway, they proceeded on around that road wide open. And down there about three miles there was a pretty good curve and it'd been freshly grated and they're wet too. Old Gene Paul run around that curve, well he lost control of his car and he went into the hedge row, or fence row there. And he winds up in that and of course Jay and them was right on it. But as ah.....we came around the curve up there, there old Jay's car was right in the middle of the road, cross ways and I had a pretty good speed. Man you talk about cutting some dyno's trying to stop. When I stopped I was about three feet from his car you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: From Jay's car?

JIM RAY: Yeah. I'd done turned around. And then the shooting was already over when we got there. They'd done, you know, shot old Gene Paul. He'd run, they jumped out of the car and run. Jumped down in this branch.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Both Norris and Humphreys?

JIM RAY: Yeah. The water was pretty high and he tried to cross and the bank.....embankment on the other side, he tried to get out over there. I imagine that's when they shot him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about Humphreys?

JIM RAY: He had run up the stream and they'd shot him down up there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did Jay do all the shooting that day?

JIM RAY: No, all of 'em was shooting.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well who got Humphreys?

JIM RAY: I imagine Jay or some of 'em did.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Jay definitely got Norris?

JIM RAY: As far as I know, you know, he was down when we got there. I got out with my shotgun and old Johnny Klevenhagen done shot his gun empty. He said, "I'm out of ammunition", says, "He's getting away, give me a gun". I just pitched him my shotgun you know. But it was a little exciting there for a little bit.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I guess it was. Did ah....Jay ah.... I guess in a case like this where you have to use a gun that.....did Jay.....was that the only time you know of that Jay ever used his guns?

JIM RAY: No, Jay had been into a few scraps. He'd shot an old boy overwell he got shot too, over around Jacksboro somewhere in there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I didn't know that.

JIM RAY: Yeah he's been in a pretty good gun battle or two.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But, you know, rumors have been floating around for a long time that you did some shooting that day.

JIM RAY: Aw.....oh no.

ROBERT NIEMAN: It was all over town.

JIM RAY: I don't know what started that. The shooting was over when I got there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I want to touch on Jay Banks, I want to go back to one point I missed.....well let's finish this up and then I'll catch it. What was ah....but that....that....is that just....that's the end of it really?

JIM RAY: Yeah. I don't know if Frank Branson got the J. P. and brought him back to do an inquest.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what was the findings on the inquest as far as this....?

JIM RAY: I don't remember. I imagine it was death by gun shot.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah.... I want to go back to the '57 strike that blew up the pipe line. Did you ever find out who did it?

JIM RAY: Well I finally developed enough information, I had fifteen men that was on the goon squad, you know, that was doing all the mischief, there was fifteen of 'em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was you able then to indict any of them, or get any confessions?

JIM RAY: We arrested 'em all, but there weren't ever any indictments or anything else.

ROBERT NIEMAN: None of them ever confessed?

JIM RAY: Nah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay ah....let's take a short.....go ahead.

JIM RAY: You know that strike was I guess one of the most political things that you ever seen. Everybody in the county over there was involved in it. Of course the District Attorney and all those elected officials, they're not going to, you know, press for any sort of conviction on anybody.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you work any of the south Texas strike, down there with Bob and Allee and his people, down there against the.....?

JIM RAY: No I didn't.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did ah....what is your thoughts about Rangers working strikes?

JIM RAY: Well, I guess somebody has to work 'em and ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: They don't work 'em now do they, unless there's acts of more criminals.....but I mean just generally like you and Red and Glenn did in '68 and Mitchell did?

JIM RAY: No, I don't think it's necessary, you know, you're local people are pretty well trained. You know, they can call you if they need you.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you.....before we leave the strikes, and we'll take a short break here, didwere you.....have any thoughts or inside knowledge or anything, on that famous strike down in south Texas there where the Kennedy people got involved in it and Allee was in....you know, a real nasty situation?

JIM RAY: Yeah it was, I don't really have anything much to say about that. I'm sure that, you know, second look backs at things like that, you can decide it could of been worked better, but at that particular time you don't know whether it's right or not.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You just do it.

JIM RAY: Just do it. Second thoughts, you know, Monday quarterbacking is pretty good.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well everybody is an expert in 20/20 hindsight.

JIM RAY: That's right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well let's take a short break if you don't care.

JIM RAY: Okay.

ROBERT NIEMAN: We've taken a short break and went and got us some lunch, we'll start up here again. Ah....you were mentioning during lunch, how....during that slant hole business, how many wells approximately did ya'll shut down?

JIM RAY: Well I was told by the Railroad Commission people, it was around eighteen hundred wells.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how many would you guess was in the whole field at that time?

JIM RAY: Oh Lord, I don't have any idea, there was thousands, several thousand probably.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, let's ah....ah....move on here. You were downyou also mentioned at lunch you, among several others, as a Trooper, went down to the Stubedore strikes, down on the docks in Galveston was it?

JIM RAY: Galveston, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was there any ah.....anything in particular happen there that?

JIM RAY: No, there was lots of threatened violence you know, in nearly every strike you ever get into and they might of had some isolated incidents. But Captain Gonzauillas was in charge of the DPS people down there at that time and they called in I guess fifteen maybe, twenty Highway Patrolmen. And ah....we had to dress in civilian, plain clothes, usually khaki and stuff like that. All we did was kind of walk around and be seen. But it was settled within a week or so after we went down there. One of the good things that I remember about Captain Gonzauillas, when it was over well somebody had made a donation to theto the cause down there and he gave us allall the Highway Patrolmen, he gave us all thirty-five dollars a piece.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well back in the '50's that was a ton of money.

JIM RAY: Which was really nice you know. Didn't have to do that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Were there any Rangers down there working at that time?

JIM RAY: Oh yeah, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember any of them?

JIM RAY: Well, Ernest Daniel, and I guess Captain Crowder was down there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about Purvis?

JIM RAY: Well, Purvis was a.....that was in his.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hardy's jurisdiction.

JIM RAY:company area, yeah, Hardy, Sr.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. What about Bob Goss?

JIM RAY: Don't remember Bob. Johnny Klevenhagen, Eddie Oliver and Mark Jones, was the Rangers I remember that was down there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: In ah....1935, September the 20th, you were in this area, it may have been down at Stephen F. or in high school, I don't remember now. But anyway, my point being that, that was the day Kilgore College adopted it's new nickname, The Rangers, and they wereit was chosen over 200 other names that they chose, they come up with the name Rangers and they had on ah....Governor Allred sent up Hardy Purvis. And what triggered this, Mark Jones to ride at half time they were accompanied by Kilgore Chief of Police, Bob Goss, I just.....you were in this area, I didn't.... I was just throwing that in really for nothing.

JIM RAY: I was probably in school down..... I was still growing.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....let's talk about some of your murder cases and attempted murders and so forth and so on that you worked. Some of them.....before we get in....there's one that ah.... I don't know your.....how heavily involved you was in it. An Irving city policeman was kidnapped and there was a wild chase pursued and I know you was part of the chase and it was finally stopped over here by Glenn Elliott and Slick Alford and ah....Lloyd Webb over here at the Gladewater.....near the Gladewater rodeo grounds. Were.... I know you were in the chase of it, or part of the chase.

JIM RAY: Well I was home in bed asleep. And when Captain Banks called me and told me that this incident had happened there in Dallas and there was a chase going on, on Highway 80 going toward Longview, he suggested I get up and join it, which I did.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That was Jay Banks?

JIM RAY: Yeah. I intercepted the chase at Mineola, when they came through Mineola, of course I was in the tail end of it. My old car was running very good and Iyou know I couldn't really keep up. And when we got to Gladewater they had a barricade over there, had a couple of big trucks, semi-trailers barricaded across the road and I guess Glenn Elliott and maybe Alford

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Glenn wasthat was.....Glenn was in charge there, but Glenn and Slick Alford and Lloyd Webb who was a Sergeant at this time, he came up just before the cars were.....the kidnapers were stopped.

JIM RAY: Yeah, yeah he was there when I got there. But I didn't have much to do with it other than just being in the chase.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Banks was in there too wasn't he?

JIM RAY: No, Banks wasn't there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hum, ah.....

JIM RAY: I think there was a Highway Patrol that this old boy had shot.....the kidnapper had shot the windshield out of maybe.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That was over in Terrell I believe.

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....let's talk about the ah.....an interesting case of ah.....dealing with a lady and her husband, a lady named Evie Denny and Charles Denny.

JIM RAY: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Could you kind of relate that case?

JIM RAY: Well this.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: This was in 1958 by the way.

JIM RAY: Yeah this was started by a doctor at the veterans hospital in McKinney had called ah.....the Sheriff here in Tyler, telling him she had a patient up there that had been poisoned by strychnine, that she thought somebody ought to come up there and talk to this old boy named Cecil Denny. And I went up there and talked to her and she told me that this patient, Cecil Denny, had been brought up there from a hospital in Kilgore and that she had diagnosed his condition as being poisoned, that he had been poisoned with strychnine. All of his hair had come out and his soles of his feet was so sore he couldn't walk on 'em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And this was an indication of strychnine?

JIM RAY: Yeah. He was in pretty bad condition. Anyway, after she got him off the poison well he got better and finally was released, discharged. But during my investigation I found that his wife, Eva Denny, had been poisoning him with this strychnine. Matter of fact I served a search warrant on her place out between Tyler and Kilgore, she lived on a farm out there, and I found a sack of strychnine that had been opened hanging in one of her little old sheds out there. You could tell it had been used because it was fresh. And ah....of course she denied all this. However, I found out that old Cecil Denny loved strawberry milkshakes and she had taken those strawberry milkshakes, feed 'em to him there at the house and also while he was in the hospital. Of course you know strychnine has a pinkish color and of course strawberry milkshake, you couldn't detect it in there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: She was just giving him a little bit more and more?

JIM RAY: Yeah, just.....just enough you know to make him sick, keep him alive. She.....what old Cecil would do, he'd go off hunting and fishing, you know, and stay gone two or three days and drinking beer and she would get mad at him about that. And every time he went on one of

these fishing trips, he'd come back home and she'd feed him some more strychnine. So, that went on there for awhile until he got in the hospital.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what was his approximate age?

JIM RAY: He was about 40 years old.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And her?

JIM RAY: She was about 65.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

JIM RAY: She had old thin, red, curly hair you know. It took a man to be drunk, you know, to stay with her.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did ah.....did she ever kill him?

JIM RAY: No, didn't kill him ah.....he came back down to East Texas after he got out of the hospital and of course I had my case pretty well investigated and I talked to the District Attorney, who at that time was Bill Colston, and ah.....asked Bill I said, "Well I know that we probably need him to sign a complaint but can I file on her if he won't sign a complaint". He said, "Well we wouldn't have much of a case if you did". He said, "Well let's get him in here".

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well why wouldn't you?

JIM RAY: Well I don't know, you had to have a, you know, a complaint from somebody that had first hand prior knowledge to it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

JIM RAY: Anyway, I got old Cecil up there in the District Attorney's office and talking to him and Bill was there. Bill asked him to sign a complaint against his wife you know for poisoning him. Old Cecil kind of hung his head and he said, "Well he didn't think he would, didn't want

to”. So old Bill called him a bad name and told him that he was about the sorriest feller he’d ever met.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And did they end up living happily ever after?

JIM RAY: Yeah they lived.....he went back to her you know and in about six months he was off again on a fishing trip, got drunk and run his old pickup into a tree and killed himself.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I wonder if she was still making him strawberry milkshakes?

JIM RAY: Probably was, he was probably still liking ‘em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then did she.....

JIM RAY: She finally passed away.

ROBERT NIEMAN: She never did any time?

JIM RAY: Never did.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I’ll be. Another case was ah....William Smith Carpenter, down in Angelina County in 1960. Could you describe this case?

JIM RAY: Well William Smith Carpenter was at Tyler.....he was from Tyler. He had a partnership in a gro....in drug stores over there with a fella named Francis, it was Francis Carpenter Drug Company, drug stores. And there was a couple out of San Antonio, a prostitute named Joan Ann Brock and a man named Dennis Woodberry, came to Tyler one night and looked him up. Old Carpenter was kind of a.....as far as everybody knew was a respectable person, but he had a habit of, you know, frequenting or having sex with prostitutes. And he had.....he did know this Joan Ann Brock, but they looked him up. And this Dennis Woodberry was robber and thug and killer from San Antonio. And after they lured him down to his drug store on South Vine Street there in Tyler, actually they abduct.....they kidnapped him. They robbed the store of all the narcotics and what cash was around and kidnapped him and put him in

the car and started driving with him. And so they haul him down to Angelina County, near Lufkin there, and there was a side road that went off into the country there that had lots of briar patches and stuff like that. And they made him get out and walked him out in one of those briar patches and they killed him out there and left him there in those bushes. Well of course the next morning I worked closely with the police department there in Tyler and Lt. Joe Elliot was the homicide detective at that time and they had found the drug store open you know and disarray around the narcotics area and ah.....some blood stains. And he called me about seven o'clock the next morning, I forget what day this was. Anyway, I went down to the drug store and met Joe down there to make this on scene investigation. And I found out the narcotics had a trademark on it and I took that down and everything.

ROBERT NIEMAN: It had a?

JIM RAY: A trademark, had a secret trademark you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

JIM RAY: They use an alphabetic numbers forletters for numbers. I made note of that in my investigation and of course we did preliminary stuff like blood samples and finger prints and all that stuff you know, like they do on photographs, at the scene. And soof course we couldn't find Carpenter, he was missing, so we put out a state wide alert on that for him, knew that he had probably been kidnapped because his vehicle was still there at the store. And ah.....we got to, you know, contacting informants and people like that, that might.....you know, know something, borders around the town, around the motel. And I made some contacts over in Gregg County, people that helped me along at times. And ah....we worked all day just about, and late that night about eleven o'clock we was in the Sheriff's office and you know, scratching our head around, we'd searched old Carpenters apartment and found a woman up there that we thought might

know something. And we had her there in the Sheriff's office questioning her and the telephone rang and Joe answered the telephone. And Joe talked on the telephone there a little bit and he hung up he'd made ahe'd copied a license number down on a piece of paper there. And when he hung up I said, "Well who was that". He said, "That's old Joe Bissell", he said, "He's one of the night watch service here and security man here in Tyler". Said, "He gave me a license number off of a car that he'd had taken down, down at the Bergfeld Shopping Center", one of the areas that he had security on, "At a telephone booth", said, "This car was parked there and he wrote the number down". And Joe had already wadded this up and threw it in the wastebasket you know. I said, "Well let me see that paper". And I got the paper. Of course the police department didn't have much use for Joe Bissell because Joe had kind of been in the air a few times, private investigator and ah.....but I got the telephone number..... I got the license number and I called DPS radio station. And I asked 'em, I said, "Check this out for ownership and whatever you can give me on it". Well in a little bit they came back and told me it was registered to this Dennis Woodberry from San Antonio. Of course we'd already determined that there was somebody probably from the San Antonio area involved in this by checking the answering service, they'd tried to call him on the telephone you know, and was going through this answering service. Of course we didn't have any names or anything. And the people over at the funeral home there where Carpenter had an apartment there, had a garage apartment rented there, they had seen this car and two people there in the car, come to that apartment looking for Mr. Carpenter. And they described a man and a woman you know. Anyway, we knew that it was probably from someone around the San Antonio area was involved in it. Well after I got this license check with this name Dennis Woodberry as being from San Antonio, I told Lt. Elliot, I

said, "Why don't you get on the telephone and call the Chief down there", they have a night chief on duty there in San Antonio.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Now who.....Lt. Elliot is....?

JIM RAY: He was a detective there in Tyler, with the Tyler police department. And he called San Antonio and talked to the Chief, I forget what the Chief's name was, and the Chief told him he said, "Well if Dennis Woodberry was in Tyler, Texas", said, "You got....you probably got your man", said, "We know him, we know his reputation down here". And so I got on the telephone with the Chief and I gave him the additional information about the narcotics that was probably taken and also the trade name, the trademark that was on 'em. And we asked him to go and check on the Woodberry's and see if they could find any of the narcotics or anything. Well, sure enough, about two or three hours later they called us back and told me they'd been out to check on Dennis Woodberry and as they drove up to his apartment he drove in, he and this prostitute Joan Ann Brock and said that they had come from another apartment over there and said when they went and checked that they found the narcotics in a shed back in the back of the garage where they was parked and they had 'em stashed back there. And it was the same narcotics that was taken, so we was pretty sure that we had the right people. So we got a warrant issued for the two, Joan Ann Brock and Dennis Woodberry and Joe Elliot....Lt. Elliot and Sheriff Arlon Long and I went to San Antonio where we conducted additional searches of the Woodberry apartment and also Joan Ann's apartment. And of course we didn't get anything additional other than the automobile. Well we had awhile we was on this search well ah.....they called us from the court house that they had Woodberry up there before the District Judge and he was about to release him if we didn't produce a warrant, and I had the warrant. So I went back to the courthouse immediately and appeared before the Judge and presented my

warrant and he released him to us. And we got the evidence and the suspects and back to Tyler we came. And of course as a result of interview and interrogation well they carried us down toin Angelina County where they had left Carpenter's body in this briar patch. This took two or three days you know. But as a result of it they were tried down in Angelina County, in Lufkin, and Ilet's see Joan Ann got life in the penitentiary for her part of it and then Dennis Woodberry gotwas tried over in Waxahachie, he also got life.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Why Waxahachie?

JIM RAY: He asked for a change of venue, got a change of venue. But they went to the penitentiary and ah.....they stayed down there for about ten years and they were paroled. And ah....Dennis Woodberry was killed in a bar there in San Antonio in a fight, shot to death. And I understand that Joan Ann Brock is one of the matrons over at the penitentiary at Gatesville there at this time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: My, my. Well like most Rangers I'm sure you've got more cases than you could talk about in years.

JIM RAY: Oh yes, many.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Many. Did you ever wonder, or kind of calculate in your own mind, saying just major felonies, your murders that you may have worked?

JIM RAY: Oh I expect there are a couple of dozen.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....

JIM RAY: Major cases.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You ah....

JIM RAY: Most of 'em, you know, are burglary - theft, horse stealing and cattle stealing and stuff like that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You know I've noticed that when you think about it, it would be natural, Rangers are like other people, they've got certain things they like better than others. And I know our friend Glenn Elliott, he enjoyed working homicide cases. And there have been others that like murderor ah.....you know robberies and what not. What type cases did you prefer?

JIM RAY: I really didn't have any preference I don't think. Some of them were easier than others. You know if you have the breaks, a homicide case is really the easiest one to work, if you have really a break. You know you got to be lucky to be successful working a case. You got to have breaks.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well is it a case of the harder you work the luckier you get sort of situation?

JIM RAY: That's right, the harder you work the more breaks you get on it. Some of 'em you know just happen.... just seem kind of like a fluke, you know, to solve a case, just things happen that, you know, you don't really try to foresee on it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, you've gone through your.....been a field Ranger ah....now then you want to tryor ah.....just one second. Okay now, when did you decide you wanted to try to become an officer? Was that a thought in your mind when you first become a Ranger, that you wanted to promote?

JIM RAY: Well naturally everybody kind of wants to advance, you know, in their career as well as they possibly could. I really didn't have any desire to be a Sergeant or a Captain in the Rangers, I was happy as a Private, that was one of the best jobs I ever had. You had more freedom and you know, to use your own judgment as a Ranger Private than you did anywhere else that I worked.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Would you of enjoyed being Private as much though if you'd of been at headquarters company as you was being in the field?

JIM RAY: I doubt..... I doubt if I would. I preferred theyou know, the field assignments, I never did want to work out of headquarters. I worked some out of headquarters right after I became a Ranger, about three months, two or three months. And I, you know, preferred to be out in the field somewhere kind of like I was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well when did you become a Sergeant, which is today a Lieutenant?

JIM RAY: Again I'll have to refer to my.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I mean, what year?

JIM RAY: I don't remember that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well let's refer.

JIM RAY: '67 I think. I was a Ranger Sergeant and transferred to Midland December 1st, 1967.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay now, when you.....did you have to test or what....what did it consist of to become a Sergeant?

JIM RAY: Well really all you did was went down and appeared before the Commission there in Austin and you know, if the Colonel desired that you be promoted that's the way you'd get the promotion, at that time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Just the Colonel?

JIM RAY: Yeah, it was on his word. He was, you know, at that time he was Chief of the Rangers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And that was Garrison?

JIM RAY: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Homer Garrison. Now, did you know you'd probably go to Midland or did you hope you might stay around here?

JIM RAY: Well you know that wasthat was where the opening was, at Midland, and of course at that time Jim Riddle, who was a Sergeant in Austin at that time, he made Captain, you know, at the same time that I made Sergeant. So he and I went to Midland at the same time, December 1st and he was my Captain and I was the Sergeant.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, excuse me, now Jim Riddle I know a little bit about, give me your thoughts on Jim Riddle.

JIM RAY: He was one of the finest old boys you'd ever know, good Captain, just a good man generally all around.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You know there's still some people around, you know, that are proud to say I was a Riddle Ranger.

JIM RAY: Yeah, yes sir. He was a good man.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What did your duties as Sergeant consist of?

JIM RAY: Well I didn't.....there wasn't much change, did a little administrative work you know, reviewing you know, the reports and stuff like that, that came in from the field Rangers. And I did investigation just like I did when I was a Private.

ROBERT NIEMAN: There in the Midland area?

JIM RAY: Midland area. Of course we wentyou know our area went to the border south and we came this way nearly to Ft. Worth.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then all the way to El Paso?

JIM RAY: And all the way to El Paso.....no, we didn't go to El Paso, that was in Lubbock.....yes we did.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah I think Midland would cover El Paso.

JIM RAY: Yeah, yeah. So I spent a good bit of my time, you know, just driving and going to the Ranger stations and visiting.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you find that ah.....attitudes towards men were different towards you now that you were a Sergeant than they were as just a Private?

JIM RAY: No, not much difference, you know, we was all first name type of people, with each other. However you got a lot more respect from 'em, they showed their respect for you.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how long were you a Sergeant?

JIM RAY: About a year.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then you become

JIM RAY: Captain.

ROBERT NIEMAN: At?

JIM RAY: Lubbock.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what date was that?

JIM RAY: Well, September 16th, 1968.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You're a Captain now of Company C.

JIM RAY: In Lubbock, Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lubbock, Texas. Who's your Sergeant?

JIM RAY: Selwin Denson.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Former Company B boy.

JIM RAY: Yes, Selwin H. Denson, he was a good man.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I've interviewed Selwin.

JIM RAY: He was a good Sergeant.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And

JIM RAY: He'd been running the company there you know for a long time just.....just himself you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Why, hadn't there been a Captain there?

JIM RAY: Well, Johnny he died with a heart attack.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh, J. P. Lynch? No, he got.....no, not J. P.

JIM RAY: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well anyway ah....

JIM RAY: No, I'm wrong about that ah.....let's see he died.....D.O. Ellison was Sergeant out there when this Captain died. Selwin moved there from Corpus.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well had Selwin been Allee's Sergeant?

JIM RAY: Yeah, sure had.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then ah....wasn't that kind of a short time to become a Captain? Usually didn't you serve.....

JIM RAY: Ah....me?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yes.

JIM RAY: Yeah it was an exceptional short.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What do you credit that to, besides your brilliant ability?

JIM RAY: I have no idea. Probably I was on good terms with the Commission.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay was it to become a Captain the same as a Sergeant, basically the Colonel ?

JIM RAY: Yes, that's right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You obviously had a good relationship with Homer Garrison.

JIM RAY: Yeah. Any time he had a tough assignment he'd assign me to it, it seemed like.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How did you get to know Garrison?

JIM RAY: Just by working, you know, with him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well you must of done some case some where that really.....

JIM RAY: All the years with the Highway Patrol and everything else you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: There must of been something you did though that stuck out that made him start watching you.

JIM RAY: I don't know what it was, other than hard work. I always tried to pull my end of the load.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Now, what are you doing now as Captain, what does your duties consist of?

JIM RAY: Well mostly, you know, administrative personnel supervision, and stuff like that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: No field work any more?

JIM RAY: I really didn't do anything, Selwin Denson done it all. I told him he was the Sergeant and he was supposed to run it and I was the Captain and I wasn't going to do nothing.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is that what ya'll did?

JIM RAY: Yeah, yeah. So I said, I told him I said, "You've been running it for years up here", I said, "I don't see why you should quit just because I came".

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well had you worked with Selwin before you got there?

JIM RAY: Oh I'd worked around him some a good bit. Yeah I knew Selwin for years, even when he was a Highway Patrolman.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you ah....did you ever have any desire toif there had been an opening, to come to Company B?

JIM RAY: Well I had that in the back of my mind at the time because I couldn't adapt to the climate out there in Lubbock apparently, cause I was sick most of the time and had my sinus problem was driving me up the wall and I couldn't get any relief for that. And I kind of had it in the back of my mind, if any opening ever came up in Dallas I'd try and move there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, how long were you Captain?

JIM RAY: Well I was a Captain about a year.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you become Chief of the Criminal Law Enforcement?

JIM RAY: On June 23rd, 1969.

ROBERT NIEMAN: On June 23rd, 1969. And ah....what.....now that's not in the scope of what we're wanting to talk about here on your Ranger career, but why..... I do want to ask you why, because I mean fromall most a little over two years, you go from a field Ranger to the Chief of Criminal Law Enforcement. Now that wasn't luck.

JIM RAY: Well, of course I I I knew the people, you know, in Austin like Colonel Pat Speir, he and I you know went through recruit school together.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And he had replaced Homer Garrison when Garrison died?

JIM RAY: Yes, uh hum. Knew Colonel Gossett, it was Colonel Gossett, you know, that was made Chief of the Criminal Law Enforcement division.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Before you?

JIM RAY: He was the first one.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. No I didn't know that.

JIM RAY: Yeah, and he didn't stay but about a month or so until thehe was made Lieutenant Colonel there under Pat. And then they brought in ah.....you know Jack Rebel from the city police department, there at Dallas, he was made Chief. Of course he didn't stay there but

about two or three months until, you know, politics finally wound him up. And so the position was open and the Colonel thought I might be able to help him I guess and he called me and offered it to me.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how long were you ah.....Chief of the Criminal Law?

JIM RAY: Until May 31st, 1978.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You ah.....like I said, that's not really within the scope of what we're wanting to talk about here, so let's go back to the Rangers, back to your days as a Captain. Your a Sergeant, you're still working the field, now you're Captain and your not. Was that a tough adjustment?

JIM RAY: No it was real....as far as I'm concerned it was easy. You know, as I said, about my only problems, I had sixty counties up there in the Panhandle in that Company. And Colonel told me, he said, "I want you to visit every one of them". So, I was trying to visit, you know, the local officers and people like that in those counties.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how many men did you have under you when you become Captain up there?

JIM RAY: I believe there were twelve.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember 'em? Selwin Denson was your Sergeant.

JIM RAY: Yeah, Selwin, we had a Ranger Renfro and John Nance, Gene Graves and John Dudley White, Alford Allee, Jr.. Oh let's see, what's that boys name over at Abilene? Well I can't remember his name right now.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And he just had a stroke I think.

JIM RAY: Just recently.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....big old boy ah.....Murchison.

JIM RAY: Yeah, Murchison, Sid Murchison, yeah. And Rogers up in Amarillo.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is that John?

JIM RAY: No, wasn't John, it was.....well I swear, I can't think of his first name.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is ah....the Dudley White, is he the one that's today the oldest living Ranger, same one?

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Very bad health I understand.

JIM RAY: The same one.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....when you ah....a couple of questions going back, did you have any special thoughts, that's what I wanted to ask. When you was getting ready to go to Austin and for the last time you're pulling that Ranger badge off and you're going to wear a different badge now, any thoughts?

JIM RAY: Yeah it was. I had....you know, I had some mixed feelings about that. That was one of the things you know that I kind of was reluctant to go down there, because I knew I was getting in deep water probably and a strange position.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What did it mean to you to be a Texas Ranger?

JIM RAY: It meant a great deal.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Then and now?

JIM RAY: I sure don't regret a bit of it, I enjoyed it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you then or even now, comprehend what it means to the general public to have been a Texas Ranger?

JIM RAY: No, I really don't ah... I just..... I just appreciate the opportunity that I had of being, you know, part of the Ranger service. I know that was a desirable position, you know, for an

officer, you know, to seek. You know, I never have seen, you know, a local officer or anyone else that didn't want, you know, that privilege of being a Texas Ranger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Were you aware of the legend.....you know the real legend of you know, the McNelly's and the Hayes and the Hammers and the Gonzauillas, and then the mythical legend of the Lone Ranger and the tales of the Texas Rangers and the movies, were they hard to live up to, cause you knew people compared you?

JIM RAY: Well there's one thing about it, I don't really think that, you know, the modern Ranger had to live up, you know, to the reputation that those older Rangers had because they had really a different goal I'd say, or a mission to accomplish than the modern Rangers have. Of course they're similar but you know, there's different enlistment requirements and everything else then what they had back there. You know, they.....of course I read lots of stuff about those old Rangers and appreciated it, you know, they were interesting, like Captain Hayes and John McDonald and people like that. Of course John McDonald is the one that they attributed, one right

ROBERT NIEMAN: Bill McDonald.

JIM RAY: Bill McDonald yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You know where he was raised?

JIM RAY: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Henderson.

JIM RAY: Yeah. Lot's of good.....lot's of good officer came from East Texas you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah they did, yes they did.

JIM RAY: You know is was just thinking, there's about six men from this one little town worked for the Department of Public Safety and you know, they were Highway Patrolmen or Rangers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Take a tiny little town of Windham, of course, Glenn Elliott and Jim Riddle both from that little old town not any bigger than Bullard.

JIM RAY: Yeah, yeah, Trent Norton became a Ranger, I had a nephew that was a Ranger, they was all raised here in Bullard.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....let's go back just a little bit and cover a few things. Ah....we kind of..... I kind of jumped over here. When you become a DPSor become a Trooper in 1940....

JIM RAY: Highway Patrolman.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Highway Patrolman, a Highway Patrolman in 1941, what was your starting pay?

JIM RAY: Well while we were in recruit I think they paid us a hundred dollars a month.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Whether you needed it or not.

JIM RAY: That's right, whether we needed it or not. Then right after we finished recruit school and went on the road we was paid a hundred twenty five a month. And when we served six months we went to a hundred and forty five and when we served a year we got a hundred and sixty five, so that was big money back in those days.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And by the time you joined the Rangers, what was your pay?

JIM RAY: I don't recall, but it was around three fifty I believe it was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The same question for Sergeant, how big of a pay raise did you get for Sergeant?

JIM RAY: Forty more dollars a month.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Captain?

JIM RAY: Or it was about a hundred more dollars, it wasn't much more.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When you left the Rangers then in 19.....what was it, '69, what was your pay?

JIM RAY: 1969? I don't remember, it was....it was less than three hundred dollars I believe.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....the Rangers ah.....never had a uniform and ah.....in '48 you were in ah....you were in Athens right, as a Highway Patrolman?

JIM RAY: No I was in Conroe.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Conroe?

JIM RAY: Went to Athens in '49.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did.....you got to know Gonzauillas pretty well?

JIM RAY: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did he ever talk to you about the Texarkana phantom killer of '48, 1948?

JIM RAY: No, no never did. I was stationed in Conroe at that time and about the only thing we heard of it down there was just what we read in the paper and you know, grapevine rumors and stuff like that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Off....you know, like I said.....I've got his.....I've got his file on that case.

JIM RAY: Yeah?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....as a Ranger, did you pick your own cases or were they assigned to you?

JIM RAY: Well, no I didn't pick 'em, I usually waswell of course I got some assignments, but we were usually stationed in a county like myself stationed in Tyler and had surrounding counties and we worked real close with the local officers. And usually when something

happened like a bad burglary or murder or something like that, well the local officer that you worked with most would usually call you and ask you to come in and help him. Which it just got to be kind of like you was another deputy for the Sheriff or another policeman for the police department, if you had a close enough relationship with 'em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you'd try to have that in almost all your counties, or all your counties?

JIM RAY: That's right, yes I sure did.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you spend a lot of time keeping a good close relationship with your different Sheriff's and Chief of Police, I mean, like going by and visiting for maybe just ten minutes and get a cup of coffee with 'em.

JIM RAY: Oh yeah, go and visit with the Chief or, you know, the Sheriff. Yeah that was one of the things that I really worked on, was trying to keep a good relationship with your fellow officers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When you become a Ranger, how many Rangers were there?

JIM RAY: There was 42.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And when you re.....left the Rangers to go to CLE in '69?

JIM RAY: Well let's see, I believe it was fifty..... I believe there was 52.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Ah....

JIM RAY: I know that they'd made 10 Rangers some where in there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, Glenn got to be a Ranger in '61 over that group of ten.

JIM RAY: Yeah, but after Glenn got to be a Ranger, I believe there was ten....one of the legislative made.....the Colonel asked the legislature to give ten vacancies in the intelligence service there and the legislator wouldn't do it because he was mad at him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Politics.

JIM RAY: Politics. And then.....but they did give him the positions, so the Colonel just moved 'em over into the Ranger service.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That would of been Spear?

JIM RAY: Sir?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Would that of been Garrison?

JIM RAY: Yes. And they had ten Rangers vacancies at one time, which was, you know, really something at that time. Bill Wilson and a bunch of those intelligence officers were made Rangers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....you're of course familiar with the famous, or infamous, whichever one you want to call it, East Texas merry-go-round?

JIM RAY: I never heard of the terminology.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Well did you ever have anything that might be resembling to it out in West Texas?

JIM RAY: What was it?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well we'll move right along. I'm sure you never used it. Ah....how did you see reports change? For instance, ah.....from the time you become a Ranger until you retired as a Ranger, and I go back to the 1920's where this whole Ranger, maybe even before the '20's, named Kiowa Jones and this old report read that ah.....he'd been chasing a Mexican outlaw and his whole report was, 'Mean as hell, had to kill him'. That was his whole report.

JIM RAY: Well, there's a little story behind that too. When I first went on the Rangers, Bob Crowder had the position as Chief of the Texas Rangers and was stationed in Austin.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was that kind of like the Sr. Captain today?

JIM RAY: Yeah. But he was Chief of the Texas Rangers. And he had his offices in there in the headquarters building, there in Austin, files and everything. And of course I was brought in down there with the instructions to, you know, to check and familiarize myself with the reports and all that stuff about, you know, the Ranger report.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you're a Ranger during this time?

JIM RAY: I was a..... I was a new Ranger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay

JIM RAY: A fresh Ranger. And I spent several days down there in Bob's office and going through the files and it was pitiful. And I made a..... I made a vow to myself if I ever got out in the field and worked a case, there'd be some information in it, you know, you'd pull those file and it'd be one sheet of paper maybe in it with a half of type written.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Mean as hell, had to kill him.

JIM RAY: That's right, no information on it about the case or what the Ranger did or anything else. So when I came out I made a vow that I was going to try to make a good case report when I did an investigation. And I started making 'em. I guess I must of put the pressure on some of the other Rangers to make a better case report, which they did.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you get.....continue this and start when you got in the position as Sergeant and Captain and Chief of CLE to demand it then?

JIM RAY: Yes. Make a case report not just a report.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....in your memory, we've talked about politics, I don't think we can ignore this, but in your memory during your duty, what Governor would you considertwo questions here, one, the best friend of the Rangers and two, the worst enemy of the Rangers?

JIM RAY: I really couldn't say, I don't know. I liked Dolph Briscoe, of course he was in office when I was there in Austin. Of course you had lots of Governors, you know, that wasfavored the Rangers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Connolly?

JIM RAY: Connolly, yes, he was one of them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Were you familiar with any of the old Ferguson Rangers? You know, Rangers never had anybody hate 'em as much as the Fergusons.

JIM RAY: No, but I've heard a few of the older Rangers, you know, talk about 'em. People like old Levi Duncan and Charlie Miller and people like that you know, say derogation things about 'em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. Ah...in your opinion, and of course it's very valuable in this, could a Frank Hammer or Lone Wolf Gonzauillas or a Bob Goss, could a Ranger like that exist today, using the methods that they had to use in their time?

JIM RAY: Well, no they wouldn't last very long, they'd wind up in the penitentiary. Their methods was a little rough shod at times I'd say.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I had a Ranger Captain, David Burns, tell me that today a policeman in any line of police work, uses his gun more than twice, he could never get a job anywhere else in police work.

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is that good or bad?

JIM RAY: Run that by me again now.

ROBERT NIEMAN: David told me that one time, he said, you know today that, you know, everythingyou know we were talking about this same thing, whether Gonzauillas or Hammer

could make it today. And he made the statement, and he wasn't putting inclination good or bad on it, that a policeman today, Ranger, city policeman, anything, it doesn't matter, if he was involved probably in more than two scraps where he shot somebody he probably couldn't get a job in any police department in the country today.

JIM RAY: Well that's probably right. I agree with that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is that good or bad though do you think?

JIM RAY: Well....

ROBERT NIEMAN: I mean, is policemen getting killed or shot out there because they're afraid to defend themselves?

JIM RAY: Yeah, career wise I don't think it's good. However, you know, you're put in a situation sometimes when you either do that or you get shot yourself. And I can see, you know, a person these days you know, getting into things like that pretty often.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I guess the questionlet me try to rephrase this then a little. I'm saying, do you think today there's such an anti, you can't use that gun attitude, that a police officer might back off of going into a situation where they might have to use that gun simply because the pressure ...or the career could ruin 'em?

JIM RAY: Yeah, yeah I do, I really do.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And that's not servingwould not seem to me to serve the public best.

JIM RAY: No, it wouldn't. But that's....that's the situation today, you know. Through the years there's been lots of situations, you know, where the people had to adapt to 'em, either that or fall by the way side. I think the Rangers are like that, they got to.....they got to adapt to the situation.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well you were part of the.....in your career you saw basically the change, when you came in, the good old boy was still there to where basically the Captain said, "I want

you to be my Ranger”, there was a pretty good chance you was going to be a Ranger, to today that’s, you know, you may even have gone.....the pendulum may have swung to much the other way. But what’s your thoughts on the good old boy changes, I mean, you helped to adopt some of that because you were there?

JIM RAY: Yeah, I did help to organize it. My.....really my goal was when I went in down there is to limit the Ranger appointments to the people within the Department of Public Safety, you know, the Commission people. Which you know has come about. Ah....while I was down there, you know, it was still....when I first went down there, it was still pretty political, you know, if you got, you know, the proper people, you know, to recommend you. I remember one applicant that I had over a hundred letters from politicians that came into my office that I had to answer, you know, recommended him to be made a Ranger, over a hundred of ‘em. Of course, I didn’t like to set down and answer those letters, you know, I had better things to do than set down and answer a bunch of letters from politicians. But, he never did make a Ranger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was he just absolutely not qualified?

JIM RAY: He qualified but, you know, he went about it the wrong way. If he’d got one or two of the proper people, you know, to recommend him. Well he had everybody from the dog catcher up, you know, writing him letters....writing letters for him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. Ah....did ah....ah....well you.....you were already out of law enforcement by the time Henry Lee Lucas came along wasn’t you?

JIM RAY: Yeah, yeah, I was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....while you was..... I want to jump back here, I’m kind of reviewing my notes. While you were still in Tyler, or after you left Tyler, Bob Mitchell the man who would replace you here.....

JIM RAY: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He had a large case he worked out here at Tyler Pipe, the people were.....did you have any cases with some of the bigger industries around here that could of really significantly affected the situation in Tyler? Because these people were breaking Tyler Steel on the.....Tyler Pipe, the people that Bob that worked.

JIM RAY: Yeah. I never did, the only.....the only relation I ever had with Tyler Pipe, once in awhile I had to go out there with some of the employees.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I meant, not just Tyler Pipe, but I mean like a slant hole, that could of really affected.....

JIM RAY: Well I I hadI had that, I was lead investigator in that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. But any of the other major industries around here that.....?

JIM RAY: No, no.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....were you Rangering here when they did the Billy Saul Estes deal here....trial here?

JIM RAY: No, but seem like I was.....no I wasn't here, but I recall.... I recall it, I was probably in some other area, Midland or Lubbock, I don't know what year it was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: A few more questions and I'll have about all I have to ask. I always like to ask about other Rangers that you gentlemen have worked with. Ah....and your thoughts, and of course ah.....Red Arnold?

JIM RAY: Red Arnold was I guess one of the best friends I've ever had and I think one of the best Rangers that's ever been. Red had lots of investigative ability and you know he knew fingerprinting and to lift and read fingerprints. And he had one of the best interrogative approaches I've ever seen in a man.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What made it good, how would he do it?

JIM RAY: The way he looked and the way he approached the man. He'd get more out of a criminal than anybody I've seen.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....

JIM RAY: He was a fine man, I loved that boy, he was a good man.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Max Womack?

JIM RAY: Never did work around Max any, I've just known him since he's been a Ranger. Max has got a lot on the ball too and he's well liked.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Can't like Max Womack you just don't like anybody.

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did ah....

JIM RAY: Personality.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about Slick, Slick Alford?

JIM RAY: Slick, I never did work around Slick too much, of course I knew Slick when he was on the Highway Patrol and was partially responsible for him being a Ranger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How's that?

JIM RAY: And ah....of course he got to be a Ranger when I was Chief down there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How was you partially responsible?

JIM RAY: Oh, recommended him, you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh okay.

JIM RAY: I did have that authority to recommend.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lewis Riggler?

JIM RAY: Oh I've known Lewis I guess since '41, he was stationed in Grand Prairie when I was stationed in McKinney on the Highway Patrol in 1942. Of course I've known Lewis long years, you know, and think lots of Lewis, he's a fine man.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Selwin Denson?

JIM RAY: Selwin Denson is another good man, I always liked Selwin.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....did you know Leo Bishop?

JIM RAY: Met Leo one time, at my old ranch.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I know you've told me before you only knew him very casually, Bob Goss, I think you said you just knew him casually?

JIM RAY: I've had someoccasionally I'd see Bob and a time or two, you know, we'd meet up and shoot a few rounds out in the woods somewhere, shoot the bull.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Walter Russell?

JIM RAY: Didn't know Walter very well, but you know, I knew that he was a good man, you know, pretty dangerous man.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Charlie Miller?

JIM RAY: Charlie was..... I worked around Charlie a good bit.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Tell me something about Charlie?

JIM RAY: Charlie was a fine feller and about like a rattlesnake, he'd bite you. But Charlie, you know, he had ahe had a thing that he'd do to a new Ranger. When he came on he'd ease up to him and he'd tell that new Ranger says, "Now let me tell you something Ranger", he said, "If you ever get anybody that needs killing, if you don't want to do it", he says, "Just call me and I'll do it for you".

ROBERT NIEMAN: And there are those that say he wasn't joking.

JIM RAY: Anyway, he'd do that to all of 'em though.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....Hardy Purvis, Sr.?

JIM RAY: The only time I worked around Hardy when I was on the Highway Patrol there in Houston, and they had the offices in the same building. All I knew was by reputation what Hardy Purvis was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah.....Johnny Klevenhagen?

JIM RAY: I knew Johnny very well and you know I liked Johnny.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He died young.

JIM RAY: Yeah, he was a hard working Ranger. He lived it and breathed it you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He's in the Hall of Fame too.

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....ah....Jay Banks?

JIM RAY: Jay was my Sergeant and my Captain too and I always thought a great deal of Banks. He had the potential of being one of the greatest and you know he just had a weakness that got him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....your successor, Bob Mitchell?

JIM RAY: Now Bob, he was as good a friend as I got, I had lots of fun with Bob and hewhen I made Sergeant and moved from Tyler, Bob Mitchell was the Ranger that came and replaced me at my position there in Tyler as a Ranger Private. I kind of envy him because I loved to live there and I loved being a Private.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....Bob Crowder?

JIM RAY: I worked with Bob Crowder, he was my Captain and I never worked with a better man. There wasn't one that would treat you any better, he'd treat you square.

ROBERT NIEMAN: We've already mentioned Jim Riddle ah....what about Glen Warner?

JIM RAY: Glen was a Highway Patrol Captain.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Here in Tyler.

JIM RAY: When I was in Tyler and we worked well together, never did have any problems.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Saw him the other day.

JIM RAY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Clint Peoples?

JIM RAY: Never did work around or with Clint. He did....he did.....was the Sr. Captain when I was Chief down in Austin.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And finally, the one, the only, Glenn Elliott?

JIM RAY: Old Glenn's my buddy, my best buddy.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I don't guess there's much more to say than that.

JIM RAY: He's one of the finest old boys you've ever seen and one of the best Rangers that I've known and worked with.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Captain Jim that's really about all the questions I've got. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

JIM RAY: The only thing I can say is, I thank you for doing this. I don't know whether I'm not....that I made a very good interview.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Excellent, excellent.

JIM RAY: But I appreciate the opportunity and ah..... I hope you use it right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I'll make sure you have a copy of the tape and a copy of the transcript, and it will be.

JIM RAY: I'm going to give you the copies that I

ROBERT NIEMAN: Thank you very much.