

Interview With

E G “Butch” Albers
Texas Ranger, Retired

Project:
Texas Rangers

Interview Conducted at the
Texas Ranger Hall of Fame of Museum
Waco, Texas
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Interviewed By:
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Longview, Texas & Luling, Texas

Present At Interview: E G “Butch” Albers, Robert Nieman, Chuck Parsons



Introduction

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Captain E. G. “Butch” Albers

Retired Texas Ranger

ROBERT NIEMAN:CHUCK PARSONS, we are the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, Texas. The purpose of this interview is to discuss Texas Ranger Captain E. G. Albers career as a Texas Ranger in law enforcement. Captain Albers, do I have your permission to video tape this interview?

E G ALBERS: Yes you do.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Captain Albers you understand that this videotape will belong to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum?

E G ALBERS: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And finally, Captain do I have your permission toor do we have your permission to present copies of this tape to various historical organizations such as museums, libraries and schools?

E G ALBERS: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What is your full name and where do you currently live?

E G ALBERS: Ah....full name is Edwin George Albers, Jr. and I currently live in Waco, Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What’s your address?

E G ALBERS: 9301 Oak Hill Drive ah....Waco, Texas 76712.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When and where were you born Captain?

E G ALBERS: I was.... I was born August the 10th 1923 ah....in League County, Texas near Giddings , Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And who ah...were your parents?

E G ALBERS: My....my....my dad was Edwin G. Albers, Sr. and my mother's name was Emma Singer Albers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And in chronological order, do you have any brothers and sisters?

E G ALBERS: Yes I do, I have ah....ah.... I have ah....seven brothers and three sisters.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And their names?

E G ALBERS: Ah....Gus, Bill, John, ah.....Clara, Mary, myself, Ewald....

ROBERT NIEMAN: How do you spell that?

E G ALBERS: E W A L D.....ah....Richard, Fred and Ruby.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay....and ah....what ah....is your wife....who is your wife?

E G ALBERS: Ah....Ann ah....Ann Tate Albers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay...and do you have any children and if yes, their names chronologically.

E G ALBERS: Ah.... I have a son Edwin George, III and ah....a daughter, Katherine ah....ah.....Ford is her last name now.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...where did you go to school Captain?

E G ALBERS: I went to school at ah....at a one room school house in the corner of our farm where I was raised ah....down at ah....four miles northeast of Giddings. The school house was on my daddy's farm, we had a couple acres in there and there was a one room school house, first seven years there and then later after finishing the seventh grade there I went to ah....Giddings High School and graduated there from Giddings High School in 1942. Ah...later after going into the military service and ah...later after thatafter military service I worked at ah..Pampapolice department from ah....1946 to 49 and was accepted in the Highway Patrol andin....in 1949 and was ah....stationed at Amarillo, Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Now going back just a little...back to your school ah....what....did you have any particular favorite subjects or teachers and what not while you were in school?

CHUCK PARSONS: Or sports maybe....were you active in sports?

E G ALBERS: I was....in high school I was sports yeah.... I played football four years, basketball, track and all of it was ah....made captain of the football team my senior year and was All District of Giddings.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What position did you play?

E G ALBERS: I played right tackle.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....did ah....you got out of school in 1942 and then you went in the service then right?

E G ALBERS: Yeah....soon after that, I worked a few months in a Houston ship yard building ships during...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what yard was that?

E G ALBERS: Huh?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember what yard that was?

E G ALBERS: Houston Ship Building.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. What....what branch of the service did you go into?

E G ALBERS: I went into the U.S. Air Corp.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And did you do any overseas or.....

E G ALBERS: No I did not. I was in thereafter I took basic ah....the put me in a guard outfit and one day they came through the barracks andand said, “we want you and you and you to be town MP’s”....because of our size.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well you had mentioned 1949....yeah I guess you went through the same DPS school with Glenn Elliott?

E G ALBERS: Yes I did.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He was also an MP.

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But where....where did you take your basic?

E G ALBERS: I took my basic at Ellington Field in Houston....out of Houston.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What....what other bases did you serve in....at?

E G ALBERS: That was it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You say....okay, you did your whole militarywhen did you get out?

E G ALBERS: I got out in ah....19....

CHUCK PARSONS: 49'

E G ALBERS: 1945 I believe it was .

ROBERT NIEMAN: What did you do those four years between 45' and 49'you did it all up at Pampa?

E G ALBERS: Well Iwell I spent..... I spent I stayed about 6 months working in a parts house and of course I was town MP in Pampa, Texas at Pampa Air Base and of course that'sthat was my first connection with law enforcement.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember the name of that storethat parts place you worked at?

E G ALBERS: Thompson Parts.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And that was in....

E G ALBERS: Pampa.

ROBERT NIEMAN: In Pampa....that's way up in the panhandle, that's a....that's a long ways from Giddings.

E G ALBERS: Top of Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....was there any particular reason that you got into law enforcement?

E G ALBERS: Well, of course I I had worked with the police department as an MP ah....worked just like one of the policemen at the time. And ah...ah.... I was at that parts house working, waiting on the GI bill of rights to supplement my pay. And they ah....they didn't come through so ah....they kept after me suggesting they wanted me backwanted me at the police department, because I had a pretty good track record as an MP you know andand I went to work for them in 1946 and when I left there I was aa night captain for the police department and I had been accepted in the Highway Patrol and went to the 15th Highway Patrol school in Austin.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Camp Mabry.

E G ALBERS: Camp Mabry, yes sir.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Let me jump back for one question and then we'll come back to this. When did you and your wife get married?

E G ALBERS: Ah....this is my second marriage, we've been married ah...ah....September the 27th, 1980.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Ah...did ah....okay you're in law enforcementah....why did you decide to leave the ah...Pampa and go to the DPS?

E G ALBERS: Well I just thought it would be ah...a better career. First of all the DPSand of I I was good friends of somecouple of highway patrolmen that were stationed at Pampa.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who were they?

E G ALBERS: P.C. Wynne and ah....Bill White. Both of those....both of those men later wereP.C. Wynne at a Lieutenant atat ah....at Arlington and Bill White was a.... I believe was a Captain....Highway Patrol Captain in Dallas at one time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Wynne...does he spell his last name WYNN? Is there an E on it.

E G ALBERS: WYNN.... I guess it might have an E on it, I don't know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay....okay.....ah...how did you go through....how long was Camp Mabry?

E G ALBERS: Camp Mabryto long....ah....it was ah....from April ...April, May..... I guess we come out in June, from April, May and June.... I think it was something like that. I don't remember how long it was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ed Gooding, a friend of both ours who just passed away about a year ago, was in the class directly in front of you.

E G ALBERS: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And he relates ah.....was W. J. Elliottdid he give ya'll ah....address at graduation?

E G ALBERS: I believe so, yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Cause Ed said he could still quote Elliott's graduation speech verbatim. He said he was real crusty, had a big wad of tobacco in his mouth and said he walked up there and looked us over, said "we brought you here with a three cent stamp and we can replace you with a three cent stamp" and turned around and walked off the stage. And that was....he said Elliott was real crusty. Okay ah....okay where are you stationed first, you're done with Camp Mabry.

E G ALBERS: I was.... I was stationed at Amarillo.....Amarillo as a highway patrolman. Is that what you're talking about.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum....uh hum.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, uh huh.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you do any motorcycle duty?

E G ALBERS: Well I I ah.... Iduring the school down there we had to ride motorcycles.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What all did school consist of then?

E G ALBERS: Welloh it's a list as long as your leg. Ah...it was ah...traffic law enforcement, traffic accident investigation, driving and physical training, boxing andand had to take a lot of physical training and....and well it justit just to long to list, I can't name 'em all.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And motorcycles and.....

E G ALBERS: Yeah, and then....we rode motorcycles, had to be checked out.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Who was your first commanding officer in Amarillo?

E G ALBERS: Poke Ivy.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I V Y or I V E Y?

E G ALBERS: I V Y. Poke Ivy was a Highway Patrolman ah....that was riding with two other Highway Patrolmen up at ah....in April of 1934 when ah....these two other Highway Patrolmen went down the road to check a car, Poke Ivy went on into town up there somewhere around North Texas and you go back to Bonnie and Clyde. And these two Highway Patrolmen went down there to checkcheck the car and it was Bonnie Clyde and Bonnie and Clyde killed 'em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That was up in Grapevine, Texas.

E G ALBERS: In Grapevine, Texas or somewhere up in that part of Texas. But Poke Ivy was mymy original commander up there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did he ever talk about that incident any to you?

E G ALBERS: No he did not, no he did not. I learned about it later.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Ah...but ah....he justyou do remember specifically why....did he ever....or why he went on to town and left those....cause that would have been three of them that they'd of killed.

E G ALBERS: Oh I don't know.....there'd been.....they was three of them riding together and they said "well"....he said, "well I'm going to go on into town and ya'll go ahead and check the car".....or they said they was going down there. And I don't remember the two HighwayHighway Patrolmen's names that were shot by Clyde and Bonnie. A lot of this a lot of this I picked up on out of books and stories and stuff like that. In fact of Business, it was just ah....last week or so there was an article on ah....on TV about ah....a lady up in ah....Michigan or Minnesota, she had five bullets that he grand daddy gave her and said these bullets came from Clyde and Bonnie's body. And there's a couple of guys investigating that, proved it on TV in this story , that....that they were not. And of course there was a Dallas....a Dallas policeman who ah...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ted Henson.

E G ALBERS:who ah....his name was ah.....well I can't think of it right now, but anyway, he was a ballistics' expert, but there was gunsthere was bullets probably related toto what he was ah....ah.....firearms specialist for Dallas PD. But anyway that's....that's ah....that was something I heard just recently.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....do you remember ah...your first case as a Highway Patrolman, I mean other than just normal routine ah...traffic stops and stuff like that. Was there any particular cases that....cause the highway patrol used to work a lot of that back then.

E G ALBERS: The first.... I remember the first night on the highway patrol, on the road, I was working with ah.... my partner Bill Wells who had been a Highway Patrolman for a couple of years and we were on the Canyon Freeway working a wreck. And it was my first dealings with fusease and I remember very distinctly I was using that fusease and it dropped on my brand new shirt, on the cuff, you know and then laterlater that night we got call that we had to work back then that we worked and we went out ah.....west of Amarillo nearly to Glen Rio. Glen Rio is on the state line between the Texas and New Mexico ah...ah... line. And we made....we made a wreck out there and ah....we....to back up a little bit we started at 5:00 p.m., the shift, and the next morning at daylight we come in. And I remember that night....that was.....that was....that was really the firstfirst thing but ah....at that time ah....at that time we weren't....we weren't working criminal cases to speak of other than the fact that ah....we ah....prided our self to ah....ah....catching stolen cars coming across Route 66, which was from up east somewhere like to California and it was a through highway. Now Route 66 and Highwayah....Interstate 40 are kind of the same. But I'm one of the last living Highway Patrolmen that worked Route 66 before Interstate come into be.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I'll be. I think that starts up around Chicago.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, somewhere up in there and it went....it went to the west coast....west coast and you couldyou could ah....you could get out there on that thing and work it and we kind of prided our self that ah....and ah.... and ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well describe some the equipment that you had then. Cause I know you didn't have radar, how did you catch speeders? And what was some of the equipment you had.

E G ALBERS: Well we... we... we ah....we ah.....just ran 'em down is what we did andand if they run....if they ran more than 75 miles an hour them flatflat headed Fords, you called....you had them Deputy Sheriffs or Sheriffs in them adjoining counties to set up a road block and you'd catch down there. But ah....it was ah....ah...it was ah....'48 and '49 Fords and of course Amarillo country was pretty cool in the winter time and you had a south wind heater. If you've never heard of it, it's a south wind heater that's about that big and it picks up gasoline from the carburetor and heated it and it would dry your shins out and you'd freeze to death up at the top. The defroster on the....on....onon the dash was a....was a fan about so big in a grill and you....and it would blow the condensation off the inside of the windshield sort of. But that's....that's where it is. I remember a lot of times up there on the highway patrol in Amarillo, you come out in the morning to get in your patrol car, it had been snowing all night and there would be a snow drift 4 or 5 inches deep in there, that's how loosely them....them doors on them Fords fit, but ah....and ah....be a lot times that you worked out of Amarillo and ah....on snow and it would get about ah...ah....18 inches, two foot deep and you go out there and ah....sometimes you'd getyou'd get out there at night andand ah....get caught in a snow drift and ah....you'd be hung up in a snow drift. And you....you couldn't get out and what you'd do, you'd pick up theyou'd step out of the car and look around at them farm houses out there where you could see a light, you'd pick up thepick up the microphone and call to headquarters tell 'em, said, "well I'm going out of service, I'm going to go over here to...", I'm going to tell 'em just about where you're at... "I'm going to over here to this farm house and see if I can't lay down". Them farmers, you knock on the door and they say, "come on in". You just

lay down on the floor in the living room or in the front room or somewhere andand ah....til daylight and then you go back out there and try to get help to get that thing out.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well during just regular winter time....how did you keep the car from freezing up?

E G ALBERS: Huh?

ROBERT NIEMAN: How would you keep your car from freezing up, you go out in the morning to crank it

E G ALBERS: Now of course you had antifreeze in 'em....you had antifreeze in 'em and everything....everything and ah....but ah....you kept 'em winterized and it....and it worked all right, but it just....it just ah...it's a....it's a far cry from what they got today.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well ah...how....coming out of Giddings, south Texas, to extreme north Texas, how did you like it?

E G ALBERS: Well of course I was shipped up to Pampa to the Air Base from Ellington Field after I finishedfinished ah....ah....basic training, they sent me to the Pampa Air Base. And of course the Pampa Air Base was made up of....made up of new recruits and a few old recruits who'd been in trouble somewhere else and they....they put 'em in the military, that's just the way they done it. And ah.... I I shipped up there on a troop train and when I got up there I looked out the troop train and you know that flat country out there, I wrote home and told my mother, I said, "this country's so flat up here you can see plum into day after tomorrow". And I was stationed there and I wasn't on the base but just a little while and theythey brought me into town as a town MP and I spent all my time there. Twice I was on overseas shipment lists but ah....it was near the end of the war andand they....they expired.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That ah....ah....how long did you stay up there?

E G ALBERS: I was there from ah.....oh lord when did I go in there.... I went in.... I went in about I was up there about ah....three years. And ah....37 months is the military service.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So you left there '50.....'52 or.....

E G ALBERS: About....about ah...'42.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: No I'm talking about once you're in the highway patrol....well let me ask you....back up just real briefly. You're done....you're leaving Camp Mabry, were you asked where you want....were you given choices that you'd prefer?

E G ALBERS: Well yeah, you was given choices, you was given choices, of course they played tricks with you and transferred medo all kinds of things phony deals, that was always aa normal thing. But ah...I wasthere was only one man went toto the Amarillo district. Of course I wanted to go back up there ah.... because I had some relations up there andandand I ah....ah.... I asked for it and I have to admit that I told the rest of the guys up there, I said, "Amarillo is a good station but it just gets too cold....pretty cold up there". So....and a bunch of them East Texas boys like Glenn, they wasn't interested in Amarillo. So I didn't have no.... I didn't have any competition going up to Amarillo.

CHUCK PARSONS: They didn't want to shovel snow.

E G ALBERS: No they didn't....they didn't know how to shovel snow.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ed Gooding you know, when he was a Ranger he transferred to Kerrville up there and the first night he was up there it come a blizzard, he realized right then he'd done made a big mistake. Ah...okay, how long were you in the Highway Patrol in that....ah...well....you did your whole Highway Patrol career in Amarillo?

E G ALBERS: Well no I.... I stayed in the Highway Patrol, I was up there.... I went into the Highway Patrol in '49 and then in 1955 they promoted me Sergeant and transferred me to Houston, Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's even worse.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, yeah. Ah....a lot of peoplea lot of people like Glenn andand Ed Gooding had a lot of complimentary things to say about the Chief, but we won't go into that, because I didn't, because there was a lot of politics went on. I was first assigned to Odessa and the next thing I knew somebody had bumped me on that, they was closer to headquarters and I was assigned to Waco and about a day or two after I got assigned to Waco, I got a final letter saying you've been assigned to Houston.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And this was in 195....

E G ALBERS: '55.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, then you worked for the same office with Ed, because he was working out Baytown at that time.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, Ed....Ed was....Ed was stationed over at Baytown. And I was Sergeant there in Houston and ah... I never was Ed's Sergeant down there. Of course ah.... I got the.... I had the honor of rescuing Ed out of Amarillo. Did you know that?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, yeah ah....well let's go ahead and tell that story. Go ahead and tell that story.

E G ALBERS: Well Ed called meEd called me....Ed called me...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ed's a Texas Ranger by this time by the way.

E G ALBERS: Yeah...he I was in the Rangers.... I was Captain here you know andand Trenton Hardin retired down in Bell County. And Ed called me and ah...and ah....he wanted to

ah...he wanted to come to ah....(?)... I said, “Ed I’d be glad to have you”, I said, “Put you....put your paper work in it and I’ll...I’ll...I’ll go along with it. Of course we had a Senior Captain at that time wanted to give Ed a hard time, this, that and the other and of course the Senior Captain and....and....and the Sheriff of that county were good friends and something come up, said well okay then, we told him that fine, we....we....we’d get that Sheriff down there ah....a Mexican American boy down there andand the other....the other deal went through.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The Senior Captain at that time was Clint Peoples and I’m assuming that Sheriff was what, Lester Gunn?

E G ALBERS: Uh hum.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...more on that later.

E G ALBERS: Well I don’t particularly want to talk about more of that later.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, we won’t talk about that any more.

E G ALBERS: All right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...okay, when...any experiences you want to talk about while you’re in ah....in Houston as a DPS Sergeant, Highway Patrol Sergeant?

E G ALBERS: Well it was the hardest two years of my life. I had the supervision of five counties and about twelve highway patrolmen, five counties below ...below Houston down there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What were those counties?

E G ALBERS: Ah...Galveston, Brazoria, Matagorda, Wharton, Ft. Bend counties and ah.... I had the supervision of them and had men in them counties....in them five counties and I had about ah...ten or twelve men stationed all through there that were mymy responsibility as Sergeant for them. And in that....in that five counties I had nine prison farms.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Umm.

E G ALBERS: And every time one of them old convicts broke and run out of jail, way we'd get up and go. And ah... and ah...probably work all night a huntin' 'em you know, and this, that and the other and stuff like that, working with them. And some of the Rangers down there in Houston ah...were Johnny Klevenhagen was a Ranger down at that time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Describe Klevenhagen.

E G ALBERS: Huh?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Describe Klevenhagen.

E G ALBERS: Johnny Klevenhagen was a tall, slender guy that ah...had been a ...a policeman or an investigator at the district attorney's office in San Antonio and he...he got a Ranger appointment. He was the type of man that burnt that candle on both ends.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I want to interject here, Jim Ray, former Ranger Captain, Chief of CLE and Ed Gooding both said the identical same thing about Johnny Klevenhagen. Said that he had a fire burning in him like no man they've ever known.

E G ALBERS: That's right. He ah...he just...he just worked all the time and...and ah...and he was... I tell you what, he was...he was a man that I liked to be with.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well he deserves to be in the Hall of Fame, but he...you know he killed him...he worked himself to death, by the time he was 48 years old he was dead.

E G ALBERS: Yeah

ROBERT NIEMAN: And ah...Ed told me...you know ah...that it could be two in the afternoon or two in the morning and he'd be out there working.

E G ALBERS: Oh yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And he said, I never once did I ever hear Johnny Klevenhagen say to me, you go, it was always, let's go.

E G ALBERS: Yeah. Johnny....Johnnyah....ah....Johnny was aJohnny was a good one, he ah....ah....he replacedhe replaced Hardy Purvis as Captain down there and of course ah....but Johnny....Johnny was ahe and Buster Kern....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Former Sheriff of Harris County.

E G ALBERS:and Buster was Sheriff in Houston....Harris County, he and....he and Johnny were....were.... you could see 'em all hours of the day and night andandand if there was trouble somewhere in the counties around there or something, way Johnny....Johnny would go. Had a....had a guy that killed a..... killed a constable or deputy constable out of there somewhere, up I think maybe in Navasota ...around Navasota and Johnny went up there and he got on a horse and went off out there in the brush and he found him and he brought him back, dead.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Stretched over the saddle too didn't he?

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....well did ah...did you know Hardy Purvis?

E G ALBERS: I knew him, but I didn't know him very well. I I was in the same office with him. Cause see in Houston at that timeat that time the State was kind of poor, real poor, we had an old house at Calumet and Carolina, a two story house. And it was the highway patrol office, the ranger office and the driver's license. And it was ah...ah...it was ah....it was kind of a deplorable situation, but that's all we had and that's what we worked with.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I'd like to follow up on this Purvis a little bit and I'll tell you why.

I've been doing some...I do a lot of research on the '20's and '30's, the oilfield Rangers, and of

course Purvis was in that up to his ears up at Borger and of course over at Kilgore and what not. Can you give us any incite to Purvis at all, of your knowledge of him?

E G ALBERS: Well ah....Purvis was a ...when I knew him, I knew him as a Captain, he was always at the office but ah...ah.... I never did see much of him in the field. Ah....and of course he ah...he lived over there in a hotel pretty close to where our office was there on South Main and a....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember the name of the hotel?

E G ALBERS: No I I sure don't right off hand, it's an old hotel over there, but he was in there and ah.... I I don't... I don't know that much about him, because he was nothe was not a man to easy get acquainted with. He stayed in his office and ah....we ah....we were just kind of expected to stay in our office.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well why did he live in a hotel, do you know?

E G ALBERS: No I don't know, no I don't know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: All right, well we'll move on, on that anyway. That was just a littlemy own rabbit to chase there. Ah...speaking of Borger, did you ever work any down in Borger when you was up in the panhandle?

E G ALBERS: I did when I was in Pampa, I worked over there quite frequently.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was any of the residue still there from the ah....the boom?

E G ALBERS: Oh yeah, see ah....after Iafter I spent two years in Houston as a Sergeant then I got an opportunity to transfer out of there and I was the first Sergeant that they had assigned to the turnpike between Ft. Worth and Dallas. They had just completed it and they had a crew of men down in there. And as a ah....the crew of men....and I stayed up there about ah....less than two months and ah....Captain Jack Southerland, who was a Highway Patrol

Captain at Ft. Worth, and keep in mind this was in 1957 when we was going through reorganization. Ah...Captain Jack Southerland and going to have to move because the...the districts were....were changed but anyway....

ROBERT NIEMAN: They was going to that regional deal then weren't they?

E G ALBERS: They were going....going into regionalregional command deal. And Jack Southerland didn't want to leave Fort Worth because he and his wife had a personal Business there on the side and so Jack went to ah... Austin and talked to the Colonel and tried to work out something and he wanted tofinally he wound up wanting to Bust back from a Captain to a Sergeant and be on the turnpike. And the Colonel Garrison said, "well we got Albers on the turnpike as Sergeant and it's been assigned to him". So he finally talked the Colonel into ah....approaching me and the Colonel called me by telephone and he asked me he said ah.... "where....what...", he told me the situation and he said, "what would....what would it take toto ah.... give you another assignment that would be agreeable with you". And I thought about three minutes, I said, "well send me to the Amarillo district". And he said, "well all right", he said...he looked, he said, "well in the reorganization we got two Sergeant areas in Amarillo district, one is at Pampa and one is at Childress". And ah....he said, "I can't promise you which one you'll get but you'd be transferred to the Amarillo district and Captain J.W. Blackwell will be your Commander and he'll....he'll decide which area". So ah... I ... I was transferred back to ...to Amarillo district and they put me back at Pampa where I had come from off the police department. Soand at...at that timeat that time ah...of course as aas a....as a policeman I hadhad some contacts with some of the people that were officers at Borger and I knew where Borger was and it was still in the boom days. Ah....Borger had a I was on the highway patrol and then later as a Highway Patrol Sergeant and workedthat was in my

district over there. And Borger had a big old city jail that's probably as big as thatnearly about half as big as Knox Hall out there, it was just one big cell and on....on weekends, Saturday night, they stacked 'em in there like cord wood. But then it was....it was ah....it was ah...still in the boom days and there was still some time over there. They had an ole....had a Sheriff over there washe was....pretty....pretty raunchy, Dale...Dale Lane and ah....he was quite a fighter and everything and they wouldthey got their head skinned pretty good while they was in that jail over there. So it was still at boom time. Ah... I like to tell the story about back then at that time, it was Borger in the day time and Booger at night.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Would you care to share any thoughts with us about Homer Garrison?

E G ALBERS: Do what?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Would you care to share any thoughts with us concerning Homer Garrison?

E G ALBERS: I... I I think Homer Garrison was ah....one of the finest leaders that...that I ...that I've ever worked for. He was....he was a man that ah....and...and of course one of the things is that when....he...he's a man that pinned a Ranger badge on me. And when he pinned that badge on me that was....that was almost sacred as far as I was concerned. And ah...and ah...he was ...he was a man that ah....he ah....he lethe let the Rangers and let the Ranger Captains run their districts and ah....he was ah...all he wanted 'em to do was be right. And ah...he'd stand with 'em....he'd stand with 'em and he...he washe was an outstanding man, he was....he was a man thatthat ah....in his day and time he said, as long as there's a Texas, they'll all be Texas Rangers. And he....that was back a time we were going though some....some politicians that wanted to abolish the Rangers

ROBERT NIEMAN: That Sissy Farental?

E G ALBERS: Yeah, and ...and.....and some of those like that but ah...but they ah...he....he....his relationship with the legislature and the Governor of Texas was so that ...that....they didn't....thosethose negative people didn't have a chance.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I've noticed that seeing his documents....or pictures and what not, they he signed, that he always signed them Colonel Homer Garrison, Director of the DPS and Chief of the Texas Rangers.

E G ALBERS: That's right, he....he had....he had the title and he was proud of it and ah...ah....soon aftersoon after the Rangers ah...well soon after the Rangers began to gain ground the Rangers... I think the Ranger Captains went together and bought a gold badge and put Chief on it and presented it to him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: As far as I know, none of the other colonels since his time have ever signed their name that way.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, I don't know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Cause there's.... I mean there's only been one Homer Garrison.

E G ALBERS: Well he ishe is ah...he...he brought the Rangers a long ways and was....

ROBERT NIEMAN: I.... I've never spoke to a Ranger, ever, zero, none, that's ever worked under Homer Garrison didn't think that the sun rose and set in him.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, yeah he washe was....he's first class in my books. He's first class.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Any other stories you'd like to relate about your Sergeant days up in the Panhandle?

E G ALBERS: Well no I ... Ithe only thing is that ah....during my time as a Sergeant there was several times that I ... I took Lieutenant's examination, Highway Patrol Lieutenant's exam. I'd get on....on the eligible list about three times and the last time that I got on it, I got on it

ah...and it ...and it died and I had I was with three or four Sergeants from Amarillo district and took examination done there at Austin. And I ah... I felt like I felt like always a bridesmaid but never a bride. And I'm serious about it and when we... when wewhen we'd pull out of Austin down there, four or five of 'em, I told... I told one of the Sergeants I told them other Sergeants, I said, "well fellas I'm going to make a change, I'm going to make a change", they said, "well what are you going to do, what are you going to do". And I said, "well, just watch me". And eight months later I was on the Rangers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Before we go into the Rangers, as a Sergeant in Houston, the turnpike and Pampa, did any of your men who worked directly under you become Rangers?

E G ALBERS: No...ah....ah....no, let's see....no I don't.... no I don't think so, no I don't think so.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. So when did you become a Ranger?

E G ALBERS: I became....in October 1961.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay...ah....you were on about the same time as Glenn did then didn't you?

E G ALBERS: Well yeah....yeah Glenn and I did...there wasthere was ten of us.....ten of us. The Rangers....the Rangers at that time was a....the strength of the Rangers at that time was 51 and we made it 61.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....for the record, the Glenn I keep referring to is of course Glenn Elliott. Okay ah...where was ah... what....how did...did you have to take test and ...and what not to become a Ranger then or did the Captain say, 'I want you for my Ranger' and you was just a Ranger.

E G ALBERS: Ah...that....that was basically what it was. I wrote... I wrote a letter I wrote a letter I had talked to a couple of Captains and especially to my Captain out at ...out at Lubbock where I was in Company C. Pampa was in that Company and ah.... I talked to ...to Captain Raymond Waters who was a.....who was a fine man, who run a good Company and everything. And I talked to him and then I I had wrote really into the ColonelColonel Garrison, that's who you....that....that was the procedure. And I ... my understanding was, I wasn't there, but my understanding was that all the Ranger Captains come in there and they sat around the table in the conference room with the Colonel and they were picking their Rangers. And when ah...they ah....they got....they got to me ah...Captain Waters said , "I want him", and Frank Propes was a Ranger Captain out at Midland and he said, "He'll be a good one". And....andand when....that's all....that's all there was to it. And then you...then they brought you in there to Austin andand again youyou took somesome special training like photography, fingerprints and criminal investigation and some criminal law and stuff like that, that we went through down there. And then I was assigned I was assigned to Canyon, Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: It's up in the Panhandle still.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, just 17 miles south of Amarillo.

CHUCK PARSONS: Company C

E G ALBERS: Company C, yes sir.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Anddo you remember ah....who was your Sergeant by the way?

E G ALBERS: At that time

ROBERT NIEMAN: Now let me ask you for the record, a Sergeant at that time is now a Lieutenant and all Ranger Privates are now Sergeants.

E G ALBERS: Yeah well....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Much to the chagrin of Lewis Rigler.

E G ALBERS:let's....let's go back to the oldold style, I liked it better.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, we call 'em Sergeants.

E G ALBERS: I... I liked.... I liked it better, I liked it better, Rangers and Sergeants and Captains.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lewis Rigler....

E G ALBERS: I... I I don't.... I don't know, I think I think Jim Paulk was my....was a Ranger Sergeant.

ROBERT NIEMAN: P A U L K for the transcriber.

E G ALBERS: Yeah...Paulk....yeah....Paulk, Jim Paulk was that and Captain Waters was a....was a Captain.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember your first case, first felony case?

E G ALBERS: No I I don't, I ... I had ah.... I had Deaf Smith County, Randall County , Castro County , Swisher County ah....Briscoe County...ah....ah....ah....Armstrong County, Garner County and Hall County that I worked.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay...was...what about Canadian County, was that yours?

E G ALBERS: No, that....that...no...no that wasn't mine, that worked out of Pampa, the Ranger at Pampa.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh, okay....okay.

CHUCK PARSONS: Was this when you worked that stolen copper wire case?

E G ALBERS: Yeah, yeah.

CHUCK PARSONS: That was....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Explain that ...elaborate on that .

E G ALBERS: You remembered that didn't you?

CHUCK PARSONS: Well I ... I looked at the book you wrote.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Tell us about the copper case.

E G ALBERS: Oh well, I was over there at Hall County, working Hall County and they called me. And the telephone company over there had....had....they....they come in there one night and cut the cyclone fence and loaded up a big roll of copper wire on a....on a....only later I found out it was a U-haul trailer. And got to investigating and run it down where I don't know how I got the information, but over at Plainview they rented this U-haul trailer. And the guy that rented the U-haul was driving a red Ford convertible. And he hooked it behind that red Ford convertible and ah....we...they got....in doing the thing they got some license numbers and this, that and the other and I traced it and we went towhere was it in Oklahoma, Ardmore...Ardmore, Oklahoma and ah....went....went to investigating it over there. And ah...found out that this old boy wasthe suspect was E.K. Bearden who was a known Oklahoma thief, he and some more guys mastered in that. Andand ah....the way we feel like that he done it this....the information came to us that out in the countryout in the country out there that a couple days afterafter we lost he wire, there was some smokeblack smoke going up out there. And said, I know what they're doing, they're out there burning the insulation off of it so they could sell that stuff. So we got E.K. Bearden in there and ah... and of course ah....it's kind of a long story that ah....that ah....that Sheriff over there, he said, "well I'll let ya'll talk to him, but keep your hands in your pocket". And

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was he referring to?

E G ALBERS: Huh?

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was he insinuating?

E G ALBERS: What did he fear....well some Dallas Rangers had been up there just six months or a year before that and helped him on asome roof top burglars. And I don't know what the old thug was named, he was a big old blond headed, tougher than a boot and about three or four Rangers come up there and said, "we want to help you, can we help you", and he said, "yeah". And when they got....they got through with him, they said, "well let us...let us talk to him", when they got through with him they had a confession. And they got in the car and come back to Dallas

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hang on just a minute....hang on Captain....to change over our cassette tape for the transcriber....ah...Butch back up just to maybe a couple of lines where you....where you started Captain.

E G ALBERS: What....what....what....what we did, we went over there to...to Oklahoma because we traced that license number to this...to this guy Bearden. And we got over there and ah....and got to investigating these....got....got....ah....picked up some information that a couple of days after we ah...the...the wire was stolen there was black smoke coming out there ...off out there in the country up there and it's....and they said, "I think it's... I think it's the place where he's at". So we got him in there and got to talk....and was going to talk to him and the Sheriff said, "you can talk to him but keep your hands in your pocket". And that's exactly the words he used. We said, "well all right". And the reason for that statement was, like I said there was some Rangers from Dallas had been up there within a....within six months or a year and helped him on a roof top burglary of a grocery store. And they caught one of them, the Oklahoma officers caught one of them and he was a big tough outlaw feller andand when

about three or four of them Rangers went in there and I think it was G.W. Burks and...and ah....oh what's the....what's the Rangers name in Gainesville?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lewis Rigler?

E G ALBERS: Lewis Rigler and...and one or two others. But anyway,

ROBERT NIEMAN: Bob Bagget and Earnest Daniels would have been down there about that time.

E G ALBERS: Could....could have been and anyway, they had prayer meeting with him and they got a statement. And then when they got in the courtroom....they got in the courtroom way they was in Dallas and that Sheriff had to answer and he had to answer for...for how they got that statement. So that's....that's the reason for that. I don't know the particulars on it, but I said, "okay I promise we didn't". We went in therewe went in there and talked to this old thief and of course, you know, hehe talked to us but he ain't going to tell us anything. And ah....we ah...we talked to him and everything andand I talked to him awhile with the Sheriff and the Sheriff was Elmer Neal who was the Sheriff at Hall County, he was a big guy, and Elmer talked to him by himself out of there. And of course Elmer tried totried to talk him into signing extradition and waiving extradition and coming across the....coming across the river, coming back to Texas. And E.K. said "hell no, I ain't going to cross that river with that Ranger". And that pretty well ended that story and we didn't... we...we...we....we know....we feel like that....that guy got our copper wire, but wewe didn't have any evidence to...to....to go to court and do anything on it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Captain, up in East Texas, I don't if.... I'm sure you're probably familiar with 'em, but ah...they had what they call the 'merry-go-round'. In South Texas they had....they called it the 'milk run'. Ahyou're familiar with what I'm talking about.

E G ALBERS: Yeah....move 'em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Move 'emyour hiding the prisoners out from thefrom the Sheriff...or from....from their lawyers.

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So ah....anyway....ah...let's see. You ...you had a lot of....I've also heard and been told that you could almost draw a line, and I don't know if this was true back in the early '60's.....

E G ALBERS: And that's right.

ROBERT NIEMAN:but...but from....right up Interstate 35 from Laredowell we'll just let the 'merry-go-round' and the 'milk run' go....from Laredo all the way up toto....to Dennison. I'm....I'm sorry....ah...Gainsville, that you had a different type of crime east of that on the whole, moreand I guess.....than you did west and I guess because you have a heavier population, you got a lot more homicides and what not, east of that line than you do west. Would that be true back in the early '60's?

E G ALBERS: Well I never could... I never could see it that away. What I thoughtwhat I thought you was fixin' to say is, working West Texas, drawing a line from down atdown at Del Rio across about Abilene and going up north and taking in Wichita Falls, that over on the....on the....on the northern western side of thatthat is was easier to worklaw enforcement was easier to work up there than it was south of that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I've heard that...I've heard that too, that was going to be my next question. But go ahead

E G ALBERS: But...that...that...that part there I can't.... I.... I can't.... I can't add anything to it, but ah....ah... it just ah....that's what I thought you was going to talk about.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well ah...why would you....like I said, that was going to be my next question, but why would you say that it was easier to work law enforcement west of that line than it was east?

E G ALBERS: Because you...you....out there, there was just more respect for law enforcement and there certainly was a lot more respect for a highway patrolman or Ranger. I know when I transferred from Amarillo to Houston as Sergeant, it was like going ah....moving out of the United States. I...I'm telling you, that's exactly....that's the way it was. Down there you had the....on the Highway Patrol every time that theya Highway Patrolman wrote a ticket he had to nearly to appear in court to...that....up there you write a ticket and you don't worry about it you just go back and check and see if they've paid it and if they hadn't paid it you get a warrant and you gather 'em up.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Iusing Ed Gooding for the example again, he was a Ranger in Houston from '57 to '63 and he had ulcers, he had all kinds of health problems, and he transferred to Kerrville and almost....the difference in pressure was such that hethe ulcers went away ah....he got in better health. He said that it was justdown there in Houston and that area down there it was just so much pressure all the time. Ah....well let's talk about some of your other cases. Being out there in West Texas ah....you probably ah....and....and Borger area, because I don't know, you had to have had a lot of farm and ranch thefts. And bydid you get into the oil field any up there?

E G ALBERS: No ah...ah....really....really I didn't, not up there, not until Inot until I made Sergeant and went to Midland, I was exposed to a little bit of it down there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, well let's talk about some farm and ranch thefts and stuff like that ah....ah....that you had to work you know ah....up in that area. You know, like ranch I guess rustling .

E G ALBERS: Well yeah, you had...you had cattle theftyou had cattle theft ah...where theyon....on those farms and ranches out there. And of course you...you run it down and you ah....the way you'd run it down, one of the things is that you checkcheck the sale barns. Of course you had cattle ah....Southwest Cattle Raisers Association had men that checked the brands and recorded it and this, that and the other. And you got a lot of information where they went through the thing there. Ahthey had....had...had some that were...were long time ah....operators....cattle theft operators was that ah.... I know I had one at Herford, Texas that ah... that anytime ah....a loose stray was out on the road somewhere, why he gathered it up and put it in a bunch of his that he had you know. Andand ah.... I had one incident where ah... a fella that run a grocery store, a very fine man run a grocery store and he had about three or four Angus animals that he was fattening out and feeding. And they had a snow storm and when you get a snow storm those tumbleweeds on those fences catch that snow and them cattle just could walk over the fences and just keep....keep drifting. And they... they...they went....they drifted down there and got near this old boys corral and of course they went in there and ...and ah....and of course the Sheriff called me because he....he was...he....he knew what kind of guy this was. Old boy would try to be about half tough you know. And of course we gathered him up and had a prayer meeting with him one day and ...and ah....and told him in about thirty minutes you need to go down there and get that man's cattle out of there. And of course you know, hehe had kind of a defense, he said, "well they were drifting and I just thought I'd keep 'em in there". If nobody had ever found 'em why I guess they'd be mine is what he thought you know. But I

promised him thatthat the next time I heard about it that he would have athat....that me and him would be in front of the grand jury about it. And ah...I never had any more trouble out of him. But ah....we had that and then of course you also hadalso had the thieves that just were chronic thieves and I don't know why they stole stuff. They'd steal anything that wasn't bolted down, like Glenn would say. And ah...you...you....they were....this old boy was...and we ah...he got caught by a Deputy Sheriff over in Deaf Smith County, he ah....had a....had a....had a wreck with a train or something and gotand they got to lookingthis Deputy Sheriff got to looking in the back of the pickup and there was some stolen stuff in there....(side of tape ends).....and he was a young feller...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Jackie....Jackie....

E G ALBERS: I don't know what his last name is....his name was Jackie...but anyway, red headed kid and we started setting down and talking to him and ah....and I I gained his confidence and he started clearing up his Business. And he had operated all the way across my territory stealing. One place he and....he and a.... he and a black guy was going over there some place to...to ah...steal some cattle and they got side tracked or something and they went through a place Hadley in Dawley County. And of course this old kid he hadhe ...he....he knew about some things and he went....he went over there to a slaughter house and looked and in that slaughter house they had a beef in there and a hog hung up, so he just stole that. And carried it back home and cut it up and put it in the deep freeze and give it away and sold some of it and this, that and the other. And then he would....he would...he liked to steal ah....ah...stock trailers and stuff like that and hehe operated over into Clovis and Portales, New Mexico. And of course my relationship with Clovis officers and Portales, New Mexico was good andand ah...I went over there andand ah.... I found I found one place over there where he'd done

some of this stufffind some....some chains and some markings where the safety chains on them trailers and picked them up and cleared up a number of trailer theft cases. And one trailer theft case ah.... I was riding along with that Sheriff over there at Portales out in the country and out there in the field there was two or three pastures, there was two or three stock trailers. And one of them stock trailers had a....had a brand on it, I forget now what the brand was, but a brand on it, on each side of it. I said, "hey wait a minute Sheriff, back up here a little bit". We backed up and got to looking at it and come to find out right there in my home county in Canyon, the Ford dealer there who was ahad to have had some stock, but he had that stolen. But anyway we....we went and I got in that night and I called the Sheriff and talked to him about it. And he said, "yeah", he said, " I know... I know where that trailer belongs". And ah....and ah....that next morning about daylight we....we took out over there withhe had a trailer hitch on his car and we went over there and got the trailer. And old Jackie wasbut old Jackie had stolen stuff just all over the country and that was...was ah...was the way that he operated. And he just....anything, just anything that wasn't bolted down he thought he could steal it and just piled it up and head out. He had that old Quonset building over there at Clovis, New Mexico where he stashed a lot of it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What ever happened to him?

E G ALBERS: Well we sent him to the penitentiary...we...we.... I think he got abouthe got about 8 or 10 years in the penitentiary.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I guess he did the same thing a lot of old crooks do, you got him on one, he started confessing to a bunch of others so he could get 'em to all run concurrently.

E G ALBERS: We....we made him a package deal.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay...ah....burglaries and bank robberies are different as I've had pointed out to me many times, that there'syou can burglarize

E G ALBERS: Burglaries and bank robberies?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah that ah....I've had that pointed out...you had a ...a Mokepte or something like that bank burglary, right?

E G ALBERS: Had a who?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I don't know how to pronounce that town, Mo....

E G ALBERS: Mobeetie.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Mobeetie, was that a bank robbery or bank burglary?

E G ALBERS: That was a bank burglary.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

E G ALBERS: That was a bank burglary by a crew of people byheaded up by a guy named Jerry Ray James.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Let me interrupt just....explain the difference in a burglary and a robbery.

E G ALBERS: Well a robbery, in my opinion, is ais a robbery you come in with a pistol or you...you take a note or something and go up to the teller and rob it. Burglary....burglary is when you break into the building, you come through that door, even if it's unlocked, you come through that door at night and you not....well it's burglary.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, okay.

E G ALBERS: And so ah....but anyway ah...we got a call one night ah....the Ranger over at Pampa, see I was stationed at Canyon, had another Ranger stationed there in Amarillo, Kelly Rogers....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was at Pampa?

E G ALBERS: Ah...ah...at that time was Bill Baten.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. B A....

E G ALBERS: He was a former Sheriff at ah....uh?

ROBERT NIEMAN: B A T E M A N?

E G ALBERS: Bill Baten....B A T E N.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, that's for the transcriber.

E G ALBERS: Yeah...and ah....ah...Bill...Bill was a former Sheriff at ah...in Hall County, in my territory you know. And ah...and....and prior to him... when I first went on the Rangers, prior to him was a....ah....ah....ah....a Ranger by the name....I'll think of his name right after while. But any....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Back to Jerry Ray James.

E G ALBERS: Jerry Ray James was a crew of burglars that operated out of Austin, Texas and they specialized in burglarizing banks and getting to the safety deposit boxes and popping them open. Cause, I don't know, I think people probably were hiding some money and some gold and stuff like that from IRS and stuff like that. But ...and it was...wasand they hit these little old banks. But anyway, theythey came into Mobeetie which is in Wheeler County and ah...ah.....they got....we got a callwell the way the thing developed, this bank was over there and it had a burglar alarm on it that a bell outside that rang. And the night watchman heard that. And the night watchman was smart enough not to go down there because there wasthere was about four or five of 'em that was pretty bad. And he called the Sheriff over....over at Wheeler who was Buss Dorman. Old... Old Buss came up there and he called right quick, he called Baten for the ah....the Ranger at...at....at ah....Pampa and Baten called....called....called me and Kelly Rogers and we came over there and started to ...(?) But anyway when...when Buss

Dorman came over there, he found a Cadillac sitting over there, a nice Cadillac, it was brand new, nice Cadillac, sitting over there on a ...on a....on a back street and he knew that car didn't belong there. So he went around that Cadillac and shot the tires off of it, all four. And on I think on the right rear when he missed.....he missed a tire the first time and shot a hole through the fender. And of course we....and we kind of kidded him about it. But anyway...anyway...anyway old BussBuss and them, they flushed 'em out of that bank and they went every way. And ah...of course two of 'em, Jerry Ray and one of them....one of them outlaws went across the road over there andto a farmers house and stole their pickup. And the pickup had fence posts and wire in the back there and a couple of Highway Patrolmen stopped 'em coming down the road. Of course all the officers come there. And ah....they tried to sell 'em a bill of goods on it, but they didn't, they took 'em....took 'em down to jail. And ah....about noon, Buss and I were riding together, Buss Dorman and I were riding together and we got a call down there in the south part of the county where this strange man had a windmill down there. And of course one of them guys was...was Freddy Hedges and there was another one ...one ...one of 'em was a University of Texasformer University of Texas football player. And ah...and this other guy....and of course they was....and by the way this Cadillac was registered in Midland County aha real fine family out there by the name of Cowsart.

ROBERT NIEMAN: C O.....

E G ALBERS: C O W S A R T....ah...and they were ah...they were ah...well to do oil and ranch people out there. And of course they....they traded this low mileage Cadillac in and these people bought it. But anyway..that...that day about noon well we got a call about this suspicious man down at the elevator...I mean down at the windmill. And of course Buss knew where it was, he knew the county, he went down there and I went down there with him. And we went down

there and sure enough, this was one of them. His britches were just in shreds, of course that country out there had what we call shinary, brush about that high. He ran in there and he had them...at that time, that's when they first come out with them cross country nikki's and this, that and the other, they was mostly canvas. And his britches was just in fray...frail and his shoes ...didn't have no ...just had the...had the rubber or the lace part of it, it was just....it was...it was gone, he'd been running, he run 20 miles across down there. And we got him....we got him and loaded him in the car way off out there in this....in this shinary. And we started asking him some questions and we didn't have no problem getting an answer, we go all the answers we wanted about who all they were and this, that and the other. And it was....and it started out that these guys come into Amarillo, Texas and rented a motel and then they was going out there that night to burglarize that bank. Of course see that....that made three of 'em that we caught and then there was two more. And these other two had run on past where we found this one and down to the Shamrock, which is old Route 66, and went to a county barn down there, had a high fence around it and stole a yellow county truck, dump bed truck. And the next day the officers over at Panhandle, Texas in Carson County spotted the truck and jumped 'em up and apprehended them over there. But ah...ah....as it ...as it turned out this old boy that we got down at that...at that windmill, Buss and I brought him in to put him in jail and of course we had some shoe tracks around the bank and I was pulling his shoes off of him and about that time this....this two bit lawyer from Austin had flew in there and he stood there and objected. And of course I turned to him and I said, "by God you've objected, the thing for you to do is hit that damn door and go back to Austin". And he looked at Buss and he looked at me and he....he hit that door and went back to Austin. And ah....and he...he...you know he.... I said it plain enough he could understand it. And ah...I took them shoes and that was evidence down there. And a little later

about that lawyer, about....about a year or year and a half later he was busted in Austin for dealing in dope. So he was a nice feller. And of course at the same time this crew was....had....had a reputation of hitting these banks all over the country and even...even up out of state somewhere. And ah....ah...they...they were doing it and of course ah....Ernest Scholl

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ernest who?

E G ALBERS: Ernest Shole...S C H O L L was in mind and Glenn's highway patrol school, he was ah....he would ...he was on narcotics or intelligence. He and ...he and ...he and an undercover narcotics or something ahAustin policeman, they'd been....they'd been on theirwatching 'em, they knew what they were doing, but they was trying to....they never could catch 'em. Cause you know you...you not going to walk up and ask them and they're going to tell you. Ah...but anyway ah....Ernie and this old boy flew out of Austin right quick up there and they were there when we done it and they....they gave us a whole lot of run down. But of course I had already knew ...knew it, because you got to get this information on known offenders and everything. And ah....ah...but anyway, we got 'em andand the last account I heard of Jerry Ray James, he was in a....in a federal penitentiary up.... I don't know if it's Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas or....Kansas....or ah....Michigan or somewhere up in there. But anyway, he was in....he was in a federal penitentiary.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He was a big, big time operator.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, he was, he ...yeah....you've heard of him before?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh Yeah.

E G ALBERS: Yeah

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, he was involved in a bunch of Glenn's stuff.

E G ALBERS: Huh?

ROBERT NIEMAN: He was involved in a bunch of stuff that Glenn worked.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And I think he was ah....somehow directly or indirectly ah.... I think they got information through him on...on ah....that old ah....Woody Harrelson's daddy, you that killed that Federal Judge, that they got some information I think through that or somehow, I'm not familiar with that. Ah...Chuck, you've got that Sheriff's name...spell that for the transcriber please, that Buss ah....

CHUCK PARSONS: Buss... B U S S...Dorman....D O R M A N. Wheeler County Sheriff.

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

CHUCK PARSONS: And that was back in.... I got it down as March 1966.

E G ALBERS: That'sthat's about rightthat's about right....that's about right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah... I tell you what, let's ah.... I know Chuck's got a lot of questions too ah... in your book you describe a ah...ah...ah... a hired murder in December of 1968....

E G ALBERS: What kind of murder?

ROBERT NIEMAN: A hired killer.

E G ALBERS: Oh the...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...

E G ALBERS: From....from ah...yeah....yeah...that...that was....that was....what...what it was...that...that happened when I stationed at Midland.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You're a Sergeant?

E G ALBERS: Yeah, a Sergeant out there and it...and it happened in Howard County, in Big Springs. What it was, we had a case where a guy was coming through the country....coming

through the country out there on that ah.... I guess it's Interstate 40 or something....or a highway through there. And he was coming in .

ROBERT NIEMAN: Interstate 20.

E G ALBERS:coming from El Paso headed east.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's Interstate 20 through Midland.

E G ALBERS: Mid....Highway 20, yeah, it's Highway 20 through Midland. Andand he was coming through there and he had an old '55 Ford and it had a big old trailer, and I mean a big one, it had that old big truck....truck wheels on it. And in that trailer he had about ah....55 or 60 dogs and these dogs were starving and eating each other. And of course he was out there in the....out of Mid....out of Big Springs a little ways and ah...and he had the thing towed into town, into Big Springs. And it set there on the street and it was a deplorable situation and they finally said, you're going to have to do something with it. And he wound up taking those dogs out there to a place called Pet a Zoo, a place that they had....had a dog kennel and this, that and the other, he called it Pet a Zoo anyway. But a guy....a guy had a place out there and he lived there with his wife and aand a child, 14 year old boy. And he kept them....they kept them dogs out there and this guy went on back to ...to ah....Kansas City, he was an entertainer in the Jewel Box.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Now you're going to have to expand on that.

E G ALBERS: It was a bunch of men dressed up as women andand....and entertained and....and....and this, that and the other. So ah....ah...they were ah... I guess you'd call 'em homo's is what you'd call 'em. I think...that...that'd be the way I have another term for it but Ilet's just keep it kind of clean. But anyway ah...ah...he....he went back to Kansas City and for about 8 or 9 months he ah...ah....sent money back to this guy that run the Pet a Zoo. Ah

....and....his name was Blunt....Blunt.... B L U N T I believe. Do you have that there somewherebut anyway he...he was...he...he...he run that. But anyway, they sent money back there to feed 'em....feed the dogs. And then...then finally he quit sending money back...from sending money back and of course the guy went to the courthouse andand got legal documents and ...and he...he ah...he turned the dogs over to some of these outfits that do research, medical research and got rid of them. And that guy up there found out about it....that guy and his name was ah....Rea Bourbon and you spell it just like bourbon.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Whiskey.

E G ALBERS: R E Ajust....just like whiskey you know. And anyway ah...Rea Bourbon, he found out he got rid of them dogs and he wrote threatening calls to him and called him and ...and threatening calls and he sent threatening calls to ...to the Chief of Police, Jay Banks....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Out at Big Springs?

E G ALBERS: Yeah, he was Chief out there. And ah....he wrote...

ROBERT NIEMAN: For the record Jay Banks is a former Texas Ranger Captain.

E G ALBERS: Yeah. Andand ah....ah....a bunch of stuff like that....and stuff like that and went on there and finally ah....one day ah...we got a call that...that...thatthe Sheriff got a call ah...A.M. Standard was the Sheriff out there at that time ah...and....Sheriff Standard called...called and said he had a murder case over there and he needed some help on it. What had happened, on a Sunday evening two young guys come up there to the Pet a Zoo to talk to him about a ...getting a dog or something. And ...and Blunt come to the door...come down a long hall to the door and one thing lead to another and ah...he...he....Blunt went back to do something and his 14 year old son followed him back up there. And one of these guys shot him with a .45 automatic and then they broke and run. They...they....they....they went south out of

Big Springs on the Highway going south and as...as....well what happened is, they threw the gun out. And then they worked their way around going through New Mexico and they worked their way back and got back into Kansas City, that's what we found out later. But anyway, they found the gun, a...a oil field worker found the gun laying beside the road out there, it had been thrown out and scooted acrossed the rocks. He kept it awhile, a couple of days, and he decided he'd bring into the Sheriff. He brought it into the Sheriff and we run a...and we run a trace on the gun and the gun was traced to a detective in Kansas City. And we....and we contacted the detective in Kansas City and the detective in Kansas City said, "yeah, that's my gun", and he said, "I sold it to Ray Bourbon". And ah....of course then ...then...then we....then ...then the Sheriff wanted me to...wanted me to get in on the case to good and me and he Deputy Sheriff went to Kansas City.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was the deputy?

E G ALBERS: Ah.... I can't think of his name, he's an old tall ...tall looking country boy, more country looking than I am you know. And ah...he....we ...wewe went up there and ...and they had a ...they had a black Lieutenant that was in charge of that division over ah....this ah....this guy that had...that owned the gun that we traced it to was Theisen.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How do you spell that?

CHUCK PARSONS: T H E I S E N

ROBERT NIEMAN: First name?

CHUCK PARSONS: James D....as in dog.

E G ALBERS: He....he was.....he washe was in the....in the unit up there that we went and contacted, they have different units. But they had a...had a Lieutenant that was in charge of it and when we walked in there he...he....he told 'em what we...what we was there for, he said,

“we’ll help you”. He got some men and went over there to the Jewel Box and we walked in the Jewel Box and there was Rea Bourbon sitting there at a table with one of the young guys, Bobby something or another, young guy, he was about 23 years old and Bourbon was around ...oh he must have been around 70 – 75 years old. They were holding hands and kissing. And I guarantee you folks, that’s a whole lot for an old country boy from Giddings, Texas to take. And ah...and I ...I I made....I made.... I said, “get them two right there and separate ‘em right now and let’s go to the police station”. We went to the police station and started ah...started... I started out talking to Rea Bourbon and it was like talking to a crabby old woman ah.....you know. He....he finally admitted, yeah he had the gun and the gun had been stolen. But then ah...then we went on and ...and I ...we...as you do, you changechange interrogating, so I changed and turned and started interrogating the young guy that...that he was romancing at the table you know. And ah...I got to talking to him andand I gained his confidence and the old boy started talking to me and he told me the whole story. Thatthat Rae Bourbon had hired him and another young guy that looked just like him, and of course I ...I need to back up a little. Back before we went to Kansas City, we had a lady thatthe Sheriff had a lady over there at a...to ...to draw a composite. And the composite was from this 14 year old boy and that composite was the spitting image of both of them guys, they looked....they looked like they could have been twins, but they weren’t. And...and...and when I sawwhen I saw this guy with Rae Bourbon I knew... I knew that this was one of the guys we wanted to talk to. So I got to talking to him and everything and he told the whole story that I think they....they got in a car and started south and stopped at Dallas and picked up a...a...a wire for the money which I think was \$80.00 is what they were paid for it and...and...and done it. They were supposed to come down there and just rough the man up and they killed him. And then they went...left there and wentcircled around from

Big Spring, got over in New Mexico and wound back up into Kansas City. And ah ...but anyway he told it and he gave me a....he gave me a statement and...and...put it all out. And there was another guy that was ah....was....was with him that done....was the trigger man. And ah...we ah...we.... I said, “where’s he at”, he said, “well he’s in an apartment up above the Jewel Box”. And I told them officers, I said, “can ya’ll go get him”, and they said, “we sure can”. They went over there and got....went over there and busted in the door and got him and he had four or five young boys in there with him, two, three o’clock in the morning. And....and you know, so that...that...but then we got him over there and he wouldn’t give us the time of day. And they would....but this....this one I talked to, he waived extradition and come back to Texas with us. And...and...and I tell you what, that was an education about homos for me, I I I learned a whole lot. Of course I had been to thelater I went to the FBI Academy .

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, we’ll get to that.

E G ALBERS: I I went there and they had somethey had some lectures up there of all kinds of things and one of the things they had was ...lectures was about ah....you can...you can nearly bet that any person has a bunch of pets, bunch of parakeets, bunch of cats and bunch of dogs and this, that and the other, it’s not always true that everybody is that, but there is a good bit that they....they are...are homos.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What did they base that on?

E G ALBERS: They based that on the fact that they...they get their rocks off ah...on smelling that ...that....that waste from them dogs and ah....animals and this, that and the other and they do that. Now this young guy that we come back with....brought back with, I got... I got to talking to him and I said, “how did you....how did you get...”, he admitted it, I said, “how did you get started on this”. He said, “well when I was a kid about 13 – 14 years old I was out in the

back yard in a tent with another boy and this little gal...a neighbor gal, she come over there and just put the make on me". And I never could get the connection, but that's how he said that turned me...that turned me to it. But it...it was...it was an interesting ...(?) And there...one of the things that you know a lot of times in my law enforcement career I always thought thatthat homos were, you know, they werethey were ...had a wet noodle for a back bone you know, but they're not. I tell you what, you mess...you mess with some of their sweethearts or some of their stuff like that and they're the most violent people

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I...I've been told many times that sometimes especially a particularly vicious, violent murder that many times it is homosexually involved.

E G ALBERS: You take an old homosexual man and he got a man boyfriend, you ain't going to get near as much trouble messing with another man's wife you are with a boyfriend.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And a lot of things about law enforcement to, you get a lot of good rewards, like I think you got a great letter that I'm going to ask Chuck to read into the record here. Can you give us some background on that?

E G ALBERS: Well this...this was a letter....this was a letter that, that Theisman he...he....he was...he was super....you read from that letter, he was super impressed with the way I handled the investigation up there in Kansas City.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Chuck you want to read that in?

CHUCK PARSONS: Okay this is dated December 20, 1968 directed to Chief of Ranger Division, Midland, Texas. *Sir, On 12-18 and 12-19-68 I had the privilege of working with Ranger E. G. Albers on the homicide of a victim of Big Spring, Texas. In the past I have worked with many other police and Sheriff's departments and now I am proud to put your department at the top of the list as one of the best. Ranger E. G. Albers did an outstanding job while he was in*

Kansas City, Missouri on this investigation. He left this department with a high regard for Texas law enforcement and law enforcement officers. My only regret is we were unable to show Ranger Albers the good part of our city. Due to the importance of our investigation there was no time for play and very little time for sleep. If I can assist you any time in the future please contact me. I will always be available to your department. I would also like to note Ranger Albers is one of the best interrogators I have seen. His ability in this field was very instrumental in the investigation made in this city. Detective James D. Dison.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Of the Kansas City, Missouri....Kansas...

CHUCK PARSONS: Kansas City, Missouri.....

E G ALBERS: Kansas City Police Department.

CHUCK PARSONS: ...Police Department.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Kansas City, Missouri?

CHUCK PARSONS: Missouri, yes.

E G ALBERS: That...that isthat is comments from....from some big city cops and when theyit ain't nothing to work four or five homicides in a ...in a week you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. That's something to be very, very proud of.

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...couple other....ah...things that I want to get into before we go over to....I'm going to let Chuck, I know he's got some questions. Ah....ah.... I got a couple homicides and one bank robberywell I guess it ended up in a murder ah....in Hearne, Texas. You want to explain that.

E G ALBERS: Hearne, Texas that was a....that was a murder of a banker, his wife and...and....and their daughter. And this...this ah...was ah...was a bankerthis banker is

ah....Mr. Kelly, he was a....he had two other brothers that were presidents of banks and he was president of that bank. One of them was president of a bank at Belton and the other one a president of a bank in Midland. And ah...the way it came about ah...the ah...Chief of Police at Hearne ah...called me and said, "hey we got...we got a triple murder down here and we just found the body and it's been two or three days since...since it happened".

ROBERT NIEMAN: Body or bodies?

E G ALBERS: Bodies.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

E G ALBERS: Bodies and ah...we ah.... I went down there and also as a result of it I called for the crime lab crew to come down and ...and....and ah....help gather all the....but we went down there and what had happened was the banker ah...was ah....was found in one room and he had aoh he must have had 17, 18 stabs in his back and everything killed him. And in the next room his wife was in there and she had her throat cut and it was gapped open and in the....and in the third room was this daughter, she was about 19 -20 years old and ... and was married to ...to a young man who was, at that time, was off at ah...ah...ah...reserve...military camp down at Ft Sam Houston. And ah...she...she was ah...she was...she was stabbed a number of times. And we ah....we made...we went there and made the investigation, Bob Carnell, Ranger at ah...at Bryan, I called him and he and I worked together along with the Sheriff's department. Ah....Lee Hurley was a Deputy Sheriff, Sonny Elliott was the Sheriff of the county, Sonny was out of town but he come back in, he called him and he come back in ah...on it and we...we all worked together. And then of course we had ah...ah...the District Attorney ah...he was right there with us also. Of course what...what had happened the....the....the story goes that ...that the banker he ah....he....he didn't have any regular time to be at the bank or anything like that, he....he chose

his own hours, but ah....what he did was ah...he didn't show up for a day or two. And so they went andand....somebody went and got a neighbor down there and they went over there to the house and this is what they discovered. So when they discovered it and of course there was a couple of dogs in house and the dog droppings are all over the house, they'd been in there cause it...everything...and everything sign was several days. So ah...ah...we started our investigation and ah...and ah....as it went on we got the crime lab there and then we also ...the District Attorney wanted to call the pathologist out of Houston ah....Dr. Jachimczyk...Dr. Jachimczyk and ah...you might have to look in the book there to get the spelling of it, I can't spell it, but if you've not heard of Dr. Jachimczyk, Dr. Jachimczyk was the pathologist that worked on lots and lots of murder cases in....in Harris county. And the District Attorney wanted him to come up here and of course when....when they called him he ah...he said, "don't...don't move anything let me...let me get there". So we waited on him and in a couple hours he got there and he helped us with the investigation. And after we got...we got through at the...at the homeat the home and cleaned it up and removed the bodies and took pictures and stuff like this, why ah....we noticedwe noticed that ah...ah....one of the closets and looked....the signs where a TV had been unplugged and some stuff like that, looked like that had...had done some stealing. And

CHUCK PARSONS: Spelling?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, go ahead....go ahead Captain.

E G ALBERS: Okay ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well ...well let's...Chuck's got the correct spelling of that....

CHUCK PARSONS: Okay it's Dr. Joseph A. J A C H I M C Z Y K.

E G ALBERS: You see why I said Hemicheck....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, anyway, go ahead Captain.

E G ALBERS: But he ah...I knew I knew of Dr. Jachimczyk before I ever went on the Rangers because I was down at the Highway Patrol in Houston and I heard about it and read it in the paper. But anyway, he came and we cleared upwe cleared up the house and everything. And ah...Jachimczyk took the bodies to Houston to do the pathology stuff. And the first thing we...we....we developed was that Jachimczyk said “well apparently this happened ah....after these folks went to bed”. Of course this is true because they were in their night clothes, pajamas and night clothes. And the next thing he said, “another thing is that...that ah....there bladder was empty”, so you know, people go to the bathroom before they go to bed. And the other thing is that he found some stuff in the stomach what they had ate for dinner. And one of the things I remember was green beans. But anyway, we had that information so ah...we ah...we...we cleaned it up and they went and then....then we came back down there the next day and started trying to find some information. And Deputy Lee Hurley ah...H U R L E Y, who later was elected Sheriff there, but anyway, Lee...Lee ah...went over into the ah....the black section of town and started talking to some people over there. And he come back with the information he said, well there was some people in here from...from Albuquerque driving a white Pontiac, a black man and ah...one black man and a black ah...one smaller black man, hump back and ...and a black woman and a Mexican guy. So ah.....and they said they was from Albuquerque and this was a.....this was on a ...we got this information it was on a Saturday evening. So I ...I got to looking around and picked up the phone and ...and found the ah....Albuquerque police department telephone number, I got it by information or some how or another. But anyway I called it and asked for the detective division and I got a detective out there at the Albuquerque police department. And I told him who I was and that I was working a homicide. And ...and he.... I told him a little bit about it and he said, “yeah I can tell you who they are”. And he....and

he went right down the line and he told me the name ‘em and the license number on the car. And he said, “we got warrants for ‘em over here”. And ah...and Iand if I remember right he said, “I got a warrant for ah...hijacking a bootlegger over here....robbery of a bootlegger”. And he told me about it. So ah...when we got....when we got the name this...this little black guy that had the hump back on it, used to live at Hearne, he was known at Hearne. And Mr. Kelly the banker, had loaned the man money and had helped the man at one time. But anyway, he moved out to Albuquerque and apparently he got out there and got to talking to ‘em and they decided they would come to Hearne and get the banker about nine, ten o’clock at night and take him down to the bank and open the vault. And that don’t work....that don’t work. So ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Timer on the vault.

E G ALBERS: Yeah and of course we got to do it andand as the story went on they....they went to Oklahoma City and this we developed later, they....they went to Oklahoma City. And in Oklahoma City this ah...this Mexican guy got to drinking and got....got pretty drunk. And this head black guy, his name is Swift and...and...and that’s his real name, Swift....Swift loaded him in a carI don’t know whether he killed him in Oklahoma City or whether he loaded him in the car and killed when he dumped him outside the road in El Reno, Oklahoma. And as a result of it this little hump back guy, he got scared....he got scared. He picked up the phone and calledcalled this detective a day or two later after I had talked to him and...and...and said, “hey, got somebody come get us, I’m free”. And he give him the address where they were staying in a apartment and ah....and that detective he jumped on the phone and called me right quick. And I I ... I got Bobby Connell and the Sheriff and the District Attorney and I said, “ya’ll go to Oklahoma City and contact that....”, I said, “they got him up there”. And we called....we called Oklahoma City and told ‘em we had warrants on ‘em already for murder. So they went up there

and they found 'emfound 'em, everybody but Duranand Duran was the Mexican guy and he was out there, they found his body out there in the country. They got 'em and they searched this apartment and in this apartment they had a whole bunch of clothes and a TV and a fur coat and this, that and the other, the banker's wife's clothes that....that....that ah....we....we tied....they tied to the case. So ah...we wound upthey wound up and I don't remember the exact sequence of howhow we extradited 'em out of Oklahoma, but we...we...we got 'em out of Oklahoma. And of course the little hump back guy he was talking to the officers. Brought him back and they got to talking to him down at Hearne and of course we was wanting to know about the murder weapon. And the murder weapon was some kind of a bowie knife or something that they got out of the house down there....they found under....that's what they...that's what they killed and cut....and of course as the story goes on, Swift killed....killed the banker and then he made the hump back ...the little black guy kill one of 'em and he made the Mexican kill the other one. He ...he....he said, you will do it. And he was the type of fella, he was militant and he...he was meanhe was a mean guy. And ...but anyway they got thisafter we come back from Oklahoma City and talked to this ...this young...this ah... this hump back guy and asked where the ...(?)....is and he said, the murder weapon....after we crossed the Red River over on the right hand side, on the Oklahoma side, that knife is buried out there in the sand. And they took him back up there and found the knife. And of course we took him down here and tried 'em all and at that time we did not have a death sentence for something like that, it was just a life sentence at that time. And we had a...got a change of venue on it...now the...the....the...the hump back guy and the woman, they were convicted and got oh...they were cooperating, they were given....they were given 20 – 25 years or something like that. And ...and ...and theand the....and the militant guy, of course he....he wouldn't give you the time of day, had a change of

venue and we tried him in the 74th District Court before Judge Carl Anderson. And a little side story to that is, Judge Carl Anderson was my Sunday School teacher and I was president of that Sunday School class.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Took a little break here went and got some lunch. We're back and moved into Byron Johnson's office. Ah...let's finish this one case up that we were talking about on this Kansas City...I think Chuck had just read into the record a letter you got from the Kansas City, Missouri detective. And you want to take on off from there Captain.

E G ALBERS: Okay ah...now I think I went a little further than that on....onon the thing and we had him extradited....he was extradited and came home with us. And I told you a little bit about ah...their ah....told you a little bit about the ah...fact that this guy coming home from Kansas City there, I interviewed him and talked to him and tried to find out a little bit about why he was....he...he was a homo and he told me about it a little bit. Andand it was kind of hard to understand those people, but I have arrived at it, I think ya'll agree that ah...that ah...they are a different breed and they arethey are....if you...you violate something that they like or love why you ah...you stand a chance of...of having some violence. Because they....up untiluntil I got that investigation, I didn't think they wasn't very....was....was very violent, but ah...but they are very violent ah....type people. Now we....we got all three of those guys back eventually and tried 'em in Howard County.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What's the county seat?

E G ALBERS: Big Spring.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

E G ALBERS: Big Spring. And ah...I think they had a change of venue onon the main one, Rae Bourbon, the older one and I think they changed it over to Brown County and tried him and

he got a life sentence. And he was in Brown County jail on appeals ah...and the other two went on down to theto the penitentiary. But he on...ah...on appeals while in Brown County he died in Brown County jail. And I suppose the kind of life he lived, being a homo and this, that and the other, he probably died from aids or something like that. But anyway ah...ah...he died in that....that's the end of the story on that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, on this Hearne murder for hire orah....case....ah we were visiting at lunch and I think there's a little bit more we need to add to that case.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, that ...that case was that ah...that ah....the....the...the hump back black guy andand the woman, they all....they got about ah....15 or 20 years a piece in the penitentiary. And of course the...the main one, the militant one ah....whose name is Swift, he got a life sentence. He ...we had a change of venue and they tried him here in Waco and I think maybe I told you that already, but they tried him here in Waco before Judge Carl Anderson in 74th District Court. And ah....the fact is that ah....when jury came in, the Judge ordered him to stand up and he wouldn't stand up. Of course Judge Anderson, who was a close friend of mine, he said, "Captain I'd like for you to be in the courtroom when this trial is going on". I was... I was over there pretty close to him when he told him to stand up and he wouldn't do it and he...he....he signaled to me and me and a Deputy Sheriff stood him up.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember the Deputy's name?

E G ALBERS: No I don't...don't remember, but he was a bailiff in the court or something and we stood him up. And he went on to the penitentiary and about 6 years later I picked up a newspaper and there was a short article in there where somebody had killed him in the penitentiary.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you know what unit this was?

E G ALBERS: No I don't...don't remember what unit it was, but he had....whoever killed him had aone of them homemade knives and sheave like they do in the....in the penitentiary and stabbed him. And then about a year and a half ago I was at a book signing at Barnes and Noble and a...a guy that came in there was going to sign books ah....that he had written ah...ah...he washad been an assistant warden and he retired and he wrote a book and.....and the name of the book is "The Longest ...ah...The Largest Hotel Chain in Texas", largest hotel....and his name was ah....oh....Glenn I believe was his last name. But anyway, he and I got to visiting and he got to telling about that there wasand he...he...he got to telling about that this Swift was on....on his unit down there at the penitentiary. And he said that he kept.....Swift kept trying to recruit other...other blacks to ah.....do ah....ah....to work in the library andwith him and reading and trying to do appeals and this, that and the other, cause he was...he was....he was a....nothing but bad news as far as....as far as that. But anyway, he tried to recruit some of these other blacks and there one of these blacks was a big black man who had killed two or three people and one day in the day room this black....big black man walked in and the other....Swift was in there and he just walked over and caught Swift from behind around his throat and started stabbing him. And the guard hollered at him and he said....he said, "no sir", said, "I'm not I'm not through killing this nigger yet". So....and the last stab he went...went through him....went through....all the way through Swift and the knife hit the concrete floor and you could see sparks, is what this guy told me. So ah...ah...that was...that wasmy observation was that...ah....justice was finally done.

CHUCK PARSONS: When you speak of militant, was that the Black Panther movement?

E G ALBERS: Well I ...that was my definition.

CHUCK PARSONS: Okay.

E G ALBERS: That's my definition, because he was just....he was arrogant....he was arrogant and he just ah... he just hated anything and especially whites or anything.....any....any....the court system, anything. He was just ahe....he was....he wouldyou just....you just don't....you just would not want to turn your back on him at all. He just hated anything and....and especially whites or any...any....the court system anything, he was just ah....he...he would just nearly....he would ah....you just....you just don't....you just would not want to turn your back on him at all.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Captain I want to touchthere's been four incidences where all the Rangers...most all the Rangers in the state have gathered. Ahin '57-'58 in Galveston in the gambling ah....in the '90's here in Waco on the Branch Dividian, of course you had nothing to do with either one of these and I know you weren't heavily involved in it, but you were at the other two. One was the Kilgore slant hole business and the other was the strike gone mad, the Lone Star Steel strike. Ah...starting with the slant hole business ah...which is ...that's the name most Rangers universally refer to it as, the slant hole business, what was your involvement?

E G ALBERS: Well we were...the Rangers were assigned to ah...to ah....go with the Railroad Commission people who were gauging these wells. And of course when you gauge 'em there was...you have a certain tolerance as to whether you could move that hole back and forth you know. But of course those things...that slant hole was ah...drilling down and going half a mile or mile over into somebody else's lease.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Putting whip stocks in the bottom of 'em and

E G ALBERS: Whip stocks, yeah....whip stock on the bottom of 'em and then ah.... now I don't know too much about whip stock, but it was a...it was a drilling device that they put ...welded some stuff on it that ...that you could....you could train it to go off over somewhere

else. And I ...our...our....they rotated the Rangers to go down there for a week or two weeks time, you know andand work with another Ranger and patrol it. And sometimes you answered calls ah...on...on...on those things and had to go out and be sure that ah...that ah....when the Railroad Commission people call that they was having some trouble with some of those rough necks and oil field people. Cause see what them oil field people would do is, if they knew that they had a crooked slanted well this, that and the other, they'd turn loose the sucker rods and this, that and the other and jam the thing so that you couldn't gauge it. That would be one way they'd just kind destroy it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I understand that they'd throw anything, they'd throw even tree limbs, anything they could get down that well.

E G ALBERS: That's right, anything that they could, they would do that if you...if they...if they gotif they knew they were going....be checked it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I think Jim Ray was the Ranger in charge of that.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, Jim Ray washeaded up the investigation, he did....he did and there was ah....lots of money involved and ah....that the State was being beat out of because the State had a regulation of allowables on the wells. And of course one of the things thatthat those people were doing in...in this....in the(?) ...of the wells was beingthey would have a lease and have a...have one well and maybe have three or four dummy wells around there. This one well would be pumping and they'd push oil over there to these others and these others would really be nothing but a....maybe a 55 gallon drum that had crude pumped into 'em. And that was just some of the things.

ROBERT NIEMAN: This was all happening in the early '60's for the record.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, it's early '60's and ah...they....they would do it and as a result they got an allowable on these other dummy wells and they could....they could do more, because thatthat allowable was ...was to control the amount of production on a well.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So your duties was mainly to just help guard....

E G ALBERS: Keep peace.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Keep peace and guard the Railroad Commission people to keep somebody from threatening 'em.

E G ALBERS: That's right, that's right, yeah that's right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, now the ah...the strike gone mad, the Lone Star Steel strike of 1968 and '69. You were there....was you there on it any?

E G ALBERS: No I don't think I was on ...on....on the....on the strikes, steel strike. That ...that was....that was handled mostly by Company B.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah Glenn...Glenn Elliott and Bob Mitchell was the ones, but Rangers from all over the state come in there, it was so....such a horrific

E G ALBERS: '68 and '69?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yes, it ended in May of '69. I know ah...Glenn and Bob have told me, they checked into a hotel room in Daingerfield and ah....didn't check out for like, eight, nine, ten months. I know Rangers down in

E G ALBERS: If I done a tour over there I didn't do over about a week or two with somebody else. Because they...they were rotating. Ahmost of mymost of my activity was the slant oil wells. We had ah... one evening Ievery time I went overthis was....this was something I tell about, another Ranger had had. My first time that I went over there I was with ah....ah....the Ranger at Gainesville ..

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lewis Rigler.

E G ALBERS: ...Lewis Rigler, Lewis and I worked together. Lewis ...Lewis mentions that in his book you know about that the first time. And later on I went over there and every time I went over, if Charlie Miller was there, Charlie's the old time Ranger

ROBERT NIEMAN: In all things.

E G ALBERS: Yeah...and ah...and long time Ranger and old CharlieCharlie and I become close friends and every time I was over there which....ah...if Charlie was there or told....he asked his Sergeant if I was coming, if I was coming he said, "I want to work with him". And he always put...put us together and I loved it because old Charlie was....he was getting up in the years, but I'll tell you what, he'll do...he'll do to ride with ...he'll do to ride with.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Charlie was something....there's lots of stories, I'm hoping at the next reunion to get Bob Favor, who probably knows more ...only....nobody alive today knows more about Charlie Miller than Bob. And so, I hope to do an interview of ...on Charlie.

E G ALBERS: Yeah Bob ah...Charlie...Charlie always wanted to ride with me. We got a call out there one evening that a bunch of them rough necks was giving a Railroad Commission man a bad time. And we drove out there, I was driving, I got through the fence and Charlie was ...he...he's up in the years, he's having a little trouble, he was behind. We walked up there and I asked 'em what the problem was. And they told me their story and the gauger told me their story. And I turned to 'em and I said, "I think the best thing you can do, you guys can do is get in your pickup and go". Andand they stood there and Charlie Miller was standing behind me and Charlie said, "feller, you heard what the Ranger said", and when he said it the hair on the back of my neck just stood up. I said.... I said, oh hell it's going to break...all hell's going to break loose here in a minute.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well you know hedown in Galveston, he killed the night Chief of Police there on the sea wall one day.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, and they had....and they had....they moved in there in the night and move him out.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

E G ALBERS: He also...there's also a story, I can't tell you for sure about it, but the story about that ah...he had a shoot out in a hotel in Sweet Water, Texas. And I don't know whether it's true or not, I just.... I just heard about it vaguely. And it wasCharlie was sent to Sweet Water about something about some....a cattle theft case. And I don't know who it is, I don't know whether it's true or not, but the story is that he walked in this hotel and there was guy up on theyou know who they had the second balconies walkway up there, up on there and it was ah....and the guy was ah....was another Ranger Captain and he killed him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I've never heard that story.

E G ALBERS: Well I ...I I don't....

ROBERT NIEMAN: I'm not... I'm not questioning it happened.....

E G ALBERS: I.... I know.

ROBERT NIEMAN:I'm just

E G ALBERS: I...I ... I want you to know that I heard this, but I I don't know, I have not been able to

ROBERT NIEMAN: Or...you know Charlie Miller he was...he was different.

E G ALBERS: Yes...yes he was and I'll guarantee you one thing, he was...he...he....he'd do....he'd do good to ride the river with, I'll guarantee you

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, everybody that I've ever known that knew him says that. Ah...I tell you what, moving on here. Ah ...you talk about in your book a murder of the Donley County DA?

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Can you tell us about that.

E G ALBERS: Yeah ah...the ah...the thing was I got a call on it and ah...the Sheriff down there Bill Cornell, the Sheriff at ...at Donley County, Clarendon.

ROBERT NIEMAN: C O R N E L L?

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

E G ALBERS: Yeah and ah...he called and said they had a murder there and as it turned out there was an old boy that was ah...ah....washe was ah...kind of off the...off the rocker I think, he was a painter. But anyway he ah...he ah...he and his wife got a divorce and of course the District Attorney at that time ah...ah....at that time....he was District Attorney, he had been a school teacher and principal and went and got a law degree and decided he wanted to get into the lawyering business andand he was elected District Attorney and he also...on the side he represented this man's wife in a divorce case. And of course the manman he just he just really...he really got...he got upset with the District Attorney. But you know, it was just....everything according to hoyle on that ahabout him representing it. And ah....and one time about a month before that this ah...there was some kind of a difference and everything and they....and he two or three rifles and a shotgun and stuff and they confiscated the stuff and put it in the vault in the Sheriff's office. And the old boy got up and left ah....ah....Donley County and went up to Florida for a..... I mean up to Colorado for awhile. And he was up there and he

finally came backcame back and ah....he talked to...he come in and told 'em you know, he just....he wanted that...he wanted that rifle and he was going to go hunting or something and he ah....and he was going to move on out of the county....move on. But before hehe done that, he come in there about noon one day and the courthouse was over here and right across the street and in front of the courthouse is where the lawyersthe lawyer had an office...law office andand another District Attorney business there. Andand ah....ah....oh no, he....he....this law office that the lawyer that represented him, he went over there and talked to him and had that rifle with him. And that lawyer tried to talk to him and soothe him down, but he left that lawyer's office and went around the corner to where the District Attorney had his office and caught the District Attorney out on the sidewalk and started being belligerent with him and started shooting at him. And the District Attorney stepped off the curb pretty high and he stepped off and he tried to crawl onto the car and this guy jumped up on the hood of the car andand shot down and shot the District Attorney laying half way under the car. And in the meantime this man that done the shooting ah....he had a....had a 18 year old son who was a fine young man and football player in high school there in Clarendon, had been over there in the...in the Sheriff's office and he had....or in the Courthouse and he heard about it and he broke and run and went out thereand tackled his daddy on top of that hood and knocked him off. And a guy...one of the guy ah....that run parts store across the street saw what it was, he went over there and picked up the rifle and got him, but ah...ah....and everything and they ah....ah.....then we...we.... I came in on the case and done the investigation and....and ah....we tried himtried him....charged him with murder. But ah....it was ah....a good case of insanity on it and....and there wasn't anything done with him, but he was sent to probably Rusk to the hospital.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And insanity is a very difficult defense to prove too.

E G ALBERS: Yeah. But this old....this old boy was....he...if you'll pardon the expression, he was squirrely, boy he was really squirrely boy. And he justhe had that....he had that on his mind about that divorce of his wife and that this....this District Attorney was representing his wife and he....he....he was blaming him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You mentioned earlier man hunts. Currently Lieutenant Jerry Burn up in Dallas is from San Angelo, coming out of West Texas, and ah...he really says he enjoys doing man hunts, and you mentioned them briefly in your book. Would ah...the difference of what ...what did you do in man hunts that I would suspect in West Texas maybe they might be different in East Texas, simply because of the terrain.

E G ALBERS: Well ah....you just....you....first of all you set up, if you're in time or close enough to it, you set up your road blocks and....andtry totry to catch 'em in a road block before they got out of the area. And of course a lot of times you...a lot of timesof course and West Texas we never did use out there the dogs.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Which they do in East Texas.

E G ALBERS: Yeah do in East Texas prison. Of course until I come to Waco, one....one particular man hunt we had was over in ah...ah....McCulloch County andand....which is Brady, this old boy was ah....had....he had....he had a record of breaking jails pretty regular. One of the things that he did....and them....of course back then a lot of the old jails back then werewere not as modern as they are today.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is that the boy thatthat Bob Favor

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: ...Iwe did a four part....or three for the Dispatch magazine, I can't think of that boy's name. He ended up deader than a door nail.

E G ALBERS: Meyers....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah ah....Meyers was his name...yeah.

E G ALBERS: Meyers was his name. And he ah...he ah...and he ah....was the one that broke jail and one of the things....one of the things he done one time, I don't know whether it was the Brady jail or the next jail over from there, but they brought him a suitcase, one of them cheap suitcases that kind of plastic you know. And he had it in his cell there and he took that suitcase and....and with a....with a knife and cut out acut him out a jail key. And them old jails you know ah....it unlocked....unlocked that jail with it and he got out one time and this, that and the other. But anyway he was over there in ah....in McCulloch County and we ah...Bob got on the hunt

ROBERT NIEMAN: Bob Favor.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, Bob Favor got on the hunt andand of course I I sent in a bunch of Rangers and then I went on myself to....to help out and kind of head it up. And we had the two Sheriff's from the two counties and I don't recall who the....who the Sheriff's name who, but there was two Sheriff's. And then we wound up getting Bob Cousins from on of the penitentiary farms, he was over there because the guy had escaped fromfrom that penitentiary at one time. And we got 'em over there and they had them...they had....we had dogs, running 'em. Of course the dogs had a problem because the grass burrs and stickers, they couldn't run 'em. And I come in there and I said, "well let's get boots and put 'em on the dogs". And of course those over in East Texas ah....they wasn't used to that....needing that. And that out there in West Texas the bird hunters used them on their bird dogs. And so I ...I had....and we gotand the next morning we had boots on them dogs. Cause them old dogs just run in that heat out there and them grass burrs and they just....they couldn't do any....they couldn't do much business. And

besides that ah...in dry weather a dog has trouble trailing....trailing a prisoner....a convict or something. But anyway, we put them boots on 'em. But that guy was down there and he had ahe had a trail bike in thatin that river bottom down there, I think it was the....must of been the Llano River down in there, I don't remember for sure, but one of them down in there, had a trail bike and he kept that trail bike in one cave and the next cave he keptkept canned food and the third cave is where he and a...and a....and a womana young woman and another guy all lived in. And of course what they'd do, they'd come out at night and burglarize them little old stores around there and them places and get their food and stack it up in there. And of course the trail bike is what he used to move around in that river down there. And of course he was raised in that area and running him was just like running coyote. He knew that stuff out there, there was two or three times that the man come out of there with a stolen vehicle and run into a road block and immediately jump out of it and run. And this went on for several days and it was just thethe season was just before deer season, just before...a day or two before the deer season. And of course we in the Rangersthe Rangers out there, there was about five or six car loads of Rangers and different ones in separate cars, running on that ranch out there at night with the lights out and they cut off all the radios and stuff to listen and see if they could hear that trail bike going see, and stuff like that. And they was moving around on them roads out there and they was running into deer right and left. They was, there was lots of deer over in there you know and run into 'em right and left. And ah...finally one morning about four o'clock the third timefour o'clock he run into the road block and the Chief of Police at....at ah...at Fredericksburg who's now Sheriff over there, Melvin Jung.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Melvin what?

E G ALBERS: J U N G ah.... I believe that's rightwas on the road block and Melvin recognized him and he run that car off into the fence and he jumped out....jumped out and run and run out....run out and run. And he and this....thisthis gal who was about five or six months pregnant and this other guy, they ran about 20 miles across that ranch land across there. And they come up to a ranch house and found the dune buggy, you know what I mean, dune....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, yeah.

E G ALBERS:okay, dune buggy that's something....and they found a dune buggy and the was out there trying to start that dune buggy and that rancher come out there with a shotgun and threwed down on him and held him and called us and that's how we apprehended him. But he was....he was slicker than all get out about ...(?). And of course them two Sheriff's was there at that time when wewhen we went over there and they were....they were....they were jawing back and forth, which one wanted to keep him in there jail. And I walked up between 'em and I said, "Sheriff let me tell you something", I said, "this is the Warden over at the penitentiary", and I said, "I've asked him and he said ...", Cousins....Bob Cousins... "he said, yeah I've got a place I can hold him". I said, "let's send him back to the penitentiary down there in there ...in there place cause...cause your jails he done broke out of them". And I said, "whenever you get ready to try him for whatever you got to try, you call me or call one of the Rangers and we'll go up and we'll bring him back and try him". So ah...they...that happened, Bob Favor and one of the Sheriffs went over there and got him and they tried him and they put him in the car, had handcuffs on him and leg irons on him and they got about six or eight blocks from the Walls, the main

ROBERT NIEMAN: In Huntsville?

E G ALBERS: ...Huntsville and stopped at a light and that sucker jumped out and had them things off and Bob Favor right after him. Andandand I'm not sure about this, but I think Bob tackled him right in the middle of a water hole.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, we talked about that in depth. Bob wrote a three part series for the Dispatch magazine and it covers thisthis whole deal is covered in that in three parts. And an interesting...you know he ended up dead, this old boy. And it's kind of interesting, he got....

E G ALBERS: He ended up what?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Dead....ah....he

E G ALBERS: Meyer did?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, he ah...and it's kind of interesting, he got to playing around with one of the guy's....his...one of his gang members for lack of vocabulary, girlfriend. And then ah...one day he was laying in the floor in front of the TV, like this watching TV, and the guy shot him in the back of the head. When they found him later on he was still laying in the floor with his hands....his head in his hands and the body was almost totally decomposed.

E G ALBERS: I didn't.... I didn't know that... I didn't know that. Is what I'm telling you about is it....?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, yeah it's identical...ident....yeah I mean Bob...yeah....

E G ALBERS: Bob Favor...III wrote about it in the book and I ...I

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah we did ah....Bob did an extensive deal on Meyers, his years of chasing him and I think it took three issues of the Dispatch to put it all in.

E G ALBERS: What is the Dispatch?

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's our on-line magazine for Ranger history ah....it's on-line, when we get done here if we have time I'll show it to you right quick.

E G ALBERS: Okay, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, moving on. Ah...the ah...you had a murder of a...

E G ALBERS: Of a woman at Plainview.

ROBERT NIEMAN:in Plainview, yes.

E G ALBERS: Yes. What....what this waswhat this was, was a mother of three children, a pretty blonde headed lady and she...she and her ex-husband were ah...immigrants from Germany. All of them were...were ...the whole family came from Germany and one of the Churches out there ah....helped them and of course ah...had....but anyway, we wound up that this husband was a very jealous individual and they called...they called me from Canyon to come down to Plainview to work it because ah...it was supposed to have been worked out of a Lubbock, but thewe were havingthe Captain and the Sergeant were having health problems and they called on me and I went in there to do it. I worked with ...with a ...with a city policeman that I'd known for a long time, Ben Morman and ah....and we...we...we gathered information and stuff. And ah...there was...we found ah...a little ah....one of these Saturday night .22 pistols was used in the murder. And we traced the....we traced the gun to ...to a....to a....to a man and the man said that the gun was stolen from him and he give us the particulars on it. And the gun was under the seat of his car and this woman's husband, I wish I could think of his name, this woman's husband was...had...had ...had a mechanic's shop, working on automobiles, and this gun was in that gun....that car was over there, he'd work on it and he said, "that's the last I've seen of it". And ah...ah...the ah...and ah....we think that...that he stole it and....and of course ah...we ah...we him with the gunput him with the gun and then ah...ah...what it was, they had....they had divorced, him and her had divorced several....several months before that but he continues to go over and see her. And in fact he spent some nights over

there with her. So one Sunday morning they found her car setting in the road and she lay inside the car dead, had been shot with that .22. And ah...so of course we...we started the investigation and ...and ah...he denies everything. But then I done a ... I done aone shot waswas shot and the bullet hit the side of the fender and glanced off and I done... I done a...I took a car hood of the same kind of car and done...done some shooting on that and this District Attorney, Frank Stovall, ah....allowed me to get on the stand and testify to that you know. And we wound up...we wound up convicting him for it ah...but ah...they didn't ah...they didn't....the jury wouldn't give him much for some reason or another. Because if they sent him to the penitentiary then these three boys, which were from age about 5 or 6 to about 10 years old, would have to be sent backdeported back to Germany. So they gave him ...they wound up giving him probation. But ah...ah....he definitelyhe definitely killed her and ah...she was a....she was a pretty girl, she was a pretty lady and she was a...she worked as a ...as a receptionist in a dental ...dental....dentist office. And ah....he was a very jealous man, oh man he just ...he....he go into a rage you know, even if she just started talking to somebody, you know. But....but hehe continued to go over there and visit her for several months you know. And in fact of the business, I'm sure he stayed over there you know. But ah...it was...it was something else and ah...ah...that was ah...a lengthy....lengthy investigation, but that's as....that's as close as we could get to it andand ah....he....he got probation.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...let's switch gears and go back, we talked earlier about the bank burglary, now let's talk about a bank robbery. Ahin Riesel...

E G ALBERS: In Riesel....the Riesel bank robbery was when I was Captain here, I was here in the office and ...and I got a call I heard a call that the bank robbery in Riesel and of course I got in the car and started down that way.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where is Riesel?

E G ALBERS: Riesel is rightright down Highway 6 .

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is it still in McClendon county?

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

E G ALBERS: 6 and it's right down here just...just right down here....down here about ah...oh...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well it's in McClendon County.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, yeah, it's before you get to Marlin anyway. And what it was that ah....as the story goes that it was in the fall of the year, bird season, but there was a ...it's a banka bank on the corner, that bank has moved out and then moved into a new bank now, but it was a bank on the corner. And it had a flat in the front and then it kind a had a angle on both sides. In other words, the corner was flattened off and that made about that wide for a door, you come in there. Whatwhat had happened, that morning three young black guys drove up in a Ford Mustang on the side of the bank. Had a street in front and a side....on the side...beside the bank and the bank had long windows. And the ladies in that bank...in that bank, of course that bank had a history of being robbed a number of times. The ladies in the bank up at the front saw them three young guys get out with overcoats on and shoving shotguns and rifles under there overcoat. And the ladies told Mr. Zachary who was the President. And Mr. Zachary walked out there and he saw that and of course he'd been robbed before. He said, "you ladies get in the back room". He got in the center teller cage, which wasthe teller cages were made the same way you know, as the front wall. He got in the center teller cage and hung a .45 automatic....took a .45 automatic that he had and hung a magazine over it. And these three black guys started through

the front door and the first one come in and said, “this is a hold up”. And when he....when he said that why he pulled one off and he shot the black guy, the first one, right through the thigh. And he hit the ground a squalling like a wild cat and them other two broke and run and jumped in that mustang and took off. Well when I got there he was....he was in the ambulance , they was fixing to pull off and I said, “wait just a minute”. I crawled up in the ambulance by myself with him and started talking to him a little bit.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hold a prayer meeting with him.

CHUCK PARSONS: Prayer meetings.

E G ALBERS: Well we just....we justwe just kind of talked about the subject at hand you know. And he said ah.... I said, “you going to bleed to death ain’t ya”. And he said, “yes sir”. I said, “who are them other two fellas”. And he gave me their names and their addresses. I’m telling you, that’s the truth, their names and addresses. And I said ah.... “what kind of vehicle is it”....and he said, “it’s a mustang and here’s the license number”. And he gave me license number of it. And I said, “okay”. I stepped out and told the ambulance driver, I said, “take him on to the ...” and I radioedof course when I started down there I had radioed for the helicopter to go up. And the helicopter was out here at ah....out here at Trading House Lake, over there, and I gave him some information and he said, “well I’m right over ‘em and they’re driving along throwing their clothes out and a couple of Highway Patrolmen right behind ‘em”. And I said, “well okay, that’s good”. And two Highway Patrolmen was Henry Cluck and Gus Siemes and they...they....they apprehended them and they met me at the courthouse with them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Cluck is C L U C K?

E G ALBERS: S I E M E S I think....M E N or something like that, it’s Gus Siemes. Ah....look in the book.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh, okay.

E G ALBERS: I think it'll be in there. Andand ah....and ah....they brought 'em into the....to the county jail and ah....we....we charged 'em with bank robbery. And the other one at the hospital I asked one of the Rangers to go out there and interview him further. And he got out there and he didn't have any more information when he got to the hospital.

ROBERT NIEMAN: All right. Aha couple of other things I want to cover and then I'm going to turn it over to Chuck. Ah...during that period, Vietnam is going on and ah....Vietnam is going on. Of course your area here covers Ft. Hood.

E G ALBERS: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...I know from experience with Ed Gooding, who was the Ranger down at Bell County, you had problems with anti-war protestors. Can you elaborate or talk to us about that some.

E G ALBERS: Well the....the only problem you had to deal, you had to go down there and police it and as we always said, we had to keep the goat ropers off of them hippies.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Goat ropers being...?

E G ALBERS: Being the local ...local people and most of them cowboys.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh....rednecks.

E G ALBERS: Rednecks and stuff like that and ah....and I don't.... I don't mean to be derogatory about rednecks because I think they're good American citizens myself.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I'll go along with that.

E G ALBERS: And ah....but ah...they...they ...if you didn't watch it well they'dthey'd....they'd get in the street where they was demonstrating or marching...

ROBERT NIEMAN: And take care of the problem.

E G ALBERS:problem, yeah add that. Ah....the other thing was that....that was that we done some over at Killeen and then later several times we had to....had to get a bunch of people ah....get a bunch of people who were ah...a bunch of DPS people and bring ‘em into Austin when they had demonstrations down there. And of course it was...it was a lot worse down there then it was at Killeen, because there’s lots of more people working there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well were you the Captain here when Jane Fonda came?

E G ALBERS: Yeah, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Can you explain....tell us something about that?

E G ALBERS: Well the only thing is I know she was in that group down there andand she was, pardon the expression, she was just another one.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, okay. Ah....

E G ALBERS: Let’s let it go at that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: My final question is ah....another thing that Rangers have to do is not so pleasant, is sometimes work on police corruption.

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And I know you had some of that.

E G ALBERS: Me and Ed Gooding

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yes.

E G ALBERS:did that and ...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Down at Harker Heights.

E G ALBERS: ...and while old Ed was working on that, he had a little heart problem doing it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

E G ALBERS: But anyway, what it was, was a....was a police department over at Killeen that the Chief over there

ROBERT NIEMAN: Name was Jackson, was that it?

E G ALBERS: No that....Jackson was the Captain of the Detectives.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, go ahead there, I'm sorry.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, but the Chief of Police over there, the first one, was ah...I can't think of his name, but the second one was ah....was a....was a man out of the DPS that came over there and took the Chief of Police job right in the middle of that thing. And of course the way we done that, we had to do it with the approval of the director. You just didn't go and investigate another officer, you know, or any of that. But anyway, we went in there and worked on that for several months. And what the problem was, was the Captain of the Detectives over there andand about three or four of his detectives were ah...ah....patronizing the prostitutes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Shaking 'em down.

E G ALBERS: Huh?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Shaking 'em down?

E G ALBERS: No. Well they were....they were....they were taking...taking favors and weren't paying 'em for them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh okay.

E G ALBERS: And the fact of the business, the head one she said, "hell I can't make any money for that Captain being on top of me". I mean that's exactly what she said. And of course we ...we....we worked on it for some time and we got one old boy that was a pimp down there and Ed and I nicknamed him coyote, he looked like a darned old coyote. But anyway, we tried to

get some information and everything, but we never could pin down any bribery. And if you...if you...if you don't know it, trying to make a bribery case on a black policeman

ROBERT NIEMAN: Jackson was black.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, and that...that...that's nearly impossible. And of course Jackson was just as thick with a crooked lawyer down there as he could be you know and everything and stuff. But ah....ah....we never did...we never did prove anything, but we wound upthe thing we finally called 'em in...oh yeah, the new Chief of Police that came in there was Art Butler.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Art?

E G ALBERS: A R T Butler, B U T L E R.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

E G ALBERS: Art was a...was a training man in the....in the DPS academy down there and he worked....he worked down there and he was Chief of Police and just, you know, he was a good man. And when he come in there we asked him, said, "you want us to continue", he said, "I sure do". So finally what we did, we...we....we arrived at the....at the thing and substantiated and got enough information that they were doing what they....what Iwhat I said they were doing. And ah...we ah....we decided we'd just call 'em in....me and the Chief and Ed called 'em in and talked to 'em in front of the Chief a little bit and asked 'em if they wanted to resign and they....every one of them, "yeah just let me resign, I'll go".

ROBERT NIEMAN: I know Ed took a lot of heat on that.

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: A lot of heat.

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He got a lot of grief for it. Ah...Chuck's looked up the spelling of those names now.

CHUCK PARSONS: Ah...the DPS helicopter pilot was Mike Ashcraft... A S H C R A F T.

E G ALBERS: That's on that Riesel bank deal.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah the Riesel....

CHUCK PARSONS: On the Riesel bank deal ah....and the two DPS patrolmen, Gus Siems, S I E M S and Henry KluckK L U C K.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

CHUCK PARSONS: They were the two that chased the automobile and arrested the two subjects.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....Captain that's....that's all I've got....well let me...no, let me....one other question here and then I'm going to turn it over to Chuck and then I've got a couple closing questions. Ah...why did you decide.... my friend....our friend, Captain Jack Dean, once told me, he said, "well I was only a real Ranger for four years", before he made Sergeant. You know Jack has a kind of sense of humor anyway. And ah...what made you decide not to be a "Real Ranger" and become a Sergeant?

E G ALBERS: Well I don't.... I don't know, other than the fact thatother than the fact that it looked like it came my time to promote up. And ah...ah...you...you just....it wasn't very smart, if you're going to be a career man with the DPS to pass up a promotion. And so I ... I was promoted up ah....Colonel Spears and Jim Ray ah... thought....they laid the hand on you and said, "you going to be Sergeant at Midland".

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Pat...Pat Spears was the Director and Jim Ray was the Chief of CL....Criminal Law Enforcement, I'm sorry go ahead.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, yeah and so that...that...that's...that's the reason I took it and went on.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When was this?

E G ALBERS: Ah...I can't.... I can't give you exactly, I think it was 1968.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, yeah.

E G ALBERS: Cause see...see...ah....in 1968 my term on the records show that I was stationed at Midland, Texas for one year...about one year. And of that one year I spent only about 8 or 9 months there because I was ...they also laid the hand on me and said, "we want you to go to the FBI academy".

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, we'll come back to that. So who was your Captain in Midland?

E G ALBERS: Ah...ah...Jim RayI mean Jim Reynolds.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Jim Reynolds, yeah cause you....then you became the Sergeant there when Jim Ray promoted to Captain and went to Lubbock.

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You replaced Jim Ray.

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Jim Ray, I've got to say for the record, was a super close friend of mine and I really miss him.

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But anyway ah....all right, how long were you a Sergeant before you became a Captain?

E G ALBERS: About a year.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. And then you became Captain here in Waco, Company F.

E G ALBERS: Yeah. See while I was out at Midland....out at Midland they laid the hand on me again and said, “we want you to go to the FBI academy”.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Tell us about the FBI academy.

E G ALBERS: ..(side of the tape ended)....he’s a...he’s a....at that time was a 100 law enforcement officers from all over theall over the United States and a few foreign countries. And ah....what you did you....they did a background check on you, and a physical on you and everything and you go in there andand ah....they bring you in there and you....you....they pay you...they pay you ah....ah...per diem for living expenses and everything and they wound up putting us in a ah....and the academy was at the Hoover building in downtown Washington, D.C.

ROBERT NIEMAN: It’s at Quantico now.

E G ALBERS: Yeah. But it was downtown and ah...we....they put us in some ...some apartments up at Silver Springs, Maryland, which was ...was....was better than trying to live there in Washington, D.C., because it wasit was much bad business over there. Because we lived out there at Silver Springs and I took a state car up there and I drove in every day and those roommates of mine, there was....oh there was one, two, three, four of ‘em and myself in that....in that room and we drove down, I think it was ah....14th street everyday, coming down. Over here on 10th street just ah...the year before they had the dangest riot of those black you ever seen. And of course I had Texas license on thaton that vehicle and I told these old boys, I said, “I don’t know you fellas very well but I hope you can fight, because I got Texas plates on there”. But we made it fine, we made it fine. And of course I made it a policy that I’d leave up there early in the morning and when I got back at night I’d get in that dup....apartment and close the door, I wouldn’t prowl around on them streets or anything.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well how long was the academy?

E G ALBERS: I was ah...I started in the last part of AugustAugust, September, October and I come out of there about the first of November.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you were the first Texas Ranger to ever go through that.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, yeah. And whilewhile I was inwhile I was in the academy, of course Jack Rebel was Chief of Criminal Law Enforcement when I went up there and in the mean time Jack....Jack Rebel left the department and Jay Ray went down there and while I was in ...in...in the.....in the....in the FBI academy the last part of October, Jim Ray called me long distance and said, "Albers you just been made Captain and transferred to Waco, Texas". I said, "oh hell". Cause that was the least of my worry, my worry was I wanted to get home.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

E G ALBERS: I'd been up there three months and....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well describe some of the training that they put you through.

E G ALBERS: Well you got up....you got up early and you had class, all these classes, the different things and I tried to mention 'em in my book there, those classes that I had and ah....law, constitutional law, and court rulings and ah....all kinds of things. And then they talked about ah...some of these things like ah...like that...like that murder case out there at Big Springs, that homo'ssome of that stuff. You had....you had some interesting things that....these things that you come up against some time or another. And I had already worked that case and I said, "Lord have mercy, this all makes sense to me now, why he had all them dogs and stuff". You know, and stuff like that. But anyway ah...it was ah....it was long and then they....every day you ...you went down and you put on your shorts andand do about 45 minutes of exercise andand.....and they worked you over, you brought some weight down.

And you had to shower in 5 minutes time and put that suit of clothes on, white shirt and tie, and be back up there in the classroom. Now you had to wear that suit, because J. Edgar was still

ROBERT NIEMAN: Director.

E G ALBERS:Director. I never will forget, one night we had a reception and we met him over there in a reception and the room was dimly lit and he was standing there under a dim light and I thought to myself, is that him or is that a wax dummy. I walked by there and shook hands with him and it was him, you know. But anyway, he was....he was...he was straight, of course...of course one of the things that....that I'll back up and tell you about that....that ah....he and Homer Garrison didn't gee haw.

ROBERT NIEMAN: They didn't?

E G ALBERS: No!

ROBERT NIEMAN: I never heard that.

E G ALBERS: They just....they just didn't and...and...and...and that's...and that's....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Why?

E G ALBERS: I don't know, I don't know, but they just....they just didn't....they just gee haw. And ah...that's the reason I went to the FBI academy when Pat Spears was in there. So... I mean, what they're problem wasbut I just...something aboutsome of the older officers told me said, well they just didn't. And it's...and it's sort of like what you said at lunch about Glenn Elliott and Jim Adams and that FBI. They just wasn't, cause back thenback then beforebefore then well they...they...they ran around....the FBI ran around 'em.....everybody in Texas felt like.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Big me, little you.

E G ALBERS: We said, wewe would like to get one of you for civil rights right quick.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well you know one of them...FBI agent was going to hang Glenn's scalp on his belt one time too, but he didn't do it. But you know....but at least in Adam's case, Glenn you know, like I said, he wasn't going to like Glenn Adam.... I mean Jim Adams coming down here from the FBI, but next to Garrison I think Adams was probably his favorite director.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, but you see, of course when I was stationed at Canyon and out there at Midland, when I was stationed at Canyon I had young...young FBI agents stationed at Amarillo and if they had an old tush hog in one of them jails down there below in my territory, they'd call me and said, "hey have you got time to go with me over there and talk to him". It would be these little one you know, they're little.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

E G ALBERS: And he's probably drawing about three or four times as much pay as I was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

E G ALBERS: And I said, "yeah, I'll go help you, I'll go help you, I ain't afraid of that sucker".

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, well ah...did you develop contacts that you was able to use later in your career through that?

E G ALBERS: Through them?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum.

E G ALBERS: Ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: I mean not just FBI agents, but I mean from Aubry....

E G ALBERS: Oh, from these other officers?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh huh.

E G ALBERS: Well yeah, I made some contacts, but I never did I never did have a case to use 'em. I met lots of officers and one of the things that I say about the FBI and I say in this book

here, is the fact thatthat really and truly a whole lot of benefit to that school up there was that at the break....every period you have a break, you standing out there in the hall visiting with them officers and listening to some of their problems. Some of them officers up there in the East they had....they had bad problems, they had Chiefs and Captains over 'em and this, that and the other, that was holding their hand out and stuff like that. It was...it....it was terrible and I said, "that ain't going to happen in Texas". Of course when I left the FBI academy up there, there was a number of guys up there said, "listen fellers, if you need somebody in Texas call the Rangers". That's right, so you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did ah...why were....why did ah...Jim Rayor well Jim wasn't there when you left to go to the academy, but why did they pick you to go over some other Ranger?

E G ALBERS: Well I don't.... I don't know, I imagine you'd have to ask Pat Spears about it, of course you can't now, but you'd have to ask Pat Spears about it. But ah...ah... I had a.... I had a reputation that you know, you get back to what I said about that FBI agent at Amarillo, and those out yonder, Ithey....they knew, hey you pardon the express, "he's straight as a arrow and you can tie onto him any time you get ready". And they... and they felt like that I would go and....and ah....notnot embarrass the department, basically is what it....is kind of the way I looked at it. Ah...a lot....a lot of the Rangers hada few of 'em had like ...like Glenn and G. W. Burkes, they had some time or another a civil rights investigation on 'em or this, that and the other, but I never did have it, they didn't catch me.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. So ah... like I've heard some guys say about first offenders, it's the first time they ever got caught. So ah...well I tell you what...well did you....had

you...obviously, or I'm assuming that you had made it a plain...or had made it known that wanted to promote to Captain.

E G ALBERS: Well I had.... I had been ah....ah....down....down to Austin, they had....had....was making some Captains. They had....had a vacancy at ah....Dallas and they had a vacancy out at Lubbock. And I think that out at Lubbock, the Captain out there died and I think it was Jim Pulk.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, Jim Ray replaced him, didn't he?

E G ALBERS: Yeah and then...

ROBERT NIEMAN: But Jim was only there...Celwin Denson was his Sergeant .

E G ALBERS: Yeah and then Jim come down there and they had a vacancy out there. So they interviewed about three or four Sergeants down there at Austin before I went to the academy.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

E G ALBERS: And they madeif I remember right, they made two of them, Bill Wilson to Dallas and Pete Rogers to Lubbock. And somebody turned to me and said, "you're next".

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then?

E G ALBERS: Somebody just down the hall talking, "you next". And I thought, welland at that time it looked likeit looked like that Captain Allee was going to be the next one to go.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And he was Company D, San Antonio.

E G ALBERS: But....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Carrizo Springs

E G ALBERS:he wasn't....he wasn't.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Clint Peoples here at Company F.

E G ALBERS: Wentmade Sr. Ranger Captain and I came....and that'sand that's how this vacancy come up and that's how I got this one.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Ah...I tell you what, I've only got ah....one point, now in your book for reasons that are ah....possible liability and what not, you use fictitious names, but on this tape we did not use fictitious names, we used real names. And I've got one or two other questions, but I want to save them til after Chuck gets done. You got any questions Chuck?

CHUCK PARSONS: Yes ah....it's seems like every thing that we've about is real serious talk, has there been a time when something humorous happened? Now I'm thinking of in your book where you describe ah...checking into a dice game or gambling game and something about a garage door and the garage door flying up. And now when I read that, I thought that was rather humorous.

E G ALBERS: Well ...

CHUCK PARSONS: Did you see it that way?

E G ALBERS: Well...oh yeah, it's...it's.... I got a chuckle out of it. Course we had a....when I was stationed at Canyon and me and Kelly Rogers always teamed together when we had something that we didn't want....we didn't want somebody outside the Rangers that....you know, sometimes you didn't feel like that you wanted to talk about your business until it's after it's over with because they get tipped off. But we had an old boy there in Amarillo that was gambling. He had a.....he had a....had a gambling....had a beer joint and he was gambling there in Amarillo and he decided he'd move out there to his home, had a nice home out in the north part of Amarillo. And ah....Kelly called me and said, "let's ah...let's go see about it", I said, "all right, what time you want to go". And he told me and we went out there and we drove up in front of the house, it was in a residential district, pretty nice upgrade houses. And I walked up to the

....to the garage door and it was a fiber glass, glass....plastic kindcorrugated plastic door. And I could....the lights was on and you couldyou could sky light ‘em in there, the shadow of ‘em you know. And old Kelly said, “wait just a minute”, and he give the signal and he went to the front door of the house with about a eight or ten pound sledge hammer. And for your information that’s a Ranger skeleton key. And ah...when old Kelly give me the signal I tried to raise that garage door and I couldn’t raise it. And I started hitting it with my shoulder and the sucker went up and when it went up it fell right in the middle of the gambling table on top of them gamblers. And of course all I could hear was “wham, wham, wham” at the front door and Kelly Rogers was busting that good front door and splinters was going all over the living room and a couple of women and children in there and they ran to the back and we went in there and we raided the gambling and...and....and took ‘em in. And that old boy, I think was named Curtis Fowler, he was running it, but that....that was....that was one of ‘em. Another humorous thing that people still laugh at me about was the fact, when I was stationed here in Waco was that we kept this.....this in here is to me was always the ah....in this area, Central Texas area, was always the chicken fighting capital of the world. And ...and ah....we....we had a ...had a...out hereover toward Whitley, we had a....had a fella, there was a truck driver and his wife and two or three kids and I think they lived here in town, but they had a place out there in the country, a little old farm and he went out there you know, on weekends doing that. Andand heseveral times he had called and complained about the fact that there was chicken fighting going on out here on weekends, that dead chickens and beer bottles and everything all up and down the road. And I said, “Okay I’ll see about it”. Twice I called that Sheriff of Hill County, that was over at Hill County and old Sheriff and he told mehe told me ah.... “yeah I’ll take

care of it". This third time this man called me, I called.... I called my I had Skippy Rundle and Jimmy Ray and ...

ROBERT NIEMAN: That Jimmy Ray

E G ALBERS:James Wright and Dale Gun.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's not....that's Jim Ray's nephew.

E G ALBERS: Yeah.....and they were here, my Rangers here and I said, "Ya'll be over here...." whatever time, must have been six, seven o'clock, and I said, "here's the plan". Jimmy Ray had an old Chevrolet ...black Chevrolet pickup, he and Skippy Rundle got in that pickup with a walkie talkie and ah....me and ah...Billy Gun got in my car and we tore out to Hillsboro. Of course I always had the theory and theand the thing that ...that....and this was another thing thatthat Pat Spears might have had some bearing on me going up yonder was...was the fact that I always respected the local officers and ...you know. Andso my policy was, I told Bill, I said, "Let's go to Hillsboro", we went to Hillsboro and I got out of the car and walked up to the jail where the Sheriff lived and knocked on the door. I said, "Sheriff what are you doing". He said, "nothing". I said, "well come go with us". I got him in the car and pulled that old Plymouth down, running about 90 out west of Hillsboro and I said, "we're going to raid that chicken fight". He said, "Oh". And we drove up out there and of course when we drove up there we was talking toto....to Skippy and Jimmy Ray and Jimmy Ray had ah....had drove up there in that pickup and they walked up there in the dark, they had a regular pit built in there, you know, fighting. Walked up in the dark and I remember old Jimmy Ray and them telling about....said....they walked past 'em and somebody said, "wasn't them Rangers". And somebody said, "oh no, they don't drive pickups". But see what they were doing, they were walking in and observing the violation for our case, so we had a case. And we drove up in there

andand....and took over when we got there and we had about....oh there must have been 60 people there, women and children and all, they had concession stands and everything. And they had a...out theremust of been some kind of a park, but it had some kind of a cabin out there that people could rent you know to put a sleeping bag in. But anyway we heard it, a bunch of women and kids over in that building, and “Ya’ll stay there”. And the men that had the chicken....the roosters and stuff well we went in there and they had a bunch of coops, real fancy, if you’ve never been to a chicken fight, they rancy, fancyfancy coops that bring ‘em in you know, hand carry ‘em you know and you got to keep ‘em separated and I learned that, that night. And I said, “who does this belong to”. Nobody answered. And I flicked it open and that rooster stepped out and prancing around there and I said, “who does this one belong to”. Nobody. I opened up about three of them and looked back behind me and I had the damnest gang fight of roosters you ever seen. And I said, “I got ...”, I thought to myself, I got to do something. So I reached up and stuck my boot between ‘em you know and trying to shove ‘em back in them coops. And one of them roosters got up above my boot and his spur hit me and scratched my leg. Andandthat....my story is, that’s the only time I’ve ever been wounded in the Ranger service.

CHUCK PARSONS: Did you ah...take care of the rooster?

E G ALBERS: No, we put ‘em back in them coops, they got ‘em back in them coops and we arrested them main ones, went over there and talked to them women and kids and asked them what they thought about...if they was turned loose, what about....what they thought about coming back to a chicken fight. And said, “boy you won’t ever catch us around”. And that....and that’s the story on that.

CHUCK PARSONS: Is that still a popular thing?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh yeah.

E G ALBERS: Oh yeah, chicken....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, Nat Turner played for Cowboys, up until a few years ago, he got busted, he's in the pen now for cock fighting.

E G ALBERS: Well I I had..... I had one out here...out here west oneast on Highway 6 that I heard about was doing it and I thought to myself.... I knew about where it was and every thing and I thought about it, they was doing it on Sunday morning. Course Sunday morning was my time to be in Sunday School and Church. And ah.... I believed in that and I still do and I think that's....that's the way you ought to do it. So I asked one of the Rangers what he's going to be doing. He said, nothing and I said, "well get Mike Ashcraft and ya'll get up in that helicopter and go out there and circle over that sucker". They circled on it and them suckers run like a covey of quails in the brush. But any thing....any thing I could do to break 'em up I done it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Turner...Turner, he didn't go to the pen for chicken fighting, I think he went for drugs or something.

CHUCK PARSONS: Oh I'm sure.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But ah...

CHUCK PARSONS: Was there such a thing as a typical day as a Ranger? Or was every day different?

E G ALBERS: Well, it was....it was....no they....they....they was just typical, you know, typical. I know when I was a Ranger up there at Canyon I would ah.... I would ah...think about all the cases that I investigated and worked on that were pending. And I wouldI'd try to figure out some place to go and see if I couldn't find some more information or find somebody thatsome law enforcement agency had somebody in jail that was similar to it. But you just

....you just worked.... I I ah....ah.... I don't mean.... I don't mean to brag but I was a working Ranger. I I hunted, if I didn't have something to do, I hunted something to do, I hunted something to do. And that didn't mean that I wasn't trying to manufacture something....

CHUCK PARSONS: Right...we got....

E G ALBERS: I went.... I went and hunted something. And I I've got aI've got a scrapbook at home that's about that thick with a bunch of stuff in there and I've got a bunch of my performance evaluation reports and I've got some reports. And one of them in there that I cherish a whole lot, my Sergeant and my Captain said, "this is the workingest Ranger that I've ever seen".

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well we....I'd hope that you would consider putting your papers and what not down here in the research library.

E G ALBERS: Well I've got a bunch of 'em down here, but this is my scrapbook and ah...I'm going....I'm going to turn it over to my son and tell him, one of these days you want to put it in here you go ahead do it. But it's... it's got...it's got a bunch of clippings ah....highway patrol clippings and stuff, I just I ...I stuffed 'em away and then after I retired I decided to put it in a scrapbook. And it's in there, it's...it's....it tells all about all I did. A man could take it and write a pretty good book if he wanted to.

CHUCK PARSONS: Ah....you retired from the Rangers to go into this ah...building security....

E G ALBERS: Building materials company, they....they offered me a job....offered me a job and it was a ah.....about \$2,000.00 a year more than what I was making with the Rangers. And ah.... I got.... I got burned out, I'll answer you another question here that you ...you probably going to ask. I got burned out.

CHUCK PARSONS: As a Ranger?

E G ALBERS: I got... I got burned out.

CHUCK PARSONS: Uh hum

E G ALBERS: I was.... I was working six and seven days a week.

CHUCK PARSONS: Yeah.

E G ALBERS: And when I left the Rangers I had something like a couple months of comp time ah...of holidays, you know you get so many holidays....you get....

CHUCK PARSONS: Right.

E G ALBERS: I I never did take 'em, I didn't.... I just.... I just felt like that I had to be at the office, on the job or something and....and ah..... I ... I was out here in that office in the morning about seven o'clock in the morning and...and...stayed....stayed all day and just whatever I had to do. But I but Ibut I I got burned out on the job .

CHUCK PARSONS: After a few years with the securities, didn't you ever regret leaving the Rangers?

E G ALBERS: Yes, yes I did, yes I did...yes I did. I thought I thought back a lot of times since then and I still think today, I think back that ah....why didn't I make some kind of an adjustment and stay....stay...in fact the business another thing is, if I had stayed and....and I could of, in a New York minute, could of got a transfer to Midland or Lubbock as a Captain and I would of had an opportunity to do, if I would of done that I'd still be there today.

CHUCK PARSONS: But the mandatory retirement age is 65, is that right?

E G ALBERS: It was 65 back then.

CHUCK PARSONS: Back then.

E G ALBERS: Back then beforebefore I....before I got it, of course I wasn't but about 51 years old when I retired. And ah...you had a mandatory retirement back there when...when Bob Crowder ah...ah...well there was a bunch of them, Bagget....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Earnest Daniels.

E G ALBERS: Earnest Daniels, there's a bunch of them, you know there was a whole bunch of 'em ah....retired.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Eddie Oliver probably went about that time too didn't he?

E G ALBERS: No, Eddie Oliver was a little later.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

E G ALBERS: But there was about 6 or 7 of 'em retired justjust after I come ...had to retire just after I come to Waco or just before I come to Waco because Benny Kruger was one of those 65 and I was Benny Kruger's Captain for 30 days before he had to retire.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what year did you retire Captain?

E G ALBERS: I retired in 1974.

ROBERT NIEMAN: 30 years. Chuck? You answered one of the questions I was going to ask you, why did you retire. Ah...who were your Sergeants?

E G ALBERS: Well when I first started out here was Skippy Rundle and then later I had Bud Newberry and then later I got G.W. Burkes was stationed down at Austin and Newberry was stationed here in Waco.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about Mitchell, was he ever yours?

E G ALBERS: Mitchell

ROBERT NIEMAN: Bob Mitchell.

E G ALBERS:yeah, Bob Mitchell was ah...was....was made Sergeant after I believe after G. W. made Captain and went to Dallas.

RN So was he yours....

E G ALBERS: He was my Sergeant.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Every one of your Sergeants made Captain didn't they?

E G ALBERS: Huh?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Nearly every one of your Sergeants made Captain.

E G ALBERS: He made Captain...he made Captain and replaced me here as Captain.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I mean all...all your Sergeants made Captain didn't they?

E G ALBERS: Oh yeah...oh ...well all of them but Newberry didn't.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Skippy made Assistant....okay well Skippy made Assistant Senior.

E G ALBERS: Yeah. Skippy went out there to Lubbock and that's the reason I said I ...I could of...I went out there

CHUCK PARSONS: Could of gone there....

E G ALBERS:I'd still been there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...well you told us why you decided to retire. If you could get in a time machine...

E G ALBERS: Do what?

ROBERT NIEMAN: If you could get in a time machine, somebody said, "we're going to let you go back, but you can only be a field Ranger or you can only be an officer, whichever one you pick, that's what you're always going to be". If you pick field Ranger you...

E G ALBERS: What do you mean an officer?

ROBERT NIEMAN: A Sergeant or a Captain, which would you be, field Ranger or an officer?

E G ALBERS: Well of course it's like I made the statement in the book, it's....it's....it's more of an honor to me to be a Captain of the Texas Rangers than to be President of the United States. And ah...I I ah..... I would be, but one of the things I don't want to be a Captain in a district where Austin is in the district. Now I could say a lot more about it but ya'll take that and smoke it in your pipe.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Enough said. Ah....Chuck, if you don't have any, I really don't have any thing. Any thing else that you want to talk about that we didn't?

CHUCK PARSONS: Yeah, any final thoughts?

E G ALBERS: Turn this thing of....(tape is turned off and then on)....demonstration, it was a big one that come off at Bastrop, Texas....or was going to, but we stopped it. We stopped it just colder than hell.

ROBERT NIEMAN: This a rock festival?

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

E G ALBERS: I...Iand then there was another rock festival the day after that, that matured down there in Austin and I'd think you get some humor out of that if you want to listen to them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah....I got it on, I just turned it back on.

E G ALBERS: And ah....is that on?

CHUCK PARSONS: I'm out of tape.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's all right, I'll make ...I'll make tapes off of this.

E G ALBERS: And what it was there was....they was going to have a big rock festival, they come down there and leased a big ranch at Bastrop, in Bastrop County. And of course I was I was an advocate and any time I could break up a rock festival before it got started I would. And

ah....we got to talking to a couple of Attorney General lawyers, one of them named Flowers and I can't think what the others name is....and they come over there into Bastrop and we met and Jimmy Kershaw was the District Attorney. And we start drawing up the thing for an injunction. And I mean it was a big old ranch about 600 acres out there. Of course at the mean time while they was working it I started gathering....gathering my forces, a bunch of highway patrolmen and Rangers from all over the state. And at that time the Rangers....each Ranger company had an old Army jeep, I said "bring your jeep". And we had...we had made arrangements over there at Camp Swift, Army camp over there, they had a big cyclone thing around there and we was going to use that as a jail, just put 'em in there. And ah...we started and low and behold about a day before it started, we had an old District Judge down there, Judge Manger, just as....from the old time school and you bet, he issued an order about it and he ...he set an injunction. And the evening before they started coming in here come an old boy in with a bunch of motorcycles, they was going to have a bunch of motorcycle races and stuff like that. And I believe it was Joe Davis and Bill Gun went out there and got him and carried him down at the courthouse late one evening. And I think it was on Friday evening and they was going to start on Saturday, Sunday and Monday was going to be Labor Day I think it was. But anyway, they carried him in there and old JudgeJudge heard what it was and the Judge said, "young man", he said, "I'll give you two choices, three days in the county jail or you get your vehicles out of the county before sundown". And that old boy looked at one of them Rangers and looked at the other one and he said, "I can get out of the county". They carried him back out there and he got out of the county. So that....that...

CHUCK PARSONS: He went to Lee County maybe.

E G ALBERS: No, he didn't go to Lee County...it was Bastrop County, but anyway he left and I've got a file folder and I think there's a bunch of....bunch of them letters in here if you go to looking at 'em, bunch of letters. Them people down there wrote me and said, "praise the lord, Captain, praise the lord", you know. But then ...then we heard that there was two red headed boys about 20-21 years old, their parents had left them some expensive property, you couldn't tell by looking at it, it was on the side of a rock hill, right there at the edge of Austin. And they come in there and build a platform and they was going to have a rock festival. And low and behold we ...we landed there the next morning, we filled that Travis County jail full of hippies and this, that and the other. Even had one hippieone hippie that got bit by a rattle snake, we had to take him to the hospital. We went over there and these old boys they didn't like it because they....Pete Rogers came in with some Rangers from Houston too.

ROBERT NIEMAN: By this time Pete's Captain of Company A in Houston.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, Houston

ROBERT NIEMAN: He transferred from Lubbock.

E G ALBERS: Yeah, he was Company A then, yeah he was Company A.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He transferred down from Lubbock.

E G ALBERS: But ah...then....then we went in there and they got on that stand and they was giving the law enforcement a bad time. And we stood up there at the gates and said, "come here", brought them two old boys up there and we read the riot act to 'em, Pete and I did and said, "that's going to stop, that bad mouthing an officer, you're going to be stopped, or else". And they said...well said, "we don't mind so bad, we don't like ya'll coming in them big hats and arresting people", and this, that and the other. I said, "I'll tell you what feller", said, "when you dang guys cut your damn hair we'll take that hat off, do you understand me". And he, "yes

sir”. And they went back and got on the stand and they said....and he got on the stand and he made an announcement, he said, “folks”, he said, “I just to the man”. And that’s right that really happened. He said, “I talked to the man and the man said if we don’t cool it he’s fixing to clean ‘em out”. Exactly what he told ‘em. And I hadn’t said that to him, but they....they....

CHUCK PARSONS: They got the message.

E G ALBERS: They got the message. And we filled the Travis County jail plum full. But those...those are two...two kind of little funnies that probably you....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, we’ll use

E G ALBERS:there in the book there, but you....ya’ll didn’t ask me about ‘em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well that’s fine. But listen, I do appreciate this. Ah....I’m speaking for the Texas Ranger Research Center and the Texas Ranger Association Foundation, CHUCK PARSONS and myself.

CHUCK PARSONS: Yes, definitely.

ROBERT NIEMAN: We certainly appreciate your time Captain.

E G ALBERS: Okay.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Thank you.

E G ALBERS: Let me...let me....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, go ahead.

E G ALBERS: Let me ask you something, is ah...are you...is that going to be on videotape?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, that’s what it’s on now. This one and the one that...

E G ALBERS: It’ll be a finished product video tape?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yes. You want a copy?

E G ALBERS: Can I have one?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, I'll make you one, I'll make you one and get it back down here to you.

E G ALBERS: All right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: It would be a copy of this one, this one and the one that's in there.

E G ALBERS: Yeah and is it ah...will it have the video on it.... I mean....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

E G ALBERS: Audio on it?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

CHUCK PARSONS: It's the sound and the picture.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, sound and the picture.

E G ALBERS: Okay, I'd like to have it.

CHUCK PARSONS: See, I have this just in case the sound didn't come clear.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And plus we'll get it all transcribed and that's what we use that for, so the gal can sit there and put it all on paper.

E G ALBERS: Well what do you do with it on paper?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Goes in the library. That way for....

E G ALBERS: But the tapes don't go there?

ROBERT NIEMAN: They go in there too.

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

CHUCK PARSONS: Everything.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That way if researchers in the future, 100 years from now, you know, this tape....the tapes will be there, the papers will be there ah....it will be put in your file.

E G ALBERS: Yeah.

CHUCK PARSONS: Do you know how long that will....the process of transcribing and everything will...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I'm....oh....it's all done part time, I'm still running a trucking company and the girl that does my transcribing she's a legal secretary, so...but as soon as it gets all done, I can make the copies pretty quick, they transcription, it might be awhile. But I can make you copies and get them back to you pretty quick.

E G ALBERS: I appreciate that ah....cut that off.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Captain, thank you for giving us this.

CHUCK PARSONS: Thank you.