

Interview with

**RAY NUTT**  
Texas Ranger, Retired

©2008, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

Project: Texas Rangers

Interview Conducted at District Attorney's Office  
Henderson County  
Athens, Texas  
Saturday—July 26, 2008

Interviewed By: Robert Nieman and Nancy Ray  
Longview, Texas

Present At Interview: Ray Nutt, Robert Nieman, Nancy Ray

RAY NUTT

TEXAS RANGER, RETIRED

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** (The recording started and stopped after entering Ranger Nutt's name. From this point on, the transcription is from the time the recording began the second time.) My name is Robert Nieman. I'm assisted by Nancy Ray, both from Longview, Texas, and we are visiting with Ray Nutt of Athens, Texas. This is Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008, and we're in the DA's office library in Athens, Texas, Henderson County (from the first recording). The purpose of this interview is to discuss Ranger Nutt's career as a Texas Ranger. Mr. Nutt, do I have your permission to record this interview?

**RAY NUTT:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Mr. Nutt, you understand that this videotape will belong to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum in Waco, Texas?

**RAY NUTT:** Yes

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

**RAY NUTT:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Once again, what is your full name?

**RAY NUTT:** Ivie Ray Nutt.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** For the transcriber..

**RAY NUTT:** Ivie

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And when and where you born?

**RAY NUTT:** I was born in Navarro County on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1945.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And is there a community nearby?

**RAY NUTT:** I was raised around a little old community called Eureka but I was born in Corsicana.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Who were your parents?

**RAY NUTT:** Floyd Nutt and Edna Mae Nutt.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And do you have any siblings?

**RAY NUTT:** Yes, I've got, well I've actually got seven, actually there was eight of us but one died at birth. My oldest brother, Johnny Lee Nutt, he died at age 52, died in 1987 I believe. Dale, Floyd Dale Nutt is my brother, Marsylene Nutt is my sister, her name is Jenkins now. Edna Ruth Nutt Joek is a sister, Linda Nutt is a sister.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** The baby that stillborn, did they name...

**RAY NUTT:** Uh, Lloyd Nutt.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Uh, where did you go to school?

**RAY NUTT:** I went to a school called Mildred School.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Mildred? M-I-L-D-R-E-D?

**RAY NUTT:** Uh huh

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And, uh, that's in the Corsicana area?

**RAY NUTT:** South of Corsicana on 287.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Uh, are you married?

**RAY NUTT:** Yes, I'm married.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And your wife's name?

**RAY NUTT:** Oda Lee Nutt, Menefee was the maiden name.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What was that?

**RAY NUTT:** Oda Lee O-D-A Lee L-E-E. Last name Nutt now, Menefee was her maiden name. .

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How do you spell Menefee?

**RAY NUTT:** M-I-N-E-F-F-E

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Uh, where did you graduate from school?

**RAY NUTT:** Graduated from Mildred School. . . . . Another sister is Mary Sue Nutt Brown.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And uh, when you were in school, what were some of your favorite subjects?

**RAY NUTT:** None

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** None? (laughter) Recess?

**RAY NUTT:** Ah, probably history was my favorite subject, honestly, but I probably flunked out of school, I probably wasn't a very good student... in fact, I know I wasn't a very good student. We..., my Daddy had a, we leased land and farmed cotton and uh later he worked for Oil City City Ironworks. But I'm telling you, we were poor. And first two weeks of school, we missed to pick cotton.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** It was not that untypical in rural areas...

**RAY NUTT:** No, oh no.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Were there any teachers that stand out in your memory that you liked or..

**RAY NUTT:** Oh, yeah. Mr. Asby, he was a teacher ther, he was a football coach, he was as fine a man as you'd ever meet.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Asby? A-S-B-Y?

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah, his son was Mike and I think retired in Centerville. Billy Batton, who was a teacher there was a history teacher who I thought a lot of..and a guy named Bud Osborne who was assistant football and basketball coach was a great guy.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Uh, when did you graduate?

**RAY NUTT:** 1964

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And when did you and your wife get married?

**RAY NUTT:** December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1964.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Do you have any children?

**RAY NUTT:** Got two, a son named Bryan Nutt and a daughter named Robin Nutt.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** After ya'll married and you were out of school, what did you do?

**RAY NUTT:** Well, actually, I was working.. I went to work at the Adams Hat Factory in Corsicana... making like a dollar and quarter an hour, it was production... I didn't care then and I didn't last about 30 days then I went to work in Oil City Ironworks. Of course, I'd been working several years before getting out of school. I worked in the oilfield, worked in the hayfield and all that type stuff.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** When did you get into the law enforcement?

**RAY NUTT:** Uh, well I got drafted, went in the service in 1966.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did you go to Vietnam?

**RAY NUTT:** No, did not go. It was a weird kind of deal on that. we was in Fort Polk, Louisiana,.. on ... AIT training, and that's advanced training. The whole company was basically levied for Vietnam. But four of us didn't go. Stayed behind. We sat around Fort Polk for two weeks... then one day they come out there and told us ... you get on an airplane and you're

going to Savannah Army Depot in Illinois. And that's where we ended up.... That actually had priority over Vietnam.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What did you do there?

**RAY NUTT:** Well, they... it was one of them places where you really didn't know what was going on that much.. there was a lot of missiles... they kept a lot of missiles there and, I believe, some type of nuclear weapons, but actually I was a wrecker driver that, you know, loaded and off loaded. It was basically a training mission.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did uh... how long... when did you get out of the Army?

**RAY NUTT:** Uh, I got out 30 days early because they were shipping the company that I was with over to Southeast Asia... we went from Savannah to Fort Riley

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Fort Riley's in?

**RAY NUTT:** Kansas. For some reason they just said "stop, you ain't goin'." And, uh they discharged short-timers... we just had two-year tours and they discharged us. So I got out about 30 days early.. I got out in September 1968.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Then what did you do?

**RAY NUTT:** Well I went back to work for Oil City Ironworks.. uh, I was a welder there and they put me in the Machine Shop but I, I had decided before I ever went to the service that I'd like to be a Highway Patrolman... so my goal was to get into the Highway Patrol after I got out of the service.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Was there anybody that encouraged you to?

**RAY NUTT:** No, no, actually I guess Vernon Crook who was a Highway Patrolman over there in Corsicana... and he stopped me one night... I don't remember what it was for... and I visited

with him for a few minutes and he wrote me a warning. But it just... I just decided I wanted to be a Highway Patrolman.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And, when did you apply?

**RAY NUTT:** As soon as I got out of service in '68.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And were you accepted?

**RAY NUTT:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What school did you attend?

**RAY NUTT:** "E" School of 1968.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And do you remember any of your monitors or...?

**RAY NUTT:** Bobby Poynter was one of them. And one was named Ethridge, I don't remember his first name, Sergeant Ethridge... he later got killed in Palestine by a car falling on him. Uh.. A guy by the name of Jimmy Mason... and McKnight, he was a sergeant but I don't remember his first name. But we didn't call them by first name.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What was the job... say... of the monitor?

**RAY NUTT:** Uh, supervise the class, tend to what needed to be tended to. Really, just like a sergeant in a military unit.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How long was the school?

**RAY NUTT:** Back then it was 18 weeks.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And of course it's 26 weeks?

**RAY NUTT:** Longer now. We never left the Academy.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Where did you go? Was Camp Mabry already gone?

**RAY NUTT:** Yes, we were where the facility is now.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Where?

**RAY NUTT:** Where it's at now.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** OK, and Camp Mabry was an early camp.

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What, what percent of the training that you did... that they put you through...

**RAY NUTT:** We took all type classes... all classes... I'll never forget the spelling test... I don't remember... some history, just all type of classes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, I remember when Ed Gooding went through camp in 1949, uh, they were still doing motorcycle training and...

**RAY NUTT:** No, we didn't do that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** The physical was real heavy...

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah,... that's... of course the one thing about it, when I knew I was gonna go or I felt like I was, .. and I'd come out of service... I was in shape and I stayed in shape so they didn't hurt me that bad. They **did** hurt me some (laughter) but they didn't hurt me like they did some other people.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** When you got out... when did you graduate?

**RAY NUTT:** April '69

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Where were you... where was your first duty station?

**RAY NUTT:** Austin, Texas.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And who was your supervisor?

**RAY NUTT:** Uh, Dan Dowdy was sergeant and K. V. Hallmark was the captain.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And.. how long were you in Austin?

**RAY NUTT:** About a year and a half.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And then where did you go?

**RAY NUTT:** I transferred to Hubbard.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Hubbard, Texas. What ... how was the atmosphere... the surrounding had to be so different from a city like Austin... to go into a small rural community like Hubbard be different being a Highway Patrolman?

**RAY NUTT:** ... You knew everybody and I guess one of the biggest drawbacks was you had to handle the same people over and over. And that could breed some resistance, resentment and that type stuff..

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did you ever have any real serious physical confrontations?

**RAY NUTT:** Not what I call serious... not where I got hurt.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** You know... I know Captain Prince... I know it was fatal, he had one conflict that was fatal.... How long were you in Hubbard?

**RAY NUTT:** Uh, about a year and a half... I went to Palestine in 1973.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Was Bobby Prince a Ranger there then?

**RAY NUTT:** Yes, I believe Bobby was already there... but he was a Ranger while I was there.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And who were your... well back up to Hubbard, who were your supervisors?

**RAY NUTT:** Hubbard was Wallace... Sergeant Wallace... and he was a great guy. We never, did see him unless we really went to see him. Uh, the Captain was Smith... and going back to Hubbard, that was really the first contact I ever had, except for Bill Wilson teaching a class at

Patrol school, that I ever had with Texas Rangers. I was raised up in a rural community... I didn't know nothing about the Texas Rangers and I don't even know when I heard about them except the Lone Ranger, to be honest with you. They might of touched on it a little bit in school but I don't remember... but anyway, we had a night watchman there at Hubbard named Audie Putman. Audie was one of these guys who didn't have lots of education and he ... I don't know how to describe him... he was a great guy, but he didn't have a lot of education and he was night watchman. And he rode a bicycle... and he caught more burglars than anybody I know. When Audie had.. I had a Stevens double-barrel shotgun and I basically gave it to Audie.. well one night he caught two burglars....in a pharmacy there.. and Audie, and Audie carried a little 38 pistol. Audie was walking back to the City Hall which was sorta south of where he was ... best I could figure, Audie let one of them drop back behind the barrel of the shotgun.. because it was a full-length shotgun... and he took it away from Audie. And he was trying to get the safety off but the safety was up here and he couldn't find it... up on top... then he went to beatin' Audie with it and Audie shot him. I just lived in a house about half a block to two blocks away... well I was asleep in bed and Audie called me and said "Mr. Ray... get down here get down here. I just shot a guy." So I get in my patrol car and I back out of my driveway and when I swung around there was a body laying there. Well anyway, getting ... making a long story short

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** No, no, don't make it short.

**RAY NUTT:** Uh, got there and we called for help and Bill Gunn and Jimmy Ray were the Rangers that worked that thing. .. Uh, got acquainted you know with them and it's really the first time I started thinking about wanting to be a Ranger. The other time, the City Marshall, Malone, got killed by two Blacks that robbed a liquor store... no it was a convenience type store/liquor

store. They killed that City Marshall and Bill Gunn worked it. So that's really where I started thinking about being a Ranger.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, finish the story with Audie.

**RAY NUTT:** Audie ended up.. we, uh, Bill and them worked it.. Jim Ray and Bill... and I don't know which one was in charge or nothing about that... they ended up catching the one that survived, got him, and put him in you know, in the jail. But it's one of them deals, I understand, I don't know for a fact, as we went along, Audie, of course that guy just got to talking about it.. talking about it all the time. And it really destroyed him, I feel like it destroyed him.. it's my understanding that he may have told so many stories that it ended up having trouble prosecuting it or maybe not even prosecuting it but I don't know the fact on that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Do you know if he was no billed?

**RAY NUTT:** Yes, he was no billed.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** The Grand Jury?

**RAY NUTT:** (Nod)

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Uh, well you go to.. why did you transfer.. well first of all, why did you transfer from Austin to Hubbard?

**RAY NUTT:** Get back closer to home. Went to Palestine just to get to a little bigger environment, little bigger town.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Any, uh, how long were you in Hubbard?

**RAY NUTT:** Uh, probably about a year and a half.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And then you go to Palestine?

**RAY NUTT:** Went to Palestine.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How long were you there?

**RAY NUTT:** Uh, until 1976.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And, uh, any particular... Palestine's a little bigger environment so you're not dealing... still dealing with the same people but maybe not quite as much?

**RAY NUTT:** Well, not near as much because you got Highway 31 and 171 and you just constantly dealing with somebody you knew. .

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** That's in Hubbard?

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah. And I wasn't good at just turning people loose, I'll be honest with you about that (laughter).

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** You weren't big on warning tickets?

**RAY NUTT:** Well, I wrote a lot of warnings but we got lots and lots of DWIs there 'cause Malone was the closest place.. even Corsicana people come to Malone to buy liquor. And it just.. and you was always dealing.. it was a 24-hour a day job in Hubbard.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Was anybody else there?

**RAY NUTT:** One... .. Brad Crook. Started out with a boy named Lane Baker. He left after about six months. I broke Brad in.. he's in Waco now, he's retired, but last time I heard he was on that rehire deal.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** The rehire... it's just... you want to explain that?

**RAY NUTT:** Well, the way I understand it because I didn't take part in it.. they retire and go back to work for the DPS and draw the same salary. But, uh, now I don't about the benefits or anything...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, uh, the way I understand it is, you know... one advantage of it is that they don't have to pay into their.. the state doesn't have to pay into the retirement and all the hospitalization and healthcare and all that. Because they're already drawing that having retired.

**RAY NUTT:** That's the way I understand it.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Anyway, uh, you go to Livingston, what uh...

**RAY NUTT:** No, Palestine.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I'm sorry, Palestine. What are some of the... can you tell us some of the stories about Palestine?

**RAY NUTT:** Palestine was fairly uneventful that I recall except for you know getting out there and doing the job of highway patrolman. Now, I did meet Bobby Prince there in Palestine and worked with him on a couple of cases. Nothing big as I remember. Bobby did get information one time that a guy that I'd arrested for DWI had threatened to kill me. And we did .. Bobby got him.. we brought him up here to Athens to do a polygraph. But it just turned out just to be a drunk talking. I helped Bobby run a search warrant or two... stuff like that. I don't really remember anything major.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Who were your partners in Palestine?

**RAY NUTT:** Ronnie Green started out, well, yeah, Ronnie Green started out being my partner. And let me think about that... might have been Ocie Renfro.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Who?

**RAY NUTT:** Ocie Renfro.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I'm sorry, how do you spell that?

**RAY NUTT:** Ren... I'm not sure how he spelled it.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How about the Ocie part?

**RAY NUTT:** I don't know.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And then..

**RAY NUTT:** But Ocie's an older trooper and Ocie was a great guy... but we might go out there at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and Ocie'd write 10 speeding tickets then we were through for the night. (laughter).. That's just the way it was.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** You..

**RAY NUTT:** And I feel like the work meant... it was funny, Ocie.. Ocie was a good guy, great guy. Ocie on the weekends, at about 11 o'clock, he started getting ready, wanting to go home. Especially if I was in the lead,... and that's the driver of the patrol car. I pulled a little trick on Ocie one time. I took him home, then I went back out and got two DWIs after I took him home. Ocie saw that and he threwed a fit (laughter). "Don't ever do that again." I said, well Ocie, come 11 o'clock, I don't want to hear nothing about going home (laughter).

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Explain...

**RAY NUTT:** But then Ronnie Green became my partner and me and Ronnie Green actually had fun working.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Explain the difference of... I remember Ed Gooding when I interviewed him and the book we did... the difference of being... what being the lead driver meant. ... in charge of everything.

**RAY NUTT:** Basically meant you was in charge. You know you decide what to start or stop or .. it just really... the man not the lead.. the passenger was there basically to back you up. Well me and Ronnie probably worked a little different. We worked together.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I remember Ed said you know the lead driver picked out where you stopped for coffee where you went to eat..

**RAY NUTT:** (laughter) It can be that way.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Just a passenger... Uh, did you go to the Rangers from Palestine?

**RAY NUTT:** No. I had a sergeant named Jim Biggs when I was in Palestine. In fact he lives out here in Murchison now. Jim... encouraged you to promote... Jim told me, when he found out I wanted to be a Ranger, to go take every promotional exam that you could take. And that's what I did. Started out, I think, I started out... of course I wasn't eligible to take the Ranger test. I started out and I took auto theft exam. I was number one on their list. Then I went and took the intelligence test. The auto theft had told me, said you probably not gonna make it, we're not gonna lose anybody. Went and took the intelligence test and they... and I don't remember how I scored but it was pretty good... uh, they asked me if I'd remove my name from the auto theft list and I said no, won't do it. Really didn't want that, Intelligence Agent,... that's what they called it back then.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What do they call it today?

**RAY NUTT:** Special Crimes, I think. And I wasn't against that but I just didn't think that's what I wanted. So I went and took.. they didn't put me on the eligibility list so I went and took the narcotics test. And I thought I might like to be a narcotics agent, 'cause I'd met several guys... Brantley Foster was one of them and John Aycok , by the way, when I was in Hubbard... had visited with them, talking to them, found out what they did... and I thought I'd like to be one. And I thought it would help me get into the Rangers. So I took their test and done well, went to the Interview Board and they asked me, said, will you take your name off the

auto theft list if we promote you? And I said yeah, I would. And they promoted me. And I told them during the interview that I'd give them at least two years before I'd try to make Ranger.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, when did you decide you wanted to be a Ranger?

**RAY NUTT:** Probably at Palestine... or Hubbard... it wasn't like no light coming on... it just, I decided... and one thing, when I was in Palestine, 55-mile an hour speed limit had come in. And Ocie, again Ocie was a great guy, but I also knew I didn't want to be at that age out there working traffic.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did uh, were you ever concerned before we move away from the Highway Patrol, especially in today's time, but in your time, did it ever really.. especially on a Friday night or Saturday night, walking up on a car that you pulled over... I mean especially in today's time... .. have the nerve to do it?

**RAY NUTT:** Did I worry about it? No. I had.. when I was in Austin, a guy the name of Alexander, Milton Alexander, was my training officer... and I think he did done, probably the best job I know of teaching safety. And I took that with me.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How did they .. what did they train you.. how did they train you?

**RAY NUTT:** I don't know what the book said but Milton taught you, you know, that once you got someone stopped, you beat them out of the car. And he taught us not to walk up to the car... he taught you to go to the left fender or past the rear of the car and ask them to get out.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, you know this boy that just got killed up in Cass County, this trooper here a month or two ago, he never even got his seatbelt undone or the snap off his pistol.. I mean that guy...stopped and he jumped out of the car before he removed his seatbelt.

**RAY NUTT:** I can tell you one thing... I'm not talking about that situation but if a man beats you out of the car, with Milton training you, you were in trouble. There are times when people are going to beat you out but it...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, you know, I guess they handle it different.. I guess every trooper, because some of them don't want you to get out. Of course, I always ... on the *rare* occasion when I might get stopped, I keep my hands where they can be seen. If it's night, I turn that headlight... dome light on where they can see my hands.

**RAY NUTT:** Well I always want to beat them out of the car. If somebody starts jumping out of the car and comes back, I'll be alert. I also thought that if you asked them out of the car and you start seeing a bunch of movement and stuff, you better start getting ready.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Yeah. Did you ever have a uh... anybody come out with a gun?

**RAY NUTT:** No

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Any of them decide they could whip the trooper?

**RAY NUTT:** That has happened.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I assume none of them ever made it?

**RAY NUTT:** No. (laughter)

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Can you go.. you do transfer... when you did transfer into.. or is there anything else in the Highway Patrol... Nancy anything you'd like to ask?

**NANCY RAY:** No.

**RAY NUTT:** In '76, I promoted to Narcotics. I went to Beaumont, Texas.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** OK, who.. and how long were you in Narcotics?

**RAY NUTT:** Three years.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I know you've got stories here you can tell us. Was Haskell Taylor the Ranger down there?

**RAY NUTT:** Haskell Taylor was the Ranger down there and worked with Bill Huff. Wayne Padgett was the sergeant. A boy named Joe Mullins was an agent. A boy named Danny Smith was an agent. And Bob Gray.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And who was your commander again?

**RAY NUTT:** Wayne Padgett. P-A-G-E-T-T, I believe.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** OK.

**RAY NUTT:** Jack Curtiss was the captain. Over at Houston.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, I know there's lots of stories you can tell about Narcotics. What, what was the big narcotic then because I think it's what now, crack and...?

**RAY NUTT:** Around Beaumont, and Port Arthur, and Orange,...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Golden Triangle.

**RAY NUTT:** It was heroin. Marijuana was big of course... methamphetamine was pretty tough. On up toward Lufkin and that area, methamphetamine was pretty big.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What area did ya'll cover?

**RAY NUTT:** Oh, we covered all the way to Lufkin... and over and I want to say over to Houston County and back... uh, over toward Anahuac to the west over to the state line.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What kind of special training did you get? I know there was a Highway Patrolman named Barry Washington up in Panola County

**RAY NUTT:** Right.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** He's knocking them down left and right but then it came up where he can't profile supposedly. What kind of training did they give you?

**RAY NUTT:** In Narcotics? Well, we went to like a two-week school for search warrants and stuff like that. And they taught... gave us some training for working undercover and that type thing.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Was most..

**RAY NUTT:** Back then, we did more undercover work than we do now... Or I don't even think they hardly do undercover anymore.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** ...that meant the beard.. and the long hair?

**RAY NUTT:** No. But Narcotics had just went through a transition... Uh, oh...Decker, and there had been a lot of things happen in Narcotics. So when I went into Narcotics, they had clamped down on things. They wasn't just going to let you run wild. And it was a good thing. We had close supervision.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What were some of the things before they clamped down that would be done that would be unacceptable... especially today but even then?

**RAY NUTT:** Of course I don't know what they did before I went to Narcotics so I don't... you know... Just had some bad situations take place and I don't remember which ones.. they had had a couple of people get in trouble up in Dallas/Ft. Worth.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What uh... how would you work... any particular Narcotic cases that... I remember uh I think uh Chief Coffman was in Narcotics... he had a couple of heroin cases that I had the privilege to write about with him that... surveillances went you know, went bad and .... You have any cases you can relate to us?

**RAY NUTT:** Well, we didn't have any go bad..

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, they didn't up that but there was violence.

**RAY NUTT:** We didn't, we were very lucky... we didn't have any situation down there in Beaumont where things got out of hand. The biggest case I know of that I was involved in ... well there were a couple... most of mine we worked undercover running search warrants. But anyway, I've worked in undercover with an informant... met two guys out of Bridge City, I believe. Bought a gram of cocaine. And they said they could get two pounds of cocaine or two kilos of cocaine. Well, we rocked along there and we ended up going to Houston to get a motel room with them and stayed over there for about a week. They come back and said "well, we can't get the cocaine. Will you take a thousand pounds of marijuana?" Well, we ended up agreeing to take a thousand pounds of marijuana. We showed them.. I want to say \$77,000 at one time in the motel room. Uh, ..Davis worked surveillance in the next room. Him and oh... I can't remember that guy's name in Intelligence... we ended up buying the marijuana. They took me out somewhere there in Houston off Highway 6 and that guy showed me... Donny Dale Williams was his name.. walked me up to the back of the truck, opened the lid and there was 1,250 pounds of marijuana in it. We took them down.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did uh, were you in Narcotics when Bobby Doherty was killed?

**RAY NUTT:** Yes, I believe that's right.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Bobby Doherty was a Ranger up in the Gainesville area. Killed when a drug bust went bad. I probably shouldn't get into that. Uh... I'm sorry, go ahead.

**RAY NUTT:** I think I was already in Narcotics when he got killed.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What did an effect like that have .. I mean did it make you rethink your situation when one of your fellow officers went down on a case that did go bad? Were you thinking that maybe we should be more careful here or we need to rethink how we do some things or...

**RAY NUTT:** Well, I think you always do that. I think you always look at things and try to improve in what you're doing.

**NANCY RAY:** How would you get started on a case?

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Speak up, Nancy.

**NANCY RAY:** If you were working undercover, how would you get assigned to a case or what prompted..

**RAY NUTT:** Well normally, what you do is, you got somebody out here that's gotten busted and they want to help law enforcement make cases.. so you get assigned to work with that informant and he'll go out and maybe make a buy from somebody and gain their confidence... or he already knows them. And that's the best situation, then he takes the undercover man in to them and you make buys from them. And what you really try to do is cut that informant out and you just go buy by yourself.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** That's to protect the informant too.

**RAY NUTT:** Well, yeah, ,...and keep him from having to testify. If he's there, he's gonna testify

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What would your... now this is pretty dangerous work..

**RAY NUTT:** Oh that

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I'm sorry.

**RAY NUTT:** Well, I just, a sideline on that 1,250 pound case was that one defendant, I don't remember which one, that took us to Houston, was bragging about having sex with his 14-year old babysitter. Well, I was able to tell Haskell that and they were..

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Haskell Taylor, Ranger down there..

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah, and they was able to make a case. After we got through with our case, he was able to make a case on them people. On that guy.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** You mentioned you had 70,000..\$77,000, where'd that money come from?

**RAY NUTT:** Uh, basically back then, from some bank that would loan the captain or whoever the money to use.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** This is obviously extremely dangerous work.

**RAY NUTT:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What was your wife's reaction?

**RAY NUTT:** My wife had always supported everything I did.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** But you know, you'd think, it just had to be terrible on her knowing that you was out there and in an extremely dangerous situation.

**RAY NUTT:** Well... she never you know seemed that concerned. I just think that... uh.. I guess she just figured I'd take care of myself.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Uh, did.. can you relate any other cases you'd like to relate to us?

**RAY NUTT:** The only other thing interesting and ... you know I ain't telling no war stories...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** That's what these interviews are for. (laughter)

**RAY NUTT:** I ain't good at it. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** You're doing fine.

**RAY NUTT:** Well, anyway, we were working up there...Davis Hammond, Narcotics agent, and I were working undercover up there and .... He was working undercover up there too. The only thing I remember unusual about it... I pulled up at a joint, a beer joint is what we called them... and there were some people standing around... and I was gonna score some marijuana... buy some marijuana... talking the slang. There was a guy who come out and went to talking to me but he pulled... had a knife there and said looky here... Well, I thought he was getting a little closer and a little closer and I had to grab his arm. And he went to putting a little more and a little more pressure and I don't know what he was doing because he didn't say anything but I always just laid my gun right under.. put it under my right leg. So, when he... I thought I had enough pressure I just brought that pistol up there, put it between his eyes and ... *shooo...* (laughter)

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Talking language he could understand. (laughter) Well, when did you apply to become a Ranger?

**RAY NUTT:** Let's see... I made Ranger in '79, made it in February, so it had to be '78.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did you have any Ranger sponsoring you? Of course unofficially but you know...

**RAY NUTT:** Oh, there's no doubt that several of the Rangers helped me.. you know, I feel like Bob Mitchell helped me, I feel like Bobby Prince helped me...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Haskell?

**RAY NUTT:** Haskell Taylor, yes. And there were others. And when I say help, I think they just say “that guy will make you a good hand.” But I think during that period of time you still had to go down there and take that test.. and pass that test.. go to..

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I was telling Nancy on the way down here, back in the older days uh ole Gonzauillas ... like when Lewis Rigler made Ranger in 1947... that was back in the days when Rigler said the Captain said he wanted you to be a Ranger you were gonna be a Ranger and that was the end of it.

**RAY NUTT:** Oh yeah, oh yeah.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I don't care what the test says you're gonna be a Ranger and if doesn't, you're not.

**RAY NUTT:** And I can't say that was bad. I just... you know... times changed and they thought it would be an exam.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Uh, you made Ranger in when again?

**RAY NUTT:** '79.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did you ... go ahead.

**RAY NUTT:** Well we took the Ranger's test and there was another Narcotics agent that took it, Wayne Frickey took it along with me. And we was sittin on 2,000 pounds of marijuana .. oh what's the name of that place... Palacios ... when we heard who made it... I want to say on a Friday afternoon.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did both of you make it or..?

**RAY NUTT:** We both made interview board. Of course Clayton Smith was in that group too. I was like number one or two on the list then Ray Stolton there at Columbus resigned and I went to Columbus.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Raymond who?

**RAY NUTT:** Ray, Ray Stolton.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I'm not familiar with him.

**RAY NUTT:** Uh, he didn't last very long.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Do you remember how to spell that?

**RAY NUTT:** No.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** That... uh... so you went to Columbus. Who was your captain?

**RAY NUTT:** Grady Sessums.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And your sergeant?

**RAY NUTT:** Dan North.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And did you get any special instructions from them?

**RAY NUTT:** Well, Grady did tell me... said just go out there and take care of them people... and everything'll be fine.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** So you... you're on the move again... here in Columbus, uh who were some of your fellow company members at that time?

**RAY NUTT:** Well, shoot... let's see.. Carl Weathers was at Bay City. Haskell was at Beaumont... Bill Quinn was at Navasota and he was lots of help to me. Wesley Stiles was in Huntsville.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Was Paul Sillavan still a Ranger?

**RAY NUTT:** No. Stolton had replaced Hollister (sp?).

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** That's Sillavan, S-I-L-L-A-V-A-N...

**RAY NUTT:** Now he was a legend in Columbus. I can't think who else.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Who was in Houston?

**RAY NUTT:** I'm trying to think. Ah...Kelly Whitehead.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Kelly Whitehead.

**RAY NUTT:** Kelly Whitehead... he died.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Was Bill Murray down in Texas City?

**RAY NUTT:** No... no. Mr. Smith was up at uh Jasper and I can't remember who was at Nacogdoches.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Who was Smith?

**RAY NUTT:** I can't remember his first name.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Was Charlie Neel at Nac?

**RAY NUTT:** Charlie Neel was in Nacogdoches. L. C. White was over at

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** St. Augustine.

**RAY NUTT:** St. Augustine. And Maurice Cook... he was in Bay, no, he was in Texas City I believe.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Didn't he end up at uh... uh... Livingston?

**RAY NUTT:** That's my.. well... yeah, he was in Livingston at that time.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Anyway, what was your first case, do you remember?

**RAY NUTT:** Well... we promoted... I went somewhere in March, I don't rem... February or March... I don't remember the date... went to two weeks of patrol school.. not patrol school... Ranger training school. And we got out on a Friday afternoon

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Anyway, you wanted to talk about Bobby Prince.

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah. Actually, we were talking earlier... I first met Bobby Prince when I was in Austin when I was in the Highway Patrol. The DPS played the city of Austin in a football game, a full-pad football game... the University of Texas furnished the uniforms. We played... uh.. Austin PD and we uh might have cheated a little bit because we've got people from all over the state. Bobby Prince come down there and played with us... he was a tackle. And I played quarterback. And that's how I met Bobby and I met Floyd Hacker (sp?) the same way.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Floyd Hacker became Chief of CLE, Criminal Law Enforcement.

**RAY NUTT:** Well we had a good time... we beat them pretty bad that first year and then I went to Hubbard. I've actually got a letter... I wish I could find it... and I'm gonna look for it sometime... from Colonel Speirs telling me to report to Austin for a week of training to play that football game. (laughter)

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** That's Pat Speirs, SPEIRS?

**RAY NUTT:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Bobby, just for the record, was the... when he played football for TCU, he was the other defensive tackle beside Bob Lily so... he was also Golden Gloves Heavyweight champ.

**RAY NUTT:** I didn't know that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Yeah (laughter)

**RAY NUTT:** I'll tell you one thing, he is a big guy and I was pretty quick back then. But I probably weighed about 150 pounds... he was tough to get away from.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** OK, you're in the Rangers, your're stationed...

**RAY NUTT:** Went to Columbus, got a place in Columbus, went to the Rangers in-service school there at the new Ranger school. And came home, I believe it was Friday afternoon. My number was 638... and I know at sometime that I heard that number called but it didn't register on me. ... You know Houston will know my call number. Got to the house that afternoon in Columbus and my wife said the sheriff of Austin County is calling you... wanting you. So I picked up the phone and called Austin County. They said we've been looking for you... we've got a murder over here. So I drive to Bellville and Sheriff T. A. Maddox was the sheriff at that time. He said, "come on, go with me." So we drive to Sealy.. get out. Right there on Interstate 10 there is a service road, there's a ditch that had water in it. We walk over there and he said, "there he is." He's yours, work it out. (laughter) So it was a body there. We had a boy there named Jerry Renfro

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Is that Razz?

**RAY NUTT:** Huh?

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Is that Razz Renfro?

**RAY NUTT:** No, Jerry is all I know, Jerry Renfro. He was investigator for Austin County at that time.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Razz is an old Ranger back in..

**RAY NUTT:** Nah.. we ended up working it out.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What are the details of it?

**RAY NUTT:** A guy.. we had a pretty tough time identifying him. And I don't recall his name but he had been brought out from Houston and dumped. We were working on it and so we found out who had killed him.. his name was.. they called a nickname... named Buffalo Bill... I'll remember that. Well what had happened, this guy that got killed was pretty much just an old drunk. Well, when this Buffalo Bill guy would leave and come home, a lot of times this other guy was sleeping in bed.. and had wet the bed. And he told him don't never do that again and he come home one night and the other guy had done the same thing. Got him in the back of a van and was going to whip him. And his words were, I couldn't whip him, I couldn't whip him. And he finally got a baseball bat and he still couldn't whip him. He finally got a knife and stabbed him 30 something times.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Was there any...many times, violence or that many stabbings, what not, ... is a homosexuality problem.

**RAY NUTT:** Well, and I learned a lesson from that case right there early on in my career. Because everybody's got to say that. He just couldn't kill him... he just kept stabbing until he thought he had him dead.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** That was welcome to the Rangers case.

**RAY NUTT:** That was welcome to the Rangers and meeting a super good guy in Sheriff Maddox. He was wonderful. To me, Sheriff Maddox was a master politician... but also one of the best police officers I ever met in my life.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, let's talk about some more cases. One I want to ask about.. I want to know about and... was the prison situation where Bobby Prince...

**RAY NUTT:** That was later. In Austin County, probably... if you want to talk about bigger cases...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, any cases you're comfortable talking about.

**RAY NUTT:** Bill Quinn was a Ranger up there at Navasota and Bill Quinn took care of me. Now Bill was older than me but Bill for some reason just sort of took me under his wing.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** We lost Bill here a few months ago.

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah. And anytime I had something in Austin County, Bill would come. Of course I'd been Narcotics, I new investigations but I didn't know near as much as I needed to know on some things. But anyway, Bill had a murder/rape in Navasota, not Navasota, over at Hempstead. No, it was Brenham, over at Brenham. On a Sunday afternoon, there was a lady and her son was abducted from church parking lot. They found her car out on 290, I want to say out there toward Burton. Uh... and her, in the car, strangled to death and her son underneath her smothered to death. So, me and Bill went to work on it with law enforcement from Washington County Sheriff's Office, Brenham PD... we discovered there was just one guy that abducted them. But they had had several rapes up to that. But one was a tall, slender guy,... Black males, and was a big, heavy guy. The slender guy would always rape the woman and the heavy guy would drive and never would participate in the rapes. So that thing went on... Lord... I don't know how long. And I always felt like even though they wasn't that... seem to be that same type MO, our rapist was our killer. Well, that thing rocked on for 6 or 8 months or longer and we just couldn't get no leads on it. So one day.. we get a call...a store outside LaGrange had been robbed... and they tried to take a female but didn't. Two black males, one heavysset and one slender. So they got stopped in Hallettsville,... they get a call from Hallettsville and we go to

Hallettsville... me and Joe Boyd out of Fayette County... Joe Boyd, at... I believe it's Joe Boyd... we walk in there at Hallettsville and there those two stand. And I told myself that these were the people that killed that lady and son. I told the Fayette County deputies, I said ya'll take the tall, skinny one, his name was Lindstrom (sp?) or something like that up there and I'm gonna take this heavysset one with me back to LaGrange. So about Schulenburg, the heavysset one decide he'd tell me about the partner. So we took him on to Fayette County Sheriff's office ... Bill come over and we worked it out from there.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Do you remember what your sentences were?

**RAY NUTT:** Lindstrom got death.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Is that the skinny one?

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah. He was the only one involved in the rapes... see what we had going for us... the heavysset one wasn't involved in the abduction of the woman and her child, so he has more reason to talk.

**NANCY RAY:** When you have a case that goes a long time, like 6 to 8 months, it has to be on your mind. How do you deal with it on a daily basis... with continuing your regular, normal life?

**RAY NUTT:** You just go out and do your job,... the rest of your job and you sort of keep that on the back burner in your mind and anything that comes up... you know...

**NANCY RAY:** You were able to leave it... for your family and

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah.

**NANCY RAY:** That sounds hard.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** A question I should have asked... when you went to Columbus and I failed to until now. When you went to Columbus, what were your counties?

**RAY NUTT:** Austin County, Colorado County and Fayette County. Jim Flornoy (sp?) was still Sheriff of Fayette County.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Who?

**RAY NUTT:** Jim Flornoy...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** OK...The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas?

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** (laughter) that Burt Reynolds loosely portrayed? Give us some more cases...

**RAY NUTT:** Awww...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I got plenty of... a briefcase full of tapes.

**NANCY RAY:** What was your hardest case...to solve?

**RAY NUTT:** Probably the hardest one was that one we just talked about.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What about ... well, uh...

**RAY NUTT:** We had some that lasted a while but got lucky... got some leads we needed to solve them.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What was your most aggravating case?

**RAY NUTT:** Oh, no doubt, it was the lady that killed her husband. Uh, I don't recall their names.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** That's all right.

**RAY NUTT:** They were going to Houston one morning

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Where did they live?

**RAY NUTT:** They lived just outside of Bellville. They were going to Houston one morning and uh... they pulled down under a bridge there at the Brazos River and he got shot in the back of the head. She goes to a store and says that a Hispanic male had shot her husband. So we start investigating it and she had said they had picked up a Hispanic male... and uh the Hispanic male shot her husband in the back of the head. Killed him. Well, when you looked at the crime scene, there was blood from the passenger's side all the way to the driver's side door in the backseat... no void of blood...so there couldn't have been nobody sitting in the backseat. But anyway, we ended up working it out enough that we went to trial on it and the jury found her guilty. Then the District Judge granted a new trial, and in a letter to the jurors, he wrote that he granted her a new trial because there was insufficient evidence to convict her. That killed us, we couldn't retry her.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And he never had to answer for it of course... the Judge.

**RAY NUTT:** Well, he just... he gave her a new trial and...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, every law enforcement officer I know except for Walker, Texas Ranger, they never solved all of them. Is there any one in particular, or several in particular that didn't get... you know that you just couldn't put it down...

**RAY NUTT:** I'm trying to think... I'm thinking about Columbus..

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Or here in Athens....

**RAY NUTT:** Now, do you believe in psychics?

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** No.

**RAY NUTT:** You don't? How about you?

**NANCY RAY:** I... not really,.. but I'm interested in listening.

**RAY NUTT:** We had two old Black ladies when I was in Columbus... me and Bill Quinn worked on it... come up missing. They were gone, I want to say 18 months. And when this thing first started, we really worked on it hard. But we couldn't get nothing. I mean **nothing**. So, Haskell Taylor and Bill Quinn both had knew a psychic before. Now I don't know which one Haskell had used but she told Haskell some stuff that... some excuse.... And Bill had used a psychic named Greta... she was from Springfield, Illinois, and to this day I couldn't tell you her last name. So we decide... we're fixing to give it a shot, we're fixing to call this psychic. Picked up the phone and called her and she said... now, keep in this in mind, this is like an hour and a half tape, but I want to tell you what she got right. OK? We never could put it together so... because it's so long... She said two old ladies left their house and crossed the railroad tracks. They went across a big road and as they went out of town, one of them looked over her left shoulder and saw a church. And they went by an unusual fence on the right hand side. And they did. Then she said then they went by a huge barn. Then the pavement run out. She said they're under water. And she told us they had probably been stabbed which turned out not to be true. Well, about 18 months later, when the creek went down and somebody with a boat had called and found them. But before she got through giving us that tape, she said there is something about New York and I... I can't get it. She said there's something bout New York but I can't bring it up. We found them... something like 18 months later... they had left their house, turned right, then turned went over Interstate 10, they were going south, they's going out of town... and she said something about a motel and there was a motel on the right. Cletus Brown who is a friend of ours had found a wrought iron type fence only it wasn't unusual to us. A little

further down the road,.. a church on the left. A little further, went around a curve, there was a barn. It was a big barn but to us, it wasn't all that big. Now like I say, it's a 2-hour tape so I'm just giving you what she got right not what she got wrong. (laughter) They'd... the road curved, they'd straightened that curve out, run off in the creek.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Huh

**RAY NUTT:** And they were under water.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What about New York?

**RAY NUTT:** The land that they run off on belonged to somebody in New York. (laughter)

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How about that.. umph Well, I'd like to hear about more cases.

**RAY NUTT:** Uh... Lord a mercy. (laughter)

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** You work more... let me ask you... I've talked to some Rangers who, they really enjoyed working homicides. Others like to work uh safe burglars... or course the night deposits pretty much did away with that profession. Some like white collar crimes. Is there any one in particular type that you can tell me.. you had to work them all...

**RAY NUTT:** Of course I worked lots of narcotics while I was a Ranger. I worked lots of narcotics... but as far as working cases, homicides, stuff like that.... At Columbus we worked some children's deaths and stuff like that... but they didn't have anybody specializing.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** That would be difficult to me. Extra difficult... were some like children extra difficult?

**RAY NUTT:** Yes, I mean it's hard on you.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Uh.. I've had uh other Rangers say you know you learned to try to insulate yourself with humor and what not that you've got to have to keep things together

sometimes... but it's never... and I had a Highway Patrolman say the same thing... you never get used to the children.

**RAY NUTT:** Well, no, you don't. And you're not going to. You know like that.. I think that boy suffocated in the back of that car under his dead mother... you know... he was like 12 or 13 years old... and you go into a crime scene and you find a child that's been killed, you ... it bothers you. It don't bother you that time because you're focused on what you've got to do...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Where we hear so much today about these sexual abuse cases, were they as prevalent in your day as they are today but just didn't get the publicity?

**RAY NUTT:** Oh... I, well... we didn't know about them back then... maybe they wasn't being reported, may be... and the other thing is I think .roles(?) has changed out. But no, they didn't get the publicity... nationwide publicity they get now. So I really don't know if there's as many but there's bound to been a bunch that wasn't reported.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did.. uh.. when you... I don't know how to try to word this just right there.. were there any cases you just got really... I really want to solve this and you do and they just give you extra satisfaction perhaps... somebody's abused a child, killed a child and then... there are certain cases to me at least they just bring extra satisfaction bringing to a successful conclusion.

**RAY NUTT:** Well I think the hard ones is the ones that bring satisfaction. Yeah, homicides typically is not that tough to solve. But there is some that last a long time... them's the kind that I get the most satisfaction out of.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Then of course, there are those that you know who did it but you can't prove it.

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah,... now them.. them.. I got one of them right now but we'll talk about that later. You know... serial killings

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I was gonna ask you if you ever had Henry Lee Lucas and

**RAY NUTT:** Uh... I had Henry Lee Lucas. Henry Lee Lucas... me and Sheriff Maddox went and interviewed... we had a girl, way before I come to Columbus, that was dumped on 36 between Brenham and Bellville. Murdered, abducted out of Houston. Myself and Truman Maddox went and interviewed Henry Lee Lucas down in Georgetown. We sat there and talked to him and I'm telling you... he described... and I've got a photograph he drew of a girl, and uh the crime scene ... he drew... he had a great deal right. We got up to leave,... Lucas before we talked to him said he had stabbed her. We got up to leave, I said Henry, you own a gun? Yeah... said something about Louisiana had it or something. We left him. This girl had been shot. Next time we go to talk to him,.. well next time we talked to him, I don't remember... I believe it was Clayton Smith.. and maybe, I believe it was Clayton, I don't believe Bobby was along, Bobby Prince. He had decided that he had shot this girl. Well, you know I think he picked up on my question. And I had made up my mind that I was gonna drive him to Brenham. But my intention was get him in my car to lead us,..to show us where it's at. We get in my car and start to Brenham. There we're slowing down. For some reason, it ended up Sheriff Maddox drove him and I rode in the back seat with somebody else, I believe Clayton. And I never will forget it. We headed up 36, when we passed the gate where the girl's body was found off out in the field, I noticed a hesitation in the speed. We went on a little further and Sheriff Maddox said, anything look familiar? Yeah, turn around and go back down there. We went right back down

there where Sheriff... and Sheriff didn't do it intentionally, it was just something that... reaction... went right back down there where he let off that gas. He said, it's right there.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I've had others tell me that worked with him that he was really smart. He said you had to really be careful when you're getting close, not to even glance at a place because he'd pick that up... right there's where it's at.

**RAY NUTT:** Until this day,... he had enough information... that could have been the killer. But I never did clear that case, I just wouldn't do it.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Phil Ryan told me, I asked Phil one time and he said he thinks how many he confessed at one time to 600 murders but Phil told me it was probably closer to 30.

**RAY NUTT:** I'll tell you what he did do though. And we didn't ask him or nothing but he said me and Otis Tool were traveling Interstate 10 at Sealy and there was a young, white female walking. And he said we pulled over, and hit her, and killed her, with the car... I'd never heard of it. The Sheriff didn't remember. But there was a young, white female down there that was run over.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Hit and run.

**RAY NUTT:** Hit and run.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did you work on any other serial killers.

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah. Uh... I can't remember his name now, out of Houston. He dumped and killed a young girl there in Brookshire. Put her in a culvert. He killed some people up in Michigan or somewhere up in there. I don't remember his name now. He wasn't near like Lucas or some of them.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What were some... did you work any of those cases?

**RAY NUTT:** On?

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** This killer?

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah. we worked that case there at Brookshire.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What were the details of it?

**RAY NUTT:** Oh, he had picked her up... I don't really recall that much about that thing... He had picked her up, strangled her and stuffed her in that culvert there at Brookshire.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, uh, when did you decide and why did you decide to come to Palestine, I mean to Athens?

**RAY NUTT:** Home. I just.. I just wanted get back closer to home.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How long were you in Columbus?

**RAY NUTT:** 9 years.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Any other cases before we come to Athens you'd like to ..uh.. tell us about in Columbus?

**RAY NUTT:** Uh, don't none of them really jump up right now.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** You worked other things besides homicides... you worked like I said, narcotics, what about robberies? Did any of those stand out?

**RAY NUTT:** You know we had a robbery, but boy the details are fuzzy, there at Sealy where people robbed a motel and abducted a girl. I don't remember none of the details but they took off over around Hallettsville and we caught them over there.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Any outstanding drug cases?

**RAY NUTT:** I always worked with and helped with the undercover cases uh, over there. Uh.. I worked with the informants and got them to talking. But not any... not Rangers... there were two or three more with Narcotics but they

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** So well.. when did you.... I'm sorry.. go ahead.

**RAY NUTT:** Well, we did have a rapist running up and down Interstate 10 out of Houston. He raped a girl on Interstate 10 uh and he raped several more and it went on for a pretty good while.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How would he pick them up..

**RAY NUTT:** Bumped their car,... bumped their car and they'd stop. He had a female stocking he'd put over his head and he would rape them. He got caught over around Liberty... a woman, he raped a woman and he forgot his billfold and walked and they caught him. (laughter)

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What ... let me go back a little bit before we come up to Athens. How did the people... not talking about necessarily your peers ,but people like Nancy and I. When you put on that Ranger badge, people look at you different?

**RAY NUTT:** Well, they hold you with respect. A good example of that... good example of that... Brookshire Police Department arrested a guy... oh his last name was Lloyd,.. Green... Lloyd Green. They called me and I went over to the Brookshire Police Department, Gilbert Garcia was chief and we were pretty good friends. And I walked in... You walked in the Brookshire Police Department and his office was right there close. And I want to tell you, he was raising cane with them. I mean he was very... cussing and raising cane. I walked in that door and it was "yes sir, no sir." We..., we ended up sharing all of it. Cause I, I started out and they went ahead and finished up and I guess they cleared a hundred burglaries or so. But we were riding around one day... and I tell you, I noticed when I walked in that room, you changed

your attitude... yes sir, yes sir. And you know you ride with guys like that you talk to them and they talk to you. But why? He said, well, that old Ranger down at .. uh.. Beeville,... Krueger,

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Glenn or Benny?

**RAY NUTT:** Glenn, I had to talk to him one time and I learned better than to sass a Ranger. (laughter) he had some teeth missing and I don't know whether that's true or not but his attitude immediately... he eventually escaped from jail in Austin County. We caught him again in North Carolina.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, I've noticed you worked closely with other law enforcement agencies.

**RAY NUTT:** Oh, you've got to.

**NANCY RAY:** But, but sometimes the cases were given to the Rangers. What constituted moving a case to the Rangers?

**RAY NUTT:** Well, my opinion is very few cases are given to the Rangers. You work to assist the other agencies... and you continue to do that but now like a special investigation on a political figure, I did a special investigation on the Sheriff of Colorado County and ended up getting him indicted and getting him removed from office. That was mine, now. That kind of case becomes Rangers. But as far as your typical murders, rape, stuff like that, you work in conjunction with local people.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, I remember you said your first case in Columbus... and it was ...you walked up to a body and I think the Sheriff said it was yours...

**RAY NUTT:** Oh yeah. I mean that happens, they just depend on... Truman Maddox depended on the Rangers more than any sheriff I ever knew.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Most of your little rural counties, they don't have the labs, they don't have..

**RAY NUTT:** They don't normally have investigators. I mean in the past 15 years, they've improved so much that they've got people that's willing to train now. But a lot of them small counties... they don't have the manpower and the time to do the investigation that goes very far away from the county.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** An example of that is when they had that standoff out in West Texas in Jeff Davis County with the Republic of Texas, Barry Caver, the Captain out there, told me he said the sheriff can't handle the.... Here's a county that's larger than the state of Connecticut and the whole sheriff's department consisted of the sheriff and one deputy.

**RAY NUTT:** You know I never considered on the average case it was just me doing it. I'll tell you the local people taught me a whole lots.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And of course your relationship with these DAs, sheriffs and what not... I've always been told could make or break a Ranger.

**RAY NUTT:** You bet. You bet.

**NANCY RAY:** Which goes back to the way you react to them.

**RAY NUTT:** Right. See Rangers is really an assisting agency. They don't go in and take over a case. You're invited in, really.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did you have any sheriffs or DAs that you just did not have a good relationship with... of course it wasn't Ray Nutt necessarily, it was the Rangers. I've heard some Rangers say there were some sheriffs that they don't want the Rangers around. Or anybody else.

**RAY NUTT:** I never felt that way. If Jim Flornoy.. when I went to Columbus, Jim was a little standoffish.. he wouldn't call me. But I'd still go up there and talk to him and it may have been because of his age or my age or whatever.. and it could have been because of what he went through with the DPS during the Chicken Ranch deal... but I found you can break the ice a lot of times... I was sitting up there again on a Friday afternoon listening to Jim Flornoy talk and the DA's office come there and told him and ... said you got a guy that you need to take to the penitentiary today. And so I assume they'd work out the day with TDC and said bring him to us. And he's sitting there saying, man, I don't have nobody to take him. I don't... I said Mr. Flornoy, Sheriff, I'll take him for you. He looked at me and said, you'll take him for us? I said I'm here to help you. So I took him on Friday afternoon to Huntsville... got home about midnight. From that day forward, Jim Flornoy called me about every day.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** They've gotta know if they call you'll come.

**RAY NUTT:** You bet.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Uh, what... I'd like to get this... this will be a question for later on. You've come Athens now, you decide to transfer here, and what year did you transfer here?

**RAY NUTT:** Come here in 1988.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And what were some of the uh first things you had happen to you here?

**RAY NUTT:** Well when I come here when Slick retired and run for sheriff.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Howard Alfred, ALFRED, Slick.

**RAY NUTT:** And he didn't get elected. Probably the first..

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** So you replaced Slick?

**RAY NUTT:** Right. The first major case I remember was a case out here at Malakoff where a lady was killed at a convenience store.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Was it a robbery?

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah. That was the first case I recall... but just prior to that case (??)... we had an old, older lady... and I'm guessing she was in here 80s... raped. He had took an umbrella and put around her throat to get her under control. We actually got a fingerprint off that.. off the umbrella. Then that murder happened... and we got some DNA off her clothes. But we didn't have a suspect because we didn't have the database back then. So we worked on it and worked on it... then they tried to rob a place there in Athens and we got two calls... two Black males, and one of them was juvenile. They were able to match his print to the victim of the rape. And then ended up doing DNA... getting a search warrant and doing DNA and getting him convicted on that case of murder in Malakoff. The juvenile, he got certified as an adult.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How long did he get, do you remember?

**RAY NUTT:** I want to say 30 years.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And what, what were your counties here?

**RAY NUTT:** Freestone, Henderson and Navarro County... well part of Navarro. Clayton wanted Navarro and I helped over there.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Uh... I'd like.. once again were you here in Athens when the...like I said, the only case I'm really familiar... know anything about was at the prison...

**RAY NUTT:** Down at Grosbeck? Yeah...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What was the circumstances around that?

**RAY NUTT:** They basically took over the prison. We got down there and they had took over the prison.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What were they demanding?

**RAY NUTT:** You know I don't remember all...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** You'd ended up on the roof..

**RAY NUTT:** Well, Captain Prince I think finally managed to negotiate them coming out. And he put me and Johnny Adcock up on the roof with a rifle... apiece... while they brought them out one at a time.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Captain Prince, when I interviewed him, he said that uh... you know he was pretty, a good negotiator, awesome negotiator, and he did that a lot. He said he told the first guy that came out... he told later, he said there's two Rangers sitting up there on that wall and they have orders that if you, or anybody makes a move at me, they're gonna shoot you. And he said everyone that come out after that they'd kind of look up there.... (laughter)

**RAY NUTT:** I don't remember them orders but we'd probably shot them. (laughter)

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did... uh... any other cases that stand out here? I mean there've been some flamboyant people here like Jess Sweden was Sheriff... that's way before your time...

**RAY NUTT:** I only know him by reputation. Other cases... you know.. I know lots of capital murder cases here... we had lots of homicides here.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did uh anyone that uh really stands out to you that had ... uh.. ramifications maybe beyond here that was from the standpoint of... hey, this guy here killed a bunch of people in Dallas or he... killed some people that I hate to use the word VIP but... more than

**RAY NUTT:** No, I don't remember any... there were typical... a girl abducted out here, dumped out off of town... that was a pretty bad murder. She was pregnant. Of course we got it solved.... Got him in the jailhouse.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did uh..

**RAY NUTT:** Had a couple in Freestone County... that was bad. But we got them cleared.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Uh, you were a Ranger during the Branch Davidian.

**RAY NUTT:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did you go down there?

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah... Got in from church, turned the TV on and seen it all happening, called Bobby Prince and asked him if he needed help and went over there. Got over there pretty quick after it all happened.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** This the initial or..

**RAY NUTT:** The initial.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Before they burned.. before the fire?

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah, that was the day of... that's the ATF people got hurt.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Can you share any of your experiences from down there?

**RAY NUTT:** Really didn't have any.. but I was only there the first... you know I'm not sure whether the first three or four, five days. You know there were a time or two when they were gonna come out and they didn't come out. So I told Captain Prince I'd take all the calls east of Interstate 35, east of Waco, and that's what I did.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** You came back home?

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah.

**NANCY RAY:** If there was uh anything you could go back and redo... or do differently, is there something you would go back and do differently?

**RAY NUTT:** Uh, well, right off the top of the head... no

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

**RAY NUTT:** I worked a couple of cases like I mentioned awhile ago in Colorado County , worked a case on the sheriff, Jim Broussard... his office was right here and mine was right here.. ended up he got indicted. Ended up pleaing out and resigning. But there was trying times.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What was the details of this case?

**RAY NUTT:** He had .. well, there was like 1100 trucks in Colorado County running... they would run insurance, I'm sorry, run DL checks for insurance purposes and get \$2 check from all the insurance companies and there was probably \$60,000 a year that come in through that.. through this basically gone. And then we had an airplane deal down around Garwood in Colorado County where we seized the airplane, I didn't seize it but some other people did. They sold it back to the crooks and one of them cases there was like a \$10,000 bond posted by that lawyer out of Houston, I don't remember his name. One of the famous lawyers out of Houston

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Racehorse Haynes?

**RAY NUTT:** No...another one, older one

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Percy Foreman?

**RAY NUTT:** Percy Foreman. Well, we got a search warrant on the sheriff's office,... that bond money went missing. We just... we went through... took about 3 months to do it and got the notice that .... Of course, had a good, good friend that worked there, Chief Deputy named

Buford Ashland... and a heck of an investigator. And he was the one who really brought it to everybody's attention. Uh, but I got to noticing that his office well, was not over 10 feet from me and I had never noticed it before but I got to noticing that every morning, a trustee come in there and take out my trash. I got to thinking... they're going through my trash and they were but I wasn't throwing nothing away in there anyway.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** So the sheriff was aware that you were doing the investigation?

**RAY NUTT:** Oh yeah.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** That would be rather difficult. (laughter)

**RAY NUTT:** But he was not overly mad or

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Hostile?

**RAY NUTT:** hostile..

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he end up doing time?

**RAY NUTT:** No, he got indicted and... his name was Jim Broussard... he was really in a way a good guy. He got indicted on felony and we pleaded him out to investigator, put him on probation.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** There's..

**RAY NUTT:** I say we but it was the DA that let him out.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** There's sheriffs in East Texas been indicted and whatnot before and come back to be sheriff again.

**RAY NUTT:** Oh yeah.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he?

**RAY NUTT:** No.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Uh, what, could you relate... you know Rangers have a sense of humor. And I've, one of the things I've gathered is humorous stories involving Rangers like the Al Cuellar. You might of heard Jack Dean tell the story of him and the governor when Mark White and Al ended up and looked over and there was the governor with his foot on this guy's neck. You know he told Al to "sic 'em" and whatnot You got any stories like that you can relate?

**RAY NUTT:** No...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Or that you would? (laughter)

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** OK, is there any other thing you'd like to add as far as cases and.. that you've worked that stand out and you'd like to share with us?

**RAY NUTT:** I guess... course one case here in Henderson County with the DA's investigations, but that relates back to another case. And I don't remember exactly what year it was but a lady from Navarro County was murdered and dumped in the Trinity River. And we found her body about a week later but of course we didn't know she had been murdered. Turned out she had been murdered and been missing for about a week. And there's no doubt in my mind that her husband killed her because someone basically got her. Uh, and he was a big businessman over in Corsicana... him and his family... and I'm not gonna call their names. Uh, we got it worked out to the point where Donna Bennett who was assistant prosecutor then was having a Grand Jury but we had decided we might not indict him right then because we didn't know that we had quite enough. Some had opinion that we did but some had opinion that we didn't. And my opinion was that I'd rather left it unindicted so we didn't get forced in that box. Well, the DA at that time basically took it to Grand Jury and indicted him. He had two high-priced lawyers out of Houston. We rocked along there... been indicted maybe a month, maybe two months, I don't

really remember. But I get a call ,late one night from one of their lawyers... said we need to talk to you. Their defendants had been approached by somebody representing the DA, wanting a million dollars to dismiss that case.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Now you're a Ranger now?

**RAY NUTT:** I'm a Ranger. I get up and go meet them and call Donna Bennett who was assistant who later become DA. She had been in Austin County when I was down there in Ranger. And Bill Bandy was DA when I first come here and he asked me about somebody being assistant. I told him, you know, I know Donna Bennett and know where she's at... you might call her, she was raised over there at Van. She might take the job.... Anyway she took the job. Well I called her and told her what was going on and said don't tell nobody. So I ended up over there and what had happened... a guy had approached the defendant wanting him to pay a million dollars to dismiss. So we ended up working on that... three people involved. We ended up delivering I don't remember how much money but it got down to about under \$500,000... seemed like it might have been \$250,000 or something like that. We delivered it and just went stairstepped up and got all of them.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** The DA here?

**RAY NUTT:** The DA. He got removed, went to Federal penitentiary.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How long did he get?

**RAY NUTT:** I want to say four to six months or something like that. He was just, you know...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, it's not the first time. Uh... but you said he got Federal prison. What was your relation... you talked about working with local agents and county, what about the Feds?

**RAY NUTT:** I think, I think I had good relations with them.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** FBI?

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Because I know a lot of Rangers that didn't. (laughter)

**RAY NUTT:** We, on that particular case, one of the humorous things that happened.... The defendant had that money and was gonna show it to one of the guys soliciting the bribe and it was in a bank safe deposit box at Kerens, Texas. And the FBI had told them not to take that money out of that safe deposit box. When we walked out, I told the defendant I said, if they want to look at that money, you show them that money anywhere you want to, as long as you stay in that parking lot. Well, he went in the bank and the other guy was parked there. The guy went in the bank and come walking out with that money and there was a young FBI agent sitting there with me. (FBI agent said) Oh my God. Oh my God. I can't arrest him, I don't have the authority to arrest him. I said don't worry about there's an old deputy sitting over there and if they try to leave, he's gonna kill all of them. (laughter)

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** You know Ray, you deal with the scum of the earth.

**RAY NUTT:** Yeah.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And you deal with some horrendous crimes and one of the ways... you gotta learn to cope. Some do it through humor. How did you learn to... what did you use to cope with all this garbage you dealt with all the time?

**RAY NUTT:** You know, I never did let my personal feelings get all that involved I don't think. You know I tried to treat all them defendants or whatever with a little respect. And I think they returned it. You know, my job is to investigate it, get a case that we can prove, and get it

through courts and let the courts do what they gotta do. But I truly believe when you start getting your personal feelings involved, you start focusing in on one individual so much... I'm gonna make him I'm gonna make him... that's when you see (??). You gotta keep an open mind.

**NANCY RAY:** If you were gonna give advice to a new Ranger, what would you say?

**RAY NUTT:** Shut up, listen, and keep an open mind. It ain't our job to send them to the penitentiary; it's our job to get them to court.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, well, you, you mentioned there, different people question different ways, I know, but one thing I kind of hear over and over and over is do not lie to who you question because they'll catch you at it. ..Well, they say they don't know I'm lying but well.. you don't think they do but they might. And if you lose your credibility with your...

**RAY NUTT:** I didn't lie to them. I want say I didn't let them believe what they wanted to believe

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Yeah.

**RAY NUTT:** but ..

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** They couldn't come back and say that's a lie.

**RAY NUTT:** No, if you got caught in a lie you were through with them as far as credibility or talking to them.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ray, you said earlier you wouldn't change anything. But you missed a lot with your children..

**RAY NUTT:** Well, just when we took that break, that was one thing I thought about. I probably would have changed my work habits some, but see.... when I went to work in law

enforcement, it was a career. It wasn't just a job. And we worked the hours it took to get the job done.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well what about.. I've heard some of the older Rangers say one of the reasons they left was when they passed the 40-hour rule. They said you can't do your.. what're supposed to do at 5 o'clock on Friday afternoon.. tell the bad guy, hey I'm off the clock?  
(laughter)

**RAY NUTT:** I'm retired now,.. I ignored it. I just, I done what I needed to do. ...If that deputy sheriff out there called you Friday afternoon or midnight, if you don't go help him or he's gonna quit calling you.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** You don't have to not go but once or twice... Ray, the Rangers are 180 years old. 180 years from now, somebody watches this tape, what do you want them to remember about Ray Nutt?

**RAY NUTT:** Oh, that he had integrity, that he was a hard worker and that he did what was right.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Pretty good. Nancy, you got anything else you'd like to say? Ray anything more you want to add?

**RAY NUTT:** Not that I can think of.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ray, I appreciate it.

**RAY NUTT:** I appreciate ya'll.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Coming back we have another story we want to add.

**RAY NUTT:** Well, when I retired from the DA's office, I actually went over and become an investigator at the sheriff's office for short period of time. And we had an office named Wade

Norris who was an investigator also. Well we got a call for a bad... and being in the DA's office and being a Ranger, I went to most homicides regardless. But it was Wade's case really. When he retired, he asked me to take the case. And when we got there, I don't remember her age but her last name was Cox, she had been beat to death with a baseball bat on the head... skull just beat terrible. Well, her son and daughter-in-law lived with her, and we got to looking at it, there was no sign of forced entry or anything like that, and we worked the crime scene and everybody kept saying "they done it, they done it. Arrest them." I kept saying, I don't know who done but I kept thinking in my mind that I had a good idea who done it... but I didn't want to set those folks off and make them jump out there and get a lawyer. We didn't arrest them. Worked it on out and worked it where I could get them to come in and take a polygraph. Told them to come in take a polygraph and I want to take another statement. Well they come in and we talked to the female, the daughter-in-law, and she denied it, denied it, denied it. And her husband was down there taking a polygraph. And I told her right then, I said ya'll have formed a pact amongst yourselves, but you're fixing to get fooled. Your husband's gonna fail that polygraph and I'm gonna go down there and he's gonna tell me everything that happened. I got up and left. Left her in there with Kay Langford, a lieutenant with the sheriff's office. Walked down there and he had failed the polygraph. Got him in there... and it was his mother... got to talking to him. Yeah, Penny was his wife's name. She hit her first but she couldn't complete it so I got the bad and finished her off.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** His own mother?

**RAY NUTT:** His own mother. Now that one there touched me, a little bit more so than lots of them. But anyway, we went on back down there to Penny and he told us where the bat was and

she said “I ain’t saying anything.” ... We didn’t have nothing to do with her. So I found a spot on that tape where he said Penny started hitting her first and I played it in about 5 words. And she confessed.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ray, you mentioned a polygraph. I’ve heard you can’t beat the polygraph, you beat the operator.

**RAY NUTT:** Aw... I... boy that takes it into another case. (laughter) I had one I know beat the polygraph. He done it with drugs.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Anything you can tell us?

**RAY NUTT:** Well, we had a policeman here that instead of writing a Hispanic female a ticket...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Was that Athens PD or Henderson County or

**RAY NUTT:** Athens PD. Uh, he worked out some other way to pay the ticket off is what it amounted to.... Well, she told us about him and she told us that he wrote her, either her address or phone number down on the ticket book. Well we got him. We took him to polygraph. He passed it. Of course she wasn’t real good in English so we had to find an interpreter in, to take the polygraph. And I was so convinced that she was telling the truth, I called that friend in Brookshire, Joe Garcia, to come up. Because he was a policeman, he knew how to interrogate, and he could speak Spanish. We took her to the same polygraph operator. She passed it. So, we was fixing to get a hair samples, blood samples, for DNA purposes. I had a policeman come to me and I’m not gonna call his name. But he, he done the honorable thing and I respect him today. He said, when that other policeman, the defendant, and you asked him for a hair sample

and a blood sample, and we talked about it here, he as going to switch hair samples and everything on me.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** You're ....

**RAY NUTT:** I go the Police Department to talk to him in there and I say, I want your hair, I want your blood, and I think I told him urine. And if you've got something you need to tell me, you better tell me right now because I'm gonna be standing right over you when give all this. And he confessed. But he passed the polygraph.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he, he just...

**RAY NUTT:** I was told later that he used uh valium. But I had been with polygraph operators that will ask that question, did you use any kind of drugs prior to this. That one didn't. And it may be ... That would have been beating the operator.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Anything else, Nancy?

**NANCY RAY:** No.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ray, can you think of anything else? He's got something, he's got that grin

**RAY NUTT:** I know ... I'll talk about it in a minute. (laughter)

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** All right, we'll shut off again but we can turn back on.