

Interview with

TOMMY WALKER

Texas Ranger, Retired

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Project: Texas Rangers

Interview Conducted at the Rusk County Airport
Henderson, Texas
Saturday—August 23, 2008

Interviewed By: Robert Nieman and Nancy Ray
Longview, Texas

Present At Interview: Tommy Walker, Robert Nieman, Nancy Ray



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TOMMY WALKER
TEXAS RANGER, RETIRED

ROBERT NIEMAN: Here we go. My name is my name is Robert Nieman. I'm assisted by Nancy Ray. We are visiting with Tommy Walker of Henderson, Texas (Saturday, August 23, 2008). The purpose of this interview is to discuss Ranger Walker's career as a Texas Ranger. Mr. Walker, do we have your permission to record this interview.

TOMMY WALKER: Yes, you do.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Mr. Walker, do you understand that this tape will belong to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, Texas.

TOMMY WALKER: Yes, I do.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And finally Mr. Walker, do we have your permission to present copies of this tape (**Note:** Only audio, no video) to various historical organizations such as museums, libraries, and schools, and once transcribed, to place on the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum website?

TOMMY WALKER: Yes, you do.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Would you give us your full name?

TOMMY WALKER: Tommy Darwin Walker.

ROBERT NIEMAN: For the transcriber, Darwin D A R W I N?

TOMMY WALKER: Yes

ROBERT NIEMAN: And, uh, what is your current address?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, well I live out in the country outside Henderson but my current address is Post Office Box 702, Livingston, I mean correction, Henderson.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Henderson.

TOMMY WALKER: I'm not got acclimated to saying Henderson yet.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh, when and where were you born?

TOMMY WALKER: I was born in a little town just west of here called Joinerville, named after the discovery...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Dad Joiner.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, Dad Joiner.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And were you raised here?

TOMMY WALKER: I stayed two years there and then moved to Turnertown which was 3 miles... and stayed there and...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Over in that area at that time, was the drive-in theatre and all that still there when you was growing up?

TOMMY WALKER: Oh yeah, it was built while I was there. The Star Drive-In.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Of course, it's gone now. And what was your father and mother's name?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, Dad's name was uh John Howell (H O W E L L) Walker and Mother's name was Linnie (L I N N I E) Mae (M A E) Walker.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Mae being her maiden name?

TOMMY WALKER: Well, her maiden name was Wall, W A L L.

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK. And, uh and what's your spouse's name?

TOMMY WALKER: Jo Ann (J O A N N). And her maiden name was Barker.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And, when were ya'll married?

TOMMY WALKER: 54 years ago tomorrow.

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK, that'd be August 24th

TOMMY WALKER: August 24th, 1954.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And I didn't put that in there, today's date is obviously the 23rd, 2008.

Did you have any siblings?

TOMMY WALKER: Had four children, two boys and two girls.

ROBERT NIEMAN: No, I mean do you have any brothers and sisters?

TOMMY WALKER: Oh, yes. I had two brothers, they're both dead.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What is their name?

TOMMY WALKER: The oldest one's name is Arvell Dee

ROBERT NIEMAN: A R V E L L?

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah. And the middle name is D E E. And the other one was Doyle Gene Walker.

ROBERT NIEMAN: D O W...

TOMMY WALKER: D O Y L E.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And were you the older or the middle...

TOMMY WALKER: I was the baby.

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK. And, where did you go to school?

TOMMY WALKER: Gaston, in Joinerville.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And it's also gone. Uh, before we get to that, how many children do ya'll have?

TOMMY WALKER: Four.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And their names?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, the oldest one is Pam Walker

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK

TOMMY WALKER: And the next one is Troy Walker. Pam lives in uh Asheville, North Carolina. Troy lives in Hutto close to Austin. And Steve uh uh lives in McAllen. And Elysia live in Hurst near Fort Worth.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Elysia, how do you spell that?

TOMMY WALKER: E L E I S A.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh, when you was in school... uh you graduated from Gaston?

TOMMY WALKER: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Gaston Blue Devils?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, Red.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Red Devils! (laughter) Oh Lord, I'm sorry about that... Red Devils... Uh, while you were in school, what were some of your favorite subjects? In high school.

TOMMY WALKER: Besides girls... I hated school.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Besides girls. (laughter)

NANCY RAY: None.

TOMMY WALKER: I tell you what I really... I didn't play football or any sports, uh I run a lot but uh I played in the band. I loved the band.

ROBERT NIEMAN: We're both band members. What did you play?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh trumpet. I played a trumpet during concert season and then I played the drums during marching season. Ah, so, I loved that. It was really my best, my favorite subject.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I do too and it's the most influential part of my high school.

TOMMY WALKER: Absolutely, it was mine too. Absolutely. Besides, that's where Jo Ann was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK (laughter)

TOMMY WALKER: And she was a twirler.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh, OK. Nancy played the French Horn but we have to overlook her.

NANCY RAY: I played the trombone in high school.

TOMMY WALKER: Jo Ann played the French Horn.

NANCY RAY: Well, I learned to play the French Horn after..., about 4 years ago. That's when I started playing it.

TOMMY WALKER: Really?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh, did you have uh, belong to a church or have...

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, Turnertown Baptist Church.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ya'll very active in it?

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, oh yeah. We were, we were active.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember, did any pastors have uh a defining effect on you?

TOMMY WALKER: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The band, you said, was the most... who was your band director?

TOMMY WALKER: Wally Read.

NANCY RAY: Oh, I had...

TOMMY WALKER: Everybody knows... everybody that ever played in the band knows Wally Read.

NANCY RAY: His wife...

TOMMY WALKER: Entered into the Hall of Fame.

NANCY RAY: His wife was mine, Mary Read. (*side conversation*)

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh uh, when did you graduate from high school?

TOMMY WALKER: 1954.

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK, uh what did you do after you... when did... what did you do after you got out of high...

TOMMY WALKER: Well, this was right at the end of the Korean War and uh, I was a little old to be graduating and uh the uh the uh draft people were sitting there patting their foot waiting for the three oldest ones in that Senior Class to graduate.

ROBERT NIEMAN: There were three of you in your class?

TOMMY WALKER: We..., there were, the three oldest ones. The three oldest ones uh were drafted immediately. In fact, we got our draft papers before we graduated. So I graduated May the 22nd and was in basic training in Fort Bliss June the 1st.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You were in the Army.

TOMMY WALKER: I was in the Army. Three years in the Army.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how long were you in El Paso?

TOMMY WALKER: That was just basic training and I stayed there until about the middle of August and uh I, I..., they give us some time to go to our next assignment and I came home and married **Jo Ann** while I was at home.

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK, what was your assignment?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, well, I uh, I went in the paratroopers. I'd wanted that extra \$50 a month..., paratrooper. And uh, my first assimilated jump, I broke my collarbone. They washed me out. And put me in uh Quartermaster. I was in, went to Quartermaster school.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where'd you go, where'd you go to that at?

TOMMY WALKER: Well, I went over to Korea. That assignment I went to Korea for 22 days and my Dad wrote a letter to Wright Patman and... I seen that letter and I wish I'd kept it... I don't know where it is now. But my oldest brother was killed in World War II, Arvell Dee was killed in World War II and he was the left place gunner on the B17 and was shot down.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Over Europe or Pacific?

TOMMY WALKER: Over Europe. And uh, then my brother was in the Air Force and he was already in Korea and because of my two brothers, being you know in.... my oldest was killed, the second was in harm's way, Dad wrote a letter and said you can't take my third one. So, they come to me and asked me if I wanted to go home and I bored a hole in the wind back to the United States.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And

TOMMY WALKER: Because I did not like it over there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When did you.... You'd get out of the Army then or...

TOMMY WALKER: No, no. I stayed in the Army uh and uh went to Armament and **Articifer** School and become uh a... worked on the guns on tanks. And so from then on out I was in a tank.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where were you stationed?

TOMMY WALKER: Fort Lewis, Washington. And I stayed there until I got out of the Army... in May of uh '56.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then what did you do?

TOMMY WALKER: Well, of course, my goal..., my goal even back when I was in the Third Grade, I made my mind up... I wanted be on Highway Patrol. I was in the Third Grade and uh uh, Eric Hale and Pat Spier come to the Gaston school and made a speech... a safety speech about riding school busses and you know, general... they were riding motorcycles. And when they left, I went out there and watched them get on their motorcycles and leave and they were in their uniforms spit...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Wearing black bowties?

TOMMY WALKER: Ah, bowties... and all, they were, they were spiffy people... And I said that's what I want to do. And I never quit believing that I wanted to be on Highway Patrol.

ROBERT NIEMAN: For the transcriber, Pat Spier is S P I E R.

NANCY RAY: And the other one was Eric Hale?

TOMMY WALKER: Eric Hale. He was a Highway Patrolman... both of them were Highway Patrolmen here in Henderson.

NANCY RAY: OK.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Pat was from Upshur County. And then so when did you...

TOMMY WALKER: When I got out of the Army... my, my desire was to go uh uh, go to Highway Patrol. When I got back, I immediately went took the test. Because I was 21. And I immediately went and took the test, flunked it. I... I... my, my penmanship... I couldn't write or spell. I was terrible. I embarrassed myself... one of the things that embarrassed me was I had to write a letter, two paragraphs as to why I wanted to be a Highway Patrol. And it was just terrible. And uh Guy Smith said, son, you need to go get, you need to go to school and get you some education.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Guy was the "C" Company Captain

TOMMY WALKER: Ah, he was major. Well, I guess he was captain in Tyler then. Was he ever captain in Tyler?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, he was Glenn Elliott's first captain in Tyler.

TOMMY WALKER: OK. So, I went to uh Tyler Junior College and went to work for General Electric air conditioning plant and uh, got me a year I think, about a year and went back and took the test again and made it. Uh, I took reading and spelling, reading and spelling, reading and spelling until I could figure that out.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What uh, what school did you go to?

TOMMY WALKER: Tyler Junior College

ROBERT NIEMAN: No, no, I meant when... what was your first school date... when were you... date of your time going into the DPS?

TOMMY WALKER: Oh, June uh, I think June 2nd

ROBERT NIEMAN: 19?

TOMMY WALKER: '60.

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK. And your school number? They didn't go to Camp Mabry any more

TOMMY WALKER: I think, I think we were the 37th school to go through. Because the big famous...thirty, 1937 school, was the what, the first one?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh, I think so.

TOMMY WALKER: So we were the 37th school, I think. I'm not for sure about that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how long was your training?

TOMMY WALKER: I got out, I started in June, got out sometime in October.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I've had guys say that this DPS training school was tougher than their military, Army basic.

TOMMY WALKER: Ours was. A hundred times. Yes, a hundred times. We started 107 people and graduated 57. We lost...we lost 50 people. We lost 30 people the first day.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who were your monitors?

TOMMY WALKER: The only one I can remember was Al Stone. The meanest man that ever was. (laughter)

ROBERT NIEMAN: Regular DI, huh?

TOMMY WALKER: He was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What were some of the things you did, you had to do in that, for... basic training is basically what it was.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, well uh, your day started about 5 o'clock in the morning. You got up and run until everybody puked just about. That's a bad thing to say on tape.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's all right, that's the way it is.

TOMMY WALKER: You know, he he just..., Al Stone'd get out there and just run you to death and uh...Of course, highway law and uh traffic law, criminal law, uh motor carrier act uh, you know that was your major studies. Uh,

ROBERT NIEMAN: What other physical training besides running?

TOMMY WALKER: Fight. Every day, get in the ring and fight. Uh and that's where I remembered that everybody in my class, got whipped. Uh, we had lightweight and heavyweight, middleweight and all them you know... and I know that if you won your division, you moved up until somebody whipped you. And uh uh I remember the guy that won the total. He was the heavyweight champion of the class. And his name was Ream, R E A M. And he was a big old stout, good healthy guy and he whipped everybody in the school... and Al Stone got in the ring and he whipped him. (laughter) So, everybody got whipped. That's why I know that Al Stone had to be the meanest man that ever was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you have practice in marksmanship and...

TOMMY WALKER: Pistol, a lot of pistol shooting. Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about uh... by that time you had pretty well gone away from motorcycles, hadn't they?

TOMMY WALKER: They, they were through with the motorcycles. We didn't have to ride motorcycles.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And, uh of course, earlier they had. Then, did you have a lot of training in the car?

TOMMY WALKER: A lot of driving, yeah. Teaching you how to pursuit drive and turn arounds, and running off the road and regaining control of the vehicle and...

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about approaching a stopped vehicle?

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah. Uh, there was a five-step violator interview.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember the five steps?

TOMMY WALKER: Oh, introduce yourself, uh tell them why you stopped them, uh tell them what action you were going to take, tell them what they had to do, and depart.

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK, uh, before we go on... did Jo Ann share your desire to be in the Highway Patrol?

TOMMY WALKER: I really don't know, I think so. Yeah, I think so. Because in six years, we had four children... When I left to go to school, we had just had a baby.

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK, what was your training school... what was your pay?

TOMMY WALKER: My first check I got in the mail was \$212. And that was the most money I'd ever made in a month.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And, when did you graduate? Your class graduate?

TOMMY WALKER: Sometime in October.

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK then, where was your first duty station?

TOMMY WALKER: New Boston, up close to Texarkana.

ROBERT NIEMAN: In Bowie County. Uh, who was your captain?

TOMMY WALKER: Glenn Warner.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I met him fortunately before he passed away. And who were...

TOMMY WALKER: Did, did he die? Is he dead now? When he die?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh, it's been several years ago now.

TOMMY WALKER: You sure about that? Because the last time I went to qualifications, who'd I run into... I thought I run into him once.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, I'll double check but I'm pretty sure he died. I'll see, I'll see Glenn next week and I'll ask him. I'll let you know, I'll call you one way or the other. But uh, who was your sergeant?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, Evans, uh I just... I can't remember... he had an initial for uh

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was W. J. Elliott still in the Highway Patrol at the time?

TOMMY WALKER: I don't know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He was from over here at Tyler and had been Chief of the Highway Patrol at one time.

TOMMY WALKER: No, he wasn't. Elliott?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, W. J. Elliott.

TOMMY WALKER: I don't...

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK.

TOMMY WALKER: Who, who was assistant uh...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Now, he wasn't DPS commander, he was head of... Chief of the Highway Patrol.

TOMMY WALKER: I don't remember that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did uh... who was your first partner?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, O. D. Halbrook.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Halbrook? H A L...

TOMMY WALKER: It's H O L L B R O K, I think. Hollbrok.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how long did you ride before you got to be the lead driver?

TOMMY WALKER: Oh, gosh. Uh, four or five weeks. Wouldn't let me drive the car for four or five weeks.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And I know, in Ed Gooding's time at least, and I think Bobby Poynter and some others pointed out, when you uh were lead driver, you made all the decisions and the guy riding made none.

TOMMY WALKER: That's right. That's right. You were total... all the guy did uh was cover your back.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I mean he picked where you eat, where you drink coffee.

TOMMY WALKER: That's right. That's right. All decisions were made by the driver. And I guess it's still that way, I don't know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I don't either. Uh, do you remember your first stop?

TOMMY WALKER: I remember the first ticket that I ever wrote.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Tell us about it.

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, we were holding a drivers check and uh me and Hollbrook and uh another Highway Patrolman... he was working out of Texarkana, his name was Billy uh... doggone I thought I'd never forget his name. But anyhow, we were having a drivers check an about uh, oh about 100 yards up the road, a guy put on his brakes and made a U-turn. And uh they told me, said get in the car and run him down. Said he doesn't have a driver's license. Hollbrook knew him, said write him a ticket for no driver's license. So I jumped in the car and run up there and run him down and stopped him and wrote him a ticket for no driver's license. And I think uh, I think that's what helped me make a Ranger. Uh, because I remembered that...

and it was one of the things I think they looked at, uh because he very short time after then, he got stomped to death, at a still, they had a still up there and uh... uh, Red Arnold was the Ranger up there and Red Arnold came through and was going out to the crime scene. And uh, he said, come on go with me. So I, so I drove out there with him, I was in uniform and Black and White. The first Ranger I'd ever met, was Red Arnold. And we went out there and we was walking around the crime scene and I said, Red, you know who killed this guy was his partner. And he looked at me and he said you know, I was thinking the same thing. And uh, whoever his partner was in the, in the uh still... they got in a battle and he beat him to death with a piece of firewood. They were cooking off uh a batch of alcohol is what they were doing. And he said, I'm thinking... I'm thinking the same thing. And he wrote that up in his report and I testified in court about it. That was my first encounter to any criminal, anything other than traffic. And that thrilled me to death.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did uh, when you were up there, in New Boston, did Highway Patrolman in those days, sometimes, according to the part of the state where some parts where there was just too much traffic and whatnot for them to mess with and other parts, especially out in West Texas, uh they had more time... and sometimes they'd work more than just traffic. You know they'd...

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, and that's what I done the entire time I was on Highway Patrol. In fact, I got in my interviews, they were telling me you're working too much criminal. You need to leave the criminal work alone and concentrate on your traffic enforcement.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you spend your whole Highway Patrol time in uh, in New Boston?

TOMMY WALKER: No, I stayed there about a year and transferred to Dallas. And stayed in Dallas uh until 1965 then transferred to uh Plainview. Uh, I was in Plainview for a year and uh some things happened, uh and I got transferred to Springtown.

ROBERT NIEMAN: To where?

TOMMY WALKER: Springtown.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh, up there by Decatur.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where we were talking about Jay Banks and Klevenhagan

TOMMY WALKER: I know exactly, I can take you and show you the exact place.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where they gunned Gene, Paul Morris down.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, but this was, this was back in the '50s when that happened.

ROBERT NIEMAN: '57

TOMMY WALKER: '57. And uh, you know there was a uh (*brief side conversation...*) Did you know there was a 13 year old boy that witnessed the whole thing?

ROBERT NIEMAN: No, I did not.

TOMMY WALKER: He... he and I talked..., I can't remember his name. He lived there. He lived real close. . The house closest to it, he was playing up and down the creek and he seen that happen.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Um. Lucky he didn't get shot. But, what uh... you were in the Highway Patrol then in Dallas, in East Texas...

TOMMY WALKER: I was in Dallas uh from 19... oh late 19 about May of '61 I think until uh '65 and then I transferred to Plainview.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Tell us... the difference in being a Highway Patrol in a high urban area such as Dallas and basically a rural area like West Texas' Plainview.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, uh, well traffic, a lot of traffic. You could..., you could work all the traffic you wanted. You know, you could work all you wanted.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Working criminal was out of the question back then in Dallas.

TOMMY WALKER: No, I worked a lot of criminal.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you?

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, sure did. I'd get out and roam around in the country and look for burglars, and caught a few. And uh I remember uh driving up on an old boy taking wheels off of uh a tractor. It was a Black guy, big, 6-foot 8, weightlifter type looking guy, and he was taking the rear wheels off of a tractor. And he had blocks sitting under the axles. And I had a Dallas, Dallas motorcycle patrolman riding with me and if he hadn't been with me, I think that old boy would have took me because he was big and mean. But because there were two of us, we were able to arrest him for that and uh... We was asking him, you know, how did you... you know there wasn't any jack around... how did you get that wheel up on that block? And he walked over and picked one of the wheels up (laughter) and said I kicked the block under there with my foot. And he could have just popped your head off.

NANCY RAY: When you, when you said you worked criminal, a lot of criminal activity, did you do that on your own?

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah.

NANCY RAY: OK.

TOMMY WALKER: I would wait until my shift ended and then I would stop cars that ought not to be out there. You know, that's what I'd look for. And got wrote up a lot. O. C. Wheeler would write me up... you're working too much criminal..., you gotta work, you gotta work uh traffic law enforcement.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But you were working on your own time?

TOMMY WALKER: Time... I don't know that you ever had any of your own time. You're on a black and white and uniform.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Were you ever put in a situation where you had to use deadly force?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, I'm gonna answer that no.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I know, of course we both know Bobby Prince. He had a..

TOMMY WALKER: Had an incident. Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He had an incident recently.

TOMMY WALKER: ... I was there when Kennedy got killed. My partner was driving the car where..., was driving Johnson's car. Milton Wright was driving a car in that...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Milton's a retired Ranger and Sheriff down in the south...

TOMMY WALKER: He's Bend, he's Fort Bend.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Fort Bend, yeah.

TOMMY WALKER: He was driving one car. My partner, Herschell Jackson, was driving Johnson's car which was in front of Kennedy's car. And I'd been driving a car if I'd not been in the lead. Because the sergeant called and said the guy that's not in the lead, show up in a suit and tie, tomorrow..., be driving a car.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So where were you at?

TOMMY WALKER: I was on a road, I was out..., I was east of Dallas between Dallas and Terrell. Got a call and said the president has been shot, said you go to the intersection of I-30 and I-20 and kill all traffic, don't let anything leave Dallas. That's 5,000 cars an hour, and I was driving over there thinking, I don't think I'm gonna be able to do that (laughter). I was about to call..., call in and say uh, you know, I., am I gonna have any help you know, when I get there? Uh, and then about that time, they called back and said, dis..., uh disregard that transmission go to Parkland, find Connally and don't leave him. So I went to Parkland, walked by the limousine that Kennedy'd been shot in and uh there was a handful of brains in there you could hold in your hand. And uh, went on and found Connally and stayed with him for about 20 hours..., and before they got everything organized and got a bunch of Highway Patrol in the, in the hospital to protect Connally.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How long uh, did the bedlam last before some organization...

TOMMY WALKER: About 20 hours, everything was there, they had..., that hospital was flooded with Highway Patrol and very short time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I know Max Womack was down at the World Trade Center where Kennedy was supposed to speak.

TOMMY WALKER: Oh really, did he

ROBERT NIEMAN: He's on Highway Patrol.

TOMMY WALKER: Did he go to Parkland too?

ROBERT NIEMAN: You know, I don't remember. He may have but I don't..

TOMMY WALKER: I know they, they flooded Parkland. There was Highway Patrol everywhere.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You had to meet several of the reporters?

TOMMY WALKER: I don't remember any reporters at all.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did they have it cordoned off?

TOMMY WALKER: I guess they did. Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK, what...

TOMMY WALKER: We had some problems with the Secret Service. They felt like they... they were in charge... and I don't mean to belittle them, but they were trying to make decisions that just wasn't rational decisions, I didn't think.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, did uh uh

TOMMY WALKER: At my... at my post, where I wasn't... I jumped around a little bit. Secret Service would walk up and I'd say, can't go any further, I need to see your ID. And they would get real bad offended about it. And that's the only thing. They didn't want to show me their ID, but they did.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But they did.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Going back. Why did you transfer from uh uh New Boston to Dallas, from Dallas to Plainview?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, well, uh, uh, me and uh Evans uh had a clash, and uh

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's your partner?

TOMMY WALKER: No

ROBERT NIEMAN: That was your sergeant

TOMMY WALKER: My sergeant. And uh, uh Major Smith called me and said I'm transferring you to Dallas and so I went to Dallas and uh worked there for five years. And I didn't like the city, I wanted out of there and I wanted to go to West Texas. So I asked them to send me to West Texas and they sent me to Plainview. That ain't West Texas. Didn't like that none... my wife didn't like it out there. Tornadoes and

ROBERT NIEMAN: Sand.

TOMMY WALKER: Sand. You could roll a marble and it would roll for three days before it stopped.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then from Plainview you went to?

TOMMY WALKER: I went to Springtown.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Springtown.

TOMMY WALKER: Uh huh.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how long were you up there?

TOMMY WALKER: From 1961 until 1974 when I made Ranger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you say your captain, uh, your sergeant in Texarkana, or New Boston was Evans? Doc Evans? And then the one in Dallas was Wheeler?

TOMMY WALKER: Was O. C. Wheeler.

ROBERT NIEMAN: O. C. Wheeler. Do you remember out at Plainview?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, Thurman, no I can't remember...

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about uh Springtown?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, Gene uh, you know that's embarrassing... Beggs, Jim Beggs.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Beggs? B E G G S?

TOMMY WALKER: I loved Jim Beggs to death. Me and him never had a day that we didn't fight. (laughter) I loved him, I'd a died for that man, he was a good sergeant.

ROBERT NIEMAN: B E G G S?

TOMMY WALKER: B E G G S.

NANCY RAY: And why, why did you like him so much?

TOMMY WALKER: I don't know why... it was because he would fuss and fight with me. And we'd just argue, we'd argue and fuss and fight... But he loved to come over and ride with me. He wouldn't talk..., get in the car and not say a word..., he just sat there. And uh, one night he came over and got in the car with me and was looking out the window, and he wouldn't say a word. Just sat there looking out the window. And I got out on the road and about a mile down the road I just slammed the brakes on as hard as I could and wasn't a car in sight. "What are you doing?" I said, I'm taking you back to your car. If you don't want to talk, I don't want you in my car, you go somewhere else and ride. Oh, OK, OK, you know. (laughter) And we'd go to talking and it was that a way. I remember one night he came over and he got in the car with me and we took off... no, while he was getting in the car, a car come through Springtown running a hundred miles an hour. And them old cars you know back in them days they'd run a hundred and forty, a hundred and fifty miles and hour. And I, I said get in the car, sergeant, we got a speeder. And I locked on that speeder and we was trying to uh get a clock on him you know and I topped the hill and a big black bull was walking across the road in front of us... and I wheeled off and I knew the road like a book, you know, and I knew it was a clean ditch so I just got down in the ditch running a hundred and forty miles an hour. And come out on the other side of the bull and never let up on the gas, just kept going. And old Beggs' fingers was on that dash (laughter). And uh, so

we got the guy stopped and give him a ticket and I got back in the car... and he said, "take me to my car." What's the matter? "Just take me to my car." So I took him to the car and uh he left. Next day, I was laughing about it in the report room over in Weatherford, that's where we were go make reports, and old uh Charles Andrews was in there and uh, and he starts laughing. And I said, what's the matter? He said, well, ironically he was in the car with me that night and a car pulled out from an intersection, they were running a hundred and forty miles and hour... and he dodged the car, got down in the ditch, and he said he'd just... grass and dirt slinging everywhere and I got back up on the road. He said, "take me to my car and I'm going over and ride with Tommy, you're gonna kill me." (laughter) He come over and got in my car and uh something similar happened.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He decided he'd drive his own car.

TOMMY WALKER: He'd... he'd go home. (laughter)

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, as... any other stories you can relate to us from your Highway Patrol days, because I haven't found very many Rangers that's not as proud of their Highway Patrol as they were their Ranger days.

TOMMY WALKER: I was always real proud of Highway Patrol. I never was, I never had no drawbacks. I'll tell you what, uh I got sent to Springtown and I remember uh K. B. Hallmark, I don't know whether you probably ever knew him. He was a captain in uh Plainview, well he was captain in Lubbock and I'd gone down there and he said your new assignment is Springtown. And he was mad at me, and uh I said, where's Springtown? And he said, get a map. And I said OK, I knew it was bad. And he... and he got on the phone and he called the major and he said, I think we got a man that can do it in Springtown. And he said, yep, yep, yep, that's him. And uh

he hung up and turned to me and said let me tell you this, there's two Highway Patrolman that tried it before you, they didn't make it. And I'm telling you that if you don't go there and shut down the fatalities on nine miles of highway, we're having twelve fatalities a year on that nine miles of highway. And if you don't go there and shut it down, you're fired. The first fatality accident you have, just turn your equipment in. And I knew that you know, he said, by way, if they were going to give the world an enema, Springtown is where they'd stick it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What had you done to upset him so bad?

TOMMY WALKER: I... I don't want to get into that. (laughter) But uh, I never will forget, my... and I loved Hallmark... Hallmark was a great individual and I loved him to death. And he uh, well, uh I went to Springtown uh and sure enough, it was bad. Uh, I went to work at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon, by myself, and Monday morning, I had 18 DWIs and drunks in jail. And it was from Springtown to Azle, it was nine miles of highway. And all those old honkey-tonks was on both sides of the road.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Jacksboro highway.

TOMMY WALKER: Jacksboro highway. And it was, it was bad. And I, I think probably as far as a success story, is uh, I was there uh from '66 until '74 which was eight years. Uh, and we had six fatality accidents on that road.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You know, Tommy, there've been several books written on the Jacksboro highway and all those clubs and

TOMMY WALKER: Well, another problem we had, we had those rock truck drivers that were coming out of Bridgeport and they were coming up that road. And uh they were killing people. That just, those rock-truck drivers were insane...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Unqualified

TOMMY WALKER: Unqualified, yes. Most of them did not have a driver's license and most of them

ROBERT NIEMAN: Most of them, I'm interrupting but most of them to this day and pulp wooders are not qualified.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And I'll say that in court

TOMMY WALKER: And I started, and I locked down on rock-truck drivers and drunks.

NANCY RAY: Now what year was this?

TOMMY WALKER: '66

ROBERT NIEMAN: To '74?

TOMMY WALKER: I made Ranger December 1st of '74.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was that still a two-lane highway then or was it four?

TOMMY WALKER: A little bitty two-lane highway didn't have a shoulder on it. So...

ROBERT NIEMAN: What else... anything else before we move off of the Highway Patrol?

TOMMY WALKER: No, that was really about it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh, in those days, I don't think I'm out of line saying, you would have a difficult time making Ranger if you didn't have somebody, some Ranger sponsoring you... that was in your corner, maybe not official sponsor... who was your Ranger up at Decatur? At that time...

TOMMY WALKER: There wasn't a Ranger... I was the one in Decatur later.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who, you knew some Rangers up in that area, didn't you?

TOMMY WALKER: Well, Billy Peterson, I knew him. Jesse Priest had just made Ranger, and I think Jesse Priest was stationed at that time in Mineral Wells. When I made... when I took the test, I think Jesse Priest was the one that done my background... and recommended me. Uh, and Billy Peterson came in after Jesse made sergeant, I believe. But uh, but I didn't have a sponsor. In fact, I was asked that you know in the Interview Board, who's your sponsor? And I said, I don't have one.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Because in those days,

TOMMY WALKER: And, and you did... need a sponsor.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You needed somebody because in those days, unlike today, they could, at least officially today, they'd have a company meeting and say... well, Tommy Walker, we like him, he'd make a good Ranger... or we don't like Tommy Walker... you wasn't gonna get it.

TOMMY WALKER: That's right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And in those days too, the Captain was God... if he wanted you to be Ranger, you made Ranger. If he didn't...

TOMMY WALKER: If you got one blackball in the state, you didn't make Ranger. If there was any Ranger in the state didn't like you, you didn't make it. But I didn't know that many Rangers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh,

TOMMY WALKER: Charlie Moore, I knew him real well because I, I got acquainted with him in Dallas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, of course he's from up at Honey Grove. Uh, when did you uh... was it... you decide you just wanted to be a... let me back up. Nancy, have you got anything else you want to ask about the Highway Patrol?

NANCY RAY: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh, did you have, in those days... was your decision I want to be a Ranger sudden or was it gradual or?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, I really never thought... and I'll tell you right... at that time, I thought that I was way beyond even thinking about being qualified to be a Ranger. I had no idea that I could be a Ranger. But what I done when I was on Highway Patrol, while I was there, I uh, and this was done illegally, I... I wasn't really allowed to do it. But I went to the University of Texas uh, in Arlington, and uh uh got my... I didn't get a degree. Had enough hours but I never submitted my time for a diploma so I never got a diploma. But I got 128 hours at the University of Texas in Criminal Justice...uh at the University of Texas in Arlington.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Why was that illegal?

TOMMY WALKER: There was..., it wasn't allowed to go to college... during the uh Garrison...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Um, I never heard that.

TOMMY WALKER: They never, they never let you go to college. And you couldn't work a part-time job. And I carpentered on my two days off and went to college at night. Uh, and I think uh... and I... I wanted to be a Ranger ever since I met Red Arnold. I know you know the story about Red Arnold and his, uh I... you ought to read it... you ever read that report?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Whenever he shot that boy? Yeah, I've got a copy of it.

TOMMY WALKER: You got a copy of it?

ROBERT NIEMAN: His son is writing a book on him and I've read the draft on it.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah. Red Arnold probably was my uh, made me want to be a Ranger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Jim Ray, whom we both knew real well, I knew Jim *real* well... you know, thinks Red Arnold is the greatest thing since sliced bread.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah. Yeah, I liked Red real well. And... I never, I never met any Rangers I didn't really like. They just seemed to be my kind of people. Yeah, that's the reason... Red Arnold was what made me want to be a Ranger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He did that to a lot of people. He was one of Glenn's uh idols... Glenn of course got to know him as a Highway Patrolman at Longview and got to know, know Red

TOMMY WALKER: While I was in New Boston, I got acquainted with Red Arnold. He came to the jail and uh... there was a lady in jail that had stolen uh a bunch of diamonds and rings out of a... she was a house cleaner for somebody over around Mount Pleasant and she stole their jewelry. And Red Arnold come over there and talked her into telling him where the jewelry was.

And

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was on your interview board?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, John Wood,

ROBERT NIEMAN: You met John

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, Pat Wilson

ROBERT NIEMAN: Bill Wilson?

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, Bill Wilson. You know, that's the only two I really remember. There was, uh, there was a License and Weight man named Bryant that was on there... and, I think there were about five on there, weren't there?..

ROBERT NIEMAN: The two Rangers were Wilson and uh and uh Wood?

TOMMY WALKER: John Wood. I'm pretty sure that's who... I know they were on there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you make it on your first attempt?

TOMMY WALKER: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what, what was your first duty station.

TOMMY WALKER: Decatur.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Decatur. And, how long will you be in Decatur?

TOMMY WALKER: I was in Decatur from 1974 until 1980.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Can you tell us about some cases... your first... do you remember your first case? Your first felony case?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, yeah, uh the Sheriff up there didn't really want a Ranger station there. And uh he was..., he was afraid you know the Rangers... the sheriffs are real uh dubious about Rangers being in their country. Until they get to know them. I knew that I had to establish myself. In fact, I was told you know, you've got to go up there and establish yourself because you're opening that station up.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was the sheriff?

TOMMY WALKER: Sheriff Moyer. And uh, so I went up and talked to him and he and I had already had a little run-in over a burglary that I had caught... and uh... it was a burglary of a western store that happened in Decatur and I was on Highway Patrol out of Springtown which was only 18 miles. And I caught the burglars... the burglars they had... I, I'd got and uh... and Moyer uh

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was his first name?

TOMMY WALKER: I can't remember his name. Uh, I just called him Sheriff Moyer all the time. And uh, Moyer went out to their house and went in the house, and searched the house

without a search warrant. And uh, at the Grand Jury, they wouldn't admit anything that was in the house... oh they... no, I can't remember... the DA got involved in it somehow and told me about the search... that he done it without a search warrant. And Moyer was an inexperienced sheriff at the time. He'd just made sheriff and he'd, he'd been a carpenter and then made sheriff, and he really didn't... I don't think he even knew what a search warrant was. And uh, I can't remember exactly how it come down. But I went over to show him my evidence and we could have gotten a legal search warrant with my evidence. I was still on Highway Patrol when all this happened. And uh, uh, I was gonna go over and I think when I went over there, he'd already went out to the house that these people lived in... and searched it and, and recovered a lot of the stuff that came out of the store. Of course, because he didn't have a search warrant, that was moot, he couldn't... report it... the... document would have took care of that. And uh, he uh, and uh, during the conversation I made a statement... I said, well you've gotta have a search warrant, Sheriff. And uh, and he got real mad at me over that. I must have said it in front of somebody and it embarrassed him. And I shouldn't have said it in front of somebody. Anyhow, he didn't like me and uh when I made Ranger, well they wanted to open a station in Decatur. So they come to me and said, if we put you in Decatur, are you gonna be able to clean it up with Moyer because he's already expressed that he wants you up here. And I said, I, I can clean it up with him. I promise you I can clean it up with him. Because I wanted Decatur.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, that, that in itself was kind of strange, at that time especially, because usually when you went from Highway Patrol to Ranger, they moved you. You didn't stay in the same area, usually. So that's kind of strange unto itself, keeping you in that area.

TOMMY WALKER: I tell you what, I think it was because I had worked so much criminal, that I already knew all the old, the old criminals around. I knew a lot of the old criminals around there because I'd done business with them. And I think that influenced them putting me in Decatur. And it worked. You know, it worked. I was able to do things for Moyer. And back off and let him get the credit. You know that's what you have to do.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Besides Decatur, what were your other counties?

TOMMY WALKER: I had Decatur, uh, the what other county, uh, Montague County, uh, had all the way to uh, the county next to uh Wichita Falls... Wichita Falls County? Is that Wichita? I think that's Wichita Falls...

ROBERT NIEMAN: I don't know

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, and uh, Jack County. I worked primarily Jack County and uh Wise County and uh, Montague County.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, how did you finally uh win the sheriff over?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, the very... my first assignment was uh... and I think he tried to insult me. He said we, we... it was uh a uh kind of uh, a candy stand or something had been burglarized and uh, in Boyd. And he said I won't you to go and solve that burglary for me. And it was a candy stand. And it was during school and uh, so I go down there and look at you know and all that was gone was candy. So I drove to high school and junior high and saying, hey, who's passing out candy? And everybody says well so-and-so's got a heap of candy in his car. No, not in his car, but in his locker or somewhere. Well you know, it was easy to solve. I go over there and get the candy out and get hold of the little boy... the boy was like 13 or 14 years old... and I talked to him and uh sure enough, he says yeah, I done it. So I took the candy back to

Sheriff Moyer and gave him the boy's name and said that I recommended that we don't do anything... this was a schoolboy and it was going to ruin his life if we did anything to him, Sheriff. But he's the one that done it and it, just... the Sheriff seen that I was sincere about wanting to do what's right and he looked at me a little while and he said, come in here. He filled my basket full of burglaries and everything... (laughter) that's unsolved. And I went to work on them and solved, you know, and I never took the credit for it. I always, as quick as I could get it up and get it ready for a Grand Jury, I went him and told him. I never tried to run around him, I never tried to embarrass him, and he would call me on all his good stuff. And the same thing up in Montague County. Uh, I had the same relationship up in Montague County and Jack County. And worked a lot of homicides. I think I counted one time... in the 18 years I was a Ranger, I worked 111 homicides.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Um. Let me back up just a little. Uh, when you took off the Highway Patrol badge and put on the Texas Ranger badge, people looked at you different.

TOMMY WALKER: Bad different.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Bad different?

TOMMY WALKER: Well, good different. Yeah, yeah. You uh, you carried a lot of weight... the badge carried a lot of weight. More weight than most people... just the, just the fact that you had the badge on gave you a lot of weight. It was recognized as you being the best. And I had... pretty... during this first little time, there was a period there that uh... well I'd solved a case where that uh a guy in Fort Worth had a TV... and it was one of these cases that uh Moyer said you know, solve this for me so I can run him down. There was an old boy in Fort Worth who had a TV and uh his name was Joker Jordan. I don't remember his real name, that's all I remember.

And I... I went up to the DA's office and uh... no, went to DPS, and uh said I got a warrant for so-and-so Jordan. And they said oh! You got a warrant for Joker? Yeah, well, you know... well old Joker, said he, he's one of the funniest criminals we got here. Said that's why we call him Joker. So, I... he said I know exactly where he lives and he's probably watching that TV right now. So we got a gent... an old boy out of auto theft, knew him real well, and uh, said let's go out there. You go to the back door and I'll go to the front door because he's gonna run out the back door. Well he seen us drive up. He'd already run out the back door. When I got around behind, there was a garage back there with a..., with a wooden fence that bordered the garage. And I seen him disappear around that garage. And I run down to the end and got to the picket fence and I knew he had to come around. And sure enough, here he come around, on his hands and knees. And uh I pulled my pistol out and I said, Joker, uh Jordan, uh it ain't nothing but an old TV, it ain't worth you... you know anything happening here. Because I couldn't, really see his hand. And he said, are you the new Ranger? Yeah. ...that ain't the way you do it. But I'm gonna go back around the corner and I'm gonna come back and you do it right this time. (laughter) So he goes back around the corner and Jim Henson was standing there and Henson said "freeze, you son of a bitch." He sticks his head around and said, hear that? That's the way you do it. (laughter) I gotta break the new Ranger in? Yeah, that's the attitude a lot of people had.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, were you aware of the traditions and the history and, uh, the weight... just a little cinco peso badge but it's awful heavy for some people.

TOMMY WALKER: You know, and I didn't. I didn't. And I really didn't until uh I was... we were involved in a murder case uh up at Jolly, close to Wichita Falls. Uh, you know, Ben E. Keith Produce?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum.

TOMMY WALKER: Well, Ben E. Keith's uncle was killed. He had two uncles that lived in a big ranch there and Ben E. Keith's uncle was killed. James Carter Keith was his name. And uh, uh, we uh, we worked that case for right at three or four months and finally got it all took down. And the FBI got involved because some bankers were involved. And uh they had gone out to steal a coin collection and uh, they wound up killing one of the brothers. And uh, so we were working on it and this FBI officer got involved in uh, in the case... and I'll never forget, his name was Bill Log(sp?). And I liked Bill Log, he was one of the good FBI officers I worked with. And uh, Bill Log, the first time I met him uh, I had this guy in custody. I'd arrested him and brought him in and I contacted the FBI and said, you know, ya'll need to talk to him. Because there's gonna be some bankers involved in this thing. So Bill Log come over and uh and uh we... I had the guy in the room and Bill Log said let me go in by myself because the FBI badge carries so much weight. And uh, oh OK, it's fine with me. And uh so I sat there and looked and looked and looked. And the guy wouldn't tell him nothing, just sitting there looking at him, wouldn't even talk to him. And uh, so they was in there about 30 or 40 minutes... and nobody said a word except he had a big... and he's the only one. So he got up and walked out and said I gotta go to the bathroom. Uh, I'll be back just in a minute. I said, you mind if I go in there and talk to him just a second? Uh, he said no, if you want to, go on ahead. You're not gonna get nothing out of him. So I go in there and sit down and said, you see that badge on my

chest? Next guy you talk to is gonna be me and you ain't gonna like it. I'm not gonna be a kind and gentle as he is. Now when he comes back, you tell him what he needs to know. You understand that? Because you're in my custody. And I got up and walked out. Bill Log come back and sat down and the old boy started telling him anything he wanted to know. (laughter) And become a witness for us. So that made me realize...

ROBERT NIEMAN: What did the FBI guy say to you?

TOMMY WALKER: Nothing. Me and him worked a lot of cases together.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How was your relations with the FBI and Federal agencies?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, real good. I liked Bill Log. Bill Log and I worked on a lot of stuff. Uh uh, I worked with a guy, an FBI agent out of Beaumont uh uh a great deal... Glossett(sp?), Vernon Glossett was his name. Me and him worked together a whole a lot. I got along real good with the FBI... liked them. They had uh, they had money. Uh and I could, I'd get in with them and I'd use their money to do the things I wanted to do. But I would also do them favors and things. You know I'd help them out and I know a lot of the Rangers hadn't got along with them, but I could. I got along with them just fine. No problem at all.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When you made Ranger, who was your first captain?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh

ROBERT NIEMAN: You're in Company C.

TOMMY WALKER: Glenn Warner

ROBERT NIEMAN: No, not... as Ranger. Who was your first Ranger captain?

TOMMY WALKER: Who was Warner in

ROBERT NIEMAN: Highway Patrol.

TOMMY WALKER: No, I'm talking about the captain in uh Lubbock?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh, and, had to be Company C at uh... Glenn Werner was never a Ranger, was he?

TOMMY WALKER: No, well, Werner W E R R ... Werner W E A R

ROBERT NIEMAN: W E R N E R is Glenn Werner.

TOMMY WALKER: Glenn Werner.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But he's Highway Patrol. He wasn't a Ranger.

TOMMY WALKER: OK.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's...

TOMMY WALKER: Now Warner is W A R R E N... Warner

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was J. P. Lynch

TOMMY WALKER: J. P. Lynch uh... uh, he wasn't my captain. It was Lubbock, Warner? Captain Warner.

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK. And uh who was your sergeant?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, Selwyn Denson.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's near the end of Selwyn's career...

TOMMY WALKER: Then Bud, Bud Newbury was sergeant after Denson. Denson retired... Denson retired about two weeks after I made Ranger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: See, that was near the end of Selwyn's career right there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, he retired about two weeks after I made Ranger. And Bud Newbury came to be a Ranger... uh sergeant.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you say uh, you uh remember your first homicide? Or any particular homicides that were... you remember uh were noteworthy, not that any homicide...

TOMMY WALKER: Well, there were a lot of homicides. I worked a lot of homicides when I was in Bowie. Uh, I used to give talks and I found out it's not good to give talks. I'm not a very good speaker. And uh

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, what would have been... well, let's see, how come you to transfer... when did you transfer to Livingston?

TOMMY WALKER: OK, what happened was my Dad and Mother lived here in Henderson. And they were poor, poor health. And for them to come see or me to come see them, I had to go through Dallas/Fort Worth... and my Dad was still driving at that time. He would come and see me but he got to where he couldn't drive through Dallas/FortWorth. And uh, uh Phil made Ranger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Phil Ryan.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, Phil Ryan made Ranger and was stationed in Livingston. That was gonna be his duty station. And he owned a home in Decatur. So I got on the phone... I wanted Livingston because I could... it was only 90 miles from here to there... no towns between here except Lufkin and Nacogdoches and that's not a town like DFW. So I called Phil, and said Phil, if we could swing it, would you take Decatur and let me have Livingston? And I could get back into East Texas. I love East Texas... I wanted to be back in East Texas. And Phil said, you better believe... let's, let's see if we can swing it. So, uh I don't know how it worked out but anyway, uh uh, I got... we swapped out. He went to Decatur and I went to Livingston.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was Senior then?... What year

TOMMY WALKER: Lefty Block.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lefty Block?

TOMMY WALKER: I think, I think Lefty Block was Senior then. Who took after Bill Wilson? Lefty?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lefty.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, Lefty was the Senior... I'm pretty sure. Uh, maybe Bill Wilson was still Senior.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh, I don't remember the dates.

TOMMY WALKER: I don't remember either.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But uh... well you went to Livingston but... as a Ranger, what would you consider your most difficult case? Was it homicide, burglary, or... it doesn't matter. Your most difficult case.

TOMMY WALKER: I don't remember any of them easy.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, then like I say...

TOMMY WALKER: I'm still doing battle with one of them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Can you talk about it?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, yeah, it was uh... Let me tell you what happened to me. I was sitting in the office one day and I had worked... I had worked a uh

ROBERT NIEMAN: Were you in Livingston?

TOMMY WALKER: I was in Decatur.

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK.

TOMMY WALKER: And I worked a case uh on an old boy named Jerry Hogue. And Jerry had raped a girl uh that he didn't need to rape. He raped here because he got his... he got his sensations off of raping them. And uh, she was his girlfriend. And he carried her off into Wise County, raped her. Used a knife out of her kitchen uh to rape her with and threw the knife in a tank... pond. And uh he uh he got in court... we made a good case on him, it was an excellent case in every way. And the reason... what made the case was she was saying she was raped and he used a knife that was out of a knife set she had at home. So she gave us the knife set and sure enough one knife was missing out of the set. So we needed to find this knife and I had a real good friend that was a polygraph operator. And I've always had this imagination about polygraph operators... polygraphs, so I used this imagination and went to this polygraph operator and said, here's what I want to do, can you do it for me? And uh, he said uh well, let's try it. We'll try it, see if it works. And by golly, it worked. Uh it found me that knife because she had no idea where she was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, what was your idea to him?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, it's a long story.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's all right.

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, I uh, I always had an idea that uh that they didn't have to say anything. I didn't want them to say anything on polygraph. That they sit there and not answer the question. And, and uh, the uh... I, I took the county... she knew that she was in Wise County, that's all she knew... she was in Wise County when it happened. And she remembered that there was a dead cow close to it... it was a trash dump and there was uh, water there. Well, we run around all over the county looking for this place... couldn't find it. And the knife is supposed to

be in that tank, he threw it in there. And uh of course, uh we took a statement from her and took a statement from him and he acknowledged, yeah, we went out in the country and had sex and ... uh but it was all consensual and all, it wasn't anything... but she had a little scratch on her neck..., that was and of course we had pictures of that. But I went to the polygraph operator and I said, I want you to divide this county... and we're gonna make quarters of this county.. one, two, three four. And before we get in there and I want you to get one, two, three, four numbers ready and choose a number... write it on a paper... And you're gonna tell him what number he chose without, without answering you... no it's not number one, no, it's not number two. You understand what I'm talking about? No, it's not number three, no, it's not number four. And let's see which number we get a reaction from him on. Not saying a word. And sure enough, four times out of four, the polygraph operator told him what number he had chosen was on the paper he had upside down. And he chose the same number all four times. And he told him all four times, the same number. So, the old boy, and I think knew he was in trouble and wanted to back out of the polygraph at that time... because we quartered that county... and he was well familiar with the county. He knew the county real well. And we started down the list and sure enough, he reacted to one of the numbers on the list so we took that and separated it and drew and quartered that and we kept narrowing it down until we found out... and, an old boy outside... that was observing, said, I know where that pond is. I know exactly where it is. So we drove out there and drained the pond and there the knife was... out of her set. So that's what we went to court with. But he went in court every day and he had a Bible and he read the Bible. And every day he read the Bible. And there were two ladies on the jury that wouldn't convict him. And, and he got on the stand and said, you know, well I admit I done this and you know... and that I've changed my

life that I've accepted Christ as my Savior and... uh, I this... this is thing that's past in my life so they wouldn't convict him. They turned him loose. So, the little girl, they're gonna try him again because he's had 25... he's, he's pled guilty to 25 convictions in Colorado, of rape. And I knew he wasn't gonna stop.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was this, during this time he's...uh

TOMMY WALKER: No, he'd been... he, he was, he was sent to the pen in Colorado and they paroled him early and said, you leave Colorado. If you ever, if we ever catch you in Colorado again, you'll go back to the pen for violation of parole, violation of your parole. So he came to somewhere around Decatur and was living..., well he was living in Fort Worth at that time. Because he was living in the same apartment complex she was, that's how he met her. So, he had uh, they turned him a loose and the little girl didn't want to go through it again. She said this is bad, and it is if you've ever been in, in court with a defendant of rape you know they, they really give them a hard time. So, uh, uh, his name's Jerry Hogue and uh they turned him a loose and in two weeks, within two weeks, I had a call from a detective in Fort Worth... said I've had an old bad rape over here, death involved, uh we're running down all the people that was in this apartment or in that room, and Jerry Hogue's name come up as being a past resident of that apartment. And I said, you got him. I'll come down there and help you work it. So I went down to Fort Worth and helped them work it. And he had raped two women and poured gasoline on them and set them on fire... and killed them and uh raped a little boy in front of them. Uh and uh was really... it was really a bad, bad scene and uh... Anyway, uh we convicted him of capital murder and put him on death row. The girl by the name of Nina Morrison which is the uh... she's uh... am I getting too long?

ROBERT NIEMAN: No, I'm just making sure that red light's on and it's still recording. I just... No, no, you go on. Keep going. I've got 72 hours..

TOMMY WALKER: OK. Anyhow, Nina Morrison, I was sitting in my office one day and Nina Morrison called me. Said uh, we've got a boy on death row here named Jerry Hogue. And your name come up in the investigation. And she said uh, I'm trying to get him into a halfway house uh because he has become a Christian.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Again.

TOMMY WALKER: Again. And I said, really? And she said uh, yes, and uh said if we get him into a halfway house he's going to uh... he's, he's going to go in and testify about how he's changed and how he's recognized that Jesus, Jesus is his Savior... the general you know rigamarole.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Been there, done that.

TOMMY WALKER: And I said, yeah, you know you're right, you're right. And I could hear her getting excited. You're right, you're right. And I said, you're absolutely sure that he is going to go to heaven? Yes, he is. I said, well what we need to do is hurry up and kill him before he backslides. (laughter) She, she named me a name and it wasn't Tommy Walker. (laughter) Said I knew before I called you'd be that way, you know. Slammed the phone down. Yeah, she's been after me ever since. And right now, at least about a year ago, I guess, she's found my name in another capital murder case that I worked and uh, it came out, uh, "death hangs on a hair."

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do what?

TOMMY WALKER: Death hangs on a hair was their big motto. George Bush had permitted a innocent man, of course that's what she's after, she's trying to prove that Texas has executed

someone that's innocent. And it's uh, she's the chief lawyer for the innocence program out of Minnesota. So she's after me now, trying to prove that this old boy was, another capital murder case...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did they execute him?

TOMMY WALKER: They executed both of these guys.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How old was he?

TOMMY WALKER: Jerry Hogue and uh uh Clarence... William Clarence Thomas, I think.

NANCY RAY: H O G U E, Hogue?

TOMMY WALKER: H O G U E.

NANCY RAY: OK.

ROBERT NIEMAN: ... She didn't even change her mind when you showed her that he'd beat one rap because he'd found Jesus?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Um hum

TOMMY WALKER: I didn't tell her anything. You know, it was a waste of breath to tell her anything. She's trying to embarrass Bush and the State of Texas because you know, we're the leading uh death sentence state.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When you moved to Livingston, who was your captain down there?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, Grady Sessums.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who, who were your captains during your career, let's get that.

TOMMY WALKER: Well, Werner was my number first, first. Uh, Grady Sessums, Dan North, Bobby Prince, uh Deberry those were all captains.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And your sergeants? I guess what sergeants/lieutenants?

TOMMY WALKER: Well, they're, uh I think Bobby Prince was my sergeant at one. No, I don't think Bobby... he was sergeant in

ROBERT NIEMAN: He was sergeant in Company A.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah. Uh, Jim "Bull Shoes" Gant. (laughter) There's a joke about that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, we'll tell about that later. (laughter)

NANCY RAY: All right.

TOMMY WALKER: Jim "Bull Shoes" Gant was my sergeant and, and probably as good a sergeant as I ever had. If there's good ones and bad ones... there were never bad ones... Let me tell you. I've never had a bad relationship with any Ranger in the state of Texas. We were all just like brothers... I mean, it was uh... that's the kind of people I love to be around.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Those who remember him still think real high of Jim Gant in Marshall because he was Highway Patrol over there.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah. Well, he was, he was uh, he was... I had perfect sergeants and perfect captains. I know uh uh... I, I was chasing an old boy real heavy because they... they tried to beat an old boy to death in Bridgeport... Bud Newbury was my sergeant. And uh, he had went to Salt Lake City to become a Morman. And uh, he knew that we were after him so he moved to Salt Lake City and become a Morman. And Morman's are hard to deal with. Uh, and uh, Vernon Joseph Turpin was his name. And I got acquainted with him as a Highway Patrol in Springtown.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Turpin?

TOMMY WALKER: Turpin, T U R P I N. And Turpin had uh got two guys to go to uh Bridgeport to hold up a Brookshire Brothers and they beat an old man nearly to death trying to make him open the safe that he did not know the combination to in the first place. So I made a

case on Turpin and he run off to Salt Lake City. And I couldn't get them to extradite him. So I just made my mind up that I was gonna go up there and get him. So uh, drove, I called Bud Newbury and I said Bud, I want to go to Salt Lake City, I want to find this guy... I want to bring him to Texas. And he said, I'm gonna let you go but don't you come back without him. So I knew I had to take him when I got up there. And uh, I got up there and went to the Sheriff and told the Sheriff what I was fixing to do and the Sheriff said, I know where he is let me take him to jail for you. So he went down and put him in jail... because the Sheriff didn't want him up there either. So the Sheriff went down there and put him in jail and uh the judge wouldn't extradite him because he was a Morman and the judge was a Morman. So, uh I knew you know, this was bad. So, I talked the Sheriff into kicking him out the back door of the jail. Supposed to be go an extra day. I said if you'll kick him out the back door, I'll, I'll be there waiting for him. So he did and I did and we put him in the car and I brought him back to Texas. He tried to file kidnapping on me, the FBI wouldn't take it. (laughter) I was lucky there. And old Bud Newbury, I called Bud and I said, Bud, they're trying to file kidnapping on me. And he said, well, we can hatch it, don't worry about it. (laughter) So I felt good about it. You know that's the kind of

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, did you get him convicted?

TOMMY WALKER: Got him convicted. Got him 16 years in the pen. Yeah, sure did.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And he didn't win any appeals?

TOMMY WALKER: He didn't win any appeals... he got, he got put there. You know, that's the kind of people you like to be around. When, you know, all is over a day, we'll hatch it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

TOMMY WALKER: You know, that made me feel good.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Tell us, uh, I know, uh, I don't know of any Ranger that solved every case. You got some that they didn't solve, that just still aggravates or frustrates...

TOMMY WALKER: Burns your guts. You still have dreams about them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Can you tell us about one of those... that really just burns your saddle?

TOMMY WALKER: One of them uh, one of them was a murder in Poolville where uh they had a series of burglaries at a place and uh

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where is Poolville?

TOMMY WALKER: Poolville is right outside of Decatur. A little town between Decatur and Jacksboro. And uh, a guy was going home from a domino hall... he'd been playing dominoes and he was going home from the domino hall and he, he had a real good friend that lived up... he could see the house from the road and uh he was approaching that house and he seen a car go up and stop and a guy get out, look around... standing looking around. Looked too long and goes in the house. And I don't know whether he seen him kick the door open, I can't remember or not... but anyhow, he swerved off up in there and got a 30 ought 6 (30-6) gun out. And uh was gonna take the guy, in the house, because he found what he was doing. Sure enough, it was a burglary going on and the guy that took the gun away from him killed him with it. And I never for sure solved that murder. And has burnt my hide over the years.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you ever feel like you got close?

TOMMY WALKER: No, uh uh. I don't think I ever even got close. I still have no idea what the name was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's like uh...

TOMMY WALKER: And there was another one up there at Stonewall. I think it finally got solved, within the last three or four years it was solved. Where it was a uh paid killer. Uh, some old criminal was hid out up there and uh he was shot through the screen door. Somebody just walked up, knocked on the door and when he come to answer the door, he killed him through the, shot him through the screen door. And uh I never solved that one. Uh, there was another one, uh, in uh, in Houston. I think the only one, there wasn't but one in Houston that I didn't solve. I worked a lot of them, you know they'd kill them in Houston and bring them up and dump their bodies...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did uh, I find, I find it amusing and I think most Rangers... well most people in law enforcement would, you hear on TV where I promise you I'll find this killer... nothing but a rank amateur or idiot would ever make that promise. You know, I promise you I'll do the very best I can do and that's about all you can promise.

TOMMY WALKER: That's about all you can do, yeah. Sure is.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was your most, uh, satisfying case... the one that, oh, I really want to solve this one, and you did.

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, well uh, I mean their all satisfying... Glenn Elliott was involved in one with me. Uh, it was uh... and I can't hardly tell this without tearing up, because I can still remember seeing that little boy's body in the ground because I dug him up. And uh, his name was Kirky, that's all I can remember, had a nickname, Kirky. I can't remember his real name. And uh, I wanted to solve that really bad. I worked real hard on it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where did it happen?

TOMMY WALKER: It was not that hard. It happened in Lawton, Oklahoma, the murder did. Basically, a couple starved their little son to death. He was kind of retarded, and uh, it was a girl had had the baby and she'd remarried, the stepfather, stepfather-type deal. And they had a 13 year old daughter. And uh I got a call in the office that uh there was a little boy dead at uh under a home that had recently burned and uh the refrigerator was laying on top of the grave. So I got out and run around the country trying to find the recent houses that had burned. And sure enough, I found one over close to uh uh Springtown that had recently burned. So I go and I find out who owns the home and it was an elderly lady, uh, and I go talk to her. And I said, there's uh, there's supposed to be uh a little boy, 7 or 8 years old, buried there underneath a refrigerator. Sure enough, there was a refrigerator laying there in the old burned up home. The old burned refrigerator, refrigerator in there. And she said, that's Kirky. And uh, (*emotional moment*)

ROBERT NIEMAN: He was there... How was Glenn involved?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, I got the case together and uh... (*emotional moment*) This little boy was starved to death and we had a real tough time proving how he died in the courtroom. And uh the way we done it was his little 13, his 13 year old sister. Because he couldn't say that the deceased at the..., they put him in a dryer. He wasn't a very big guy...they put him in a dryer, turned the dryer on. They would split an electrical line and put on each little ankle and plug it into the wall, and unplug it. They pulled his front teeth out... uh, they treated him terrible. Quit feeding him and uh after about 10 days, and he'd stayed in this closet, wasn't even allowed to use the bathroom either. Of course, he finally got to where there wasn't anything there to use the bathroom with. And they left, the mother and daddy left... and the 13 year old girl knew that he was in there so she went in there and cooked him some, fried him some French fries and some

ketchup and she fed him. And of course that's the wrong thing to do, that's like feeding him poison when you do that. And he went into hysterics uh, and running around the room, holding his head, screaming, and he lay down on the floor and, having convulsions and kicking and threw up, and, and died. Well, we used the 13 year old girl, and the doctor came in and testified that's the way that people die of starvation when they get fed something. And uh, uh, the mother was retarded uh... Glenn Elliott arrested them..., I, I guess it was him that arrested them because they... a guy put them down in Longview... and called Glenn and said, Glenn, those guys, those people are in Longview, see if you can put them down and put them in jail for me. And uh, they made bond immediately and uh, the old, the old stepdad was really, he was the culprit. She was pregnant, had syphilis when they arrested her. And, that, this happened in Lawton, Oklahoma... they brought him down to this old burned down house and buried him out there underneath that uh refrigerator.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where would the courts consider the homicide actually happened?

TOMMY WALKER: In Lawton, Oklahoma.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So you tried him in Oklahoma?

TOMMY WALKER: We went up there and tried them in Oklahoma.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And the

TOMMY WALKER: They found her not guilty due to her, uh, mental problems. And he got 15 years. I was really disappointed in that.

NANCY RAY: Listening to you talk about this case, uh, it points out the stress involved and the things that you have to carry around inside you as a person. How did you separate your work life with your home life.

TOMMY WALKER: I tell you what happened to me. I went on so many cases... and I call it the five Bs... blood, bones, brains, bullets, and dead bodies. And I got to where I'd walk on a scene with that on there and I'd get a rush. I got to liking it. And I started questioning myself... I'm getting some mental problems here, you know. But I loved... the more, the more old bad stuff there was, the better I got to liking it. As long as it was grown folks. But if it was a kid involved, it tore me up. It *tore* me up. What tears me up, and I'll probably tear up again, I had a rape of a little 6 year old where the daddy was raping her... and it was her daddy that was raping her. And uh, uh, we had a babysitter that was babysitting her and was complaining that uh she, that she was having symptoms of being raped. And the old daddy was a truck driver and uh, so she wanted me to talk to her. And I uh, I went over trying to talk to her and she wouldn't have anything to do with me. Uh, she was standing in the backseat of a car and I opened the backdoor, and sitting there talking to her, trying to get her... to at least sit down and let me talk to her. And she wouldn't have anything to do with me. And uh (*emotional moment*) I said, see this badge and see this gun, that says Daddy ain't never gonna hurt you again. Understand that? He's never gonna hurt you again. That's what this badge and this gun means. (*emotional moment*)

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's what she tells you.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah.... Hugged me, wouldn't turn loose. Children... I was working Highway 175 out of Dallas to Kaufman, and a truck, a uh rock truck, passed them on a bridge going over the Trinity River, and there was a lady with three children in the car with her... was going real slow. And she was on the left-hand lane, she was going real slow... well I say slow, I don't know how fast she was going. And I was on the highway, this was Highway Patrol, and there was a rock-truck driver, well both lanes was and she was, she was in the inside lane and

there were four or five cars and he had to slow down. Of course, they were in his way. Well, he finally got up to where this girl, this lady was, and he pulled that truck intentionally, he pulled that truck and that trailer straddled her car and just ground those kids up in there. We, we were picking up body parts of kids. And that's my first experience with kids. And that I still dream about now. I still remember that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Let's, let's go back to this other case where the young lady come up and hugged you. Did you get a conviction?

TOMMY WALKER: Got a conviction on him, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How long, do you remember?

TOMMY WALKER: Oh, I think he got 25 years.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Not long enough.

TOMMY WALKER: No. He'd, he... of course she wasn't but 6, maybe 7 years old. And he, he uh backed her up and he tied her to a tree and used a ballpeen hammer to open her up with because he couldn't open her up. And she carried me in there, when I got her talking, she, we went into a workshop and she said she used that hammer up there on me. And I got the hammer off the wall, and sure enough, there was uh flesh and stuff from her on the hammer. And I think that's about the maximum, about 20, 25 years maybe.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, you know, these cases are gruesome but that's just part of the life... most Rangers go through something like that. And to echo what Nancy said, how do you, how do you build that cell, how do you build that compartment so when you go home to your wife and your children..., and some people, I guess, can't separate them.

TOMMY WALKER: Oh, I don't, I don't know how you really do it. But it never affected me at home. I didn't, uh, I, it didn't bother me that much at home. I never quit working on them. I tell you when I solved a lot of cases and that's at 3 o'clock in the morning. And I'd have to get up and go write down so I'd be sure and remember what I just got through visualizing or whatever it was, whatever it was. I worked a case where that uh, that for somehow another I visualized a cemetery, a tree with bullets in it, and an empty 357 box. And how I'd come by that to this day, I don't know. And I came by it early in the morning. I just visualized this thing. I don't know how you do those things. But then I called the sheriff, and I said, Sheriff, I'm, here's what I've got. I said, and he said, man, I know who you're talking about. So we, we went to the cemetery and the guy had killed a woman and buried her in the cemetery and he had worked a case and sent him to the pen on that case, capital murder, and he had gotten out. And he had gone and bought a 357 magnum and went back to that same cemetery and shot bullets into trees. And we chopped the trees, we got the bullets out of the trees, and I visualized all of this. Now how that comes to you, I don't know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, you know, did... did you ever talk to your kids, your wife about this because I had one Ranger one time basically said, I always felt the same, to sound just like you that you know I didn't take it home but after, long after he retired, one, something come up one time and kids said, well that's just not right, Daddy. You did bring things home with you. You may not have known it but

TOMMY WALKER: Maybe, maybe. Of course my kids weren't at home when I, my kids were already grown and gone when I made Ranger. Well, no, that's not true because I had another instance with, as a results of me working some Banditos and motorcycle gangs out of Houston,

that came up that involved my, one of my little girls that lived with me. There were some threats made against her life, if uh, if I didn't back off. And I...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you want to expand on it?

TOMMY WALKER: *(shook head no)*

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK. Uh, Nancy do you have anything?

NANCY RAY: No, it's been very interesting. Uh, well, I do. To be a Ranger, what do you think is probably the most important characteristic, or trait... what skill do you need to make you a good Ranger?

TOMMY WALKER: I think, uh, uh, I don't know what the right word would be, uh, uh. What's another word for just old basic commonsense?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Commonsense.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, just commonsense. Uh, just you know, thinking of all the variables that could happen in this kind of a case, uh, and uh, just commonsense which is... vision. Vision. You got to have vision. You gotta think beyond what, what uh is ordinary maybe. You gotta think outside, outside the box. You can't just stay in a box. And you can't get tunnel vision. If you get tunnel vision, you know what I'm talking about? If you get locked on one thing, you're fixing to screw it all up. You gotta have all these variables that you're looking at all of them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How would you handle..., like the characteristics of a Ranger but unfortunately because of our system, very few deputies in your county sheriff's office are paid anywhere near what they should be paid. There is exception around the state and so, consequently, we, some of the counties do not get as good a qualified people working their CID,

Criminal Investigative Division, as they should. And they do lock in, well I know Joe is the killer, and locked in, there goes that tunnel vision like you're talking about.

TOMMY WALKER: That's right, that's tunnel vision.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How did you talk to them and say look, maybe Joe *did* but maybe Joe *didn't*. We need to,

TOMMY WALKER: You know I very seldom, after I, after I got established in a place, I very seldom uh was called, and I got called all the time. I got called a bunch, because I tried to do what I was supposed to do and, do it and turn it over to them and let them get the recognition.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, the Rangers' job is support.

TOMMY WALKER: That's right. That's right. But, I, After I got established, I very seldom was ever called that I, didn't want to be, but become boss. Everybody looked at me for guidance after, after that. Uh, the DAs were that a way with me. Uh, it, it was just uh, I've actually answered calls from people that says uh, I heard so-and-so that is not guilty of what's been convicted, what they're convicted of. And I've gone to the Sheriff's office and I've ... and you get calls like this all the time. But for some reason or other, sometimes they're talking to you and they just seem to be convinced and after they tell you the things... so I know of three times that I went to the sheriff and said, Sheriff, let me, let me work this case for you. You got a guy in the pen, let me work it for you. You better believe, Tommy, you know if he's innocent, we don't need him there. And I know... many times I've, I've gone out and looked at him and said no, no, this... but three times I've got people out of the pen.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That must be satisfying too.

TOMMY WALKER: Do what?

ROBERT NIEMAN: That must be very self satisfying.

TOMMY WALKER: That is the most satisfying thing you can do. That, that satisfies you more than anything else. Yeah, sure does.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Any of those homicides, or...?

TOMMY WALKER: No, they were all uh burglaries. Mostly, mostly burglaries. None of them were homicides.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh, what, when uh, to echo or continue what you were saying... you know the Ranger gets that reputation of being a working Ranger. Uh, I'll use this example. Uh, David Byrnes, you know, captain of Company B at one time, currently Sheriff of Kaufman County, and Richard Shing, who just retired here a few weeks ago... David would tell his CID, when we have a crime, had something involves... he calls the Rangers, right then. Because one complaint I have heard several Rangers say is, going back to this sheriff you had originally up in Decatur County, they don't want the Rangers... and they don't call the Ranger in until the case is already ice cold.

TOMMY WALKER: Yep.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you... face that very often?

TOMMY WALKER: Well, I, I, uh, yeah. A lot. And you know, the Sheriff would mainly call and say, hey, we got this thing so screwed up, would you come up here and see if you can't straighten it all out. You know. I was in that kind of a relationship with all of my sheriffs. I never had a sheriff that wasn't that way. All my DAs were that way. Uh, and I did, I did change one. They had an old boy in jail, pled guilty, and was fixing to go to the pen. Uh, and uh, in Liberty, and the DA called me and he said, there's just something wrong with this. Just something wrong

with this... said you gotta come down here and see if you can't straighten it out. And I go down there... it's really strange, strange, I mean it's unbelievable, but strange how it worked. Our goal was to look at a door that's got a bloody handprint on it. And it was a woman that had been uh stabbed 170 something times. And uh, this bloody handprint on the door, and there was the door, uh leaning against the wall. And uh, I go in the cell and talk to this guy and he's, he's a compulsive confessor. And I sat there and talked to him and listened to his confession about 177 stabs that he done to this little girl. And I said uh, you know, I'm not really here about that, that's already been solved, you're guilty of that. I said I'm really here because we're still wondering who killed John Kennedy. He looked at me, and I said you've been a suspect for a long time. You know don't you. Yeah. You want to tell me about it? He wasn't even born when John Kennedy... (laughter). He confesses to killing John Kennedy.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ed Gooding calls those Johnny confessors.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, I go back out and I'm sitting there looking at that door, you know, and I tell the detective... I said, man, the handprint on that door is three times bigger than that little old kid in there you've got. He said, you know, I've wondered about that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was it a homosexual killing?

TOMMY WALKER: No, no, it was a Bandito out of uh, out of uh Houston. That uh came up and killed uh a girl, raped and killed her, uh and stabbed her, and uh she had a little 2 year old girl in there and that 2 year old girl stayed in there two days with her dead mother.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was it a crime of passion or...

TOMMY WALKER: No, I don't really... I couldn't really tell you, I don't know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The reason I ask that..., is because often, when there's that much violence involved in a killing, it's often homosexual...

TOMMY WALKER: Well, yeah, you, hey I can walk into a scene and tell you this is a homosexual killing. And uh, this wasn't, this was a, I think she wouldn't accept him and he went up there... and he'd seen her two or three times. But he was sitting in there. I go over and look on this door, you know there's patterns, you can see fingerprint patterns. And I looked real close, get my fingerprint glass and get up there and look, and I see patterns on this door. And I turn around and there's this guy stan... sitting over in the corner. And I, I tell the detective, I said that handprint is nowhere near the size of this guy here. They'd arrested this guy on a burglary charge. Well, he run a meth lab is what it was. And I said, he's more the size, this old boy here. And I go over and get him, go over there and hold his hand up beside that... and he starts shaking. And I looked at the pattern and it's his pattern.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. So he goes down.

TOMMY WALKER: He go, he went down, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You know, I've heard it said that uh...

TOMMY WALKER: And he said, I'll tell you all about it if you'll promise to get me the death penalty.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And did he?

TOMMY WALKER: He got the death penalty. Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember what he said?

TOMMY WALKER: Do what? Oh, yeah, yeah. He uh , she worked in a store part time and he was going up there and he was trying to get her to sell meth at the store. And uh, he had about

halfway fell in love with her there and he was trying to get her to be his old lady, and uh uh, he had gone over to see her one night and she wouldn't cooperate with him in bed, and uh he just come unglued and stabbed her to death.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Um. Did uh, I've heard it said that you can't beat the polygraph, you can beat the polygraph operator.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Would you agree with that?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, I don't really know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you ever work with Charlie Neel?

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Charlie was, of course, a Ranger but he was also a polygraph operator, wasn't he?

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, he was a polygraph before he made Ranger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Charlie was uh a Ranger in Lufkin.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, yeah I worked some cases with him. In fact, the very first case I worked when I went to Livingston was with Charlie Neel. We went to work he had retired and went to work for a timber company, security for a timber company. And they had lost a big uh forest of timber and he, he come to me and said, let's work t his thing. So we worked it. We, we got the first conviction ever in the state of Texas of stealing trees.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Really? (laughter)

TOMMY WALKER: He got 45 years for stealing trees.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How was it, how was they doing it?

TOMMY WALKER: He, uh, he would just locate him a forest of trees and just go in there and cut them and haul them off. Didn't...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you, did you ever work, did you know Pete Rogers?

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Of course he's retired by the time you got

TOMMY WALKER: Captain..., and he was retired when I went to Houston.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The reason I'm asking, you're a pilot and Pete Rogers was a pilot.

TOMMY WALKER: I didn't know that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, Pete was a fighter pilot in World War II.

TOMMY WALKER: *Really?*

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yep.

TOMMY WALKER: Well, that's what I always had in the back of my mind, you know, that but... my eyes, I didn't have real good eyes when, during that time, growing up. I didn't have real good eyes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, Pete was a fighter pilot in World War II. Tell us about your piloting, how you got into that?

TOMMY WALKER: Well, I also ride motorcycles. And I was out, me and my wife was out in California, riding along on a motorcycle and uh we were, there were two high hills on each side of the highway. Across the highway, in front me, come a little red airplane. And about the time he got to the highway, he turned straight up in the air and just hung it on the prop, straight up. For 3,000 feet.

ROBERT NIEMAN: In a hammerhead.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah. And he, I got out, I cleared the... and looked out into the valley and there was an airshow going on. So, I went... I told my her, I said let's go out to the airshow. So we were going down to Malibu and I was gonna look up uh, uh , oh who's the mayor down there? From Hollywood, uh

ROBERT NIEMAN: Clint East...

TOMMY WALKER: Clint Eastwood. Well, he's the mayor of Malibu and he was the mayor then. I was gonna look him up and go over and talk to him. And, anyway, so we went off out there to this uh, uh airshow, and stayed for two or three hours at the airshow and I got to looking at those, they were home-built airplanes. All homebuilts. And they were prettiest airplanes I'd ever seen. And uh, back on the back side there, there were some airplanes sitting over there and I went over and looked and one of them was for sale for \$2,800. Why, I can buy an airplane for \$2,800. I can afford that. So anyway, I, I told Jo you know, hey I want to get into this and build me an airplane. So I uh,

ROBERT NIEMAN: What were her thoughts, reactions?

TOMMY WALKER: She wanted me to anyway, because I was a speed demon, I love speed, and I was buying these motorcycles that would run a hundred and forty miles and hour and was getting out and running on them... She said, why don't you buy you an airplane? She kept on saying, if you want to go fast, get an airplane. So I did. Uh, come back and bought me an airplane and hired an old boy to fly it home for me and started taking lessons. And learned to fly it. Then I called out to California..

ROBERT NIEMAN: Were you a Ranger at this time?

TOMMY WALKER: Um huh, yeah. I called back out there and I wanted to know what that little red airplane was. And they said, well, it's a GP4. The guys knew what it was and uh, it's a GP4 and uh, he said it's a high altitude, high performance airplane. And that's what I wanted. Boy I wanted one that would run fast as I could get it to run. So, I bought the plans, bought the materials, in 19, 198... 1990 I started building it. And I got it to about 70% built and I decided I might ought to go out and try to see if I could fly it. (laughter) And I can't fly it. It's too fast for me. It's too clean, you know what clean means? Real clean airplane? So I got it sitting out here in a hangar. (laughter) And

ROBERT NIEMAN: Still can't fly it?

TOMMY WALKER: I, I've got about three hours in it and I can fly it, I don't have any problems taking it off and flying it, but making an approach to land it, I can't, I can't uh get it landed. I can't line it up to land it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is it tricycle or is it taildragger?

TOMMY WALKER: It's a tri-gear. It's a retracted, tri-gear, its a B-51 Mustang airfoil and it cruises at 260 with a top speed of 300.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Umph

TOMMY WALKER: And I fly by that airport about 300 miles an hour. I cannot, and you start 50 miles away, at 5,000 feet, he would take me out 50 miles at 5,000 feet and turn it over to me and say OK, make your approach and land. And uh, I never, I would give out, I'd give out trying to make that landing. Because your arms and shoulders, and you're in such a stress trying to get it to do right, and uh, so I'm afraid of it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, when did you retire from the Rangers?

TOMMY WALKER: 1992.

ROBERT NIEMAN: '90 what?

TOMMY WALKER: '92. December 1st, 1992, I think.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you get in, was that, did you get in on the Branch Davidian or was that right after you left.

TOMMY WALKER: Right after I left. I think that happened in February of '93.

ROBERT NIEMAN: '93.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah. I got in, I got out of it. I'm glad.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

TOMMY WALKER: From what I talked, the Rangers that were down there said it was a sewer pit.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. Any other cases you'd like to visit, or any other things you'd like to add?

TOMMY WALKER: No, Not necessarily, not really, no.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Nancy?

NANCY RAY: No, I, I've enjoyed listening.

TOMMY WALKER: OK.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you encourage your children, or discourage them to...

TOMMY WALKER: I tried, I tried to get everyone of them, including the girls, to go to Highway Patrol. They wouldn't have nothing to do with it. Nothing to do with it. I've got grandchildren, I can't get my grandchildren involved in it. I can't even, I just got through spending a week with one my grandkids, 15 years old, and I couldn't even get him interested in

going flying. He wouldn't, he said he didn't care anything about it. So... I just have fun myself.

(laughter)

NANCY RAY: If you were starting all over, would you do, would you have the same career, would you do the same thing?

TOMMY WALKER: Exactly the same thing. Exactly the same thing. I tell you what made me Ranger, I had just got through in May, I'd just got through with my Senior year and I'd just got through with criminal law at uh, Texas University. I'd just got through with criminal law course. And I, I had stopped going to college in May and I took the Ranger exam in June. And uh, I think it was, I think that's the way it was. And uh, when I took the criminal law portion of that Ranger's test, the, the questions were so easy it was unbelievable. You know because I'd just got through passing a law, that I mean I was in a room with lawyers. They were trying to be lawyers and I was sitting in there in a law course with lawyers. And when I took that test, for the Rangers, I bet I made a hundred on it. I don't know what I made but I bet I made a hundred on it.

NANCY RAY: Is there anything you'd like to go back and do differently? Maybe one big thing?

TOMMY WALKER: Um, yeah...

NANCY RAY: What's that?

TOMMY WALKER: I'd still be a Ranger.

NANCY RAY: You wouldn't have retired?

TOMMY WALKER: I wouldn't have retired.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, that'd be my next question. Why did you retire?

TOMMY WALKER: Um, I really don't know. It kind of angers me. Because I'm in good health, I don't take any medicine, I'm 74 years old, and uh I could still be a Ranger. I got out

when,... one of my grandsons uh had a lung collapse and I went and stayed him and went through all the recovery and everything with him, and uh the doctor said I want him to walk at least a mile, twice a day, for, for a week. And we done that for a week and he said OK, I want you to go out and jog, you know get him jogging. And I went out and I was jogging a mile with him for a week and I didn't have any problem at all doing that. I could still be doing that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Let me back up on one...

TOMMY WALKER: But, I was told, there ain't no way that you could exist today, no way.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I think Rangers have changed so much in the way they do things, you could still do the job but you wouldn't like it. But that's a different story. Who else made, one of the questions I forgot to ask you, when you made Ranger, who else made Ranger, if anybody? Who did you make...

TOMMY WALKER: A guy named Autry was on the list, uh, Dan North, Dee Vickers,... out of twelve slots, I made eleven.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So a bunch of ya'll went on together.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah. There were twelve openings... I was told that, that they had over a hundred and eighty applicants. And uh, for those twelve positions. And uh, I was number eleven I believe.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Good as being number one, still made Ranger. (laughter)

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah.

NANCY RAY: Very good. If you were giving advice to a new Ranger, what would you say?

TOMMY WALKER: Uh, I, I don't know. I couldn't, I couldn't give advice to a new one. I'd just say follow me, I'll go show you. I tell you what happened though. George Turner made Ranger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I saw George night before last.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah. Uh, and he was, his first station was Houston. And uh, I was, I was working probably three or four homicides and uh, had another one. And uh, it was over in San Jacinto County. And the Captain knew that I was working, you know I was overloaded with homicides then. I worked a lot of homicides when I was in Livingston. And uh, he uh, he told George, said go up... go up and get with Tommy, and uh you do what he wants you to do. And uh, concentrate on this new homicide that they got. So, George Turner come up and said, what in the world do I do? I said George, I ain't got time to go with you and work this thing. He said, well, what's the first thing that you'd do? I said, first of all, we got him identified, we know who he is, go find the last guy that seen him alive. See if you can start looking for the last guy that seen him alive. I'll do that. So he goes to Houston and, he was living in an apartment complex, and old George goes in the apartment complex. Gets out and says, you know, do you know this guy? And I think he had a picture of him or something. And they said, yeah. We seen him leave with old so-and-so not long ago. Where is he? He hasn't been back. (laughter) And George solved that case. And so, you know, all I can say, is go to the last guy that seen him alive...

NANCY RAY: So, if you, if you wanted some people to say something about you, I mean your career, what would that be? What would you like for people to remember you for, and say about you?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, 180 years from now,

TOMMY WALKER: Kind, and gentle and fragile and dainty and innocent.

ROBERT NIEMAN: OK, now that's the..

NANCY RAY: Now what do you really want? (laughter)

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, somebody is looking at this 180 years from now, what would you want them to remember Tommy Walker for... your legacy.

TOMMY WALKER: He was tough in the courtroom. I loved the courtroom. The moment I got called, I knew I was in a courtroom, already. I would want them to say, he was tough in a courtroom. Because the meanest is not how ruthless or violent you are, it is how you kick their butts in a courtroom. Because that's what the criminals are afraid of. They don't want to go in a courtroom and face you. And I developed a reputation among the defense attorneys, don't ask him nothing. Get him off the stand. The last year I was a Ranger, I went to the stand 26 times as a Ranger, that means I had a lot of... and the next year after I retired, I was in court probably 10 or 15 times. Uh, went to court, last time I was in court was five years ago. Still testifying on, on appeals and things. Got falsely accused of killing somebody.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Falsely accused?

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah, the old boy who falsely accused me, he's dead now. Because he was on death row.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, I, any other things you want to add, Tommy?

TOMMY WALKER: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Nancy?

NANCY RAY: Nope.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Tommy, we appreciate it.

NANCY RAY: Thank you.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ok, we're gonna come back on line here. We're gonna talk about Henry Lee Lucas right quick.

TOMMY WALKER: OK, Henry Lee uh uh, of course he was a suspect and everybody was interviewing him and uh I went to uh Georgetown and interviewed him. And, and uh he, I had a murder that happened in Ames, down close to Liberty, where the filling station, a lady in the filling station was uh shot. And uh, he uh, this was the best case in the state. This was a perfect case on him. Uh, the lady was shot and uh, it was during his uh time here in Texas. So I just out of the clear blue went over and talked to him about it. Sure enough, he confessed to shooting her and he said uh, the gun that he used to shoot her with was in uh New York in uh a property room. He had carried the gun to New York when he got put in jail and they took the uh pistol away from him. Put it in the property room and he said it's probably still in there. So I phoned up there and got the pistol down here and compared it to the bullet in the body and sure enough, the bullet in the body matched the gun. But Liberty County was so poor, and I had worked so many capital murder cases down there, it was breaking the county. It costs a lot of money to do a capital murder case. And I'd worked probably four or five capital murder cases that, in... put them on death row. And, and that's expensive for a county. So the, he'd already been convicted of uh armed..., and so uh the DA there would not try the case. Uh,

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, you know I asked Phil Ryan, who worked that initial case, that you know I think Lucas was to have claimed to have killed about 600 people. Got up to that astronomical... and I asked Phil, if anybody knew it'd be Phil, I said uh how many do you think he really killed? He said, probably around 30.

TOMMY WALKER: He killed another one for me and uh this was uh... that I wasn't involved in the initial... I was called in uh and after the investigations... it was one of these cases that had not gone well for the investigators... and they called me and wanted me to get involved. So I got involved and I, and I wasn't able to uh to solve it. And uh, , so just out of the clear blue, I threw it to him. I said well, found this girl, she's near..., she's behind a log and she's wrapped up in a tarpaulin. And uh I took, showed him the location and everything and he said, I done her. And I said, then you're gonna have to proved to me you done her. Because they were already getting some questions about it you know. And uh, he said, well it's not a tarpaulin, it's a gazebo that covers that motorcycle and it's got paint specks all over it because I used it as a drop cloth painting. And uh so, OK, and of course there's a lot, there's a few more details. So I go back, and go back to the property room and pull it out and sure enough, it's a gazebo that covers the motorcycle and had paint specks all over it. So that's corroboration of his testimony.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, he and Toole, Otis Toole, they killed that doctor's girl over in Harrison County.

TOMMY WALKER: Well, you know, Otis Toole wanted to talk to me. Uh, I had, I had a murder where that it was on a road that the end of that road were some of Otis Toole's kinfolks over close to Huntsville. And uh, I had a murder of a girl that was out in a garden and she was killed while uh on her hands and knees and she was shot right behind the head. And uh so I figured Otis, you know, had done her so I went over and was talking to Otis Toole about her. And uh he didn't uh he didn't confess, he said no, I didn't do her. I said well, you know, who all have you done..., tell me something that you've done. And he gave me a complete confession of killing John Welsh's son in Florida. And told me how he did it and what happened and

ROBERT NIEMAN: America's most wanted.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah. And uh he, he killed him, cut his head off and uh picked him up up close to Sears in a, in a shopping center. And uh the kid got to crying real loud and he was going to go home and have sex with him you know and uh the kid got to crying and he cut his head off and threw it in a canal... and took the boy home and cooked him and eat it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, you know...

TOMMY WALKER: And I sent that report, I wished I hadn't of... I sent that report to the detectives in Florida and never heard one thing from it. But Otis Toole was convicted of a capital murder and was going to be electrocuted in Florida. So Otis Toole was trying to get convicted in Texas of murder and be put to sleep rather than electrocution. Of course he died before his date.

NANCY RAY: Is that T U E L? Ottis Tuel?

ROBERT NIEMAN: O T I S, it's spelled Otis but it's pronounced Ottis.

TOMMY WALKER: I always called him Otis.

NANCY RAY: And his last name would be T U E L?

ROBERT NIEMAN: No, T O O L E.

TOMMY WALKER: Of course he was an absolute homosexual.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh, big time. You know, Stuart Bell told me he killed this guy, or him and uh Lucas killed this old boy over in Louisiana and they, the way Stuart described it there's no question about it. But they never could figure out because the old boy was shot right through the top of the head. And when he was talking to Lucas, he said how did that happen? How'd you shoot him through the top of the head? Well, I (Lucas) made him give me oral sex and while he was doing that I shot him.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah. And that's what ole Otis Toole said. That's right. He, he solved one right outside the city limits... Otis Toole uh, but he didn't kill him there, he just brought the head up there. What he would do is he would take the head with him and keep the head, and he would gratify himself and relive the deal until it got to stinking and then he threw the head away.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, you know, I uh... the closest I've read is that Henry Lee Lucas ever came to why did you kill all these women, and then rape them, is because I cannot get sexual satisfaction from a living person.

TOMMY WALKER: He told me the complete story of how he become an necrophelic. Did you ever hear it?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh uh.

TOMMY WALKER: When, when he was like seven or eight years old, he started having sex, he had a collie dog and the collie dog was female and it came in heat and he'd have sex with the collie dog but when she went out of heat, she wouldn't... him anymore. So he killed her. And so he'd have sex, he got to killing dogs and having sex with them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, you know he killed his mother...

TOMMY WALKER: Then he killed his mother, then he killed his third-grade school teacher

ROBERT NIEMAN: And he killed his girlfriend.

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah. Well, you know they, that girl they killed that uh, that Phil Ryan solved, was uh Otis' sister... cousin

ROBERT NIEMAN: Sister or cousin one.

TOMMY WALKER: Well, uh uh Otis and Lucas were cousins, weren't they?

ROBERT NIEMAN: You know I, I

TOMMY WALKER: I think they were cousins.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But, this, this girl he killed that was running with Lucas... she was related to, I think, Toole, wasn't she?

TOMMY WALKER: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And uh,

TOMMY WALKER: I think she was Toole's sister.

ROBERT NIEMAN: She was just like what, 15 or 16 years old, real young.

TOMMY WALKER: Was she that young?

ROBERT NIEMAN: She was real young, well when she started running with him. I don't remember how old she was when they killed her. But, you know cut her... Lucas cut her up and put her in boxes and carried them off... finally, finally discarded them out in Arizona and he'd killed her right up here in Texas or Oklahoma somewhere up in there, Texas I think.

TOMMY WALKER: Old Stone Fort's where he killed her, I think Phil Ryan told me Old Stone Fort.

ROBERT NIEMAN: May be...

TOMMY WALKER: Just north of Montague.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, it's up in there somewhere. Uh. Anyway, we appreciate it again.

NANCY RAY: Yep.