

Interview with  
**CLETE BUCKALOO**  
Texas Ranger, Retired

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Project: Texas Rangers

Interview Conducted at Mr. Buckaloo's Office  
Kerrville, Texas  
Friday—April 10, 2009

Interviewed By: Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray  
Longview, Texas

Present at Interview: Clete Buckaloo, Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray



## Introduction

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**CLETE BUCKALOO**  
**TEXAS RANGER, RETIRED**

**NANCY RAY:** My name is Nancy Ray and I am visiting with Clete Buckaloo of Kerrville, Texas, on Friday, April 10th, 2009. The purpose of this interview is to discuss Ranger Buckaloo's career as a Texas Ranger. Ranger Buckaloo, do I have your permission to record this interview?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Yes ma'am you do.

**NANCY RAY:** Do you understand that this video will belong to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, Texas?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Yes ma'am.

**NANCY RAY:** And do I have your permission to present copies of this video to various historical organizations such as museums, libraries, schools and once transcribed to place on the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum's website with the restrictions as noted on your release form?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Yes ma'am.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Let's begin with finding out a little bit about you. Where you were born, when and your parents' names?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** OK. My mother and father, my mother's name is Carleen Buckaloo and my father is Hulon Buckaloo. I was raised in, just around... outside of San Antonio, Texas, in a little place called La Coste, Texas. My father spent a career in the Army so we were overseas in different... different times. But he retired from the Army there in San Antonio,

Texas. Taught Army ROTC and so I grew up around a military background and actually my intentions through high school, probably until about my sophomore year from elementary school, junior high was actually to go into the military. And was looking to go to West Point and actually in high school, was had tested and interviewed for West Point. And they were looking to send me to a prep school. And I really didn't want to do that and then about my junior year in high school, I was building a fence for a neighbor and I saw a black and white drive by with two Highway Patrol troopers in it. I was... I was hot and dirty and I looked and I said that I know that in that black and white, there's an air conditioned car and that's an air conditioned vehicle and so from that point on, I focused on becoming a, a trooper with the Department of Public Safety and graduated from high school with nothing but that on my mind. I immediately went into college and within two years, I had my associate's degree which was, which required 60 college hours for DPS but in those two years I had 76 college hours. I was just so focused and I went to a junior college in Uvalde and got my associate's degree and made application to the Department of Public Safety... and still going to college... and was accepted when I was six months into my 20<sup>th</sup> birthday with the Department of Public Safety. And entered recruit school...

**NANCY RAY:** Do you remember the date that you entered?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** I entered the recruit school December 7, 1977, and graduated April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1978. And I was assigned to the Highway Patrol service in George West. I spent about two, a little over two years on Highway Patrol in George West and then I transferred to New Braunfels as a trooper. And in September 1<sup>st</sup>, of 1980, I entered the DPS Narcotics Service in Alpine, Texas. So from September the 1<sup>st</sup> of... on September 1<sup>st</sup> of 1980, I went to Alpine, Texas. And September 1<sup>st</sup> of 1981, I became a DPS Narcotic agent. And I was stationed in El Paso for six

months then came back to Alpine as a DPS Narcotic agent and remained there at Alpine with the Department of Public Safety Narcotics Service until September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1987, when I made the Rangers.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Well let me back up. If you said your birth date, I missed it.

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1957.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. So when you went into the... did you have any other jobs before you went into the Highway Patrol or just high school, college and straight in?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** I had jobs like working in a watermelon patch when I was in high school. Building fence, just... just the labor-intensive type jobs that you would get when... what you would get when you were in high school. But going through college I worked for some various farms and in a service station and so I mean I was just barely past 20 when I, when I was hired for DPS. I was the youngest person in my recruit school out of 150. I was the youngest in, Narcotic agent when I went into the Narcotics Service which I was about 23 and a half probably. And then when I went into the Rangers, September 1<sup>st</sup> of 1987, I was 30 years old which was the youngest Ranger at that time. And the average age in the Rangers that I understand when I went into the Rangers was 42 at that time.

**NANCY RAY:** So you did everything early.

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** So I was ...

**NANCY RAY:** Focused.

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** I really became focused in wanting to become a trooper with the Department of Public Safety. And I remember as a recruit, in the recruit school, the different folks, the trainees were talking where they intended to go with the Department and at that time I

have to honestly say that I had no other focus than to be a trooper. But actually after about two and a half years, I think I was probably one of the first ones to actually... one of the first or second ones to promote out of the Highway Patrol Service. And at that time it was considered a promotion from, from a trooper's position to the Narcotics Service.

**NANCY RAY:** Well let me ask. What about your immediate family? You're married, is that correct?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Married and to Regan Hardin Buckaloo. She is was raised here in Kerrville and we have a daughter, Emma Claire, who is six years old (*he pointed to a picture on his desk*).

**NANCY RAY:** Well my goodness. Love of your life, I can see her...

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Oh, everything is about her.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what about brothers and sisters? Did you have any?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** I have three brothers and a sister. I'm kind of in the middle. I have a younger brother who is a trooper and let's see... and then I have a nephew who is soon to graduate from the Parks and Wildlife Academy and will be a game warden. So my father was military and we, the boys or at least myself and my other brother, chose law enforcement as a career.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Well tell me a little bit about the Academy. What was the hardest part to you... the Highway Patrol Academy?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** At 20 years old, there was nothing hard about that Academy. I, I lived and breathed that Academy. My, I was an athlete growing up. physical fitness has always been a big part of my life even to today. Six days a week I train. so when I was in the Academy, this

one... my grade point average going into the Academy was like 3.8 so school wasn't a problem for me. Like you said earlier, I was focused. The physical fitness part of it I enjoyed. I led it, whatever we were doing I led it just because that's what I... that's what I lived for was physical fitness. And then the school, the classroom part of it so... every minute of it was great. I still feel like I could... I wouldn't want to but for the longest people would talk about how tough that Academy was and they never wanted to experience that again. It was... the school was the best time of my life for those 18 weeks.

**NANCY RAY:** Age might make a difference, huh?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Might make a difference, yes ma'am.

**NANCY RAY:** OK and so your first duty station... then tell me again your first duty station?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** George West.

**NANCY RAY:** George West. Are there any incidents that happened at George West or as a new Highway Patrolman that you want to tell us about?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Oh the only... the experience with George West was the people and the partner I had which was Kasey Konrad King who was also a Texas Ranger. And so sure, I had some incidences down that were, were interesting but not anything like the people or working with Kasey and the things that I learned... I learned from him.

**NANCY RAY:** What did you learn?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Kasey... Kasey King is a man that epitomizes integrity and professionalism and always doing the right thing. And he just... and he also was former military. Like my Dad, had spent time in Vietnam so tremendous respect from the community. The community just had so much respect for him because of those things, because of his integrity and

his professionalism. And because Kasey King was gonna do the right thing. And I saw real quick how... how important that was. I mean he epitomized everything that I knew growing up and learning from my father and what I wanted to do in... and succeed in life. And Kasey King, he represented all those things to me. And then, then the fact that he became a Texas Ranger also later on... and I knew that's where he wanted, that's what he wanted to do. And I at the time hadn't even really thought about it. But we had lunch a lot of times with a Ranger, Glenn Krueger, from Beeville and I can't say enough about Kasey King.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, it's captured forever. Quite a tribute to Kasey King, that's good. OK and then from there you went into the Narcotics, is that correct?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** I went out to Alpine, Texas, as a trooper assigned to the Narcotics Service. But during that period of time, the troopers were assigned to the Narcotics Service strictly to the Narcotics Service for the purposes of having uniformed persons on the border that worked nothing but the smuggling of narcotics from the border in the Big Bend area or wherever in West Texas we were... to provide assistance to those Narcotic agents as uniformed personnel in search warrants and other things. But real quickly, that did... when I was in that position, it turned from being in uniform in a black and white to more of a, of a Narcotic agent's role in that I belonged... I was part of a unit that at that time air smuggling in West Texas with Mexico being the source country for the smuggling of marijuana into the US. Aircraft were being utilized by the smuggling organizations to smuggle marijuana into the United States on clandestine air strips or Farm-to-Market roads that were very lightly traveled. West Texas space... areas out there that are real popular... Horsehead Crossing, which is a historical area on the Pecos River, where the Comanches would cross on their way from the raids here in Texas back south to

Mexico. This particular place on the Pecos River, it was called Horsehead Crossing, also known to the air smugglers as West Texas International. So we would stake these places out based on information or based on just the fact that we would, we would go to these locations and see that they were being used by smugglers. And when I say used, there were always signs from airplanes touching down on the highways... fuseses that they would use to light up the roadway or the, the clandestine strip. A lot of times they might remove something from the airplane like the seats and things like that that we might find. So basically, there were four of us, five... four to five of us that that's what we did. We would go out and spend our time just in a covert position and observed these air strips for... Well, Horsehead Crossing, 21 days and we never came off that strip. We were taken into that strip... that air strip there at Horsehead Crossing. And we just, we laid up in the brush and spent 21 days there. And we weren't successful because we had not anticipated the aircraft coming in during the daytime and it came in during the daytime, loaded, and saw our activity on the ground and flew out. Though we were successful in 1981 and actually it was, from my understanding, the first time that a ground crew from an air... in an aircraft... the ground crew was captured, the airplane was captured. We had 800 and something pounds of marijuana seized. The pilot, who I tried to capture, ran from me and ran through the prop and was decapitated. My partner shot, they had an individual that was standing security... this occurred outside of Orla, Texas. And they'd come in on a full moonlit night. This airplane, in an effort to offload marijuana, had flown out of Ojinaga, Mexico. They flew into this clandestine road. I say clandestine, it was a Farm-Market road west of Orla.

**NANCY RAY:** And what is that town's name?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Orla, Texas... Its north of Pecos between Pecos and Carlsbad, New Mexico, a little bitty place. And they had come in there and, and started to offload. And we were doing surveillance on this particular stretch of roadway. And the reason we were is because a week prior to that, myself and my partner, had driven out to this area to look at it after having received information from a couple of Texas Rangers. Specifically Clayton McKinney who was stationed in Alpine, Texas, who had interviewed an individual in the penitentiary in New Mexico that stated he was part of the Pablo Acosta smuggling organization. And that they were using this particular stretch of highway, Farm Road 652 west of Orla, to smuggle loads, aircraft loads of marijuana from Mexico into the US... land on this particular roadway and offload. He wasn't exactly sure where they were doing it just that he knew that... that area. So we just, myself and my partner, drove and we started driving. We just drove to Orla and started driving west on Farm Road 652. And as we were driving, I saw a, a... what was a burlap sack. And working the border with Mexico and stopping vehicles, I knew that flour and sugar and things like that were brought from Mexico in these... they were like a plastic type burlap-looking sack. And I saw one hanging on the fence line on barb wire. And I told my partner, hey Charlie, hold up here... let me out. So he stopped and I walked over there and it was just a portion of that burlap bag. And I took it off the, the fence, the barb wire and there were buds of marijuana in there. So we agreed that this would be the place that we needed to conduct our surveillance. And the fences... but there were no power lines. The roads were just straight and long and no obstructions and we... it was a perfect place to land an airplane. We knew from the Ranger's interview of this individual in the New Mexico State Penitentiary that they liked the full moonlit nights. They liked to fly on the full moonlit nights because the airplane would be blacked out and they out, they would use

landmarks in West Texas from when they came across it at Presidio. Flew north to Marfa on to Fort Davis and you had all these... towns were guides on their roadmap from the air. The, the power lines, the transmission... the power lines that set on the mountains and all for communications and such. And so, anyway... we set up there on that. And what we did, was we had a camp away from there that we camped during the daytime away from our surveillance area. But once it became dark, we would go into that area. And we set up, we started setting on it on a Sunday night. Well on a Thursday night, it had become really cold because it was in January. We had... there were four of us and we were taking turns of actually setting up on the highway. And in this particular area, the railroad crossed the highway so there was a big switchbox so we would just set on the switchbox and just monitor the traffic. And there was not any traffic. There was not any traffic, hardly at all. And I had just left up there and it was about 11 o'clock at night and my partner that had taken my place said we're getting some... there's some traffic up here on the highway. So myself and Charlie Denning, who was out there with us...

**NANCY RAY:** And what was that last name?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Denning. He's now deceased. But he and... myself and Charlie, we walked up to the fence line and we met the other individual, Glenn Deason was his name. And he said... he pointed and he said there's a vehicle over there. And actually, there's a picture of that up here on the wall. That vehicle was what we had seen. And it was, it was parked... it was a little road that went to a gas plant and it had pulled off of Farm Road 652 and positioned itself just onto this road up to the gas... some gas company had a building up there or something. And then the next thing we know, is another vehicle drives by with its lights off and its got a U-Haul,

pulling a U-Haul and it goes over the hill. Well here in a little bit, we see this... well then what we decided to do, let's work our way through the brush. We were positioned directly across from that box van. So and if I'm getting long, just tell me.

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

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** so as the... we moved ourselves and we positioned ourselves directly across from this box van. And all of a sudden, there was this huge fire and what, there was a huge right here, fire back behind the airplane and there was an individual that was talking on a handheld radio. And this huge fire... and I remember us being in the brush and we were lit up but he, you know he never saw us. But he starts talking on this radio and so the next thing I know is I hear an airplane. And I look up and I see this airplane and it's blacked out. And this individual continues to talk on this radio. Well then on the other end, opposite from where this van was, there was another fire. The airplane... I remember it going over us and you could almost take a rock and hit it and it was blacked out. And it went over us, down the highway and came back down the highway on the opposite side and then it touched down on the, down the roadway. And it started taxiing up to where this van was located and this individual talking. And the airplane turned around and faced the direction it had come in and all of a sudden they just started... people back and forth from the airplane. Well myself and Charlie Denning, we went down... The plan was Charlie and I would go down the fence line. Cross the fence line and come up behind the airplane as they were offloading. And we had one individual, well Glenn, was in the brush covering us. And we all obviously were... It's one of those situations that if you knew that was going to happen, you'd have an entire army out there but you know we just happened to be lucky that they decided to come out there while we were there. And as we're coming up the

roadway, and I remember that fire still burning. And I was... Charlie was on the left and I was on the right where they were offloading from the right side of the airplane to the box van. And I remember thinking that as we came up... I can't believe they haven't seen us. And so Charlie said "You go to the right, Clete, and I'll go to the left." Well Charlie went to the left of the airplane and I went to the right. Now I didn't realize at that time that they had had a security, or gun man, that who had gotten out of the airplane, walked to the front of the airplane. He had an AR-15 with 30-round clip and he had another 30-round magazine in his pants. And I came around the tail section of the airplane and there were two individuals moving back and forth. One of them ended up being the pilot and the other one was the individual driving the load vehicle. And I got right in front of the wing, or the tail section of that airplane before the pilot, ended up being the pilot... he was a Mexican national. He was a pilot for the smuggling organization. He looked over at me and he looked again and realized that I'm not... this guy's not part... And so he took off and he tried to get into the airplane but he was flying it from the lefthand side. He slammed the door and he took off and when he did, he ran through the prop which decapitated him. And I'm yelling *police* and the other guy that's in the front... he starts firing off some rounds. Charlie ended up shooting him dead center in the chest... took him down. So anyway, we ended up getting a stolen airplane, 800 pounds of marijuana, a couple of the... the driver and I ended up dragging a guy out of the airplane after the prop stopped and the shooting and hollering and he continued to... he had the marijuana stacked in the back of this 210 and he continued... I opened the door of the airplane to check and make sure that nothing, there wasn't anyone else in the airplane, and as I opened the door, he's still working just feverishly to remove these bundles of marijuana from the back of the airplane and stacking them up where they would

come and remove them. And I remember I put my rifle in the back of his neck and drug him out and put him on the ground and then I walked forward to... and when I saw the pilot and the other guy that was shot, I went forward to help him and we had another agent who was in the brush covering, with our vehicles. And he was coming up in the vehicle... and I was using his headlights to look out in front of the airplane... and I didn't search this little guy I'd taken out of the airplane. And he was coming up off of, from the prone position and had a little .32 in the back and he was pulling that .32... and my back was to him. And the other, the agent's name was Jim Deal (sp?) and I wasn't paying any attention to it. And Jim came up behind him and he said... I heard him hit his brakes and come to a sliding halt but still I knew he was behind me so I wasn't... And he said the guy had come up off the ground and was starting that pistol at my back when Jim Deal (sp?) wrestled... Hit him in the back of the head with the butt of his shotgun and took him to the ground and wrestled the pistol away and I had no idea none of that happened. But that, but that was the first time that I'm told that law enforcement had actually got the ground crew, the airplane, the road and everything. But what... that particular... I was 23 years old probably and I... the thing with that story is that I grew up respecting law enforcement. I grew up from high school wanting to be in law enforcement and I always knew that when you yelled... when someone said *police, police*, everything stopped. I knew that night that this... that didn't mean... just because I was wearing a badge and I was yelling *police* that people were gonna... These people continued to, to operate and actually they would have.... The pilot was carrying .45 but he left it in the airplane on the side he was flying. And there's no doubt in my mind... I went in there thinking that night that when all this was going down, we'll be able to take them down, yell *police*. Of course we were armed to the teeth but these guys were ready to

do battle. And they ended up, it ended up being a pretty interesting deal and it was Pablo Acosta's smuggling organization who... who ran all the smuggling from just below Del Rio all the way back up to Fabens near El Paso and the state of Chihuahua. For the most part of the state of Chihuahua, he was the drug kingpin. And this was his... what's interesting about that is sometime later, myself and the Texas Ranger in Alpine, Clayton McKinney, went into to Mexico and met Pablo Acosta as part of another long investigation. But he knew who I was. And while he was sitting to myself and Clayton, the Ranger, and just outside of Ojinaga, Mexico, in Mexico, he looked at... he looked at me and... what he was answering the question, the question he was answering... the reason we were there was because in the US Pablo Acosta was giving what... American law enforcement was accusing him of killing a young boy down below Presidio near Redford. Someone had pulled up alongside and shot and killed this young boy in the back of a pickup truck. And the papers in Mexico and the US were accusing Pablo and his organization of doing that. So Pablo had asked for a meeting with the Texas Ranger, Clayton McKinney. And I went with Clayton McKinney to meet Pablo Acosta in Mexico on a Sunday afternoon. And Pablo Acosta is, he's an American fugitive from the DEA. He's this big smuggler cartel kingpin and all American law enforcement wanted him, the FBI, DEA, everyone. And here we were meeting with him and he was looking at Clayton McKinney and I and he said, in response to what he was being accused of... he told Clayton, and looking at us, he said I don't kill small children. But if a man tries to kill me and I kill him first, then I should feel proud. But I don't kill small children. And he looked and he pointed at me and he says, I know you, I know who you are, and I know what you do. And if you catch me on your side of the river smuggling marijuana, then I should go to jail. But over here, I run everything. And there was actually a

book called The Drug Lord written by Terrence Poppa who... who describes that meeting that Clayton and I had because he interviewed Pablo Acosta years later. And an interesting thing about Pablo Acosta, who again who all American law enforcement was after, he... those words there but over here, speaking in Mexico, I run everything... He said that one too many times in interviews to Terrence Poppa and actually the Mexican government finally took offense to that and they removed him as the kingpin there on the border in Presidio and shot and killed him. But anyway, that was something. That was an effort with the Rangers. It started with the Texas Rangers with Clayton McKinney, that information. It culminated in that investigation and those were the kinds of things that working as a... as a Narcotic agent or as a trooper that I never really, I was not one of those folks that said I want to be a Texas Ranger. That's what I live... my desire to become a Texas Ranger came from working with Texas Rangers like Clayton McKinney, Joe Coleman, Bob Favor, knowing Kasey King was in the Rangers at that time... the type of men that they were... the things that they were doing. There were many times when Clayton McKinney and I, he as a Texas Ranger and I as a state Narcotic agent flew into Mexico in his aircraft. He was a pilot. Clayton is dead but I, whenever I talk about Rangers, I talk about Clayton McKinney because everyone has a mentor, Someone that they respect, someone... Clayton was that. this guy... he flew into Mexico. He and I flew into Mexico. We documented airstrips that the smugglers were using. we interviewed people who were part of smuggling organizations. Here's a Texas Ranger that, in it that... he flew into Mexico with his brother. Clayton had information as a Texas Ranger where the Mexicans, smugglers, were storing their aircraft that they had stolen here in the US. He flew into Mexico with his brother. His brother put him on the airstrip. He flew those stolen airplanes out of Mexico right under the nose of those

smugglers. That's... that's a fact. That's documented. He had done that several times and he, he had actually... he had the permission from the Director of the Department but there were just some issues that, with insurance companies and all that about how this could take... No one could, I mean no one could believe that somebody was capable of doing that. This Texas Ranger, Clayton McKinney, was. Not only that, I remember being in the Alpine office when James Michener came in and he was writing the book Texas. In the back... on the back of that book, and there was a time when I could tell you the exact page. But in his book Texas, James Michener writes of a character who is a, a Texas Ranger and a former, he kind of puts it as a former UT football player, Texas Ranger, who goes into Mexico and steals these aircraft. And he based that on his interview with Clayton McKinney. And the, the pilot, this Ranger's name is Clete. And so he... and Clayton entered... so he kind of took Clayton's character and he took my name and he made this character about other things that Clayton actually did. And again, Clayton is deceased but yeah, he's... those things that he did and what he represented, just like Kasey King, gave me the inspiration and the focus to join the Texas Rangers.

**NANCY RAY:** Well I was gonna ask who had a big influence on you and I think you've just answered that question. That's great.

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Without a doubt.

**NANCY RAY:** Well was marijuana the primary drug or were there other drugs at that time?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** At that particular time, it was marijuana. But what... what was taking place is what you have today. And that is the Columbians, the Columbians were started to hook up with the Mexican traffickers with the cocaine. So what brought Pablo down was, at that particular time when that meeting and all that took place, marijuana was the primary thing being

smuggled. But the Columbians then hooked up because they were receiving a lot of... there were a lot of focus in law enforcement on the Caribbean and Florida and all to where they were smuggling in the cocaine. Well then they hooked up with the Mexican traffickers who already had routes that were established. Because these routes... it's just like we would go down on a river and we would try to lay in on crossings where we knew the Mexicans were using horseback and smuggling marijuana. You could go down there and try to set but they knew when you got there and they knew when you left. And they just had, I mean... but they were smuggling marijuana but before then, their ancestors were smuggling that candelaria wax. They were smuggling whiskey during prohibition. So they... they were established and that's what they did. They smuggled. They would load those pack trains up, their horses or their mules, and they'd come across late at night. They'd follow those little old creeks, arroyos, and go to a predetermined place. Offload their bundles of marijuana to the load vehicles and then lots of times they would just turn those horses and those mules loose. They'd made that trip so much for so long they'd just head back across the river without even, without even someone having to guide them. They'd just made that trip so many times. But what, but that, in the early '80s, that's ... the cocaine routes... the cocaine... and the Mexicans and the Columbians teamed up together and what really was the demise of this Pablo Acosta was the fact that he started... we made some seizures and we talked and debriefed the individuals. They talked about meeting with Pablo Acosta and how he would smoke marijuana laced with cocaine you know one after the other. So he kind of became... he became more bold with that and turning to that. But when Clayton McKinney and I met him, clean shaven, clean haircut, very dressed, very coherent, very much in control and to where he... I saw a picture of him that was after his death when the Mexican

Federales or the Mexican federal officers shot and killed him down I want to say around Santa Elena. And he was totally, totally different. But... but nowadays you hear about what's going on in Mexico with the cartels and with the, the killings and back in the '80s when I was in Narcotics and I was working the border and... it was a cat and mouse game. It was a cat and mouse game. You knew that the Mexican traffickers, they were not going to confront you if they didn't have to. The load vehicles, those folks, they weren't going to confront you. It was a business. They were smuggling trying to beat American law enforcement and take those drugs to the consumer in the United States. They didn't want any problem in doing that. They, like Pablo Acosta told me, I know who you are, I know what you do, and I respect you for what you do because he knows you're American law enforcement and you're doing your job. Nowadays, that cat and mouse and that respect is not, is not there. It's a total different type of trafficker. The people that were with Pablo that particular day when we met, I counted at one time and there were twelve people that were there surrounding us with him. And he saw me counting those folks. And... well he saw me looking and he looked at me and he said I know what you're doing. And he says you're a guest in my country and they're here to make sure that you're safe while you're here in my country. And the traffickers nowadays... number one the American law enforcement doesn't meet with an active member of the *unknown Spanish name* drug cartel. This was Pablo, again Pablo Acosta's smuggling organization was known to the FBI, known to the DEA... it was a major... but that's the way he did it. And he was kind of a Robin Hood down there in the Presidio area, Ojinaga area. He took care of those folks, the people in those small villages when they needed medical help or needed food. What, what a trafficker like Pablo Acosta does nowadays in those cartels, they extort everyone in the community down to the individual

doing... the boy doing shoeshines on the plaza. So they're totally, totally different kind of trafficker. They're young, they're ruthless, they have no hope and they'll kill you at the drop of a dime versus in the early '80s with Pablo Acosta... I know you are. I know what you do. I respect you. That's the difference. That's the difference.

**NANCY RAY:** How do you fight that today?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** They're doing I mean everything thing they possibly can do. You know the Mexican government fortunately... they have a president, President Calderon, who is serious and intense in trying to do his best in what he can to help his country survive. What American law enforcement will say is the number one, the number one... problem or issue facing American law enforcement are the Mexican drug cartels. And... but I'm assuming in cooperation with the United States can provide them through Meridia Initiative and what his government is doing that they... It's just like Columbia. Columbia was... they were killing the... the Metadine cartel was killing officials of the Columbian government. They were taking... they had paramilitaries that they would bring to power to enforce their rule. Columbia overcame it, it took years, and I believe Mexico will do the same it's just going to take a while. And I know... I know that the Mexican... Mexican government firsthand through some associates that are closely connected to such as... I've been around President Fox, former President Fox, since he's retired or since he's left office. And I know that's a concern for the Mexican government but I know that they're gonna do something... I fell like they'll be successful.

**NANCY RAY:** Well these trips to Mexico. Did you ever fear for your life or get in any scrapes of any kind?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** No. I remember another time when I was in El Paso. We, the... we went across and worked with the Mexican government, Mexican federal officials there, because I remember the Juarez treasurer had run off after stealing millions of dollars from the city of Juarez, or at least that is what I was told. And we helped them. They came into El Paso looking because the treasurer had fled into El Paso. And so we took some of the Mexican federal officers through El Paso and to various nightclubs and spots that he liked to frequent looking for him. And then I remember, we picked them up at the border and they got in our vehicle. And then I remember taking them back into Mexico in our vehicle. And I remember I had a couple of them in the vehicle with me and now we're in Mexico and we're actually going to different places in Mexico... girlfriends and friends' house, and I'm with these Mexican officials. And I'm thinking... I did what I needed to do in El Paso. I've brought them back to their, to their station because we brought them back to their station. But when we took them back to the station, we ended up leaving and still going out with these guys. And it was myself and a couple other DPS Narcotic agents. This is probably the first of being told but it's been 30 years at least, 25 years plus anyway. and I remember talking to one of these Mexican officers and, while we were doing surveillance in Juarez. And I asked him, I said... he spoke English. I said... talking about money that they make. And I said how do you, what kind of money do you make. He said I make \$250 a month and anything above that I have to make on my own. Well I knew how, I knew the corruption that was within the law enforcement even at that time so he didn't have to tell me what he meant by that. I knew that whatever manner that he makes. But the time that Clayton and I went across... so I was with those Mexican police officers, so I wasn't fearful for that. The time that I was with Clayton meeting with Pablo Acosta... what was interesting... during that

meeting, it was myself, Pablo Acosta, and two of his gunmen. And they were carrying long rifles. They... and we're standing there and sitting... standing and kneeling, talking to Pablo Acosta. And I look. We're out of Ojinaga on a dirt road. There's not any houses or anything. We're in the open. And we're just pulled off this dirt road and I look... and... and we're on the top of a hill so I can't see anything coming up that hill but I hear a vehicle coming. And I see this police vehicle coming down this dirt road. Now I got a little nervous at that time because myself and Clayton McKinney, the Ranger, are in Mexico meeting with Pablo Acosta... this bad guy. And that police car... and I'm about to have to answer to these police officers why this gringo is in Mexico meeting with this, with Pablo Acosta. And so I'm sitting... and I'm standing there looking at Pablo and I'm looking at this police car coming up and there are two policemen in it. And we are literally three feet off this road and both vehicles are off. Now what did happen was the one gente that Pablo had that was carrying a long rifle, he did take his rifle and lay it over in the bed of the pickup truck that Pablo Acosta had arrived in. And the police car's coming up and I'm just kind of... looking at, focused on that driver, that police officer that's driving. And I noticed he's got his hands locked on that steering wheel at ten and two. And he is looking down that road and he doesn't even divert his eye one second to what's going on. And I look and finally it dawns on me, these guys are not gonna stop. They're not gonna do anything... they kept driving. They drove right past us because they knew who this was and they knew what was going on. And that was a little scary. But then when we're leaving, Clayton is driving, and as we're leaving... when we're, when we're going out there to meet Pablo the last... toward the end of the town there's a little beer joint. And outside this beer joint are all these Ford Broncos and vehicles that I knew that, I know that they like to steal in the US and the smugglers like. And

there were all these young, nice dressed males standing outside that beer joint as we're going by. And the pickup truck that Pablo arrives in is parked at that... when we went by was parked at that. So I knew that that beer joint was associated with Pablo with all those males out there, nice dressed, all those vehicles that I knew were... were the type of vehicles smugglers like. So now we go and we finish up with Pablo and we're going back out. And Clayton's not really sure about how we're, where we need to go to get back to the port of entry. So as we're driving past that beer joint, he says... he kind of drives past, a little way past it and he says you know what, I'll just stop and we'll ask these boys back here at this... and Clayton spoke really good Spanish too. He was born and raised in the Big Bend down there. So he says let's stop and ask them. I said Clayton, are you crazy? That's Pablo's gunmen. I said you stop, they're gonna think we're trying to... ah no he... he always called me Cletis. He said ah no, Cletis, don't worry about it. So he puts it in park and he starts to back up... well every gente that is in that beer joint and those that are standing... they come out. And Clayton backs up, rolls his window down and there's one young Mexican male steps forward and he's got a couple others trailing behind him. And Clayton goes to asking him about how to get back and I'm sitting over thinking... gosh dang, we could have just driven (*laughter*) until we found the port of entry and gone across. You know man, don't ask these guys. They're gonna think we're checking... so anyway, he told Clayton where we were going and he said thank you and we're driving off and I'm sitting over there sweating bullets and he's just laughing (*laughter*). He goes what's wrong? I said gosh dang, Clayton, you know... because they went, when we started backing up, the ones that were standing outside went to their vehicles, opened their doors... I know what they were going for... they were going for their guns. We didn't see any but I knew... everybody else... Pablo was

carrying a gun. His pistoleros that came with him were carrying long rifles. I knew these guys were part of his organization. Some of them started going for their vehicles like you know to make sure that they had access to them. Then the leader kind of stepped forward and we're... I'm just you know, Clayton, we could have figured our way out of here but he's... I think he, I think he probably knew... I think he did that as much out of fun to shake them up and to shake me up and he did it on both sides. And he was the one that was laughing... he was the one that was laughing. *(laugher)*

**NANCY RAY:** Quite a guy.

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** And then we got back across the river really well. And what was the end of all that is, is I know that Pablo Acosta, he started working some with Clayton on some, on some things that were happening in Mexico and provided him with some information. Because I remember there in the Alpine office... picking up the telephone and it being the Mexican operator looking for Texas Ranger Clayton McKinney. And Clayton was in the other office and I heard him say hello Pablo so I knew that they... that they... and then later on, Pablo had actually sent a an individual to find me and wanted me to come back into Mexico to meet with him and I had a a supervisor who at the time wanted to go. And then the intermediary that Pablo sent was meeting and the supervisor was saying I'm going to. And the intermediary said, are you crazy? Pablo knows Clete. If I bring anyone else, you know you're gonna get us all killed. Well that's fine but I'm going too. And it just was a standoff between these two folks and it, it never happened. But, but it could have been... you know basically what Pablo was wanting to do at that point was to give up some of his competition and, and all. So... yeah, he was in the headlines of the papers in Mexico and he was in a constant shootout with other, with rivals who

tried to come in and take... He was quite a character but there's a book written on that and... anyway I digressed into that but those were the things that again pushed me into...

**NANCY RAY:** Um mmm. Well did... did you do undercover work in Narcotics?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Oh yes ma'am, I did. Yeah I did a lot of undercover. Even though being in Alpine, I would go into other communities on, where informants were given to me by the local law enforcement. I remember... I spent... I spent three and a half days in jail in Rankin, Texas, in an effort to work in that community in an undercover role. And the, the sheriff and the Highway Patrolman had always tried to get a DPS Narcotic agent to work undercover in there and I would tell them, until you get an informant, we just can't come in there and lay around in the beer joints. And I remember on a Saturday night in Alpine, I got a phone call from a trooper, Bobby Bowlin, and he said Clete, can you come to Rankin and let us put you in our jail... that the biggest dope dealer we have in Rankin is in jail and he's a trustee. If you will come up here and if you could do that, we think that you could be successful after spending some time and... And so I did. I drove to McCamey, Texas, on a Saturday night. Was put in the back of an Upton County patrol car, handcuffed, booked into the jail in Rankin for DWI and possession of marijuana. On a Saturday night, I went into the jail there and it was one of those old-time cages. It was a cage in the middle, in an open room. And they put me in there that night and I acted the part... yelled and made a bunch of noise so the other inmates would know about me. And so then the next morning, this individual that they wanted me to get close to who was in custody there, he was their trustee. He served breakfast, so he brought me breakfast. And I remember him telling me... man you made a lot of noise coming in here last night. Well I'm trying to play this part and all that. And he asked me what I was arrested for. And I said well possession of

marijuana... putting out that drug connection there. And so he left and I ate his bologna sandwich and his eggs and in a little bit, up in the morning close to lunch time, the sheriff, his name is Sid Rankin. Slim... no Sid... I can't think of Sid's last name. Anyway, the old sheriff came in and he said how's it going? And I said it ain't going worth a dang, Sheriff. And he said what's wrong? I said well you got me in here and I said everybody that I need to be close to is over on the other side of the jail. And I need to be in there with them. He goes... and I said the only time I see this guy is when he brings me breakfast and I'm assuming lunch. He said I'll take care of it. So here in a little bit they came up and they put me over in the kitchen with this guy making lunch. So that's Sunday. So Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, I'm in that jail reading, playing dominoes, making lunch and breakfast, and I'm talking... putting my spiel down to this guy. And finally, Wednesday morning, they came up and, the sheriff came up. And I said OK, you've gotta get me out of here (*laughter*). I've had enough of this. So anyway, he let... they got me out like on a bond and all and from there I gave this individual my name and number and...(*short pause to change discs*)

**NANCY RAY:** OK, we're back and you were about to tell us what happened after you were released on bond.

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Well I got out, as far as the bad guys knew, on bond and the guy had my telephone number and all in Alpine that I had met in the jail... and the whole purpose of me being there. So it wasn't too much longer after he got out of jail that I got a phone call from him. And he told me that he, that he had... and I'd put a... a *rib* as we call it... which is my story. And that I was from a wealthy ranching family in Alpine, had lots of money and was always looking for a drug connect. So he called me after he got out of jail. And I drove to Rankin and

met him one... he gave me the directions for when and where. I drove to Rankin and I met him. And I went into a trailer house and I remember it was this bad guy that I had met in jail and the guy that he introduced me to and I was gonna buy... I did, I bought a couple of pounds of marijuana. And we were sitting in a trailer house. And we're sitting in the kitchen of this trailer house and up on the hill is the jail and the courthouse. And I remember as I'm paying for this marijuana from these two guys, they start laughing and talking about how we're doing this drug deal just down from the jail. And they didn't realize... they were laughing but they were gonna end up back in that jail. But as a result of that, those days that I spent in the jail, I had... in an undercover role, I had 15 defendants that this guy took me to in and around McCamey, Rankin, and on one case up to Odessa where he took me up there and I bought some drugs. The thing that, about this is the sheriff, Sid Langford was his name... the sheriff was so happy that I was in McCamey and Rankin, Upton County, working undercover, that he went out and took a loan from the bank to support my undercover role because we used state funds to purchase evidence. But he wanted me to go as long as I could so he took a \$1,500 loan to support my undercover... his personal loan, his personal money. And so I had been in McCamey and I had bought several pounds of marijuana from a girl who was the wife of this first defendant that I met and bought... below the jail and we're all laughing. Well his wife was actually the source for this marijuana so he introduced me to her in McCamey. And I bought a couple of pounds of marijuana from her. Now while I'm working undercover, there... I know that there's an individual in McCamey who was a farmer and his name I can't recall... but was a known smuggler and had stated that he was tired of trying to make a living doing it right. And he got into the smuggling of marijuana out of Presidio. He was the source for this marijuana. So when I bought this marijuana from this young

girl at her home in McCamey, she also managed the western wear store there in McCamey. And I had ordered up enough marijuana... they had been seeing me enough and I'd... they'd made enough cases down there and no one had gone to jail so they knew I was cool. Especially the fact that how I was met... I was met in the jail. You can't get a better story than that. Where'd you meet this guy? Well I met him while I was in jail... what cop is gonna go to jail and spend three days in jail. But the... after I talked with her and I'd ordered up enough marijuana that I knew, was hoping would bring her source out which I knew was this guy, this farmer. So I left her house. It was... I left that house. It was late at night... 9:30... 10 o'clock. But I had a prearranged meeting with Bobby Bowlin, the trooper, and the chief deputy, Chuck Renfro. They were going to give me the money that the sheriff had... was going to provide. So I met them on the way out of town, out on an oilfield lease road and we talked. And it was probably 11... 11:30... we talked and Chuck gave me that money. Within two hours that... Chuck Renfro was shot and killed by the same, by this source for this marijuana. And Chuck had given me the money from the sheriff and I left going back to Alpine after working, having purchased that marijuana from this girl and she telling me that... was gonna make the introduction to this guy. And, and I knew who he was, she didn't have to tell me. I knew who he was. Well Chuck had left me. Bobby had gone on home. And there in McCamey, there at the hardware store, I guess they had an alarm system and the alarm went off. And Chuck answered the alarm at that... that hardware store. And the owner is my understanding, showed up and provided the key to Chuck to enter the hardware store. Well Chuck didn't know that this man and his son had gone through the roof and come into the store and they were there to steal guns. And they had all the guns in an area and Chuck came in and he turns, is my understanding... and he turned down an aisle and

when he did, they shotgunned him and murdered him. And it was a big manhunt and the Rangers were involved and they... this individual and his son, they fled in a vehicle with these guns. They found, they're found on the Pecos River during the manhunt where he had abandoned his vehicle and they found where they had uncovered some boxes that apparently contained guns. And there was a big manhunt on with the Rangers and aircraft and local law enforcement. And he ended up... his vehicle broke down and his son was with him and his vehicle broke down... he walked into a gas plant somewhere around Bakersfield or Iraan and the the pumper that they commandeered... the small gas plant from a kid who was in there working... and I guess it was the pumper or another man who was at the plant with him walked into the pumphouse and realized something was wrong and he's carrying a gun because law enforcement... I believe it was a shotgun. Because law enforcement had made them aware, everyone aware about this big manhunt and this death... they were looking for these people... they were on the ground. And when he walked in he knew something was wrong and if I understand correctly, this bad guy he had taken a gun away from this kid that was in that house, that pumper... pumping house, and he showed himself and the pumper shot and killed him. And his son then ran out and, and the pumper shot him in the face and he survived and was tried and went to the penitentiary... He was, I understand, blinded by that gunshot. But anyway, so after that, again... I pretty much was intent on becoming a Texas Ranger and started studying and testing for the Ranger Service.

**NANCY RAY:** And you became a Ranger September 1<sup>st</sup>...

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** 1987.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Who else made Ranger with you?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** when I made... Tommy Ratliff who is now the sheriff in Hayes County, Joe Sanders who ya'll have talked with, and myself. And there may have been one more, Johnny Allen, who was a Ranger in Del Rio.

**NANCY RAY:** All right...

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** We... all four of us I believe made it at the same time.

**NANCY RAY:** OK and so your first duty station...

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Midland. My captain was Gene Powell, my lieutenant was Bob Favor and I remember when I was a Narcotic agent in Alpine having to drive to Midland/Odessa looking at all that area and say how in the world could anyone live here? But those were six great years of working out of that Midland office in the Midland and Odessa area because those people are absolutely some of the best people you'll find in the world. And coming in there as a young Narcotic agent... had the narcotic experience working informants, working undercover, it... it helped me a whole lot because I had something to offer. I knew how to draw search warrants. I had tested... during that period of time, the Narcotic agents were not... just overly welcomed or wanted in the Ranger Service. There just wasn't... it was something new and there were a few Narcotic agents before me but those Rangers during that period of time, they didn't quite like... some of them didn't think a whole lot about informants. They didn't think a whole lot about Narcotic agents and what... the kind of work. But then there were a lot of them that did. Fortunately in Midland, where I went, they were... they welcomed me and the local law enforcement worked with really well.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. What kind of cases did you have? Do you remember your first case as a Ranger?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** ... no not really. In Midland, what I eventually ended up doing in... I worked homicides a lot for the city of Odessa. Odessa had a lot of homicides, a lot of unsolved homicides from the oil boom when you had people getting out of the penitentiary one day and showing up in Odessa the next day as roughnecks. Had a lot of women who were murdered who were prostitutes and things like that. And a lot of times, these were ex-cons that were, were accused, arrested, and convicted of those. So I worked a lot of those with, with Odessa Sheriff's Office and Odessa PD. Midland/Odessa...you can't help but work that area and not work a lot of white collar in the oilfield. So I worked a lot of white collar. I worked... just whatever came down.

**NANCY RAY:** Now what kind of white collar crimes did you have?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Fraud and things like that in the in the oil patch where someone might have... made someone believe that they had a lease and they were looking for investors and they took their money and the lease never existed or if it existed, these folks didn't have any kind of control over it. those are... a lot of theft of oilfield property... The equipment from the field, we did a lot of that. we did some sting operations where people who were in business and buying stolen oilfield equipment... we worked with other DPS agents in the Intelligence Service and had them pose as someone who sold, who stole equipment. And we then used him to go in and sell this equipment and portray it as being stolen. And those folks know they were buying stolen equipment... I worked... that was a big case that we worked with the Midland Sheriff's Office, the Odessa Sheriff's Office, and the Rangers... we had a lot of arrests of people who were in the business who were good solid business people. They... but they were known to deal like that. I say solid... solid in the sense that we knew that they were solid crooks.

**NANCY RAY:** Well again... I guess you were in the area during a boom time, is that right?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** It was after the boom. I came into Midland after the boom, yeah, yeah. The boom had already come and gone.

**NANCY RAY:** OK so does anything stand out in your mind in that area?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** The only... I know that we worked a... we worked a homicide with the Odessa PD of a young girl who was found murdered down on Second Street. And to this day, it... that one homicide was... was never solved. Midland and Odessa just... Odessa just had a lot of unsolved homicides. But after the boom, they didn't have a lot of... a lot of homicides. Midland just didn't have a lot of homicides. I do remember one was a young... that I worked with the Odessa Sheriff's Office.... Jerry Davis... and it was a homicide and it was of a young girl that was murdered. But I... and I know... I remember myself and this other investigator, Jerry Davis, that we had picked up these two brothers who had been out trolling and one of the prostitutes knew about these two guys. And we had them picked up and brought them in and they confessed to this prostitute's murder. And but that... I don't remember a lot more than that. But because I worked... so much of my time there was working white collar cases and some homicides coming up on the end. It really was when I went, when I came to Kerrville. I was a Ranger stationed here in Kerrville. When I came to Kerrville is when I really started getting into working a lot of the homicides and a lot of the violent crimes in the Hill Country because I came to Kerrville... I want to say in... I believe in September of '93. And I was assigned, stationed here in Kerrville and I was assigned Kerrville, Boerne, Bandera, Junction, and Fredericksburg. And I worked real closely with local law enforcement. And right off the bat, I remember going to the sheriff's office in Bandera and visiting with the sheriff, James McMillan. And he said Clete,

he said we haven't had a homicide in probably eight years. And I remember pretty quickly we had, we were working several homicides. It was one of those deals that you don't ever talk about... saying you haven't done this because the next thing is it's gonna happen.

**NANCY RAY:** Well what... why do people murder someone else? What is the primary reason?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Oh... you know statistics show about 80 percent of the homicides that are committed and maybe even higher, more than that, is you know the actor knows the victim. There's a lot... there're a whole host of reasons. It can be for purposes of gain, financial gain... just arguments... robbery... sexual assault. I know I worked a, I worked a homicide with the sheriff's office in Bandera on a young girl who was, who was abducted from San Antonio by a juvenile and his uncle. She was abducted out of San Antonio and brought to Bandera County and they marched her into, and I can't recall the creek. They marched her into a... they parked on the road, marched her across the fence and there was a swimming hole that they were familiar with. They marched her to that swimming hole and there's a high rock ledge where they would dive and then the water. And they pushed her off of that rock and while she's in the water, treading water, they stood up there and they threw rocks and, until they knocked her unconscious. And then they left her in the water to drown and they went down and pulled her out of the water and continued to pummel her with rocks. Then they went home. And they started talking to the wife and she reported it to the sheriff's office in, in Boerne, who then contacted Bandera who contacted me. And I went over there and sat down and got a confession from them. And they gave, they told us where the body was and we went out and recovered the body. And, both of those individuals, they were both sentenced to the penitentiary. Then we worked a... I worked a homicide in Bandera which was a real interesting homicide. And it was a... the victim was a

rancher in Bandera County, kind of the Bandera-Kendall County line and his name was Warren Long. And someone early in the morning... him and his wife were in their ranch house and the door opened and this individual went to shooting with a shotgun, Mr. Long and his wife was lying next to him. And when the shooting took place, she rolled off on the floor and then the gunman left. So I was called one morning about 6 o'clock in the morning to that homicide scene because she picked up the phone and called 911 in Boerne and they responded. And they contacted Bandera because it was their area. So myself in Bandera and another Ranger began working that crime scene. And I remember the Bandera deputies thinking that that the victim's wife seemed to have some strange answers and they kind of started focusing that maybe the wife was involved. And they brought that to my attention and... and so I hadn't talked to her yet. We were working the scene and so we finished up and I went in and I talked... started talking to the victim's wife. And I realized that she wasn't the nicest lady that I would ever be around but I also did not believe that she was probably responsible for the death of her husband. Because the deputies were telling me initially that they had an illegal alien that was working on the ranch that had left the ranch. And he had gotten into some trouble and they had run him off. Then I'm visiting with her and she was very blunt and to the point. And was... and like maybe the deputies took that as her being evasive, that she might have been evasive. She didn't have the responses that a woman would have that had just saw her husband shotgunned and who herself barely survived. And when they got to the house, she was also dressed and waiting for them. And... but this... I don't know how old this lady was but she was... they had bought that ranch after their ranch had become flooded when they made Lake Amistad. They had come into that country and her husband was up in his age and he'd started to lose his sight and all. But he was very much

prone to... he really liked the law enforcement... And had even allowed law enforcement to hide an informant out there that was being used in an undercover role with another officer. And so the wife even believed that maybe this was the reason someone came in and murdered her husband... it was related to narcotics. The deputies believed she wasn't responding the way a wife should who just lost her husband. But I just didn't get that feeling from her initially. So I was working that homicide and at the same time working a homicide I had just told you about still trying to finish it up. So I had both of those homicides going at the same time. And I had, I had gone to San Antonio and I was coming back and I thought... you know, it's good... I need to go now, by the ranch, and visit the victim's wife because I know that I can be there... just she and I, and I'll be able to talk with her. Well so I pulled up and I walked in and she had two daughters and a son-in-law there. And... and I sat down and I started talking to the victim's wife because I wanted to know what kind of lady was she. Why were these deputies feeling so bad about... not feeling good about her response, her responses to them? And how she you know was dressed when they got there and how she just didn't seem to be very much affected in the manner that they thought. And you know she wasn't, I mean she wasn't screaming and hollering and all that. She was very much in control and she was a very strong lady... she was a very strong lady. She came from a ranching family... was a matriarch as far as I'm concerned of that family. She wasn't weak in any way, shape or form. And thought maybe that... made me better understanding her. So I went out there and I sat down. And for the next two hours, I talked with her about her, her relationship with her husband, what was important to her... everything I could do to give me an insight into this lady... understand the personality that I was dealing with. And I left there knowing that this lady didn't kill her husband. I didn't care what anybody says, she

didn't. I even attended meetings with the law enforcement and the district... And I'm sitting there listening to that, to law enforcement tell the district attorney why and how this lady could have murdered her husband. And I'm just... you know I'm listening. And I think about the only thing that I said is that I'm gonna tell ya'll, this lady didn't kill her husband. That was about all I said because I was... I was in the minority. And these officers I was working... well when I made that statement, I had also spent all that time with her and I had left. And I remember getting a phone call in the Kerrville office from her daughter. And she said Ranger Buckaloo... and the daughter worked for the Federal Government, she worked in a very high position with the Federal Government and he husband was too. And she says Ranger, I'm calling you because she says my mother... after you left, she finally realized you know what, that Ranger thinks I killed your father. And I said well you know I'm glad you called. Because I will tell you this, I don't believe for a minute that your mother killed your father. Oh... OK. I said I... the questions that I asked, because she said the questions my Mom said you were asking... I said the questions I asked were questions that I needed answers. I needed to know so I could understand who your mom... who your mother is. What's important to her? What kind of lady is she? And I said your mom didn't kill your father. I know that. Oh, OK. And so that alien that they had run off, I started looking and focusing on him. Because the shotgun that was used to kill this rancher was taken out of a vehicle that was... it was a hunting ranch. And it was a gun that stayed in this vehicle in a shed all the time. Outside and away from the house was a bottle of Jack Daniels with very little left... most of it gone. I don't know how much it started but most of it was gone. Whoever who had done this murder, had removed the air conditioner from the other end of the house and had made entry into the house that way. Well the first day we were out on the scene

walking around the house, I looked at that air conditioner and it didn't look like it had been... that it was very sturdy. And I said what is this... I asked her about the air conditioner. She goes oh, that air conditioner... she said Juan... and this literally was the man's name. Juan had put that air conditioner in. I said is that right? And she said yeah. And I looked and you could open the window and move that air conditioner and put it back in. And I said OK and I made note of that and the Jack Daniels bottle. Just the fact that... and part of my... when I went back to visit with her, I asked her a whole... I got off of her and I started asking her about Juan. Well what happened is Juan had worked on that ranch for many, many years. And he... they totally trusted him with everything. And I asked why did he leave? Well what had happened... Juan, they allowed Juan to have a birthday party out there at his house and he invited only one couple. That's all he was allowed. He wanted to invite this couple. So this young woman and her husband from San Antonio came to the ranch and they're at Juan's house. This is prior to Mr. Long being murdered. And he... and so they leave the wife at the house, at Juan's house. And he and her husband get in the Jeep and drive around the ranch. While they're out, away from the ranch house, the Jeep breaks down. He makes, the husband stays there and he walks back to the house. And when he goes back to the house, he sexually assaults her. He goes back and he gets the husband and meanwhile, the lady, after the assault, she walks away from the house. She walks to the highway. She gets a ride and goes into town. When he gets back to the ranch house, her husband... he gets in his truck and he goes looking for her. She's at the hospital. She reports that assault. Law enforcement in Boerne, they come looking for him and he's hiding. And he left, he left the ranch. Mrs. Long told me that one night she went down to the ranch... after they came and looked... he hid out on the ranch. He hid on the ranch. Mrs. Long, seeing the light at his

house, she goes down there one night and he's nowhere... he's not around. But she sees his clothes there well then she's going back to the house and he steps out of the dark. And she told him, she said Juan, we told you could stay on this ranch as long as you didn't cause any problems. You caused problems and you need to leave. You know she's telling me this story and... and they knew he'd still been on the ranch because they would pick up the telephone and when they picked up the telephone, he was on it. He was hiding and he would go from one to the various hunting cabins and he'd had access to the telephone. And they knew he was still on the ranch. And then that night she confronted him but she told him to leave. Well when she told him to leave, she said she made him... I said OK and then what? And she said I paid him. I said OK. She said well I didn't pay him everything so I kind of hung on that. She said I didn't pay him everything but I paid him. And I said OK and she said and he left. So and he did leave but what happened is he came back on the ranch sometime later. And he worked himself up into a really big storm. And he went into the, he went into the house and he got the shotgun out of the truck and he went in the house and he shotgunned the victim. And and then what he did is he left. And so when he left, he went back to Mexico. And I asked her, do you have any information where he might be? She says I have an address because I used to send money to Mexico for him. So I got that address and I sent him a letter. Because we went and we interviewed the little girl that he assaulted and her husband... myself and Al Cuellar, another Ranger. And what we found interesting about that was that this young man used to go out there on the ranch and he would get with Juan and they would drive around the ranch. Well he'd go looking for him and he'd find him up under a tree asleep. And he used to tell him, this guy would tell him, aren't you afraid of being caught? He goes naw, I'm not afraid. That old man, when he dies one of these days, this

ranch is gonna... I'm gonna get part of this. And Mr. Long, he had started to lose his eyesight and he'd get on his road grader and this Juan would get out in front of that road grader and I guess in some kind of colorful shirt or whatever and that would allow Mr. Long to follow him and he could still work on his road grader. And he took care of him. So he convinced himself that of ... so that was even more in my mind, more motivation. Here it is he worked for him all these years. He believed if anything happened to him he was gonna get part of this ranch. He got into this trouble. When he got into the trouble they made him leave and he had not received all of his money and all. And so there was the motivation. But Juan was gone. But then what happened, months and months later, Juan came back on the ranch. And the victim's wife had moved off the ranch. Law enforcement, there were a couple of law enforcement guys that had gone down there and done some security at night. And I remember them calling and telling me Clete, I don't want to go back down there... said that place is spooky. And so what happened, the community started, they started thinking that there was something you know involving his murder and it didn't... it was you know possibly the wife involved. And I listened to that but I didn't have Juan. I knew Juan was the... was the key. Well, and then I even remember meeting with the victim's wife and her attorney and I asked her. We went back down to the house because she'd gotten an attorney by this time. We went back to the house. And I remember, in that house, I asked... she's telling me what took place. And then I asked her, I said what about Juan? And she got right into my face and she was just adamant that Juan had nothing to do with it. He worshipped the ground that Mr. Long walked on. And I remember telling her and that's why I think he could have been involved. I knew he was. I wasn't even... because she was so protective of him. And anyway, he ended up coming back on the ranch. We discovered he was

back on the ranch because he had left a pack out there, a backpack that had an address of a person here in Ingram. Myself and another Ranger went and interviewed him. Found out that Juan had come back to the ranch. When he left the ranch after the murder, he had been picked up by this individual in Ingram. And took him to Boerne so they formed this relationship. So when Juan went back to Mexico, he came back on the ranch. Messed around on the ranch a couple of days and by this time, he was traveling with a young female Mexican girl that he picked up at the river. That he convinced her... her mother cooked on this ranch so she went with him across country. So for the next couple of weeks he sexually assaulted her... made her believe that her mother worked on this ranch as a cook. They were hiding out on the ranch. You wait here... I'll go and see if she's there. No, she's not there... just constantly leading her on. Also at this same period of time on the adjacent ranch, they had a big barn that was set on fire. It was a \$100,000 barn. I interviewed those folks. They believed that that ranch... they had several fires on that ranch. And Juan had worked on that ranch at one time. A small ranch house had burned down, this \$100,000 barn burned down. There just seemed to be things happening all over this ranch. Those owners told me they were prepared... they had so much problems on that ranch they were prepared to sell the ranch. Well, it ended... come to find out is Juan was also doing that. He set all those fires on that ranch. He set the first fire on that ranch, a little ranch house, because when the ranch foreman was going to town Juan had asked him for some potatoes. The ranch foreman told him you don't need any potatoes. They got into an argument. He left, was walking down the road when this victim picked him up and put him to work on his ranch. While he was working on that ranch, he went back and he set that fire on the small ranch house. Later on after the murder, he went back and set a fire while he was running and hiding, he went back and he set a fire to

their big horse barn. And now he's back. And so we track him to Ingram. The man in Ingram said my daughter took him to San Antonio to catch a bus. He's going to Temple. She's now going back, it's been several days, to pick him up and gonna bring him back here. So we went down on the interstate and I got the Highway Patrol and we stopped the vehicle that he was in from the information provided. And now we've got Juan. So Juan's sure enough in the vehicle. And so myself and another Ranger, take him in and we set him down and he confesses to the murder of Mr. Long, the sexual assault of this little girl, the fires. He was a one man... he was a one-man crime spree. doing all those things. And anyway he went to the penitentiary for the murder of Mr. Long. But there was another... some folks had written a small book on that I understand. But that took... that homicide took quite, quite some time to resolve.

**NANCY RAY:** I guess so. Was that your most satisfying case to solve?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Well it was... they're all... anytime you can solve you know a homicide.... And especially what I was saying is I had sent a letter to him at an address that the victim's wife had... In an effort to lure him back into the United States... when I learned that he thought he was going to get part of that ranch of his efforts toward the victim, I mailed a letter, certified and all in the district clerk's office, giving him a time and date to come back over here so he could get his... you know the will could be decided and but that never did... probably didn't get to him. But it didn't get him back over here. He came back later but he came back on his own, own accord. But no... that one was satisfying, the little girl that these guys had abducted... I worked a homicide here on a convenience store clerk that was found murdered one morning on the interstate. And I knowingly initially looked at that homicide thinking that somebody just came down the interstate and shot and killed this guy. And fortunately, myself

and the detective, we got a break because one of the patrolman had stopped two guys early in the morning milling around that convenience store. And we found them and set them down and they confessed to his homicide. And one of them has been executed. The other is on death row. I worked a homicide down there where an old man was murdered on the lake, Medina Lake. It was months and months of those... that was interesting because like within 24 hours, myself and another deputy stopped the guy who, Kevin Wells, who had actually committed the homicide, him and his girlfriend. We stopped them going back into that subdivision because they looked suspicious. We had this elderly gentleman who was beat to death in his home, found in his living room. And we were actually talking to the two people who had done it. And, but we didn't have any idea... and as time went and the investigation, they became suspects. And then finally they were arrested out in Oregon for a warrant out of Bandera for burglary. And it was my first opportunity to talk to them so I loaded up with DA investigator and the chief deputy from Bandera and we flew in a DPS airplane out to Oregon. And they brought him in and set him down in front of me and I started talking with him. And he finally confessed after months and months... confessed. We'd run it on Crimestoppers in San Antonio and everything else. And months and months later, he confessed to the murder of, of Mr. Long. Just before so... those homicides, just before I retired, I retired in August. I had a San Antonio police officer shot down in San Antonio. And working with the Marshall Service, myself and three other marshalls, found this individual that had shot the San Antonio police officer. He'd shot him and he went into hiding and everyone was looking for him. The Marshall Service developed some information about where he was at. Myself and three other marshalls, less than 30 days before I retired, went in and extricated him from a an apartment. And he was lying on the pistol that he had shot that

San Antonio police officer with. And so you know I... there was a homicide that myself and Matt Cawthon went to Honduras on. There was a homicide in Waco and the individual who had committed the homicide was hiding out in Honduras. That one was interesting because one of the actors was also involved in years ago... he had a part when the discotheque in Berlin was bombed and there were military people killed in that, this particular individual that was involved in that... he, he had some doings in transporting the explosives to, to Houston to a ship that took those explosives to... Libya that was used in that bombing. And what this particular individual, his name was Sam Urick. And Sam Urick, his daughter was married to an individual in Waco named Gary Patterson.

**NANCY RAY:** How do you spell Sam's last name?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** I think its URICK. And he was a really big, robust... very brutal type of person. And his daughter was married to a man named Gary Patterson. They had a daughter. They divorced and Mr. Patterson won custody for his daughter. The wife took the daughter and fled. Mr. Patterson hired an investigator to find her and he found her and his daughter. And they came back to Waco and he got custody which made the father-in-law very mad. And so he started devising a scheme to get back at his son-in-law. So there was an American fugitive from a Federal penitentiary... and I'll think of his name... who was a partner of this Mr. Urick, more or less. And he was hiding out in Honduras. Mr. Urick called him and told him he needed to come to Houston. He said I don't want to come to Houston because I'm afraid... He was traveling on his twin brother's passport, hiding out in Honduras, an American fugitive. I don't want to come there because I'm afraid I'll get caught. And I don't want to go to the penitentiary. He had just committed a white collar crime and the facts on that was his brother... he was

allowed to surrender himself to the Federal penitentiary. His brother was taking him to the penitentiary. When he saw the penitentiary he said, apparently that was the story I was told, I can't do this and he became a fugitive... and somehow crossed paths with this Mr. Urick. So Mr. Urick told him to come to Houston. I need you to come up here and help. So he comes to Houston and when he comes to Houston, he is told what the plan is. And the plan is to go to Waco and lure Mr. Patterson out and they were gonna kill him around Waco. Well it just didn't materialize. So Mr. Patterson was a... either an engineer or a draftsman, some type of profession like that. So they devised the scheme that this fugitive would go to his place of business and would offer him a job. That he had to travel to El Paso and do an interview. And once he got the job, they'd provide him a vehicle and he could come back to Waco. So this fugitive did go to his place of business. And went, initially under the pretense that he was gonna hire the company. And then he became focused on Mr. Patterson and this was for nothing but to commit this homicide under the directions of the father-in-law... who was very angry at this Mr. Patterson, his ex-son-in-law. So they did do that. They lured him to El Paso. This fugitive picked him up at the airport under the disguise that the boss is busy but we'll meet him this evening. So this fugitive took the victim around to some clubs and they drank and got him kind of drunk. And this Mr. Urick had gone out into the desert around Fabens and had dug a hole and... which to bury Mr. Patterson. So the fugitive took Mr. Patterson, the victim, out into the desert under the pretense of... I'm not really sure what it was. And they took him and... he stopped his vehicle and when he did, Urick who had been out in the desert all day digging this hole, opened the door and he told the victim, he said I told you, MF, that I could reach out and touch you no matter where. And he put a gun to his head. Drug him out of the pickup truck and buried him. So for

over a year, Mr. Patterson was missing. And the Waco Police Department and the Texas Rangers in Waco, Matt Cawthon, worked that investigation. And I was the lieutenant for Matt Cawthon. And they had a federal warrant... they finally put enough of the case together and they had a federal warrant for Mr. Urick and this other individual who was hiding out in Honduras. The Marshall Service located Mr. Urick out in California. There wasn't a really strong case against him and the Assistant U. S. Attorney said that if we're gonna have a case, we need to go and find this individual in Honduras, he's the key. So myself and Matt Cawthon, and I had been following the investigation being Matt's supervisor. They had done digs out in El Paso thinking he was buried out there. But it was at another location. They'd done over a year's work on that... a lot of work trying to find his body. And so myself and Matt Cawthon on a Sunday drove to Houston. And the next morning we got our passports. We were working with a Secret Service agent out of, of Waco who said that hey, we've got some people that work out of the Miami office that travel Latin America all the time. They probably could be some help. Why don't we hook up those guys up with Clete and Matt? So we drove, we flew from Houston to Miami where we hooked up with the U. S. Secret Service. Then we flew into Tegucigalpa, Honduras, with these two Secret Service agents in an effort to find this fugitive. So we went to the U. S. Embassy. Met with the folks at the U. S. Embassy... told them what we were in the country doing. We were trying to make contacts with the Honduran immigration officials to try to locate where he was at. And we knew where he was at through the investigation. He was in a place called San Pedro Sula, Honduras, which is their financial district down south. And after a couple of days talking with officials and all that, the U.S. Embassy gave us a vehicle and one of their Hondurans that worked, a retired Honduran Army colonel I was told... and he drove myself and Matt Cawthon

and the other two Secret Service agents to San Pedro Sula because we had gone to the Immigration office and had been able to track his brother's, his twin brother's passport, and we knew he was in San Pedro Sula. We also knew that he was living at an address down there and we went to that address. He had since moved. We continued to look for him in San Pedro Sula and finally we found him. And he was working in a junkyard. And the Honduran officials we were working with said look... because the Immigration director had said if ya'll find him, we determine his citizenship, we'll remove him from the country as an undesirable and ya'll can take him because he's a U.S. citizen. So that was the plan... to find him, then determine his immigration status, us to interview him... hopefully to get a confession, find the body and leave Honduras with him. So we went. We found him working with the Honduran officials, brought him in, the Honduran officials did their thing to determine he was a U.S. citizen... was there on a fraudulent passport. And so then, myself and Matt Cawthon walked into the room and he looked at us and he thought we were U.S. Marshalls there to pick him up on his federal violation. And we said no, we're Texas Rangers. He said Texas Rangers? Said yes sir, we are. And we took him into the commandante's office and it's very rustic, historic... its third-world country law enforcement and we're in this room with him and we go to talking to him and we start, Matt starts putting the case facts to him. And he denies it and then we just finally... each one of us are going at him and finally he says OK. So he confesses and he confesses and he tells us about the whole scheme. And then said... I told him I said OK now you need to draw a map of where this body's at. Because we had people in Waco, people from Waco that were in El Paso waiting there in case we were lucky enough to find him that could go out and do exactly what they did... try to locate the body. And he goes... he says no, I don't want to do that. He said I need something to

keep back, to help me. We told him no, you remember when Matt first started talking to you it was you needed... it's everything or nothing. So he drew a map. And his map was so precise I think there was one call that law enforcement in El Paso had to call back and to verify. They literally drove out into the desert around Fabens and drove exactly and located that, that burial site that they had put him in nearly a year.... Or over a year since he had been missing. So now we, we're there and the commandante steps into the room and we've already taken his confession and all. And the commandante, he greets us but he greets the defendant and the defendant greets him. And he turns around and walks out. So I ask this, what's that all about? He says well he goes that's why I'm able to stay in the country you know because he knew the right people and he paid. So with that, I walked outside to tell the two Secret Service agents because we had plane tickets out the next... we'd been there all week long. And this was a Friday well tomorrow was Saturday or Sunday... that was the day we were supposed to leave. And we're in San Pedro Sula but our tickets were out of Tegucigalpa. I know what I just witnessed. That if we don't take that guy now, he won't be there. He'll be gone. And so I go out and I tell the Secret Service agents. And so one of the Honduran police officers sees my... and he walks over and he wants to know what's going on. So the Secret Service agent tells him that we need to get him out of the country now. And I even placed a phone call back to, we had cell phones. I placed a phone call back to the Chief of the Texas Rangers requesting that the DPS airplane come to Honduras and pick us up or we won't leave with this guy. And he said I'll call you back. So he called, he talked with the Director of the Department of Public Safety and he says well, you tell Clete if he can get him to Miami we'll send the DPS airplane for him. And I told, I remember telling my Chief. I said Chief, if I get him to Miami, I'll walk him back to Austin. I'm telling you, I'm not

gonna get him out of Honduras from what I just witnessed. That's why he's successful as a fugitive down here. So anyway, we, we go and we leave him there and sure enough the next day we go back to pick him up and he's there. And he had, he had a bunch of church family and all that because even though he was that kind... he had been building churches with them with a church group down there in Honduras in the mountains of Honduras so he had a big going away group down there with him. And we take him and we take him to the airport and as we're at the airport and we're headed up the airport, I started noticing all these people in uniform again doing this to him (*he made a motion*) this hi, you know. So I turned, his name was Ted... and I turned to him and I said Ted, what's that all about? He said that's the guy that gets me through Immigration and that's the guy... he goes you don't think I'm down here... (*laughter*). I said well that's obvious. So we did, we got him to... we got him on an airplane and we had to we had to have a Mexican or the Honduran Immigration official travel with us since we were removing him from the country. And we flew into Houston and got him through Customs and all and the Marshall Service was there to help us transport him now. And I remember, the Marshall... there was Ted, and Matt Cawthon were there... this Houston PD officer is asked since Matt and I don't have weapons. He said look, these guys are coming out of Honduras with this fugitive would you mind watching them since they're unarmed and they've got this prisoner while I go get my vehicle, I'll be right back. And so this Houston PD officer, he turns and he says are ya'll Texas Rangers? I said yes sir. He said ya'll have been down to Honduras and brought this guy from Honduras? And I said yes sir. He said you know... he said my wife's favorite program is "Walker, Texas Ranger." And he says the other night, she and I are sitting right there watching "Walker, Texas Ranger," and he's over in Louisiana. And he's working in Louisiana and she

turns to me and she says do the Texas Rangers go to Louisiana? (*laughter*) And he says well I don't know... this is just a movie. He goes you wait... now he's getting excited... you wait until I go home tonight and tell her that I met two Texas Rangers at the airport and they'd been down to Honduras and they brought this prisoner out of Honduras. Man, is she... and he goes Man, is she gonna be impressed (*laughter*). And the fugitive was there and he was handcuffed like this in front and he just kind of turns to that police officer and this is the gospel truth... And he's saying man is she gonna be impressed. And he turns to him and he says well yeah, you oughta be in my shoes (*laughter*).

**NANCY RAY:** What an interesting story. *Short pause to change discs.* OK, we're back and at some point you made captain, when was that?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** I made captain in Sept... October of, October 1<sup>st</sup> of 2001 and I went to Houston where I was captain there until May of probably 2004. And remained, then went to San Antonio in May of 2004 and was captain there in Company D until August 31<sup>st</sup> of 2007 when I retired.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, all right... how does being a captain compare to being a field Ranger?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Captain Powell used to tell me that when I was a Ranger in Midland, that the best job in the Ranger Service is a Ranger sergeant or at some time a Ranger private. And he, he was... he was very correct. A Ranger sergeant... because that's who... the troopers are the backbone of the DPS and the Rangers that's working the field... My biggest satisfaction came from, came from the family of like... of the investigations that I worked where there were victims of homicides or whatever they were... that they said thank you. Or when you went to, when you went to a courtroom and... I remember in the murder of Keith Keeran (sp?), who was

murdered as a convenience store clerk. We arrested the shooter and the individual that participated in the robbery was given the death penalty and as well as the shooter. And when we interviewed the individual in that capital murder and he wasn't the shooter but he was a party. And in Texas being a party, you're as guilty as if you pulled the trigger. We'd taken a confession from him, myself and the detective, Harry Fleming. And I remember that in that confession, when we took that confession... it was with the focus of, of him... even though he didn't pull the trigger, that he knew that Mr. Keeran was gonna die at the end in this robbery. And our interview was focused like that because we knew that it was a death penalty case and we knew that we had to show those things. And I remember in the trial, in the closing arguments, that the defense attorney commented about the interview that myself and, the confession that myself and Detective Fleming... he told the jury, he said, he said I could... what can I say about... because now he's having to defend the confession that his client gave to this Texas Ranger and this detective. And he said what could... how could I... I myself could not... what could I say about my client's statement to the Ranger and the detective? I couldn't have done a better job of interviewing my client myself. And so those... those things that when, when the people like the murder of the man at Medina Lake... his family was so happy and thanked you and sent me a letter about solving that homicide and the defense attorney who is your opponent comments on the job that you did... what you're able to do in the community working those cases and with law enforcement... a Ranger captain's job is, is a very... is a prestigious position. It's a lot of fun. You're providing leadership and management to a group of Rangers that really don't need a whole lot of leadership because they're so squared away for the most part. so that was a great job

but I always believed what Captain Powell said... the best job for, in the Ranger Service is the Ranger private or the Ranger sergeant... the guy that's doing the job on the street.

**NANCY RAY:** Well to those of us who are not in the Ranger organization, there is a lot of mystique and prestige you know to... to Rangers. What would you want people to say about you... Clete Buckaloo... Texas Ranger?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** It's just like I said about Kasey King and emulating Kasey King that he was a professional. that his integrity, you know pretty much like I said... integrity got there before he did. I mean that's how... people think so much of you of your being... you know that you're gonna tell the truth, you're gonna do the right thing... and that's what, that he worked hard. He treated everybody with respect because that's what I would tell these young Rangers and I always said that you... it doesn't matter who it is, even to the janitor. You treat everybody the same and you treat them with respect. And I've had many... I remember from Narcotics... I arrested a kid with a hundred pounds of marijuana. And I remember when I was a Ranger going through Bronco Chevrolet in Odessa, Texas, a guy says Mr. Buckaloo... and I turned around and I said yes sir. And he said you don't remember me but I'm so and so. And he said I had arrested him with a hundred pounds of marijuana in his truck, in the trunk of his vehicle. And when I got him to the Alpine office, he... I said where's the key to the trunk of the car? He said I don't have it with me. And I said where is it? And he said it's at the house. And I knew his family. And I said... he knew it was loaded and I knew it was loaded and I said I tell you what. You go to your house and you get that key and you come back to this office. I expect you to do that and he said yes sir. And he turned around and he walked out. Now I knew that I just let a guy go that I knew had a load of marijuana in the trunk of his car... and it wasn't 30 minutes until I heard the door

open and he came back to the door and and I was in my office and the receptionist was out. And he said Mr. Buckaloo and I stepped out of my office and it was him and I said yes sir and he handed me the key to the trunk of his car. And we walked out to the trunk of his car and I said open it and he opened the trunk of his car and there ended up being a hundred pounds of marijuana. And so this is the same individual now that's in Bronco Chevrolet and he's a salesman in Bronco Chevrolet, years later. And he says Mr. Buckaloo, he says I I just want to thank you for the way you treated me that day. And I said you know fair enough. And it's just like those... it's just like those confessions that I took on those murders that I was talking to you about. You know a lot of police, there was a time in law enforcement when hollering and demanding and all those things you know... you scared the crook into... and even though there was a little bit of that and I witnessed some of that as a young Ranger... not from other Rangers but from some other law enforcement agencies I worked with. I never did that. I always treated, I always treated people fair and I treated them with respect and it kind of became... that's... I didn't discover anything, that's really the way you... you talk to people. You just overwhelm them with facts and, and you give them... you give them respect. I remember here several years ago as a Ranger captain. I drove in and out of penitentiaries a lot as a Ranger captain, especially in Houston. And you know all the Rangers have these... the convicts, well they're called piddlers, and they'll make things for you... and leather and things like that. And there was one and his name was David Hall and he made spurs and I've got a set of spurs that he made. Those spur he made me for retirement. And I remember one Christmas he got, I got a Christmas card from him and he said Captain, I just wanted you to have this card. I don't know how you feel about getting a Christmas card from a convict but I appreciate, thank you for the way you treated

me and that you've helped me... You know through your purchases and all that feed my family on the outside and all. So I just say that I treat... that I was a professional and that I treated people with dignity, I treated them with respect maybe even at a time when they didn't necessarily deserve it. But I used that because that's truly the way to treat them and it also helped you be successful.

**NANCY RAY:** Right. Well there is no way we can capture everything in your career. Is there anything else you'd like to share? You're very interesting to listen to but is there something else you'd like to share?

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** , no, I would just say that I... that I think that the Ranger Service under the leadership in the Rangers today... I know that... I think that they're still getting some great people. The Rangers are headed in a great direction. Hopefully I believe that the Department of Public Safety's headed in a great direction. And that the, as I said earlier, I didn't necessarily plan on making a career in the Rangers. I'm very, very happy that I did and those Rangers, those early Rangers from Jack Hayes to, to Frank Hamer to Joaquin Jackson, Bob Favor, the Joe Davises... the Rangers have a reputation and they're gonna continue that reputation with these new Rangers that are there. And I was just... I was just proud to be, proud to be a part of it.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, I want to thank you for your time today for this interview and we say thank you for your service to the state of Texas too.

**CLETE BUCKALOO:** Thank you ma'am.