

Interview With

STUART DOWELL
Texas Ranger, Retired

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Project:
Texas Rangers

Interview Conducted At The Offices Of The
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Present At Interview: Stuart Dowell and Robert Nieman



Introduction

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Stuart Dowell
Retired Texas Ranger

ROBERT NIEMAN: This is Saturday, November 11, 1995. My name is Robert Nieman. We are at the DPS Headquarters in Tyler, Texas. The purpose of this interview is to discuss the Texas Rangers in general and the career of Texas Ranger, Stuart Dowell in particular. Mr. Dowell, do I have your permission to record this interview?

STUART DOWELL: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Mr. Dowell, you understand that this videotape will belong to you, the Texas Ranger research library in Waco, Texas and to me?

STUART DOWELL: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And finally Mr. Dowell, in addition to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Museum in Waco, Texas do I have your permission to present copies of this tape to other various historical organizations such museums, libraries, schools and etc.?

STUART DOWELL: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What is your full name?

STUART DOWELL: Stuart Dowell.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Stuart, what was your mom and dad's name?

STUART DOWELL: My mother's name was Stella Peck Dowell and my father's name was William Horton Dowell.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You have any brothers and sisters?

STUART DOWELL: I've got a brother, Steven Dowell he's presently the agent in charge of the ah...U.S. Customs in Austin.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is he older or younger than you?

STUART DOWELL: He's younger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you have any other siblings?

STUART DOWELL: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....and what is your wife's name?

STUART DOWELL: Betty.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And do you have any children?

STUART DOWELL: Yes I do.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Could you give those to us in chronological order.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....Denise Lane Billings and Valerie Ann Ford.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where was you born?

STUART DOWELL: McAllen, Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And was that where you was raised?

STUART DOWELL: No ah....my mother and dad moved back to Oklahoma just shortly after I was born.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And where did you go to school?

STUART DOWELL: Poteau, Oklahoma.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How do you spell that?

STUART DOWELL: P O T E A U.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And is that where you graduated from high school?

STUART DOWELL: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you have any college?

STUART DOWELL: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....when you was in school was you active in athletics or things like that, band or other activities?

STUART DOWELL: No ah....we lived out in the country, it was about oh fourteen miles out of town and ah.... I rode the school bus back and forth and I didn't....in those days you didn't have any transportation. And ah....we lived on a farm, we had a busy life, you know, taking care of the farm. There just wasn't a whole lot of time for extra circular activities.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Let me say for the record, for the lady that's going to be transcribing this, you spell your name STUART.

STUART DOWELL: Right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....when did you graduate from school?

STUART DOWELL: June of 1950.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....I know in Texas, shortly before that, they went from eleven year to a twelve year school, was Oklahoma twelve years?

STUART DOWELL: It was a twelve year, uh huh.

ROBERT NIEMAN: After you got out of high school, what did you do Stuart?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....that summer, or the spring actually of 1950 I ah....was working on the farm ah....the Korean war broke out June of 1950, the same year that I graduated. Ah...I was in the Oklahoma National Guard, 45th Infantry Division and ah....ah....we were mobilized September the 1st, 1950.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then?

STUART DOWELL: We went to Fort Polk, Louisiana ah....trained there from September until March of 1951 and we went to Japan and....in March and ah....we were at Camp Strong on the island of Hokkaido. We were part of the army of occupation in Japan.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember how to spell Hokkaido? I don't.

STUART DOWELL: I don't know ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, okay go ahead.

STUART DOWELL: Anyway, it's the northern most island. And ah....we trained there until November of 1951 and then we went to Korea and ah....you...just go ahead?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Just keep right on going.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....we landed at Inchon and ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's I N C H O N, I believe?

STUART DOWELL: Right. Ah....I think Hokkaido...H O....well I don't remember.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That doesn't matter....it doesn't matter, we can look it up.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....anyway, we landed at Inchon and rode a train part way to the front lines which at that time were just north of the 38th parallel. And ah....ah....then got off the train and walked up ah...just behind the line and spent the night in a corn field, slept between two rows of corn that night. It was about ah...oh it must of been five or ten below zero that night. I remember it was terribly cold. And ah....then the next day, daylight, we went up on the front line, we relieved the ah...Ethiopian troops. Of course this was a United Nations effort and there was troops from several nations that were involved. And ah...we relieved the Ethiopian detachment. I was in Company I, 180th Infantry, 45th Division, this was an infantry division. And ah....this division had ah....fought in Europe, they started out ah....invasion of Africa, they were in the invasion of Sicily, Solarino and ah....fought in Italy and then invaded....or made a landing in southern France. And they fought all the way into Germany until the end of the war. And I had an Uncle named Paul Dowell that was in this unit....or in that division.

ROBERT NIEMAN: In World War II?

STUART DOWELL: World War II. Ah....it had a illustrious history of a lot of the men were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. And ah....most of our ah....non-commissioned officers and officers were veterans of the....of World War II.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was your uncle still in the outfit?

STUART DOWELL: No, he was out. Ah....but we had a lot of experienced officers and non-commissioned officers and....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was your company CO?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....at that time his name Malone, we called him Smokey Malone, he was a full blood Indian and mean as hell. And ah....our regimental Commander was ah....Colonel Smith, they were all veterans. And they run us hard ah....training....during our training and...and at Fort Polk and Japan. But ah...ahwe ah....getting back to going on the line, of course there's a lot that happened before that, but ah....it was quite a shock. Going up I saw my first dead people that were killed in the war and I guess that's when it really hit me that this was for real you know. This...of course it was cold, winter time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You were what, eighteen at that time, eighteen, nineteen?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Yeah, I had joined the National Guard when I was sixteen, because there wasn't any part time work or anything to do you know, to make money on up there. And at...Poteau was just a real small place, at the time I lived there I think the total population of the town was 4,000 people.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I was through there not long ago, I don't think it's much bigger now.

STUART DOWELL: Well it's...it's considerably bigger than it was back then. But ah...anyway ah....there just wasn't anything to do ah...except work on the farm and times were pretty hard. So ah...I joined the National Guard, we got....I think I got paid \$35.00 every three months, I was just sixteen when I went in. Fudged a little bit on my age. And ah...we got paid every three months and my pay as a Private was \$35.00.

And...but that was a lot of money, or you know, at that time. Ah...all my....well I had a history ofmy folks were in the military you know, Uncles and....and ah....all the way back to the Civil War and ah....so it was just kind of a tradition to...of that to go into the military when you got grown, or you got old enough. But anyway ah....I ah....joined the National Guard and ah....ah....sometimes I was fortunate enough to ah....get to work at the high school during the summer vacation ah...working on ah....ah....the school, putting new roofs on the school buildings. We laid ah....sidewalks and just whatever needed to be done, general repairs you know. And I took shop then when I was in high school. And ah...the shop teacher and I got along real well, so he would he was the one in charge of construction and he would let me work there during the summer. And ah....then we got mobilized ah....kind of jumping around but these things come to mind you see.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, that's fine, just however it comes to your mind.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....when we got down to Fort Polk that September it....that particular was an unusually cold winter.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Thank goodness, down there around Alexandria, Louisiana you get hot.

STUART DOWELL: Well, yeah. Ah....they had the coldest winter on record at that time. Cause when we got down there we didn't have coats. And ah...the National Guard was kind the bastard step-child of the military and we got whatever was left over. When we got down there it was already frost in September, which is pretty unusual. And we didn't have coats, but we were going to the field and we didn't have sleeping bags, we just had a blanket to sleep on. And ah...we were having field exercises and you try to stay warm under a blanket and laying on the ground you know, it's miserable. And we stayed in the field for a week at a time and frost nearly every night. And then up in....I think it was in December ah....it snowed, had an ice storm, stayed below freezing for ah....about two weeks, down in Louisiana.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you still hadn't got any winter gear?

STUART DOWELL: Huh uh. Ah...we finally got a field jacket, but no liner, it was just a shell, field jacket shell. And ah....and it was...we were still going out in the field. Because like I say, the ah....all our officers and so forth had been in World War II and they had gone through several winters, you know, with less. And they didn't think anything about it, they was just....they called, it was just good training weather. But anyway ah....I...I can't think of anything outstanding that went on down there, it was just the daily routine was training from daylight to dark.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well were you a rifle...riflemen or was you....?

STUART DOWELL: I was ah....well, at that time an infantry company was made up of ah...three rifle platoons and a....and a heavy weapons platoon and each platoon....the rifle platoons they had three rifle squads and one machine gun squad and anti-tank. And I had the machine gun squad which was fourteen men, had two light browning 30 caliber machine guns.

ROBERT NIEMAN: BAR's?

STUART DOWELL: No, they were air cooled browning machine guns, belt (unintelligible)...you know. And I had a 3.5 rocket launcher, it was our anti-tank weapon.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Any 50's?

STUART DOWELL: No, they were ah....we didn't have those, they were in the battalion ah....but they didn't have very many of them. Because the infantry you carried everything you know, if you couldn't carry it you didn't have it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: 50 caliber's a little bit to heavy to carry.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, it was, that was pretty heavy. Those 30 caliber's got pretty heavy when you was carrying a box of machine guns, you know 250 rounds and ah....the rest of your personal gear.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did the military....I've heard my dad talk, he was in the Army in World War II, he was the smallest man in the outfit so he carried the BAR.

STUART DOWELL: Well that...that was about the way it was, they picked the smallest man to carry the BAR. And ah....ah.....it was funny that....after being in my squad, the smallest ones carried the machine guns, which it....I think it weighed 32 pounds, plus all their personal gear. But ah....I ah...we shipped out from ah....New Orleans and ah....went through the Panama Canal, we were on the....the ship was a General William Weigle...W E I G L E. And ah....we left from New Orleans and ah....went through the Panama Canal, of course it was cold...still cold in Louisiana and got out to ah....Panama Canal it was like 90 to 100 degrees there, quite a switch in temperature. And ah...then we went up ah...the west....east....west coast to San Francisco and went out on deck that morning when we was coming into the harbor at San Francisco and it was like 40 degrees there you know. And we took on supplies there and spent all day and all night in that ah....in the dock there taking on supplies. And we thought, man we're going to....on the way down there we had not had anything to eat hardly and ah....ah....we saw 'em loading all this....all these groceries and we thought, man we're going to be eating now. We left there in route to Japan and it took us...from the time we left New Orleans until we got to Japan was 32 days. Ah....the ship...or the enlisted troops slept in the hole and we had ah....they were canvas bunks and they were six deep ah....from floor to ceiling. The man on the bottom he was about six inches off of the....what they call the deck and then they were stacked to the ceiling and each man had about, oh I guess fourteen inches between ah....the racks and you had to slide in sideways. And whatever position you was in when you got in there you stayed that away, because it was that....it was very narrow and you didn't have any....you couldn't even sleep on your side, you had to sleep on your stomach or on your back. Anyway ah....for breakfast they gave us a....you had your choice, you could get a cup of coffee, a box of cereal, it was little individual servings of cereal and they had canned milk, we never

had any fresh milk, or you could get a cup of coffee and an orange, that was your choice for breakfast. And ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what were they doing with all these vittles they had loaded....

STUART DOWELL: Well I'm getting to that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh, okay.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....well there was no lunch, we didn't get anything. For supper the....the Navy has these big old mugs, they use 'em for drinking coffee and....and whatever you know, so at supper time it was a cup of stew or a cup of soup and a cup of coffee. And they'd put boxes of crackers on the table and that's all we got for supper, maybe an apple. And after several days well we were getting pretty hungry you know and ah....it didn't improve. And to line up to get what there was that we got, we went right by the crew's mess and they had white table cloths on the tables, they had ah...cartons of milk sitting down through there, pitchers of coffee, tea and the cook's....the servers were bringing them out steaks and baked potatoes you know, sitting 'em on the table and we were just a few feet from that to smell it...all this food. So ah...once in awhile they'd lose it if there wasn't anybody looking, cause you was just three or four feet to the table there and ah....we'd take a chance on ah.... running in there and grabbing something and take off with it. Of course if they caught us they'd take it away from us. But anyway ah.....we were literally....I mean I was hungry, all of us were. There was over 5,000 troops on that ship. And ah....about halfway over ah...we were all setting around on the deck one day, you know how someone will do, just talking shooting the breeze and I told some of the guys, I said, 'You know....', I just made the statement I said, 'If I had some ammunition for my rifle I believe I'd take over this ship and get us something to eat'. One old boy never said a word he just got up and left, and where he got it I don't know, didn't ask him and to this day I don't know how he came up with it, but he came back with a whole pocket full of ammunition. And he said, 'Let's do it'. And I said, 'Wait a minute'. This...you know, they hang people back....I thought they did, I'm sure they didn't, but I said, 'They

hang people for mutiny on ships you know'. I said, 'I don't believe I'd...there's no place to go and I don't know how to drive this ship, so we better talk about this some more'. And they said, 'Well we're behind you, if you want to take it over', and they said, 'Probably we got 5,000 more that will back you up on it, if you're ready to take it over let's take it over'. I said, 'Well let's try something else'. And ah....so I went and found the Chaplain and I told him I said, 'We're ready to take this ship over if we don't start getting something to eat', I said, 'We're hungry and we want something eat'. Well it got better, they started serving some...ah...you know it wasn't anything great but it did improve.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was your rank?

STUART DOWELL: I was a Staff Sergeant, Squad Leader. And ah....ah....when we got...landed in Japan we found out what was happening to the food. There was dozens of Japanese trucks lined up at the dock and as soon as that ship docked they opened the hatch down below, went right out onto the dock and they started unloading those groceries and put 'em in those Japanese trucks. The ship's Captain had obviously....of course so young and green back then ah....I didn't know what to do about it and we knew that it wasn't right. But they unloaded halves of beef ah...you know, hundreds of 'em and all.... cases of canned goods and all that stuff and put it on those Japanese trucks and they were selling it to the black market. But ah....back up a little bit ah....when they was loading these groceries on theat San Francisco they were putting it on conveyor belts down into the hole of the ship and we drug a half a beef off. We didn't know what we was going to do with it, but we drug one off and hid it back in the hole. And ah....they....they armed the crew, gave 'em shotguns and clubs and came in and took it away from us.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well this was a regular naval ship, not Merchant Marines, right?

STUART DOWELL: No....well....I think it was operated by the Merchant Marines, but it...it was a government ship.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well didn't you have ah....you know, Generals and Colonels when you....in the.....

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, but they were eating good, you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But they were....

STUART DOWELL: They were eating in the officer's crew hall.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But they were just turning their backs on this black marketing?

STUART DOWELL: Well I don't guess they knew, you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well they had to of known when they started unloading.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....probably....

ROBERT NIEMAN: If 5,000 men saw it you know.....

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, yeah, probably did. Ah....I don't know, like I say, I was so green, I can think of a lot of things I would of done today, but I....most of us were just old country boys. We....we did what we were told and kept our mouth shut and made the best of it you know. But ah....just before we got inabout two days before we got into Japan we hit a...a ah....typhoon. And ah....this was a big ship now and that sucker would go down, the waves would come from the bow all the way to the stern you know. They made us all get down in the hole and ah....everybody got sick at once. And we had stolen three big trays of cherry pies just before we hit that typhoon and had gorged ourselves on this....on this cherry pie. Well it didn't take long for it to start coming back up and there were 5,000 troops was sick at one time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Bet that smelled good.

STUART DOWELL: Oh man. The garbage cans were full before long and ah....the latrine was stopped up. When the ship would go up and down it would overflow and the vomit and all...everything else was about, oh I guess, four or five inches deep on the floor.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hmmm.

STUART DOWELL: When the ship would roll it would just run from one side to the other. And them guys that were next to the wall they was in trouble. And there was no place to go, you know you were just....

ROBERT NIEMAN: There.

STUART DOWELL:there like cattle. And they wouldn't let us get up on the deck and ah....of course the smell was just horrible. And the more you smelled it the sicker you got and you were so sick you thought you was going to die and then you got to where you wished you would and afraid you weren't. And ah....anyway, we survived it. And ah....when we got to Japan it was ah....an old Japanese Air Force Base that...where we were stationed. It was on the very north end of the island the Russians had several divisions of paratroopers up there and it was just a few miles. In fact you could see their...when they would do their maneuvers you could see their planes would circle and ah....turn just outside the boundary and then they ah...on a real clear day you could see their transport planes and fighter planes and bombers and all that you know, they were flying just outside the boundary. So we were there to protect this air base and ah....our regiment. We had pre-designated ah....positions around the air base in case there was a invasion from the Russians. And they would fly their planes towards Hokkaido and just at the last minute they'd turn and ah....we had fighter planes that were stationed there. And ah....our anti-aircraft ah....unit was right across the street from where we were living in tents and they were just across the street from our unit and they had a siren set up out there and they kept ammunition....their....all the weapons had ammunition, they were half drags with quad 50's and 20 mm ah....anti-aircraFort...20 and 40 mm anti-aircraft guns and they all had ammunition, live ammunition there. When the siren went off well they'd all run and go to their designated places you know. And we had to keep our packs ready and we'd have to load up and ah....go out to our pre-designated positions in case it was the real thing. Cause they'd bring hundreds of planes looked like they were coming to drop paratroopers you know and then at the last minute they'd turn and go back over the Russian area and drop the troops. But ah...ah....Japan was....it was quite an experience. I liked the people,

they were very friendly and ah....ah....it was really an experience for an old country boy to see what went on there. And it was a different way of life you know. Ah....getting back to Korea, it was....when we got there, there was already snow on the ground there. And every night it was anywhere from fifteen to twenty degrees below zero. And in the day time if the sun was shining and it got up to twenty or thirty degrees we felt like we was having a heat wave. But ah...we werethe first hill we were on was in the Korihan Valley and this was part of the iron triangle, what they called the iron triangle, because it was the direct route to...to ah....ah....South Korea. And it was a big huge valley that was actually about three valley's that came out of North Korea and then funneled into South Korea.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well on the Korean Peninsula what is it about half way up there?

STUART DOWELL: It was about half way up, just below the....well it was at the 38th parallel.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The DMZ?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. And ah....the ah....this valley ran almost the entire length of ah...Korea. So it was just a natural ah....you know, invasion route. Because that was about the only place you could use tanks, it was flat enough to ah....bring tanks and a large force down from the north. And ah...went through Korihan, it was a direct route into Inchon and Fuson and then places further south. So ah....we had ah....ah....the North Korean troops, they were supposed to be the crack...or some of the best were in that valley.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Had the Chinese come in yet?

STUART DOWELL: Oh yeah, Chinese were there also. And they rotated in and out with the North Korean. But ah....as I started to say awhile ago ah....I saw my first dead people.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Americans?

STUART DOWELL: Ah...well, no not at that time, they were all Korean and of course this had been the invas.... main invasion route when the initial invasion started. And there was bodies everywhere that had

never been buried, both South Korean and North Korean. And ah....ah....the ground was so hard it was just like digging concrete, so you didn't spend a lot of time trying to bury bodies you know, just survival. But anyway, we ah...got up on this hill and ah....I remember that I had carried everything I owned up there and it....all that kin....you might....you'd have to walk five miles to gain two, because you was going up and down hills and mountains you know. And it's all...when you start climbing one it's steep terrain, there's no just gentle slopes, it's nearly straight up or straight down. And I left most of my gear on that hill. All I worried about carrying from then was my sleeping bag ...that was your rifle, your ammunition, a canteen of water and a sleeping bag, cause you could survive with those you know and all that other stuff I threw away, because it was just too heavy, the extra uniforms and all that stuff that you normally carry. And we had ah...I think I had two extra pair of socks, which were real important. But ah....I learned that....right quick that you don't carry anything that you really don't need. But we lived in ah....ah....what we called hoochies, they'd been built by the North Korean before the invasion. And this particular hill had been an observation point for the North Korean before the invasion, so there was several hoochies or bunkers they had built and they well constructed, but they were small. And ah....just very few of them were big enough....probably big enough for two men of their size, but for people our size you know, it was just one man to the hooch.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what was the average size of a Korean?

STUART DOWELL: Oh 5'5", you know a big one....you might see one 5'8". We had one that was attached to our unit, he was a....he spoke English and ah....he was a liaison between the South Korean army and our unit and he was a big man, he was about 6' tall. But he was real unusual for one that size. And ah....ah....where my bunker was, it was what....the only sign of a road that came up to the hill and ah...that's how we got our ah....supplies and my bunker was right....right at the top of this little old road that came up there, you couldn't really call it a road, it was a trail and about the only thing that could come up it was a jeep and a four wheel drive. They had a hard time getting up there. But if we had a wounded man that was the only

place they had to take him off at that...we didn't have any helicopters and the only way that we could evacuate the wounded was to carry 'em back on a stretcher and put 'em on the jeep and haul 'em back that way. And also ah....that's where they brought the dead people and left them there until somebody could come and pick 'em up and it was about five feet from my bunker, my hole there. And ah....every morning there would be two or three laying outside my bunker, when it got daylight you know that's where they brought 'em. So it wasn't to ah.... good for moral, when it got daylight there was two or three of your buddies and you was always wondering....you know it would hit you, that hay, I'm not going home unless I'm laying there or I'm wounded.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you ever feel that you wouldn't survive?

STUART DOWELL: No, no I think...you know, it's a self protecting thing, you....you feel like it's going to happen to somebody else not you. And ah....I think that's the only way you survive, if you dwell on it that ...that it's....you know, you're going to die....of course it goes through your mind, sure. You can't help it because you know you got three or four bodies laying there and it could happen to you, but you justI didn't let it scare me. And I think most of us.....it's just self protection, you think it's going to happen to somebody else and not you. And your bullet proof at that age.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Invincible.

STUART DOWELL: Invincible. And they had told us, you know, in our training that we were the meanest and the best trained troops in the world and that we could whip anybody. And ah....when we got to Japan I think we were ready. If they'd of took us straight on to Korea or China or Russia or anywhere else, we'd of been ready to invade the world, cause we was so mad and hungry from being on that stinking ship for thirty something days. And ah....we just thought we were bullet proof and invincible you know and that nothing could hurt us. And ah....I guess that's the way...young people that's the reason that they....they need to be in the military because an older man, he gets to thinking to much you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well when did you see your first action?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....well ah....nearly every day there was a probing action from the north, you know the enemy troops. They would hit an outpost...we had....we had two outpost and they were about...oh three quarters of a mile out from the MLR.

ROBERT NIEMAN: MLR?

STUART DOWELL: Main line of resistance. And ah...you'd take a....of course in the winter time there darkness starts about four-thirty, because you're so far north. And we'd take a....these outpost weren't occupied during the day time because we could see out there you know, across the valley and ah....we'd take a squad out at dark and these were already prepared, all it was, was just holes in the ground, you had no cover, I mean as far as like a bunker or anything like that, it was just holes in the ground. And you got in there and you set there all night, because we shot at anything that moved after dark. You know, nobody got out of the hole.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I've had friends of mine who were in Viet Nam say... similar situations, sit in those holes all.... those fox holes all night, was the longest nights they ever spent in the life.

STUART DOWELL: Oh it is. Ah....it would get dark about four-thirty, and especially if it was cloudy it might get dark before then. And it didn't get daylight until like seven o'clock the next morning, it was....it seemed like a month that you set there. And it would get cold, God it was cold and ah...you justif you wore enough clothes to stay warm you couldn't move, you was just like a...you know, just so bundled up you couldn't move. So you had to wear something that you could.... if you did have to fight that you could move in. And consequently you gave up the comfort for the mobility. And ah....this country ah....there were no big trees, they had all been blown down and cut down either to use 'em for bunkers or the artillery had blown 'em down. So all that was left was little old scrub cedar which might be five or six foot tall. And it was kind

of like the hill country it reminds me a lot only there was soil over there and down in the hill country those little cedar breaks.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Your talking about down around Austin?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. It was just cedar trees that grew on these hills and down in the valley or any flat place of course was the rice paddies. And ah...these cedar trees ah....you know if ah....if the enemy wanted to slip up on you it was very easy, because they had to come....you could might hear 'em but you couldn't see anything. So ah....most of the fighting on the out post normally you didn't have a field of fire, cause you just threw your grenades and hope you could hit somebody you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Use a lot of flares?

STUART DOWELL: Not a whole lot because they showed you up just as much as they did the enemy. They had ah....search lights like they used in World War II and on a cloudy night they'd shine 'em on thethey set way behind the line, but they'd shine these ah....search lights on the cloud and it was an artificial moon. And it made it about ah....like ah....oh a half moon or three quarters moon. If you had low cloud cover and that light reflecting off those clouds gave you pretty good illumination, but still in all you had the shadows and those cedar trees were thick and the Chinese would ah....and the North Korean they'd use that as cover you know. And they were very, very good at it. They'd....they'd ah.... train night fighters for night fighting and ah....they wore ah....padded, just a cotton suit with pants and a jacket and it was just stuffed with cotton.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what's your.....

STUART DOWELL: And.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Go ahead.

STUART DOWELL: And their shoes were made out of canvas tire tread....old tires, the bottom of the shoe was old tire treads and the top of them were canvas, so they didn't make a whole lot of noise and all they carried was a rifle and a bandoleer of ammunition, so there wasn't nothing to make noise.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was your....what would be your opinion on the fighting ability of the North Korean and the Chinese and then the South Korean?

STUART DOWELL: Well ah...yeah I think it would vary from unit to unit. They had their elite troops that ah....just like we did and then they had just every day soldering you know. But the advantage they had ah....there were just so many of them. And....and dying didn't appear....well at least to the leaders, they didn't care how many they lost.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The same apply to the South Korean?

STUART DOWELL: No, the South Koreans had been trained by the American Army and they ah.....they had about the same attitude as we did you know ah....ah....do as much as you can with as small of loses as possible.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well is ityou know, of course I know you can't....I of all people know you can't depend on a lot of what movies say, but you know I've seen these old movies where they'd line the Chinese....would line up in ten waves and the first three would be armed and the second three would only have every other man and the last four wouldn't even be armed they'd just pick up the arms and keep coming.

STUART DOWELL: Well that wasn't always true but that ah....ah....that does happen, you know they....they would have the ah....better troops in front you know, armed with the best weapons. And then as they got mowed down and literally ah....they would come in waves, just hundreds of them. And I....as I understand and obviously as we saw, the bodies you know, it was just ah....fields of them, you could almost

walk across them, that they had come in human waves at the beginning. And ah....I never was a part of one of those type attacks. But ah....when they come they just come as a....as a mass, whatever unit, whether it's a squad oror ah....you know a company or a battalion or regiment or whatever, and ah....the....to the leaders the loses they don't care, cause they got millions more behind. And ah....they'd just try to over run you by sheer numbers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well you were on Porkchop Hill?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And first of all, it was not a Marine action, it was an Army action?

STUART DOWELL: Well the Marines may have been there before but ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I guess....I'm going by that....the movie that Gregory Peck...which I think was a very good movie but how accurate it is, probable is not very accurate.

STUART DOWELL: Well....that was the Army. That was....

ROBERT NIEMAN: An Army outfit?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. I think that was the ah....the action that ah....that was portrayed in the movie, I think that was the 25th Division.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Give us your....your experiences on Pork Chop Hill, where was it, what was it?

STUART DOWELL: Well ah....time fades you know, a lot of things, a lot of things you just want to forget, but as I remember it, it was just ait was out on a....in a valley. And ah...there was ah....a long finger that came out towards our position and then main mountain up on top was where the main forces were. And when we went up there it was Chinese troops. And ah....they had out posts on these fingers that came out from the mountain. And we had been told that there was just a tomb out there and they wanted us to go up....we weren't going to keep it, cause it was in no man's land, but they wanted us to go out there and

destroy all the bunkers, observation posts and drive the Chinese off. First of all we found out later there was a reinforced battalion up there, as opposed to a platoon and that's what we went out with was a platoon.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Just for the record, what's the difference in manpower?

STUART DOWELL: Well I think the Chinese battalion, of course it was reinforced so that was from 800 to 1,000 men.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And a platoon would of normally been?

STUART DOWELL: Oh, 25 - 30.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So, just a little bit different....forty times more people than you expected.

STUART DOWELL: Quite....quite a bit. Our platoon was....we had ah....about 40 men.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you run into 1,000 Chinese.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.....approximately.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah....well yeah.

STUART DOWELL: Seemed like 10,000. But anyway, we ah....they laid down a barrage for some time before we started our assault and it had snowed just a couple of days before and we hadsnow was aboutdepending on places it had drifted you know and sixteen, eighteen inches deep and most places it was probably ten, twelve inches deep, but it had glazed over and you try....you know every time you take a step your foot would break through, so your up.....half way up to your knee in snow and you got to pull your foot back it, it just wears you down. And we had gone....it was probably two miles, two and a half miles out from where we were.....where our trenches were out to the hill and ah....ah....we got up on the finger ah....this finger that came out and ah....the first mortar round came in and hit a boy, he was a....we had recoilless rifle, 57 mm recoilless rifle and this kid was a ammo bearer, he carried three rounds of 57 recoilless on a pack

board on his back. And ah....we were ah... the first mortar round there wasn't any firing, everything was just quiet, the sun was shining and the snow was just sparkling you know how it...(side of tape ends)....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....where the boy was carrying the pack board.

STUART DOWELL: This kid was ammo bearer for 57 mm recoilless rifle and ah....there hadn't been any shots and no warning, everything was just real quiet and of course the ah....artillery had been shelling this hill for probably twenty minutes before we started our final assault up the....we had stopped at the base of the hill and while the artillery was shelling and that probably lasted for twenty minutes and then we started on up. And when it....when our artillery stopped it was just dead quiet you know, wasn't a sound. And one mortar round came in, the first of several, but it hit him, he was about ah....oh probably fifteen yards to my left and it must of hit him right in the chest because I...it still is just as clear today as it was then, his body....the shells on his back exploded at the same time and his body just disintegrated from the hips up, there was nothing left. And for just a instant his legs were standing up and then they fell over, there was nothing from his hips above the waist.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was this the first loss you had encountered of someone you knew?

STUART DOWELL: That's the first....first one of somebody....and we had ah....we had two men the very first night that we went on the hill, they got lost and walked into a mine field, but they were just ah....had minor injuries, wasn't nothing serious. But ah...that's the first one I had actually seen die you know and ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: The suddenness.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. I mean he's there....

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then he's not.

STUART DOWELL:he's not there anymore. And when that round....apparently they were waiting to see....that was the marker round, to see where, you know, the guns were zeroed in. And when that one hit all

most in the middle of us...of the platoon, well they cut loose with mortars and machine guns and everything, just all hell broke loose. And ah....the ah....squads that were designated to assault the trenches....of course the machine guns were to cover the assault, and I set up my machine guns and ah....the rifle squads ah....went on up to the out post, that was the closest enemy to us, the main trenches were still probably a quarter of a mile up the hill. This was a pretty good sized mountain, or hill. And the squads went into the out post which was made up of bunkers and trenches and a couple of layers of....lower down on the hill they'd have a trench and....and ah....bunkers, then on up the hill they'd have another trench and bunkers you know, in layers up the hill. So that those above, if you went into the trench down below, those above could fire down into those trenches and assault 'em. And ah....they went into ah...the trenches and were setting ah....they were fighting and we had engineers attached to us that was carrying demolition charges to blow up the bunkers. And as they cleared the bunkers, well they'd set a demolition charge in there and blow it up you know. And ah... we were taking casualties....or they were ah....and I remember one of the boys he got shot in each leg, right on each side of the most critical part of a man you know. And ah....and he came out, a bullet had hit one of the arteries, he was bleeding pretty bad, but the medics got the ah...ah....bleeding stopped, but he was so glad that nothing critical had been hit he was just happy to be there you know. And ah....they had brought him down and ah....we had...there was some old tree that had fallen down, we were using it as kind of a rallying point, cause that was the only cover, it was totally bare up there. And there was a....the Koreans buried their dead setting up and they would just set 'em....they'd clear a place on the ground, make it flat and they would set the body in an upright position and then they'd mound the dirt up around it then.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Why did they do that?

STUART DOWELL: That was just their tradition. And the higher up on the hills they were, the richer they were... the status you know, the peons were buried right at the base of the hills cause they didn't use land that could be farmed, they used the land that couldn't be used for their burials. But there was a pretty size burial

mound up on this hill there. There was about....that and some old trees that had been blown down was the only cover we had. But anyway, they was bringing the wounded back down and we had another boy that was shot in the back, this Chinese soldier out and thought he had cleared the bunker and went on past, threw a couple of grenades in there and went on past, just thought he'd cleared it, well one of them was.....hadn't killed all of 'em, so this one Chinese soldier and shot him in the back with a Bert gun, and what that is, is a submachine gun...it's a....some of them had a drum and some....I think they held about sixty rounds in the drum and then they....some of them had a regular magazine that held thirty two rounds, but it was full automatic, it was made by the Russians. And you see a lot of them in the....in the films of World War II. And ah....he shot this kid in the back.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Kill him?

STUART DOWELL: No. Ah....but he just stitched him, I think he was hit six times right across the shoulder blade. And ah....ah....they brought him....drug him back down there where we were and we thought he was hurt a lot worse than he was. We didn't have but one stretcher so we decided that ah....we'd get him out because we'd had to carry him all the way back to our main line which was about two miles. And ah....ah....so got four people on the stretcher and they started down with him and they had about oh I guess a hundred, two hundred yards to go before they could get to any cover again, get down below the crest of the hill where the enemy troops couldn't see 'em. And they were going across this open field and one of the stretcher bearers got hit in the head and three slugs hit his helmet right above the ear. Well it didn't go through the helmet, but it was still enough shock you know, it knocked him down and stunned him for a minute and he said it was just like a sledge hammer....somebody had hit him on the side of the head with a sledge hammer. Well when....when he went down the other stretcher bearers it threw them off and they fell down. Well this kid on the stretcher, he thought they'd all been shot. Of course you could hear them bullets popping by. He got up off that stretcher and hooked 'em, he out runthey couldn't catch him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Six bullet wounds or not he was moving on.

STUART DOWELL: He was going on. But come to find out that ah.....because they ah.....figured because he had a big heavy parka on and the heavy clothes he had on, these bullets hadn't penetrated as bad, and it had scared him so bad you know when he got shot that he thought he was dying. So he wasn't really as bad as he thought he was. But anyway, he kept on hooking 'em, so these stretcher bearers they'd done....he'd done gone, you know they couldn't catch up with him. So they brought the stretcher back up to get this other kid that had been shot in the legs. And ah....we had some more that had minor wounds from ah....grenades andand you know, that just weren't....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Were you wounded?

STUART DOWELL: No. Ah....it was just minor wounds, they could still continue to fight and so forth. But anyway ah....it was getting pretty hot and heavy by that time and ah....we'd been fighting for several hours and the rifle squad was trying to advance on up to the main objective but the mortars and rifle fire and all that was just so heavy they couldn't move anymore. So they finally pulled back to where we were with the machine gun and we was covering 'em and ah....we was getting pretty light on ammunition by that time, we'd been firing quite a bit to try to keep these rifle squads covered. And ah.....so they finally told us to pull out. And ah....they fired....started the heavy artillery barrage and firing smoke to cover us and by this time they....the enemy had advanced far enough that....or close enough to us that they were getting....throwing grenades which were getting pretty close. They were still far enough away they couldn't quite reach us, but we knew if they got much closer they was going to cause us a lot of bad problems. And ah....so we started pulling the troops out and my machine gun had to stay and cover for the rest of 'em so they could move back to another position and then cover us while we pulled out. And ah....the gun I was with was....I had three machine guns and ah....initially we had two that was assigned, but when we got to Korea we picked up some extra men and they give us an extra machine gun, I had three. And I stayed with the one that ah....was the

last one to go out, I pulled two out first and then they would move back to....and cover while the last one pulled out. But ah....we ah....we started pulling out and had to....across this open area and ah.... you could see the bullets hitting the snow around you, you know, when they was firing at you, kicking up snow. But it was....the strange thing, it was like you weren't there, it was like you were somewhere else watching all this. It was weird. And it was like everything was in slow motion and you could see and hear things that you wouldn't ordinarily see and hear. But it was the strangest feeling, like you were kind of up here looking down, like you were watching a movie or something, that you really....you weren't in...involved but your body was. And ah....I can remember hearing those bullets hitting the snow around me. And when a bullet goes by it pops, it's a cracking sound, as it goes through the air and the air comes back, you know, it makes a crack.

ROBERT NIEMAN: A miniature sonic boom.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, yeah that's what it is. But ah....you could hear these bullets cracking and you could see it picking up....hitting the snow around you. But it....it didn't bother you because you weren't there, you just....this was all somebody else....happening to somebody else.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you have other people describe the same experience?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, I've talked to people since then and they said, 'You know I never thought about it, but that's...that's what it was', and they said, 'I couldn't imagine why it was like that at the time, but I didn't figure it happened to anybody else, I thought I was the only one that felt that away'. But other people have told me, and even other people that was in different wars and different actions, you know, that they felt the same way, that they really weren't there, it was their body but they were somewhere else watching it. And ah....I fell down as we was going across that snow and I fell and my gunner he was carrying a carbine and he stopped to help me up and he looked back....when he stopped or came back to me, a Chinese soldier....he told me later and of course by that time we weren't talking, like they do in the movies you know,

you're setting there talking and not....you weren't talking, you was too busy hauling your butt out of there you know. And ah....I remember he ran back to me, raised his rifle up and shot three times I think and I looked to see what he was shooting at and I saw this Chinese soldier go down. But ah....he had run up over the hill where we.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Chinese soldier?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, just where we had just left and he was aiming at us...aiming at me and he had one of these Mickey Mouse hats...caps, they've got ear flaps you know and they're fur lined and when he stopped it had turned around and when he stopped the flap fell down over his face and he was trying to get that flap back up when this....when this kid shot him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was the guy that shot him?

STUART DOWELL: Mills.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Remember the first....

STUART DOWELL: James Mills.

ROBERT NIEMAN: James Mills? Where was he from?

STUART DOWELL: South Carolina. But ah....I've always believed he saved my life.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You ever stay in touch with him?

STUART DOWELL: I did for a long time, but you know, you just kind of drift apart ah....it's ah....I left before he did.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you have any other major battles you participated in, in Korea?

STUART DOWELL: Well I don't....they were major to us.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh sure.

STUART DOWELL: But they weren't anything like the battle of the Bulge, there just wasn't any...that type of....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, anything in particular, you mentioned everything seemed slow motion, I know my grandfather was in World War I and he said the artillery and the machine guns were bad but the thing that worried....scared them the most was the gas. And my dad ah....he was in World War II, part of Patton's Army that relieved Bastogne and he said the hottest place he was ever in, in his life, was Bastogne (?) and it was forty below zero. Ah....any....and...but the machine guns he remembers he said they just....you know, anything in particular....like my grandfather it was the gas and my dad it was the machine guns.

STUART DOWELL: The thing that scared me the most was artillery.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well the 88th, that was the main thing that got my dad was those...that German 88, he said that was the deadliest weapon he thought had ever been made.

STUART DOWELL: Well thethe Chinese had a 76 ah....Howitzer and ah.....the...the terrain was such that ah....the peaks and hills they may.....in actual distance they might not be ah....a mile and a half away. But to get to 'em you know, you might have to walk five or six miles. But the point I'm getting at is when they fired, they had to fire at such a high trajectory, you could hear the guns fire. Normally the guys that fought in World War II, they said you never heard it, you know a shell would just explode, you never had any warning at all, because of the low trajectory the shell was there before the sound got there. But we could hear the gun fire just a few seconds before the shell hit. And we knew...I can't begin to tell you why or how, it was just instinct that you knew it was coming in your direction. And don't ask me to explain how we knew it, but it was just something we knew by the sound of that gun that, that shell was aimed at you or the group you were with you know. And it justit was a helpless feeling, it seemed like an eternity from the time that you heard the gun fire until it got there and actually it was just a few seconds. And you knew it was going to hit

you or close to you. And I guess that was ah...with somebody shooting at you with a rifle or...or a...you know, a handgun or whatever, you knew where it was coming from and you had an opportunity to get...get down, get covered, you know. But with that shell coming you didn't know....there was nothing you could do, just hit the ground and hope for the best.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well why don'twhen did you leave Korea?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....I left in.....I guess it was the latter part of May, 1952.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Of the original...of your squad, how many were....survived?

STUART DOWELL: Hmmmm....I went...that action that I was telling you about, I went from machine gunner to platoon Sergeant that day.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hmmmm.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....when I left I was the ranking NCO in the company, we had 27 men left in the company.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Out of?

STUART DOWELL: 350.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hmmmm. Ah....did you stay in the Army?

STUART DOWELL: No, I ah....when I came back, we had 90 days to re-enlist and they had offered ah....offered me a field commission as a Second Lieutenant, but I had to go back to Korea. And I had 90 days to decide and I could re-enlist, get my bonus and get my promotion if I re-enlisted in 90 days. And ah....while Imy folks had moved to Corpus Christi ah....while I was in Korea and I went to see them and the police department was taking applications for ah.....patrolmen at that time and I thought well that might be something to do for a month or two you know until I decided for sure that, that..... I wanted to go back in

the Army. So I went down and took the test, wasn't much of a test in those days, and I was accepted and hired and I got into police work.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Any regrets that you didn't stay in the military?

STUART DOWELL: Well yes and no. I did stay in the military, I joined the National Guard when I got back.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, as a career let's say.

STUART DOWELL: Well yes and no. At that time I would of retired when I was 47, I'd had enough years to retire and at that time it seemed like I'd be an old man. And I thought, I don't want to spend my life....you know. And I regret it, that I didn't. I enjoyed it ah....it was ah.....it was tough, I had....made a lot of friends, saw things and did things that I never would of had the opportunity to do before.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was the deciding factor, not to make

STUART DOWELL: I like.... I liked police work so much that I didn't want to go back in.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, one other question before we leave Korea, what's your thoughts on the new monument they just built in Washington?

STUART DOWELL: Well it's nice and I'm glad to have a.....a ah.....ah.....memorial.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You know it was called for so long the forgotten little war.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The police action.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, ah....it's very nice, I.....I personally would of have something different, but it typifieswhen I see.....I've seen pictures of it and it makes me think ofyou know, it's realistic and it could of been my squad and my platoon, it could be anybody's squad. I mean, it typifies the whole spectrum of people. Ah.... I ah.....you know II wouldn't want to do it again andbut I wouldn't take a million

dollars for the experience. Ah..... it was sad, the people..... I don't think anybody can realize the misery that war causes unless you're there. The hungry kids, the orphans ah.....always begging for food and sleeping, you know, just underlean up a piece of tin or whatever they could find against a tree and sleep under it. And ah....these little old 12 or 14 year old kids carrying their sisters and brothers, just babies, cause their parents had been killed. So many of them were separated from.....families were split up you know in the chaos and they had no central place for them to go to try to find their families. The country was just trying to survive, most of it was destroyed anyway. And ah.....it waseven though I was young, it still impressed me ah....those little old kids come up and begging for food, trying to survive, sleeping in concrete culverts and just any place to get out of the weather. And so few clothes that I would of froze to death, but they survived you know. And ah.....it was very sad. And anybody that has never been there and criticizes this country, just give 'em two or three days in a country like that and see what those poor people had to go through ah..... I think they'd change their mind, I know I did. It made me appreciate my country and I wouldn't trade one county in Texas for the whole world, I would not. Because we are the most fortunate people in the world, I guarantee you.

ROBERT NIEMAN: It's 1952 and you joined the Highway Patrol?

STUART DOWELL: No, I went on the Corpus Christi police department.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. How long did you stay there?

STUART DOWELL: Ah.....five years, as a patrolman there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When did you get involved with the DPS?

STUART DOWELL: Well, in 1957, the early part of 1957 ah.....they gave a test for Sergeant and ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: The DPS or Corpus Christi ?

STUART DOWELL: Police department.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Corpus Christi.

STUART DOWELL: Police department, yeah. And I took the test for Sergeant, I had, had five years and ah....ah..... I was in the top group that were.....what.... they would take the top ten and from that ten they would pick Sergeant, there was five Sergeant slots that had come open. They hadthe City had passed a bond election and they were hiring a bunch more policemen. So they had an opening for five more Sergeants. And I was in the top 10% to be eligible for Sergeant. And to back up a little bit, I had gotten in a little spat with the Chief. They had a City Councilman that was a radical, and even in those days he was radical you know, and he was anti-police, just.....oh he hated the police. And ah....every time that anything happened that he thought.....you know, everything was the police's fault, nobody else ever did anything wrong, it was just the police. And the Chief would run scared from him justhe was up there constantly raising cane and when he said that somebody ought to be fired or suspended or reprimanded or whatever, well the Chief would jump to it. And I I popped off one day, I said, 'Why don't you be a Chief instead of letting him run this police department'. I said, 'If you ain't got the balls to do it you ought to go back to being a patrolman'. Well that didn't set too well. And ah.....after the Sergeant's exam I was setting in the office one night making out a report and the Chief came down the hall and he said.....stuck his head in the door and he said, 'I just wanted you to know that as long as I'm here you'll never be nothing but a patrolman'. And a day or two later I saw ah..... I knew he meant it and ah.....a day or two later I saw in the paper they were giving examinations for the Highway Patrol, so I took it. And ah..... I think they paid about \$35.00 more a month than than the police department did, of course we was only making \$250.00 a month before deductions and the Highway Patrol made \$300.00 and something a month I think at that time. Seemed like a lot of money, so I took the test and passed and was accepted, myself and one more ah.....Bobby Joseph, he later made Captain of narcotics, I think he was stationed in Midland. But, I went to ah.....started patrol school at Austin on Thanksgiving Day, 1957.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you have any thought.....had you ever had any thoughts at this time about ever being a Texas Ranger?

STUART DOWELL: Oh yeah, back when I was a kid ah.....of course as I said earlier we was raised on..... I was raised on a farm ah.....we didn't even have electricity. And in the winter time we didn't have a radio, we didn't have television, there wasn't anything to do in the winter time ah.....except read. And I would check every book that I I loved to read and I checked out books from the library and had read several stories about the Texas Rangers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Any one in particular stuck with you?

STUART DOWELL: Mercy, I can't remember now. It was about..... I think McNally and ah.....can't remember the others. But ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: McNelly's my personal favorite, I do a program I give on McNelly.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. And ah..... I think that was the one that impressed me most about his actions down in south Texas and Nueces strip and so forth. And of course the books contained stories about others and I ah..... I guess in the back of my mind I knew that's what I wanted to do, but I didn't have the slightest idea how to go about getting to be one. Anyway ah.....started patrol school on ah.....well let me back up a little bit, ah.....while I was in Corpus ah..... the Rangers had a couple stationed there in Corpus Christi ah.....Captain ah.....well my mind went blank.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ally.

STUART DOWELL: Captain Allee was there, and I had met him, of course I was in awe of him and just a kid, but you know, gosh getting to speak to a Ranger. And then ah.....Williamson was another one, I remember him. But they were both very nice to me, even though I was just a peon patrolman, they treated me like I was a human being you know and.... and ah..... I was really impressed. So I knew that was my

ultimate goal after I met them, to be a Ranger. And I knew the....the awe the other officers had for the Rangers ah.....the respect they had for them. So with that in mind I went on with the DPS.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well your DPS school, was there anyone that you went through DPS with that would also later become a Ranger?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....yeah. Ah.....let me think, yeah there was two or three of 'em. Ah.....Block was one.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I don't know.....I'm not familiar with him.

STUART DOWELL: He was a Senior Ranger Captain.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh.

STUART DOWELL: Ah.....he was.....he was one and there was a couple more, but I swear I can't remember right now who they were.

ROBERT NIEMAN: A former Ranger named Bobby Poynter was down in Corpus, did you know him down there?

STUART DOWELL: Ah.....no, but ah..... I believe he went through my school. See there was 108 of us went through that particular school. This was the first school after they reorganized, the department became what they called the reorganization. And ah..... I know there was 108 of us started, 38 graduated.

ROBERT NIEMAN: For the record, that's P O Y N T E R, Bobby Poynter.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Now I'm not sure that he was in my patrol school, I know Block was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well anyway.

STUART DOWELL: And ah..... I went to patrol school and I thought the Army had been tough. And if.....after I got..... of course people there in Corpus had told me, said, 'You won't make it', said, 'You can't

make it through that school, it's tough'. And I said, 'If I can make it through the Army, I can make it though that'. And I began to wonder after I got there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What made it so tough?

STUART DOWELL: Al Stone was the.....was the PT instructor, he was a veteran from Korea.

ROBERT NIEMAN: PT?

STUART DOWELL: PT.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What's....?

STUART DOWELL: Physical training.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Al Stone?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. He had his left eye was shot out in Korea, bullet went in right at the bridge of his nose and came out right in front of his left ear, had a glass eye. He was a black belt ah.....Jujitsu and karate trainer, he was championMarine Corp. champion boxer, he was tough. But anyway ah..... I guess if I hadn't volunteered to go down there, if they'd drafted me and sent me down there ah.....they'd had to have a 24 hour guard and fence around the place, cause I'd probably leFort It's was just the fact thatthat I went on my own I said, 'I ain't leaving'. Ah.....we ah....had PT, they got us up at five o'clock in the morning and ah.....went out for PT, we had to make up our bunks, everything was military style, you made your bunks up military style, swept and mopped the floors, cleaned the latrine and then went out for an hour of PT in the morning. And ah.....he ah.....Al Stone liked to run and he could out run us backwards, and I don't mean he trotted like you see jogging you know, you run, wide open. And the first morning it was around all the DPS buildings and offices and after about a week of that then the shops was off down there in another part of the area and they had a big mound of dirt there, I don't know why it was there, but I guess it was left over from the construction and we ran down there back to the gym. After you run you come in there wasn't

no rest, you come right in the gym and you started PT and you did that for an hour. Let's get a drink, my throats getting dry.

ROBERT NIEMAN: All right.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....then we went to school....started classes eight o'clock, had breakfast from seven til eight, our classroom....class portion started at eight o'clock and those days you went until ten o'clock at night ah.....5 1/2 days a week. And if you....your grades.....you had a test every Friday, if your grades weren't up to ah....if you weren't carrying a 75 average you had to stay over on Saturday....Sunday and they had a....a ah....controlled study period, or supervised study period. And then they'd re-test you again on Sunday evening on anything that you were falling short on. And ah....ah....we got there I believe it was on Sunday after.....we got there on Sunday afternoon, initially when we reported.....no I take that back, it was on Thanksgiving Day, it was on a Thursday when we reported in.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And this was 1950 what?

STUART DOWELL: Seven, 1957.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Thirty-eight years ago next Thursday.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. And ah....they took us in the classroom and I can't remember who was....who was over the school at that time, it's been so long ago, but they came in and told us said ah....'We didn't ask you to come here, we don't care if you stay, we're going to put it down, you pick it up, and if you don't pick it up quick enough we're going to send you home'. So, made it very clear that they didn't care whether we stayed or not. And ah....that's the way it was. The first morning that we went out to PT, had one boy I never did know his name, but ah.....we made that run and when we came back, got out of PT, he didn't even eat breakfast, he went in and packed his clothes and went home. And you.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well now had you quite the Corpus Christi police department?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So I mean you didn't have anywhere to fall back on.

STUART DOWELL: I didn't have any place to go. Ah....and ah....just had a....a year old baby.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When did you get married?

STUART DOWELL: 1954. And ah....weour oldest girl had just been born October of '56, so I had to make it. And ah....we would ah....get up in the morning and there'd be an empty bunk, these guys would just get up and get their stuff, they were too embarrassed to face anybody I guess. They'd just be gone during the night, you know you'd wake up in the morning and the bunk next to you or across from you was empty, they was gone. So it weeded down from either quitting or running 'em off or whatever, fromthere was 108 started in the school, 38 of us graduated. Initially they sent me back to Corpus Christi ah....over driver's license. The Major down there at that time was....he was a hard nose and ah....he didn't think that....that a man ought to be sent back to his home where he came from. Although I wasn't raised in Corpus ah....he just thought that was the wrong thing to do. So ah....you had....at that time you had to stay in the service that you were assigned to for nine months before you could request a transfer. And I hated every day of driver's license, that just wasn't my thing.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You and Lewis Rigler commiserate together?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, something like that. But ah....as soon as...the day that my nine mo.... I had the letter already written and the day that I had my time in I turned in to be reassigned to the highway patrol. And ah....it was authorized and ah....ah.....like I say, the Major never did like the idea of me being sent back to Corpus in the first place, I should of been sent to El Paso or up in the panhandle somewhere, you know, cause I was from Corpus. But ah...when....when I ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well wait a minute, what was their thinking behind that, I mean.....

STUART DOWELL: I don't know.

ROBERT NIEMAN:to me the futility of it....a case in point, you know, we both know Jerry Byrne a Ranger up at Mount Pleasant, from West Texas, hadn't been there very long, first opportunity a West Texas slot came open he transferred.

STUART DOWELL: Well....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Wouldn't you have the same thing here, I mean, first chance you got to back to Corpus, that's.....

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, yeah, normally that's what would happen. I never did understand that line of thinking ah....it was just something that was done when the Highway Patrol was formed and I understand, I don't know this for a fact, that they had to move every two years back in the '30s, that they wouldn't let a man stay in the same place. The idea was that you had too many ties to the local people and you couldn't be fair and impartial if you came in contact with somebody you knew, and especially the people from small towns, that they all....everybody knew everybody else and you couldn't effectively do your job going back where you knew everybody and was raised. That was the thought behind it. But ah....I can see that in a place like Whitehouse or Liberty City or some place like that, if you grew up and was raised there you know. Well, move him over to Longview you know, if that's....if that's the way they feel about it. But anyway, that was the policy back then. So I had to go back through the Highway Patrol school....part....you know, the specialized school for the Highway Patrol and ah.... they sent me back to Corpus. Well the Major just went into orbit because I came back and then he immediately transferred me to Hallettsville, which was the furthest point in his region from Corpus that he could get me. And ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's over around Schulenburg and that area?

STUART DOWELL: Schulenburg, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And LaGrange.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well was the chicken ranch still there?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, yeah it was, oh it was still there. Ah....my partner was Wilbert Horstmann.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How do you spell that?

STUART DOWELL: H O R S T M A N N, full blood German.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did they....did they still have motorcycles, cause I know Jim Ray lives down (unintelligible)....and a lot of them did motorcycle when they first went on.

STUART DOWELL: Ah...some...some places they....they still rode motorcycles, it was mostly for parades and just special occasions.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I know Clint Peoples when he first become a Ranger rode a motorcycle....I mean Highway Patrolman.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Well we didn't....we didn't have to....we had cars, I never....I never worked on a motorcycle, rode 'em but never worked....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Jim Ray told me, he said....from what he's told me you didn't miss anything.

STUART DOWELL: No, no ah....I don't think anybody missed it. But they sent me from Corpus up to Hallettsville, Hallettsville was a small town, nearly everybody there was either a Czech or German and they were very clannish ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Third generation before you were not considered an outsider?

STUART DOWELL: That's right, maybe more. And they told me right to my face, there wasn't....that was one thing about it they were very open about it, 'You'll never be the man that Horstmann is'. Horstmann had already been there 15 years before I came. And ah....they just didn't accept it. They'd sit down at the table,

we'd be in a restaurant eating or drinking coffee, and ah....they would talk to him and it was just like I didn't even exist.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what did Horstmann say to you?

STUART DOWELL: Very little, very little. He wasn't a man of a whole lot of talk. He was nice to me and we got along just fine, got to be friends.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I know....the reason....Glenn Elliott, our mutual friend, ah....his first partner was Lloyd Webb and to this day, I mean Glenn....you know of course Webb's long dead but I mean he really still to this day thinks the world of Lloyd Webb.

STUART DOWELL: Oh I do too. Horstmann is ah.....you couldn't ask for a better partner, but he just wasn't talkative. He wasn't being ugly, wasn't treating me bad.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh, he wasn't considering you an outsider?

STUART DOWELL: No, no, no, it was just....he didn't talk a lot.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

STUART DOWELL: And ah....when he did say something, you better listen though, you know. It was worthwhile whatever he said. But the people there never did accept me ah....ah....I don't think they were being ugly, I don't think they meant to be rude, it was just their way you know, that's....that's their custom. Ah....I didn't have the....even though my grandparents came from Germany ah....I didn't have a German name, so I was....if I'd of been going by Peche, P E C H E, that was the German spelling of my grandparents name, I'd of probably been accepted right off, but Dowell wasn't a German name.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And how was your wife reacting to it?

STUART DOWELL: Well....she just tolerated it like I did you know. And ah....we ah....we rented a house and both the children were small, my second daughter was born in 1959 and ah....of course both of them

were very small children. We rented a house and the family right across the street they had two little girls the same age as....or close to the same age of ours. And of course kids are going to congregate to kids you know, didn't make them any difference what nationality they were. And ah....they were good little old kids and we didn't....we just let 'em play and at that time and that small neighborhood you didn't worry about things like you do today and the kids just went from one house to other, back and forth. And if they wasn't in our house they was in the other people's house. But the mother and daddy never spoke to us the entire time we lived there, never said one word to us. And we were....what really impressed me, one day we was....it was in the summer time and we were setting out in the back yard and the kids....their kids....the neighbors kids and our kids were all in our house playing dolls. The mother came through the yard, walked right in front of us, not three feet away, never said hello, kiss my foot or nothing, went in our house, got her kids and left you know. (side of tape ends) She ah.....came through the yard, walked in the house, never spoke to us, never asked permission to go in the house or nothing, she just went in, got her kids and leFort But that's the way it was the whole time we was stationed there. Ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well how long were you in Hallettsville?

STUART DOWELL: Oh, the best I can remember about a year and a half ah.....seemed like ten. Soon as a vacancy came open in Victoria why I transferred down there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was the Major receptive to you transferring or was he.....?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, as long as I didn't come back to Corpus. I could go there or....or to Brownsville or Harlingen.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Anywhere but Corpus.

STUART DOWELL: Anywhere but Corpus, I couldn't come there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well how did you like Victoria?

STUART DOWELL: I enjoyed Victoria, I liked it. It was a different.....different ah.....atmosphere and everything you know. And ah..... I really enjoyed my tour in Corpus. And I enjoyed..... I enjoyed the working up there in Hallettsville, because for one thing they were law enforcement minded and their theory was that if Mr. Horstmann gives you a ticket or Mr. Horstmann puts you in jail you're guilty and that's just all there was to it. There was no questions, no trial, you plead guilty and took your medicine. Cause Mr. Horstmann could do no wrong, you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did he serve out the rest of his duty in Hallettsville?

STUART DOWELL: Oh yeah, he stayed until he retired.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is he still living?

STUART DOWELL: As far as I know he is. But ah.....ah.....Victoria was a little larger town and kind of laid back and small enough that you knew everybody, but big enough you had some ah.....more stores. And ah....a little more activity cause you had several main highways coming through there and I really enjoyed working there. Ah..... I stayed there til 19.....well Ifirstwhen we first moved there ah.....Foster Air Force Base was in operation, which was a major training base for the Air Force and there was a lot of Air Force personnel there. And a pretty good.....you know it was an active town and a lot going on and just real exciting for us. So ah.....ah.....shortly after we moved there though they shut the Air Force Base down and ah.....we decided to buy a house because you could no money down, you just accept.....take over the loan that the.....these Air Force personnel had and they had a 4% loan you know. So we got a real nice house and I think the payment was \$92.00 a month. Which on a Highway Patrolman's salary wasman that was great you know. Ah.....financially times were pretty tough cause we didn't have hospitalization, we didn't have any kind of medical care at all. You went to the doctor you paid for it, you went to hospital you paid for it, you know, medicine you paid for or whatever. And ah.....at that time we were having a lot of illness

with the kids, one thing and another, and ah.....times were tough. I can remember some months that after we paid our bills and bought all the groceries that we could.....thought would last us for a month, we might have \$15.00 or \$20.00 left to last us til the next paycheck. And there just wasn't any money coming in you know, that was it. And when your paycheck was gone.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: That was it.

STUART DOWELL:that was it. It was tough.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well how long did you stay in Victoria?

STUART DOWELL: Stayed there from.....moved there in 196?.....let me think, I guess in 1962 til 1969. And ah.....we bought that house and ah..... I had made application for the Rangers several times ah.....and had gone.....at that time you went.....just went to the interview board in Austin. And ah.....the Commissioners would call you in and talk to you, you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was Victoria Allee's company or that.....was that Company A?

STUART DOWELL: That was still Allee's. And ah.....of course he had asked for me several times. I had told him I was interested in being a Ranger. He'd ask for me but I didn't.....whatever the reasons they didn't pick me. So time drug on and I had ah.....really give up and just.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: How many times had you applied?

STUART DOWELL: Eight times.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well before we get into the Rangers, I want to go back and ask you a question on your highway patrol days, two questions, number one, during that period of '62 to '69, you saw a cultural change in this country.

STUART DOWELL: Oh yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And attitudes toward law enforcement, with Vietnam and the “Burn Baby Burn” slogan coming along, did you see that much in Victoria?

STUART DOWELL: No, no we ah.....ah.....the people there were very conservative. I doubt if a liberal had lived in town they might of been lynched, you know. Ah....those people in that part of the country were ah.....most of them were Czechs and Poles and Germans, but they weren’t as rigid as the ones in Hallettsville.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But they still had a lot of respect for the law.

STUART DOWELL: They.....they were.....oh yes, definitely. Ah....they were very conservative, they didn’t tolerate any of that sort of stuff that went on, that was going on at that time. Now there was some of it in ah.....like San Antonio, Corpus Christi.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The bigger cities?

STUART DOWELL: Bigger cities ah.....but not in Victoria. You just didn’t hear.....didn’t even think about it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Still didn’t have to worry about locking your door at night and stuff like that.

STUART DOWELL: No, no, no there was.....it wasmajor crime was somebody breaking in the feed store and stealing the cash out of the cash register or breaking in the cokes bottles and taking the money out, that was about the biggest thing that we had. And ah.....ah....but as far as demonstrations and things like that ah.....we didn’t have it there, but now we.....during those years we did train for it, for riot control and all that stuff. But ah....the people respected, as a whole, you know, I’m talking about the people who lived in that area.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, yeah.

STUART DOWELL: You get people from Houston or some place else coming through there.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Outsiders.

STUART DOWELL:and of course those groups that didn't respect anybody. But ah....we.....an officer alone might face.....you know you'd go in a beer joint, be packed full, you tell 'em to clear the place out, there wasn't no question, they just left, didn't say anything to you, no smart talk. If they did, you smacked 'em up side the head and say, 'I told you to get', you know and that was the end of it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, yeah. Well was it....while you were in the Highway Patrol was there any particularly memor.....ah....memory.....cases you remember real well.

STUART DOWELL: Oh there was.....there was a lot of things you know ah.....mercy, the Highway Patrol was.....was quite an experience to me. I guess I saw just about everything there is to see. Ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I know Glenn has told me several times that he's as.....he's as fond and as proud of his Highway Patrol days as he was his Ranger days.

STUART DOWELL: Oh I am too. I mean it wasit was an education and I was proud of being a Highway Patrolman, still am, you know. I.....I'm proud of it. And ah.....it was just such a variety everyday and there was something everyday and almost every hour, that it's hard to say well this was more outstanding thanthan something else. But there.... because there was just so much variety and you came in touch with so many different types of people and different situations. And ah..... I guess the first memorial things that really stands out in my mind ah....when I was in Hallettsville, Horstmann called me early one morning about one o'clock in the morning and ah.....Highway 90 ran through Hallettsville, Highway 90 A ran through Hallettsville. And out west of Hallettsville two hitchhikers, if you can imagine this, had laid down on the main highway right out next to the center strip, laid down in the highway and using their little old ditty bags for pillows, had gone to sleep. And this guy in a truck came by and when he came over this little

rise there they were, there wasn't nothing he could do you know, he ran smooth over the top.....took the tops of their heads off. Well it..... I mean they.....they didn't move, they died instantly.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well were they on something?

STUART DOWELL: We don't know, you know. They weren't drunk, they didn't.....in those days they didn't have an accurate test for drugs and things.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Drugs.

STUART DOWELL: They weren't drunk, that's all we knew.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And they're dead.

STUART DOWELL: And they're dead, you know. Ah.....they had a bad case of stupidity, that was the most thing. But ah....during my career as a Highway Patrolman I went through I think three major hurricanes down there on the coast. And Carla was in 1969.

ROBERT NIEMAN: She was the big Mama.

STUART DOWELL: That was the big Mama. I mean it tore things up. But I worked major accidents where numbers of kids were..... I got..... Ione night....it's kind of humorous I guess ah.....it was raining and down in that country the road base is made out of shale. And in dry weather the dust from that settles on the pavement and then if you get a little shower it's just like grease, I mean it's terrible. And ah.... I was going out ah.....ah.....Highway 77 just south of Victoria and it had.....was misting rain and I came up on a car in the ditch. And it had.....this accident has just happened and I jumped out and went over there. And what had happened, this guy had lost control of his vehicle and went into a broad skid, hit a mailbox and the mailbox came through the window and was just high.....window level, came right through the window and hit his wife in the side of the head. And she was just covered with blood and he was.....they had two small

children in the back seat and they were just hysterical. And the kids.....the man had covered his wife up so the kids couldn't see.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was she dead?

STUART DOWELL: No, she wasn't dead. But she was.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Messed up.

STUART DOWELL:apparently in bad shape. She really wasn't as bad as I thought, but she was bleeding a lot. And ah.....so I called an ambulance immediately and took the kids back and put 'em in the patrol car so they wouldn't see their mother in this shape. And ah....some other people had come up by time and stopped and I got a lady passerby to stay with the children in the patrol car you know, try to calm them down. And as soon as I had got this lady and her husband in the ambulance, I told them I'd take care of the kids and bring 'em to the hospital later. Cause in those days they just used ayou know a station wagon for an ambulance and there wasn't room for the kids in there. So I the ah.....did what I had to do at the scene, and in checking the car I saw the woman's scalp on the floor of the car. And I had a plastic bag in there so I put it in the plastic bag and ah.....rushed out to the hospital. And went in the emergency room, and in those days they didn't have trauma centers, just you know.....and we had the run of the hospital, they didn't care. Cause a lot of times I helped the doctors in an emergency, there would be one doctor and ah....he would have me come in and help him do emergency surgery on these people. And I went in and showed the nurse what I had, I said, 'I got the lady's scalp, maybe ya'll can reattach it, I don't know you know'. And she went behind the curtains and I heard 'em laughing and she came back out and said, 'This is a wig'. The woman had a wig on and when it hit her.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Knocked it off.

STUART DOWELL:of course the inside you know, but it was covered in blood and it just looked like a scalp, like she'd been scalped. Needless to say, from then on when I went to the hospital they always wanted to know if I'd made.....got any scalps lately.

ROBERT NIEMAN: To hang on your belt huh.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. But ah.....I ah.....you know when a Highway Patrolman goes to any kind of disaster he's supposed to keep calm, cool and collected. And ah.....one day when I was off duty ah.....my youngest daughter came in..... I was working evenings is what it was, and my wife was working and I took care of the kids until I went to work and then we had a baby-sitter come in or if the neighbor could do it why we'd send 'em over there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: They didn't walk through your house and not say a word in Victoria?

STUART DOWELL: No, no, they.....it was a different situation there. But anyway, I was baby-sitting and ah.....the youngest one and came in and she had something all over her mouth and I knew it wasn't.....wasn't right whatever it was. So I ran in the bathroom and ah.....she had ah.....climbed up.....her older sister had helped her, they had got up into the medicine.....we tried to keep all the medicine way up out of reach. But they'd got this bottle of neuprocanal.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What?

STUART DOWELL: Neuprocanal, it's a topical antiseptic and mosquitos were so bad down there, it waskilled mosquito bites, or killed the stinging of a mosquito bites and that's what we mainly keep it mainly for. But we had it as high as we could put it, but them two had conspired together and got it down. And she decided that the taste was pretty good, so she had.....had swallowed nearly a bottle of it. And a pretty good size.....you had to buy it by the biggest bottle, cause man mosquitos and stuff down there was bad. And ah..... I called her pediatrician and told him what had happened, wanted to know what should I do. And he

said, 'You get her here just as quick as you can'. So I shuffled 'em both in the.....in the patrol car and red lights and siren and I went to the doctor. And they were standing outside waiting on me, well that really scared me to death you know. And ah....took her in there and they didn't say a word, they just grabbed her and was gone with her. And I expected 'em to come back any minute you know, they didn't tell me anything, expected 'em to come back in a minute and say she's dead. The way they were acting you know it was..... I knew it was serious. Well they took her in there and pumped her stomach out. To make a long story short, she was fine and by the time I got home she was really to go play dolls, it was all over with. But it scared daddy to death. And ah.....after they rushed her off, I was setting there in the lobby and the nurse come out with the papers, of course they already had a chart on each one of 'em, she said, 'Which one is that', wanting her name. Couldn't think of that child's name to save my life, my mind went just as blank as that wall. I said, 'I don't know, I just know she's my daughter'. I didn't care at that time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was your other daughter with you?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, and she told me, 'Daddy that's Valerie'. But they.....not too long after that....she was justshe had a.... I don't know what happened, she fell out of bed. Got up one morning..... I was getting dressed and my wife and I were getting dressed to go to work. And I had.....we had hardwood floors, the house that we were living in didn't have carpet on the floor, we just had some rugs different places. And I heard something hit the floor, crack, just cracked like you break a dry stick. And I went in there and that little one somehow had fell and hit her head on that hardwood floor and she was out. And her eyes rolled back in her head and she quit breathing and I started giving her artificial respiration and she started breathing but she didn't....she was breathing on her own but she wasn't....didn't come to and her eyes were still rolled back in her head and she was just a limp as a rag. So all I had on was my pants, didn't have shoes, socks or shirt on. I ran to the car and went to the hospital which was just a couple of blocks up the street from where we were living and ah....ran in there and it just so happened my Pediatrician was there. He

said, 'What's wrong now'. I did....just when I come through the door, there he was at the desk and I said, 'I don't know, just do something'. You know, and I just went berserk. And ah....she had a mild concussion, but I couldn't remember her name again, I couldn't even remember my own name, I couldn't do anything you know. And the point I'm trying to make, when it....when it's somebody else you can control your emotions, but when it's your own you know, you....I got to depend on somebody else. And ah....I went, not just myself but when I say "I", I'm talking about my partner and other people, other patrolmen. But ah...we had ah....we had explosions, we had the hurricane, we had people drown. Ah....just all kinds of things you know and ah....you were expected to come in and take charge. And ah....it's pretty easy to do when it's a stranger or somebody you don't know. Ah....you....I guess the adrenalin starts going and the fact that I'd had military training, it helped a whole lot. But ah....I worked some terrible, terrible automobile accidents there and especially drunk drivers. But ah....had one leave a beer joint and in those days they had these fruit trucks....especially just before the holidays, these two ton trucks would come out of the valley with oranges you know, and fruit headed for Houston, Dallas and so forth. But this guy came out of a beer joint, it was a divided highway and he had a souped up car and he hit this truck head on. Both fuel tanks on the truck and the car exploded. Of course he was dead, hishis car went under that truck to the trunk, the front bumper of the truck was right over the trunk of the car. And this was a full sized car now. It was '81 Plymouth, four door sedan. And he hit it going so fast that he drove that car underneath that truck. Burned him where I'm sure he was dead immediately you know, but it burned the truck driver up. Ah....it was just things like that. Had a guy ran into the back....it was a dance hall, beer joint out west of town and they were having a big dance out there one night and ah....this guy....Highway 77 and Highway 59 split right in front of this beer joint. And ah....this truck had missed his turn, he wanted to go on 77 and at the last second he saw that he was going out 59. Well he just stopped in the middle of the road and when he did these two drunks hit the back of his truck and decapitated 'em, I mean just sliced their heads off like you took a band saw and cut 'em

off. And their heads were laying in the back of the car, and the top of the car was just peeled back. And ah....just happened I was in that area and I went out ah....was trying to keep the people back and I heard this female, she was hollering 'I think that's my cousin, I think that's my cousin, I want to see him'. And the people were trying to hold her back and she just went ballistic, demanding that she be allowed to come up there. And I said, 'Well let her come on', cause she was causing such a.... 'Let her come up here, I need to know who these people are'. And when she came up and when she saw 'em she just fainted dead away. So I had 'em drag her off and that was the end of that. But ah....ah....I guess the ah....let's take a break for a minute.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, it's 1969, you're applying for the Rangers?

STUART DOWELL: Well let's see, I was....I think I was talking about some of the Highway Patrol.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....I had a....had some experiences with some drunks I thought was kind of humorous. Ah....my partner and I....my partner most of the time that I was in Victoria ah....was H. D. Welch, he later made Sergeant and moved out to Abilene. But ah....he came on in ah....came to the Highway Patrol in 19... must of been 1963 just about, somewhere in there and ah....he was a rookie, just come out of patrol school and they put him with me and for the rest of the time that I was on the Highway Patrol ah...we worked together probably 95% of the time as partners. But ah....ah....one...he had stopped a car for some traffic violation ah....while he was talking to the driver of this car a pickup truck stopped behind us and ah...I went back to see what they wanted and the driver was drunk. And he, for whatever reason, he had decided that he was going to stop and see what we was doing. And ah...he demanded to know why we had stopped this other car. What was in his head, just typical drunk you know, running his head. So I put him under arrest, put him in the patrol car and ah....after H. D. got through with the contact with the other driver, he said, 'How about you driving his pickup in and we'll go on into the jail'. So I got in the truck and the

motor was still running. Started following him into town, it was dark, late night and I'm driving along you know, my mind is a thousand miles away and ah....all at once something kicked me on the foot and I liked to of had a run away. Like to have wrecked the truck. And there was another drunk had passed out in the floorboard of this pickup, was curled up down there in the floorboard and he had started moving around and had kicked me on the leg you know. And I didn't even know....I thought I was by myself in the truck. But on the way in ah....just before we got into town another drunk came out of a beer joint right in front of H. D., I was following....he was in the patrol car, I was right behind him. And this drunk came out of the beer joint going into town and he was just all over the road. So H. D. hit him with the red light and he just kept on going, he wasn't trying to out run us, he was just driving, and pulled into a restaurant up there. And ah....so I pulled in behind H. D. just he case he was going to have to have....he already had one in there and he was fixing to arrest another one, so I was going to make sure and my....the one I had, he was out of it, there wasn't any worry about him. This guy gets out of his car and H. D. had parked right behind him when he pulled into the restaurant. And he comes towards H. D. and he's at an angle about like that to the ground, you know he's fixing to fall, but he's running to keep from falling. And as he comes to the patrol car he hooks his arm in the door of the patrol car, swings around and lays down in the seat. And he gets his billfold out and he's using the lights from the dash to look for his driver's license. He ain't arguing or nothing you know, he's just looking for his driver's license. And ah....anyway, we put him under arrest, got two DWI's there and we get to the county jail and there's several steps up to the county... the old county jail there in Victoria and we started up those steps and the one that we had....that I had arrested initially out on the highway, he motioned me over to the side. And he said, 'I just want you to know', said, 'I don't know who that drunk son of a bitch is', said, 'I just picked him up out there on the highway'. But I thought it was hilarious, we...we get in ah....get in the county jail and the booking desk is about as wide as this desk we're sitting at right now and the officers normally went around on the inside and we had the....the people we were booking were standing on

the outside. This....this first one that we had arrested, the one Ithat had driven up in the pickup, he's standing up there and I'm making out the papers on him and H. D.'s booking in the other one and he pulls a cigarette out of his shirt, says 'Give me a light'. So I pull my lighter out, light it....of course I'm from here to you away from him. Put the cigarette in his mouth and starts drawing on it and I haven't even move....I'm just holding the lighter up here like this and he said, 'Thank you'. I haven't even touched his cigarette with the lighter and he stood there the whole time smoking that cigarette and it's not lit. It's hilarious. But ah....we....we've seen some sights. But this ah....out there south of Victoria there was ah.....we had ah.....one night H. D. and I were working and ah....we were going out Highwaywell I started to tell you about all these beer joints south of town. There were seven beer joints that ah....operated out there in this little area and ah....that's....on toward....at that time the beer joints closed at midnight on weekdays and one o'clock on Saturdays, Friday and Saturday. So most of our accidents were drunk drivers and ah....we ah....worked out there most of the time, at that time of night you know. And ah....ah....it wasthey thoughtthey had it in their mind that ah....if they could beat us into town, get in the city limits, that the Highway Patrol couldn't stop 'em once they got in the city limits, we didn't have any authority. So a lot of times it was a race from the beer joint to the city limits.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was their thinking correct?

STUART DOWELL: No, oh no, no wewe had authority to stop 'em anywhere in the State of Texas you know. But we had a lot of races and I wouldn't do it again you know, but I was young. And ah....ah....that was all part of it. We didn't have radar, we chased....well we had radar but you....it set on a stand and you had a cable running from there to the car and then you had a pick up car, that you call out their speed to the other pick up car. So most of the time we just had to chase 'em. But ah....ah....one night had another rookie this....he had just....just a kid, he came out of patrol school and they split H. D. and I up and gave me this kid to break in. And to back up just a little bit, we had worked together..... I had worked with

this kid for two weeks and we were out ah....on 77well we was actually on a little old county road out there, I was showing him to way....you know, how he could find his way around out there. And there was a pack of coyotes running across a pasture and I stopped the car and I just kind of wanted to check him out and see what kind of shot he was . And I said, ‘See if you can hit one of them coyotes’. They was about, oh I guess a hundred yards from us. And ah....he said ah.....kind of hesitated and I said, ‘What’s wrong’. He said, ‘Is it all right to load my pistol’. I’d been working with him for two weeks and he hadn’t even loaded his pistol yet. And I liked to croaked you know. I said, ‘You mean we’ve been working together and you didn’t have your pistol loaded’. He said, ‘No, nobody told me to’.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you feel like Sheriff Andy, here’s your bullet Barney?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, something like that. Anyway ah..... I instructed him on loading his pistol and keeping it loaded. But he and I were working one night out in this area and it had ah.....we’d had the fringes of a hurricane come in and flooded all the country. And ah....the roadway from the city limits of Victoria out to ah....ah.....this area where all these beer joints was, wasthe highway was built up out of the river bottom and it had flooded so bad that the water was almost level with the road bed. And ah....this car came out of a beer joint and was throwing gravel everywhere, just spinning their wheels. And it was a Camero or some hot rod car you know. And when they hit that road they were just fish tailing from one side to the other and how they missed a couple of cars head on I don’t know. Cause there wasn’t no place to go you know. But they’d weave around them cars. We....of course we turned around and went after ‘em and about a quarter of a mile down the road all at once this car just left, made a left hand turn right off that highway and down into the water and hit the fence, brand new car. So I rolled up there and the water was just about that far below the window sill of the car and I think it had already started coming in under the doors. And ah....there was a female in there by herself and she had rolled the window down and was screaming at the top of her lungs, ‘Help me, help me, I’m drowning’, you know. And of course she wasn’t.... didn’t....wasn’t

even wet, water was just seeping in around there. So my partner, being an energetic young rookie, he runs down there and there's about six or eight feet distance from the water's edge to the trunk of the car. And he makes a flying run down there and jumps out on the trunk of that car. Of course it caves in you know. Walks up on top of it, caves the top of it in and ah.....she's rather hefty. And ah....he pulls her out and gets both of them standing on top of that car and they're just ruining that new car you know. And she wasn't in any danger, I'd planned.....we carried a chain in the patrol car and I'd figured on just hooking.....I'd done it a number of times, just hooking that chain on that car and pulling it back out. But he'd already tromped the top of that car in and then when she got up on top of it, and how he got her out of there I don't.....cause he probably didn't weigh 135 pounds. And I know that she must of weighed 250. But he pulled he up on top of the car and she had him smothered, I mean she was hanging on to him likehad a death grip on him you know. I got to laughing and ah....he laid her down on the trunk of the car and she said, 'Jump and he'll catch you'. And of course she couldn't of.....there was no way she could jump from the distance from the trunk of that car to where I was and I wasn't about to get wet. Cause the water down there wasn't but about half knee deep and I wasn't going to wade out in it and wasn't nothing wrong with her. Well she makes a jump, instead of jumping standing up, she just kind of does a belly flop out there. And she didn't miss the trunk of that car that far and she just splat down in that water you know. And ah.....ah....he said, 'Well why didn't you catch her'. And I said, 'You must be crazy, I wasn't about to catch her'. But a couple of days later ah..... Iwe're in the office and I go....go into the Sheriff's office and I call the patrol car, disguise my voice and tell him I'm an insurance agent for her insurance and that we're trying to understand how the top of that car and trunk got caved in. And you know, since the car didn't turn over and that there was very little damage if it hadn't been for the trunk and the top caved in, that ah.....damage was very minor and it was going to cost 'em several thousand dollars to repair the top of the trunk and we'd like to know how it happened. And he started stuttering and stammering around there and he said, 'Well I had to rescue her out that car, I was

afraid she was going to drown there'. And I said, 'Well how was she going to drown cause there wasn't even any water damage inside the car'. 'Well, well, you know, I was afraid it was going to flood in there'. And I said, 'Well we're ah....we have talked to our attorney and we're thinking about sending you a bill for the damage to this car'. And I made up a figure of fifteen hundred, sixteen hundred dollars . 'Well, well, I'll have to talk to my Sergeant about that'. And I let him go on for several days worrying about it and finally told him forget about it you know, and he was really.....he was loosing....literally loosing sleep over it, he thought he was going to have to pay for the damage to that....to that car. But ah.... I walked in the jail one night and they had athe Sheriff's deputies had brought a drunk in, he was a pretty good sized old boy, just muscled up. And most of those people worked in the oil field down there and they were pretty tough. And ah....this deputy was a Mexican and ah.... he was pretty laid back and he was a big old boy too, he must....probably 6'2", 6'3" and ah.....and probably weighed 230-40 pounds. And he wasn't fat, he was just muscled up. And ah....this drunk that they had brought in was giving 'em a hard time. And I didn't even know what had happened. I walked through the door and this guy that they were booking turned around to me and said, 'Let's get it on'. And at the same time he came at me andand swung a round house left at me. And I side stepped it, if I'd been expecting it I probably couldn't of missed it, but it was just reflex you know. And when he went by me I grabbed his right arm and just held onto it and his momentum carried us both around and he hit the wall, just sounded like you take a big steak and slap it down on the table, splat. And he just melted and went down on the floor. And ah..... I tried to wake him up, nothing boy. Scared me. And ah..... I asked Ambrosio, I said, 'Don't you think we ought to call an ambulance'. No, he's all right'. Said, 'Help me carry him upstairs'. We didn't have an elevator, we had to carry him up two flights of stairs. You know, the boy must of weighed 185-90 pounds. We carried him up there and laid him on the bunk and I said, 'Gonzales you better check on this guy pretty regular, you know he may be hurt bad'. 'Okay I'll check on him'. So I went on and I said, 'Now your sure we don't need to put him....send him out to the hospital

and get him checked'. 'Nah, he's all right'. So about an hour later he calls me on the radio, he said, 'I just want you to know I checked on the guy', said, 'He's still breathing'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh boy.

STUART DOWELL: But the next morning he was all right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did he remember anything about it?

STUART DOWELL: Nah. We had one old boy there that ah.....he was a....worked in the oil field and ah.....he would ah....there was a restaurant just out of Victoria where we all drank coffee. And ah.....they finally got one of those great big round oak tables for us and we'd all come in there and drink coffee in the morning and if he was in there he'd come by and stopor if he happened to come in he'd come over to the table and sit down and drink coffee with us. And ah.....just the best mild mannered, you know, likable guy that you ever saw. Well he liked that beer and he'd never, ever had a driver's license in his life. And he drove....he knew two speeds and that was stopped and wide open, everywhere he went. So naturally from time to time we'd stop him. And he.....if he'd been drinking he had to fight us, you know that was just....he just had to do it. And ah....he'd apologize, say, 'I got to fight you', and the fight was on. And the next day.....he did not like to come to that jail for any reason whatever. He'd come to the restaurant, 'How much is my fine'. And ah.... okay, you know he'd go on and he'd bring it back in an envelope and leave it with the cashier. And they'd tell us, so and so left his money for his fine you know. But at the same time, if he was coming by and you was having trouble with somebody else he would come to a sliding halt, jump out of that car and come over there and just beat the hell out of whoever you was having problems with. Say, 'Don't you know better than to give them Highway Patrolmen any lip'. And he'd start in on 'em. But he had to fight us you know. It was hilar.....and he'd come in and sit down and drink coffee, never complained, sometimes he'd come in and have a black eye, his old lip split you know, we was friends after.....after he sobered up we was friends, everything was fine. But ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, let's see, let's move on to the Ranger days.

STUART DOWELL: Well in 1969 ah.....Jim Ray was Chief of the Criminal Law Enforcement and he called me at the house said, 'You still want to be a Ranger'. I'd already forgot about it, I'd....I'd fixed my house up, spent aboutborrowed twenty....twenty-six, twenty-seven hundred dollars and had a central heat put in and central air and put a new roof on it and got everything fixed up, put in new carpet. You could do it for that amount back in them days. And ah....just give up on making Ranger you know. I said, 'Well I'm going to a Highway Patrolman, I'm going to stay here and so I just as well get comfortable'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you'd already tried what, seven times?

STUART DOWELL: Eight times.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Eight times.

STUART DOWELL: So this was in October of 1969 and get a call from him and said, 'You still want to be a Ranger', and I said, 'Well sure'. He said, 'Well wewe're going to hire you and be effective October the 1st, and you'll be a Ranger'. This was like ah....September the 20th you know. He said, 'You're going to be stationed in Dallas now, you have to go up there'. So you know I start getting things together and trying to figure out what I do now coach. I didn't know, you know, it's a different world on the Highway Patrol, it's very regimented and you ah.....(side of tape ends). So I figured, you know, since it was effective October the 1st had to ah....had to be there working October 1st, so my wife and I take off to Dallas and never been there in my life and trying to find a place to live and so forth. So it was recommended by somebody, I can't remember who, that maybe I ought to find a place in Garland to live, that was a pretty nice place to live and I had to get the schools you know. So we go and contact a real estate agent and they said, yeah we....they showed us a house we made a deal on it. And ah..... I had to get rid of my house in Victoria and didn't have enough money to make a down payment on that house up there until I sold the

house in Victoria. And ah....anyway, he said 'This will be vacant by the first', the people that sold it, you know, 'We'll try to have everything set up for you so you can move in'. So we go back to Victoria and I put my house up for sale....or had it.....no I hadn't put the house up for sale. But I went by to see some friends of mine, one of 'em ran a furniture store there, I went by to say good-bye to him and I just made the comment I said, 'I got to run, I've got to get my house on the market and try to get rid of it'. He said, 'Where is your house', and I told him about it and so forth. And he said, 'Well let me go out and look at it'. And he said, 'How much you got to have for it'. And I said, 'Well I've got to have \$2,300.00 to move in this other house', and I said, 'If I can get that I'll be happy, just so I can get in that other house'. So ah....he went out and look at it and he said, 'I'll tell you what', he said, 'I'll give you \$2,300.00 right now', and he said, 'I'm going to put it on the market and any profit I can make off of it after I pay off your loan', he said, 'I'll split it with you'. Well man, you know you can't beat this. And I thought, well whatever ah....cause I never expected to see any more, even though we were good friends you know. So I had my money to make the down payment on the other house and I shipped it off to the real estate people and they said, 'Well we'll have everything ready for closing on such and such a date'. Which was a few days after I had to be in Dallas, but I thought well I can handle that you know. And ah....the State was going to pay for my move which was the only time I'd everalways before I had to move myself. And they even sent the movers in and ah.....we loaded up and headed for Dallas, and that was quite an experience to move from Victoria to Dallas. But we got there and they said, 'The people have decided not to sell, they backed out'. And man I'm.... there I am with a truckload of furniture, no place to live and I got to go house hunting. And ah.....this real estate agent that we had made the deal with in the first place he found me a rent house down on Swiss Avenue in Dallas and ah.... of course by that time the people that the movers had lined to unload the truck they had left and I and my wife had to unload all that furniture by ourselves. We was out there like til three o'clock the next morning, didn't have any....even a bed set up to lay down on you know. And that was a

nightmare. And seemed like everything I did just collapsed on me. But ah....we lived there for a few days until we found another house and made a deal on it, got closed and finally did find a house in Garland to move into. But ah....Captain Wilson was the ah.....Captain of Company B.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Bill Wilson?

STUART DOWELL: Bill Wilson. And I think he had just recently made Captain, just before I went there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was the Sergeant?

STUART DOWELL: Lester Robertson was the Sergeant.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember who else was in Company B?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....Charlie Wilson....Charlie Moore was ah.....there in Dallas. Ah.....Tom Arnold was in Fort Worth, he had a made Ranger just a month before I had and they sent him to Fort Worth. Lewis Rigler was in Gainsville. Ah....Glenn was at ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Elliott?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, he was at Longview. Red Arnold was at Mount Pleasant. Ah.....Frank Kemp was at ah.....ah....Paris. Max Womack was at Atlanta.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Bob Mitchell was here in Tyler.

STUART DOWELL: Bob Mitchell was in Tyler. Ah.....let's see, Howard Alfred was in Dallas, he came later.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's Slick.

STUART DOWELL: Slick, uh huh, he came later.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was in Greenville?

STUART DOWELL: Oh ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Or was there a Greenville station then?

STUART DOWELL: Roy Scott, he and I came.....he came onnearly.....let's see, Lewis, Captain Wilson, Charlie Moore and Sergeant Robertson, Red Arnold and Frank Kemp and ah....Glenn Elliott, they were all old, the rest of us was new.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How long had Mitchell been on?

STUART DOWELL: Well Mitchell, I think he'd been in on three or four years.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. You and Max came on close to the same time didn't you?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, Max came on in September, I came on in October. And ah....ah..... I believe that's right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He came on in '69 I believe.

STUART DOWELL: Well he came in September, the first of September and I went.....came on the Rangers the first of October. But ah.....that was quite an experience. Ah..... I set around the office there for.....oh for two or three weeks seemed like, nothing happened ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Headquarters then wasn't out at Garland was it, it was down in

STUART DOWELL: No it was on Northwest Highway, just off of LBJ there. And ah.....there was a little old airport acrossacross the street from the old headquarters, DPS headquarters. They kept a helicopter and DPS plane over there. And ah....ah.....let's see, I was assigned Dallas County and Kaufman County.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Richard Sheen has that area now.

STUART DOWELL: Really. Ah....anyway, we ah.... I didn't even.....of course being an old country boy I didn't know my way around you know, I was lost most of the time. But most of the time there was ah....when they got a call like Charlie Moore or something, he'd take me with him and you know, we'd go out. But ah....one particular day there was nobody in the office but myself and the secretary. And ah....got a

call from Kaufman County, they'd had a murder down there and wanted a Ranger to come down to help 'em work it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: It was Pansy?

STUART DOWELL: Pansy.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was she the secretary then?

STUART DOWELL: No....ah...yeah, she was there. And ah.....Mildred was the other secretary..... I believe Pansy was there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Pansy Davis.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. But anyway, Mildred ah.....well I take that back Mildred was the only one there at that time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....she....we just had one secretary. Anyway ah....Mildred told me how to get over to Kaufman County and ah.... I gotheaded out that way and the murder was down at Cedar Creek Lake, it occurred down there and I had no idea where Cedar Creek Lake was. And ah.....so the County sent a car up there and lead me down to the murder scene and I guess they were thinking, boy this is great you know, when a Ranger doesn't even know how to get to the lake and we're wanting him to help investigate. But anyway, we wrapped it up later that afternoon, got the old boy arrested and he consented to make a statement and by the time we got the statement and got him arraigned and everything it was like eleven o'clock at night, eleven, twelve. And Sergeant Robertson had come down .

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lester Robertson.

STUART DOWELL: Lester had come over there ah.....got there about seven or eight o'clock that night and after we got everything wrapped up why ah..... I told Lester, I said, 'Let me follow you back to Dallas cause

I don't know the way'. And he thought I was pulling his leg you know. Cause Charlie Moore was always pranking with him. And ah.....he said, 'Ah youyou just pulling my leg', said, 'You know the way back to Dallas'. And I said, 'Sergeant I promise you, I do not know the way back to Dallas'. I said, 'I would never of found this if the deputies hadn't of come led me in here, I don't.... I can't find my way back to my house'. Well he didn't believe me and I tried to follow him on the way back. About the second signal light well I lost him you know and I just stayed on the highway we was on and finally came into Dallas, but I had no earthly idea where I was. To make a long story short, I wondered around til four-thirty that morning before I foundand I was I was too embarrassed to call anybody or ask 'em how to

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well that was your first case?

STUART DOWELL: That was my first case.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you got a conviction?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah....well he pled guilty. It was..... it was very cut and dried. He had killed his girlfriend and ah....stopped.... there was a bridge that goes across Cedar Creek Lake and he had stopped out there on that bridge and threw her body in the lake. Well there was blood on theon the pavement, there was blood on the railing where he had thrown her over. And ah....when we got tothe problem it took so long was getting her identified, figure out who she was. Once we found out who she was, why it just started snow balling and found out she had been out with her boyfriend the night before and they'd been bar hopping you know and got drunk. And they'd been fighting in the bar, had a knock down, drag out in there. And ah....he had stopped somewhere and beat her to death with a tire tool, stuck her in the trunk of the car and drove out there on the bridge and threw her body in the lake. So we went to his house and he had.....where he lived was.....had a carport. The car was sitting there in the carport and when we pulled up in the driveway, the blood was all over the back of theof his car where he had drug her out of the trunk of

the car. You know, I mean, we didn't have to get a search warrant or anything, you could just see what had happened there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you find.....through the interviews that Glenn and I have done, one of the things I've found rather almost astounding is the stupidness of these people that commit crimes. I mean like this guy didn't even bother to stop at the car wash and wash the blood off.

STUART DOWELL: Well, that....that wasn't always true, most of the time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Not always true, but I mean, it's....it's not

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, yeah, rare.

ROBERT NIEMAN:it's not rare by any

STUART DOWELL: Ah..... I found out that a lot of crimes are committed on the spur of the moment, there's no prior planning or anything, they just do it. Ah.....of course he was drunk, she was drunk and it was just a typical bar room fight and it continued on after they left there. And he still even had the tire tool in the trunk of the car and it had her hair and blood and everything on it you know. And ah....and of course he gave a confession, but a lot of them are stupid, but sometimes not really out ofout of intelligence, they just luck out. But ah.....very similar to the KFC.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Which we'll get into in a little bit. Did ah....what was your feeling, do you remember, the first time you pinned that Peso, the Texas Ranger badge on?

STUART DOWELL: Oh I was about ten or twelve foot tall and ah....ah....it was just a.....the greatest moment of my life I guess. Ah.....you couldn't of...you couldn't touch me, you know. I was walking on cloud nine. Ah....it was just a wonderful feeling, but at the same time it dawned on me ah....by the time I got home, after theafter I got my badge and by the time I'd driven home, that I'd taken on one hell of a responsibility, you know and I had a lot to live up to and a lot of history andand ah.....tradition and I

couldn't afford to let the Rangers down. And it was aat the.....really at that time I realized that there was a lot of responsibility with it, but as time went on and I got to know other Rangers and really know 'em on a one to one basis, I realizedit hit me really how much responsibility I had. And then when they sent me ah.....later on, I transferred to Tyler and I didn't have a Supervisor right there and that I had to make these decisions and I was expected to make the right one every time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And it would of been tough coming over too, you know I think you were probably filling two pretty big pairs of shoes over, this had been Jim Ray's territory.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then Bob Mitchell's ah.....of course Jim we already mentioned became Chief of Criminal law enforcement and Bob retired just not long ago as a Captain down in Waco.

STUART DOWELL: Well, one of the advantages that I had was that Charlie Moore was very good to me and kind of took me under his wing and led me along and ah..... I was sent over here to work with Mitchell on several occasions before I even thought about transferring. And ah....Bob took me under his wing and I had met a lot of the officials here and ah....you know, different police officers. So it ah....the transfer was pretty easy for me and I still had to earn the respect ofcause like you say ah..... I had some pretty big shoes to fill.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When.....when did you come to Tyler?

STUART DOWELL: January 1st, 1972.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did....this doesn't have anything to do with this story, but you know Charlie Moore, was he Sergeant or

STUART DOWELL: Not at that time, no.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You know he's from Honey Grove.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Him and Glenn grew up together. But ah....when ah.....did you notice, did people's attitude toward you change, I mean, you know I mean, this is a Texas Ranger.

STUART DOWELL: Oh yeah, yeah it was.....see on the Highway Patrol you had a schedule to work, you were assigned.....well not in Victoria, but a lot of places you were even assigned a highway to work and you worked that highway like they do today. Ah....of course in Victoria a lot of times I was the only one.....or there would be one car out, maybe one man or two men and you had the whole countywell you had from Victoria to Corpus Christi and to Goliad the other way and maybe to Edna or somewhere over towards Houston and up to Hallettsville north. So you had....we had pretty much freedom there but ah.....still in all, the Highway Patrol was pretty regimented and then when I went on the Rangers it was ah.....it was just like a weight had been lifted off and you had this freedom. It took awhile to really understand the flexibility and freedom that you had. The.....when Iafter this murder case, that kind of I don't know, it seemed like the gates just opened and I was getting calls all the time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well any other cases you want to talk about in....before you come to Tyler, about your Dallas Ranger days?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah ah....I worked with the city policemen there with Burglary and Theft ah....he was a good detective. And ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was his name?

STUART DOWELL: I was afraid you were going to ask me that. It'll come to me in a minute. Ah....anyway, he was with Burglary and Theft and ah.....we worked a lot of burglary cases together and the reason he called me he had ah....ah....arrested an old boy that had committed burglaries in Rockwall County, Kaufman County ah....Collin County, Van Zandt County and ah....several counties around Dallas and had

committed hundreds of burglaries in Dallas. And ah.....so he wanted me to go with him and ah....we went to these count.....well, he had a warrant, let me take that back, he hadn't arrested him, he had a warrant for him. And he was in a....this guy was hiding out in a little old motel outside of Garland, out at the edge of Garland, that had been a....a....back in the old days had been what they calls courts, motor courts you know, and it had been fixed up a little bit and he was staying in this room. So ah....we went out there and ah....you got to understand I had been on the Highway Patrol and ah....you know, strictly courtesy protection and all that stuff and saying Sir and please and all that, when I was a Highway Patrolman. And ah....we go up to this motel and he ah....makes sure that this guy has checked into this certain room and we go over and he doesn't say 'Hello' or 'Police' or nothing, he just kicks the door in. And ah...there's a....he's....this old thief has got a little old girl in there and she hasn't got a stitch of clothes on and she's sitting in the middle of the bed and she pees all over that bed, screaming at the top of her lungs. And ah....Hensley is his name ah...I'll get his first name in a minute....and ah....the old thief is naked and he's in the shower....got the shower curtain pulled closed. And of course Hensley had been doing this you know, for several years and he's an old time detective and dealing with them Dallas and Fort Worth thugs, he knows how....they understand his language you know. And he tells....hollers....and he knows where he is, cause there ain't room for him to hide under the bed, no place else for him to go except in the bathroom. He hollers at him, calls him by name, and I can't think of his name now, he said, 'Come out you son of a bitch or I'm going to blow you away'. The old boy....he knows he means it, and he would have, and he comes out. And ah....we visit with him there for a few minutes and he agrees to tell us about these burglaries. Well for about two weeks we clear up burglaries in Dallas and ah....all these surrounding counties and we go out and ah....of course he sold guns and jewelry and color TV's had just come out at that time and ah....they were a real popular item, hot items for thieves. And of course guns and jewelry was a big thing and we went around ah....gathering up this stuff and it got to where we had to....we couldn't haul it all in a car we had to get pickup trucks, had a city truck follow us

around to gather this stuff up. And ah....most of this stuff was high dollar items, cause a lot of those guns were real expensive stuff you know and....and jewelry, I mean it wasn't costume jewelry it was real, come from Zales and all these high priced jewelry stores. So ah....Hensley would....we'd go up to a house and we had taken this old boy with us and he showed us where he'd sold all this stuff. Initially we went around and he showed us places he'd burglarized, then he showed us....and gave us pretty accurate list of things that he had stolen and who they were sold to. We walk up to a house and Hensley would knock on the door and these people would come to the door, and we're talking about back in those days you know, hundred thousand dollars homes which was....that was a pretty good home back in those days. And at lease to an old country boy like me. And he'd say, 'I'm Detective Hensley with the Dallas Police Department and this is Ranger Stuart Dowell. You've bought some stolen property and I want you to bring it all out here and pile it right in front of the door or I'm going to send your ass to the penitentiary.' And I thought, man here goes my career, cause these people were like attorneys, doctors, dentists, business men and that went on for several days. But nobody ever complained and everybody....they'd bring stuff....one old boy he'd go....of course Hensley had a list of this stuff that he had bought you know. And he'd say, 'Now make sure you got everything out here'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Obviously they knew they was buying stolen...?

STUART DOWELL: Oh yeah, yeah, they knew. And they'd bring it all. And while he was doing this he'd go bring something out, fur coats you know, maybe his wife....a whole box of jewelry that was all for his wife, 'Well that's not all, that's not all you bought', said, 'Some of that stuff we bought before you met this guy'. And he'd say, 'It don't matter, just get rid of it'. And ah....he would bring stuff out there and pile it on the floor and then he'd go to the bathroom and throw up. And ah....Hensley would say, 'Now you sure you got everything out here'. 'Yeah'. Said, 'What about that set of silverware that you bought'. 'Oh I forgot about that'. He'd run get that and bring it out you know. And ah....little old kid was sitting in the den there watching

cartoons, big old colored television set you know and Hensley walks over and unplugs it, it's on rollers you know, and we just roll it out. And the kid is sitting there with his mouth open. But ah...it was an experience. And this....I worked with him the whole time I was there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was Will Fritz still there?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, he was Homicide ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you ever work with him?

STUART DOWELL: No, they didn't ah...that was a different situation, Homicide Division didn't like any outsiders. They didn't want....they didn't feel like they needed any help and they didn't want anybody messing with 'em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: It ah...we...when we took our break we was talking about Bob Goss, him and Fritz were big buddies.

STUART DOWELL: Is that right?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Anyway.

STUART DOWELL: I was ah....I got to be pretty good friends with the Sheriff down there that had been ah.... it leaves me right now, and he had been there for a long time. Ah....gosh...I tell you.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about ah....ah....the Mathis deal, over on Harry Hines?

STUART DOWELL: Well that....that came about....there was another case ah....before....I call this my real first murder investigation, cause that other one, you know ah....an amateur rookie like I was could of solved that one, cause it was practically laid out on a platter. Lewis had a deal up at Sherman.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Rigler?

STUART DOWELL: Lewis Rigler.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lewis Rigler.

STUART DOWELL: They had ah...in the fall of 1970 this little six year old girl had ah...disappeared and then they found her murdered body the next day, she'd been murdered, run over, beaten with a bottle and raped and run over by a car.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lewis still has trouble talking about this case.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Well it...he already told you about it then?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, but I want you to tell it.

STUART DOWELL: Well, the following spring of '71, and I can't remember the exact month, but it was in the spring time, another girl, she was nine years old I believe, she disappeared on the way home from school. And they found her....she lived ah....at the edge of town but her house set out by itself up a lane, a private lane and she had to walk quite a distance up there, probably half, three quarters of a mile from the school yard up to her house. And these other kids walked with her to that point and then she went by herself up to the house. And she disappeared and never came home and they found her books setting beside the road there and...and ah....some tracks in the sand where obviously two people hadsomebody had accosted her. She had walked across through the woods and they lost her tracks after so far and you know, they just disappeared. So ah....they had a big man hunt on for her and Captain Wilson told me I ought to go up there....and well they were sending the helicopter, he said, 'Why don't you go along', said, 'It will be good experience for you, work with Lewis and do whatever he tells you to do.' So I went up there and ah....we were looking for the little girl and ah....the search moved from place to place and Lewis had briefed me about ah.... you know the little girl the fall....in the fall before, the first little girl that had been murdered and they had already found her body and he suspected that the same one had done it. Well during the search ah....had all kinds of volunteers, had the helicopter and had Boy Scouts and National Guard and just every organization you could think of had turned out. And ah....they began finding these life size dolls and

ah...the....down in the pubic area the bottom of the doll had been cut out and a ah....like a rubber glove had been inserted into the cavity of the doll and....to make a vagina, you know. And we'd started finding....people started finding these things all over the county. So ah....Lewis was going on the theory, which was good, that possibly somebody that would do this, you know, these are little girls ah....you know, could be a connection. So he was working on that pretty strong. And....and ah....he was...finally identified the guy by going to the stores that sold these dolls and identifying the person that was buying 'em, cause there was several of them. Well I had teamed up with a Deputy Sheriff and ah....we were still searching for the missing girl and the search area would move depending on...we might get a tip or something about something, so we'd move to another area. Well I got to noticing this guy in a red Chevrolet, that he was always at the scene but he wasn't doing anything, he was just sitting there watching. And I walked by his car one day, it was on a pretty congested road and it gave me an opportunity to walk by and he had several newspapers in there and of course this was the headlines in the papers up there. And I wrote down his license number and ran it and I thought it was unusual that he was always there but he wasn't participating. So, ran his license number and got his name and ah....got to talking with the officers around there and they said, 'Yeah', said, 'He's been in trouble since he was a teenager', and well he was still a teenager, but you know he'd been in trouble with burning....burned some barns and set some pastures on fire and had committed some burglaries, but he never had been accused of assaulting anybody or anything. But ah....we ah....as the search went on we eventually found the body down in a gravel pit. And ah....this man who had some pasture leased down there came by and told us that on the day the little girl had disappeared, he hadn't thought anything about it until we found the body down there, and he said he was just going to tell us, he didn't know whether it had any connection or not, but that he had been down there to feed his cows and that as he was going into the gravel pit, that a red car with a damaged left door came out of there at a high speed and had one white male in it. Well that....I went back to this red car that I had seen. So he didn't get a license number cause he didn't think...but he said

he...the guy almost lost control cause he was driving so fast on that gravel road and just came flying past him. So ah...we ah...got to doing some checking and went back and interviewed ah...the kids that were with the first little girl that had disappeared, that they found murdered in the fall before, and one little old boy, he was six at the time, but he was the sharpest kid that I have ever talked to in my life. He gave me a detailed description of the guy that....when the little girl was going through the park there was a guy sitting in a swing and as they passed by he called the little girl over and the little boy kept going and they never saw the little girl again. And he remembered that there was a car parked out at theat the curb near the swings and it was ait was a little small compact Pontiac, I can't remember what they called 'em back then, but anyway it was one of the first compact cars, you know, that they came out with. And he gave me a detailed description of it and that there....he said in the left side of rear window was a....said it looked like a comet, you know, that....he said it had some kind of sticker there, like a falling star I believe is the way he described it. And then he said there was on the left side that the rear window was an American flag and he said it was gray and he showed me a color close to what he thought it was. And when he gave me the description of the guy sitting in the swing, it fit the one in the red car just to a tee. And we did a little more checking and found out that he had a gray Pontiac and it had an Astro sticker in the back window, and an American flag on the left hand side. So ah....ah....we called him in, of course he denied it and ah....ah....we got permission to ah....ah....check his car because when they found this first little girl's body, on the sole of her....she was barefooted, I think....well she may have totally naked I can't remember, but anyway on the sole of her foot was a spot of paint about the size of a nickel or a quarter. And ah....they had, had it analyzed...ah the paint scan, and it was identified as the type of paint that General Motors used on their transmissions. And it was....came on this model, this particular model of car used that year, when that one was manufactured. So ah....I can't remember whether we got a court order or got a search warrant or got permission, one way or another anyway ah....checked the car out and ah....there was a spot of paint gone off that transmission that fit

that spotthat chip of paint that was found on her foot, perfect. And of course we got a sample off the car and ah....found hairs in the car from both girls. And ah....found a partial print that they couldn't say for certain, but there was a coke bottle that was found at the scene of the first girl's murder and ah....they was pretty sure that it was his, but it was so smudged it was, you know, so bad shape they couldn't swear that it was his. But it was enough to convince us that he was the one. And ah...ah....we got her hair, got both girls hair out of....out of the ah....car and fibers off their.... I think they were wearing a sweater or wool skirt or something, got some fibers off of their clothes that matched. And ah...we ah...put him in jail and the Sheriff had some Trustees that he put in the same cell with him and after they'd been in there....he liked to get poked in the rear and these guys accommodated him. And he admitted he'd killed 'em. And as time went on why they....he kept talking about it you know and he freely admitted talking about it and told details. And ah....they ah...one of 'em said, 'Will you kill anybody?' and he said, 'Yeah'. The way they brought it up was ah....got him started talking about this, one of 'em said he wanted his wife killed and ah....this old boy told him he'd kill his wife for \$100.00 and kill his kids free. And he said, 'If you don't pay me I'll come back and kill you to.'

ROBERT NIEMAN: But how old was this guy?

STUART DOWELL: He was 18 at the time. And ah....so then he tells 'em....confesses all this, well ah....we try him and he gets the death penalty but he...it's appealed naturally and ah....as time went on that was the same time that the death penalty was thrown out by the Supreme Courts you know, we didn't have a death penalty, so he was sentenced to life in prison. And then the Court of Criminal Appeals reversed it because the Sheriff had put these two guys in there and they said that....that since he put 'em in there that they were acting as his agent and they had to read him his rights.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And so he walked?

STUART DOWELL: Well, no ah....fortunately they had tried each case individually and so he was still on appeal. So they ah....ah....he didn't get out, they retried....they re-indicted him and we tried it again without these guys testimony and we still had ample evidence to convict him. But he was....he got two consecutive life sentences.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is he still alive?

STUART DOWELL: Oh I'm sure he is, I haven't checked on him lately, but ah....I'm sure he is. And then after that ah....you want to take a short break?

ROBERT NIEMAN: All right, where were we at there before the break?

STUART DOWELL: Well we was talking about the guy that murdered the little girls and ah....he got two consecutive life sentences. And that was ah....after the Supreme Court had outlawed the death penalty, initially got two death sentences, but ah....they just reduced it to life in prison and as far as I know he's still in there. Ah....that ah....and then I can't remember, I guess it was in 1971, I had worked with a Deputy and I ah....got pretty close to him down there and I swear, these names, it's been so long they're leaving me. But there was five deputies that were ambushed down on the river there in Dallas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Trinity River?

STUART DOWELL: Uh hum. And ah....two Mexicans got the drop on 'em and took one of them hostage and then got the others guns and took 'em all down to the river and shot and killed 'em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: All five of them?

STUART DOWELL: All five of 'em. And I think it was last year I found out that they had been released from prison, nobody knew it you know, it was one of them deals when they was over crowded, might of been a couple of years ago and they got out and it was a real shock. It was cold blooded, just an execution like the KFC deal, shot all of them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But at least you did know who it was for sure.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, they....they....they caught 'em shortly after that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you participate any...to any great extent on the Mathis deal, which Glenn and Red and Mitchell and I think Max were involved in?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah ah....they had ah....ah...while I was in Dallas I was assigned to the Organized Crime squad that was a task force of ah....ah....Dallas PD and ah....DPS Intelligence, DPS Narcotics and the Rangers. And I was assigned to this task force and we worked the Dallas area and we ah...got a....or the DPS got a grant for a lot of surveillance equipment and vehicles and all that. So ah....Mathis was a ah....equipment thief.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Charles Mathis.

STUART DOWELL: Charles Mathis. Lived in Longview in a trailer park over there on the ah....west side of ah...ah... Longview.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Gilmer Road.

STUART DOWELL: Gilmer Road. And ah....so they asked us to assist in surveillance on....asked the task force to assist in a surveillance over there. And ah...we set up a trailer across the street from the trailer park and ah...it was the ah....had 24 hour surveillance on him and we had several cars and people to follow him. And he was very sophisticated, what he'd steal was ah....construction...or tractors and equipment off of construction sights, mainly what he specialized in, like front-end loaders and caterpillars and bulldozers and things like that and these big heavy equipment trailers. And he had gotten a ah....large....one of these big ah....cattle trailers, goose neck cattle trailers and had completely enclosed that thing in. And it was big enough inside that ah....that you could run a front-end loader or ah....and it was heavy enough that you could hold a small bulldozer. He started out using rental trucks and ah...they weren't constructed for that kind

of....you know, tore 'em up and so he almost got caught several times. So he built this tractor and ah....Glenn and Red had been on him pretty steady and they had found out he was taking this....most of this equipment up in Oklahoma and ah....but they didn't know for sure where. So ah...this had gone on for several months, or maybe years, I'm not sure now, but ah....I know it had gone on a long time and ah....they kept getting information he was responsible for it. So we set up this surveillance and they'd gotten word that ah....he was going to ah....go steal a bulldozer, he had an order for a bulldozer, but didn't know for sure where he was going. We followed him to Dallas and at the last minute we did find out that it was somewhere in the Dallas area. And anyway, we followed him over there and ah...it was a John Deere....best I can remember it was a John Deere dealer out in the north part of Dallas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Just up on Harry Hines Boulevard.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, that's right, just there on Harry Hines. And ah....I'm telling you from my side of what I remember about it. Ah...I had contacted a detective, this Hensley that I worked with Norman Hensley that I had.....(side of tape ends)

ROBERT NIEMAN: Had to change our tape there, and that was the detective Norman Hensley.

STUART DOWELL: Norman Hensley with the Dallas PD, Burglary and Theft, and ah...we ah...had found...or I say we, Glenn had found out where they were going. And ah....so we set up surveillance on this place, this dealership and ah....I was assigned to ah....they came in two or three vehicles and they...the best I can remember, they were going to use the ah...they were going to steal a truck and a trailer from the dealership to haul the tractor. And they parked their vehicle ah....away from the dealership so in case something went wrong they could get to it and get away you know. So ah....they asked me and Hensley to ah...ah...hold the surveillance on this vehicle in case they slipped out of the....something went wrong and they got...got away and we could have a surveillance on that vehicle and pick 'em up before they got away from us. And ah....that's what we did andand Glenn and Red and....I can't remember who else.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Max and Mitchell.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, they...they went in and set up inside the building. And ah....short...well I guess we were there for maybe an hour or two hours and ah....they came in and ah....they got in, got the tractor started and was loading it on the....on the low boy and ah....as I understand....I wasn't there, as I understand it, they challenged him and ah....he pulled a pistol and they shot him. And the tractor ran off...it was...he was actually loading the tractor when they challenged him. And the tractor fell off of theoff of the trailer on top of him and it was still running, it was a track....cut his leg off.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He was dead.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Before...I mean before.

STUART DOWELL: Before he fell off he was dead. But ah....the rest of the story, ah....we started....they captured his ah....associate and he gave up where they had been selling this stuff up in Oklahoma and gave a bunch of names. And there was some in eastern Oklahoma, some of it on up into central Oklahoma, Arkansas I believe and maybe a few pieces in Louisiana and some of it in Texas. And ah....the Captain assigned me to go to ah....Pauls Valley and ah....start gathering up stuff.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was the Captain?

STUART DOWELL: Wilson.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Still?

STUART DOWELL: And ah....I went to Ardmore and...and they...they had sold some of this stuff to County Commissioners, for their personal use not....not for the county, but they had sold it to some pretty well to do and political figures and Sheriff even....one of the Sheriff's up there at Pauls Valley had aa ah....one of these construction trailers and ah....ah....just different people. Anyway Ithey gave me a list of

people who had bought this stuff and what they had bought. And they said, you're going to have problem working with the local people up there because of all these politicians bought this stuff. So I called Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation asking could Itold them generallydidn't give any specifics..... I just told 'em generally what I had and would they help me. So they had one of their agents that was stationed at Ardmore call me and he said, 'Pick a day and I'll put everything aside and we'll get on it'. I told, I said, 'It's going to take maybe two or three days to get all this stuff gathered up'. He said, 'That's no problem, I got plenty of time'. So I meet him up there at Ardmore early one morning and the first mistake I made was leaving my car in Ardmore, and it's a little over a hundred miles from Ardmore to Pauls Valley. So ah...ah...we get up there.....and actually it's ah....there was a little old community about the size of Whitehouse, west of Pauls Valley, and I can't think of the name of it. But ah.....ah....that's where we started out and there was a guy, they called him Commanche, he was part Indian, he had a big construction company there. And we get there on Saturday morning and the yard is open but there's nobody in the office. And I walk in and first trailer I looked at is stolen out of Longview and has got a tractor on it stolen out of Paris and I find a couple of other trailers that are stolen from Texas and another front-end loader stolen and ah....so we call the....call this guy down there to the office and he's not going to tell us anything. You know, he swells up like an old toad, he don't know nothing and don't want to talk about nothing. I start talking kind of ugly to him and ah....this agent says, 'I got to go'. I said, 'What are you talking about, we just got here'. He said, 'Well I got things to do, I got to go'. And I couldn't figure.....at that time, couldn't figure out what was going on you know. Cause he'd done promised me he was going to stick with me as long as it took to clear this up, gather all this stuff up. And ah....ah....he's pacing the floor and I'm talking to this guy and finally he goes outside and he comes back in, in a little while and he said, 'Man I got to go', said, 'We got to go'. I said, 'Well hook 'em'. And he does, he gets in his car and leaves. And ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well let me....are you carrying anywhen you're in Oklahoma like this, do they give you some kind of special commission, do you have any authority up there?

STUART DOWELL: No, no.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Legal authority at least?

STUART DOWELL: No.

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

STUART DOWELL: Anyway ah.....well there I am, a foot you know. And this is a little old bitty place, there's nothing there. And this guy ain't going to tell me nothing. So of course I already knew quite a bit about him, I knew he had one of them big Case tractors with a....that rice farmers use with the dual wheels on 'em and cab on it, knew he had that out there on his farm, but I didn't know where the farm was. So ah.... I leave there and walk to what was downtown, which was hardly anything. And I ask somebody, I said, 'Is there a bus come through here'. 'No, no buses through here'. And ah.... I think, well what am I going to do now. So I call Oklahoma City and ask 'em if they've got acall the FBI in Oklahoma City and they said, 'Well...', I told 'em what my situation was. So there happened to be an agent that worked that area, he was out and about, so they get him on the radio and he comes down there. In the meantime I had spotted another guy that had ah.....was supposed to have some stolen equipment and I just flagged him down on the street and had been talking to him you know. And he....he spilled his guts and he told me what he had and so forth. And I asked him where Commanche's farm was and what he had out there and he told me all that stuff. And about an hour and a half later well this FBI agent shows up and he's a Yankee. Instead of wanting to know about the thief, he's wanting to know what authority I have to be in Oklahoma. And I told him about this guy that told me about the farm and what all was out there. He said, 'Well now, where were you standing when you were talking to him'. I said, 'What difference does that make'. 'Well I've got to know'. I said,

'Well I was standing right here'. 'Well is that public property or is that on private property'. I said, 'I don't know', you know I'm getting pretty aggravated cause he's done give me the third degree. He said, 'Well I got to go talk to the Attorney General'. And of course I don't.....we got to go find a phone. And he won't let me come in the room while he's talking to the Attorney General's office. And every ten minutes he's got to call the Attorney General. And finally I said, 'I tell you what, why don't you just get in your car and go back wherever you come from, I don't need you'. So he....he's happy to do that you know, he doesn't offer me a ride anywhere or nothing, he just gets in his car and leaves. I'm standing out there on the street wondering what in the hell am I going to do now, my car's over a hundred miles away, there ain't no bus through there and I'm too embarrassed to call somebody to come get me all the way from Texas you know. Cause Red Arnold had told me, 'Son don't ever leave your car'. Cause one time..... I don't remember what we was going to do, I offered him a ride with me, I said, 'You want to leave your car here and just ride with me'. 'No', he said, 'Son don't ever leave your car'. And I remember it, what he had told me. But anyway, I'm standing there on the street and this..... I see a white car coming with a whip antenna on it and I said, well it's got to be some kind of law man, maybe he can get me to a bus or something. And I wave him down and he's a Deputy Sheriff and he lives there in that little old town. And ah....tell him what my situation is and he can't believe that this agent went off and left me. You know, the FBI agent and the OSBI agent. I said, 'Well would you get me to a bus station or get me to my car'. He said, 'Well don't you want to get this stuff together'. And I said, 'Well hell I ...you know I don't have any help, I don't have any authority up here'. And he said, 'You got me'. I said, 'Hey, I'm going to have to go through your Sheriff and he'll fire you in a minute you know'. He said, 'That's all right', said, 'Let's go to work'. Well we started gathering stuff up, got all that stuff out of that construction sight and finally he found me a place to store it. And people started bringing stuff out, tractors and bulldozers and stuff and just leaving 'em on the side of the road. And we'd see 'em sitting there and check numbers and they was stolen. And we went to Commanche's farm, he had a

big old hay barn out there and he backed this Case tractor up in there and stacked hay all over it. And this was about one o'clock in the morning and ah.....we moved enough hay to get itget in there and get it started and I just drove it out and drove it through the fence and drove it back to town. And ah....we gathered up stuff that night, the next day and the next day, and I forget, we had several million dollars worth of equipment stacked out there in a field.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well do you remember this deputy's name?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....not right now, I want to say King, but that doesn't sound right, maybe it'll come to me in a minute. But anyway ah....we got some trucks up there later on and loaded all that stuff up and he helped me do all this you know and then went to the Sheriff, got his trailer. And of course he called the deputy into his office and when he came out he wasn't working there anymore.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Why in the world did they do that, I mean, what was...?

STUART DOWELL: Well the Sheriff had bought this trailer from Mathis.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh, oh yeah, okay.

STUART DOWELL: And ah....this equipment we had gathered up, I think there was two County Commissioners had bought stuff and some big time farmers up there had bought tractors and construction company, I come to find out later that ah....see the OSBI is not part of the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety, it's a separate bureau all together, or was at that time. This agent that I was....that took me up there he....they just had a new Governor come in and he was trying to get....wanted to be the Director and he was on the list of prospects as Director. Commanche was a big contributor to the Governor's campaign. So he didn't want to stir any....muddy the water down there with Commanche, because he was a big supporter of the Governor and the Governor was the one that appointed the Director of the OSBI.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what was the FBI's excuse, they were the FBI?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, it was the FBI, they didn't make any excuses you know. Ah...this ah...but anyway ah...they fired the deputy. And I had to go back again and I went to the Highway Patrol this time. And I found out they had the same authority as the OSBI, so I went to the Highway Patrol and man they turned out for me, I mean we gathered up a bunch more stuff. And they even got an airplane and a helicopter down there to help me. But ah....the next....this....this was in the winter and I guess the next year following that was ah....election out there. And about midnight one night my phone rang and it was this Deputy Sheriff and he said, 'I just wanted to tell that I'm the Sheriff here now, as of thirty minutes ago and if you need to come back to this county you come on and we'll do whatever is necessary'. There's one kind of humorous thing, the deputy got a disturbance call at a beer joint and of course I went with him. And we went in and he said, 'Now this is a pretty rough place if you don't want to go in, you know, you don't have to'. And I said, 'I ain't letting you go in there by yourself if there's going to be some problems'. So ah....I went in and just stood just inside the door to watch his back. And I'm standing there and this old drunk comes out of the rest room right there by me and he looks at me and trying to focus his eyes you know. And I've got an overcoat on because it's cold, but my badge is partly showing and he's trying to read that badge you know, and he's going like this. Finally he comes over and pulls my coat back and he said, 'A Texas by God Ranger', said, 'What in the hell are you doing up here'. But ah....it was interesting.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well let's finish up the Mathis story, let's skip ahead about ten years now, and they tried to....Mathis, Jr. or Mathis' boy, I don't know what his name is, they try to cause Glenn Elliott a lot of trouble, claiming that he put a lay down gun down and what not. And I think they tried to involve you in that did they not?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, the ah...they went to the U.S. Attorney's office and ah....claimed that ah....that we had murdered Mathis. And ah....so they called me in, the Attorney General's office....U.S. Attorney

General, called me in and made me a deal that if ah...I'd give up Glenn and Red that they wouldn't prosecute me, or let me off with a lighter sentence.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How were they claiming that ya'll had murdered old Mathis?

STUART DOWELL: Their....they claimed that ah...that Glenn had planted the gun, the throw down, and that ah...we just murdered him. You know, we'd all conspired together to murder.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And to make a long story short, they didn't get anywhere.

STUART DOWELL: No! I was....in the first place, I knew the Feds well enough to know that if they had anything at all they wasn't going to tell anybody anything, they'd just come with....with warrants you know. If they had a case against us they were just going to....they would of come with warrants and arrested us. Cause you don't ah....you don't try to make a deal with somebody just out of the clear blue unless you got something to pin him down with.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....

STUART DOWELL: And there wasn't nothingthere wasn't nothing you know ah....to ah.....to pin us down on.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....this is....if this is out of order we'll come back to it, but you're on this special team, crime.....

STUART DOWELL: The Task Force in Dallas?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Task Force, yeah. Is that....I know you will serve....is this at the time on.....the Rangers will form a SWAT team, is this now or is this later?

STUART DOWELL: Well, this is later.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, well we'll come back to it then, I wasn't sure about that.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, that was after I moved to Tyler that the SWAT team came up.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, okay. Then ah....I'll let you take up.....

STUART DOWELL: But this was strictly an investigative.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

STUART DOWELL:deal that we worked on major crimes you know with PD or anybody anywhere, we went towe worked on narcotic cases and ah.....white collar crime and just all kinds of stuff.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was you over there.....of course this wouldn't of been Dallas, this would of been Fort Worth, on that Cullen Davis murders?

STUART DOWELL: No, I had moved to Tyler ah....Tom Arnold worked on that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I'll let you take it from there, cause we'll come back to that SWAT team when we get to the right time on it.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....this....of course in Dallas there was plenty to do and Norman and I worked together a whole lot. Ah....we ah....ah....the.....the homicide division there at the PD they just didn'tdidn't want anybody involved in their business.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Which would be Will Fritz.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. I mean they were nice to me and you know, courteous and all that, and gave me any information that

ROBERT NIEMAN: But basically, go away boy you're bothering me.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, just basically that was it. And it wasn't just me, it was anybody. Ah...but ah...ah.... I worked a lot of burglaries, a lot of thefts and some armed robberies and when I was with this Task Force there was a crew, and don't ask me who they were, God I can't remember, there was about seven or eight of them involved. There was Fort Worth and....and ah....Dallas, they were just old thugs and they were hijackers. Ah....they hit grocery stores at closing time to get the receipts you know, and not burglaries,

but actually hijacking. And they traveled all traveled all over the country and ah....so we set up on 'em ah.....set up a surveillance on 'em and ah....this went on for weeks. And they had hit places.....several places in Fort Worth, Dallas, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, St. Louis ah....Fort Smith, Arkansas, Shreveport, Monroe, just all over the country. And we're doing pretty well, at that point they hadn't killed anybody, but you know, we figured it was going to happened pretty soon. So anyway, working with the PD we set up this surveillance and they would come out, there'd be four or five of 'em come out and get in their car and we'd think, hey they're fixing to go do a deal you know. And they'd drive down to the 7-Eleven and get a couple of six packs and go back to the apartment. And they like to drove us crazy, you know, we was on 'em 24 hours a day. And they might get up at twelve o'clock and all go out and jump in the car and here they'd go. They'd run up to a liquor store or whatever, well I guess the liquor stores close at ten o'clock, whatever time, anyway. And they'd run up there and get 'em a bottle of whiskey and a couple of six packs and come back. Or they might go to the 7-Eleven and get 'em a carton of cigarettes, all of 'em you know, four or five, six, whatever was there at the house. And ah.....ah....like to drove us crazy cause we'd all....we had seven or eight cars, cause it.... you know it looks easy on television when you hold a surveillance and follow somebody, but it is hell to follow. And so you had to have a bunch of cars. And ah....here we'd go, with them, seven or eight other cars you know, kind of like the Keystone Cops. And they'd run down to the 7-Eleven and get a carton of cigarettes, come back to the apartment. Ah.....I guess the statute of limitations run out on this but we ah....rented an apartment next to their and there was a courtyard between the apartment we rented and the one they were in. So we was kind of using it as aas a command post and of course we still had to have people out in car, cause you didn't have time to get.....there had to be somebody in the car all time. And then we had people up there in the apartment to watch it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well people didn't get suspicious of people sitting in the car all the time?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....yeah, oh yeah, but ah.....you couldn't set for ten minutes without aawhat they call a harness bull coming to check you know, somebody call in on you, but ah....we had ah....we got some vans andand ah....had a motorhome that we was using and they was pretty cool. And ah....then we had carswe'd put the cars further away you know, from the scene and then if somebody come checked on 'em why they wouldn't get burned. But ah....and we couldn't tell the police cause they'd tell somebody and word would get back to 'em you know, we just had to tell 'em we got a surveillance going and go on and leave us alone. Anyway, ah....they ah....they had an upstairs apartment, the main man, and where they all congregated. And it had a big picture window in it.....or....or a patio with patio doors. And they left them curtains open most of the time, so we could see pretty....from out apartment, we could see across there and, you know, most of their activities. Well one day ah....we saw 'em doing something with a suitcase and they all gathered around the table and was looking at this suitcase and ah....we thought, wellwe was trying to figure out what was in that suitcase that was so ah.....they was all so curious about and was talking about. And ah....they was there for a long time and they'd take something out, we couldn't tell that well cause there wasn't a light on in there and ah....but they'd take something out and look at it and put it back . And finally they closed the suitcase up and went back in....put it back in the bedroom. And we thought, well maybe it's the money from one of their jobs, there was something....or narcotics. And ah....we thought and thought and we didn't....we really didn't want to run a search warrant on 'em, cause we wanted to catch 'em at a place actually robbing it you know. That was the only way we'd have a case. And we thought, well if they've got some money we surely can't identifying it as coming from the robbery, but if it's narcotics it's something that we could get a warrant on, but we got to know, you know. We ain't got enough to get a search warrant and we don't want....really want to run a search warrant. So we think, how can we find out. And one of the guys says, 'I'll go in there'. So we think about it and say, well it's worth a chance, we can't use anything that you find but we'll know which way.....so we get a key from the.....master key from the apartment manager.

And these people are so irregularI mean they may all go out and get in the car but they might not be gone but for two minutes you know and they come right back. So we got to figure out a way to get 'em out of that apartment. So we call on the phone and say, 'The police is on the way, you better hook 'em'. Man they come out of that apartment like it was on burn, got in their cars and leFort So he hooks 'em over there, goes in the apartment and we figure they'll be gone for an hour or two, or two or three hours you know, or maybe a half a day. And ah.....he's trying to find that suitcase, see what's in it. And the old gal had apparently gone to the grocery store whilewhen we called and she comes back in with an arm.....two arm loads of groceries you know and he's in that apartment and we can't get him out. And ah....he hides behind the curtains and we can see him from the outside. And we have to get her out of there. So we do the same thing, we call on the phone and say, 'Police is on the way, better hook 'em'. And boy she leaves. So we get him out of there. But ah....we never did find out what was in the suitcase. But anyway, this went on for some time and ah....they get on the highway, instead of going to the store.....now you got to understand, we don't have anything with us, you know, like a change of clothes or nothing.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well let me ask you, before you get into this, now when you set up that surveillance, you couldn't set up listening devices and what not?

STUART DOWELL: No, it was illegal.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh, okay.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....we ah.....they go out and get in the car and ah.....another car rolls up, two car loads of 'em. We thought, well you know.....by this time the routine is the same, they go to.....go get a six pack or go get a carton of cigarettes and we don't get too excited. So about half the cars follow 'em this time, after so many false runs, and they get on theon 175 Central Expressway, going north. And the units that followed 'em called back and say, 'Hey they're going out of town'. So we all haul ass out there you know, catch up with 'em and they're not driving fast. We all catch up with 'em and we.....them suckers keep

going and going and going and ah.....they ain't got no clothes with 'em and we don't have no clothes with us you know and we're traveling north. They go.....go into Oklahoma, still going. And ah....we gowe trail 'em about I guess 100 miles up into Oklahoma and they're still going north. Well they pull into a gas station, fortunately for us cause we was getting low on gas and we...we gas up and got to decide whatwhat we're going to do. So the Captain that was in charge, he was Intelligence Captain at that time, he said, 'Well we can't all go'. So he picked a crew to go, I wasn't one of 'em, and ah.....sent the rest of us back home. Well to make a long story short, they went to Kansas City and they did a job up there and they caught 'em up there. Them guysyou know they just.....and it turned cold while they was up there. And it was like 85 - 90 degrees in Texas and they're in short sleeves and T-shirts and the temperature up there drops down to about 30 degrees, no coats.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But they did get 'em in Kansas City?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. But that's just some of the....you know, adventures that you have onthese old thieves are so unpredictable and ah....you never know what you're going to

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I know Glenn, he really enjoyed working murders and burglars, I know Max liked to work gambling raids and stuff like that.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did....any particular ones you liked more than others?

STUART DOWELL: Well ah....no I just like it all, I....I liked to do things like I was just telling about, you know on those old thieves that ah...that are so hard to catch and....and been operating a long time. Ah...we caught some safe burglars, back in those days there were several specialists in safes and in fact there was even one over there that ah...taught a school for safe crackers. He had safes out at his house and he'd charge 'em so much to come out and he'd teach 'em how to....how to get into a safe. And we spent a lot of time on

those too, because they....they traveled all over the country and they were interesting to talk to, it was a different breed of people than we have today. Ah....there was kind of a respect between the police and a good thief and when he got caught, most of the time they would fess up and clear up their business with you, you know. And we could just set down and talk and I learned a lot by....I liked to just set and talk to 'em and they'd tell me about how they nearly got caught and how they ah....fooled the police, different ways they had of fooling the police and things like that you know. It was....it was just really interesting.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you ever get into a shooting situation?

STUART DOWELL: No, never did. Ah....I guess....I guess I just....well I was fortunate, you know, I never...I've been in situations where it could of been, but ah....I never....never did ah....have to shoot anybody while I was on the police.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's ah....Lewis Rigler, that's one of the proudest things of his career, he says that he never had to use his gun.

STUART DOWELL: Well, I'm glad I didn't ah...you know, it's ah....and I think that probably 98% of the police officers go through a career and never....never have to shoot anybody. Ah....there was times that I could have and probably been justified, but ah....again I think it's a....it's hard to explain ah....how you know whether to shoot or not to shoot. It's just something that...that happens. I ah...an example, we'd beenwhen I was on the police department down at Corpus ah....we had a bunch of burglaries of ah...little convenience stores. And ah....ah...so we were checking 'em, we had some that was kind of isolated and ah...we ah...wasn't just convenience stores, it was different kinds of businesses. So we were checking 'em real careful and I ah...saw a car parked in front of one, one night about two o'clock in the morning, it was closed and ah....shut my lights out and rolled up there and got out real easy and felt of the hood of the car and it was still hot. So I eased around to the back of the store and the back door was cracked open about that far. And ah....I just eased it open and turned my flashlight on and there was a guy standing there with a shotgun. And I

don't....I...to this day I don't remember drawing my gun, but I had dropped that flashlight and was starting to squeeze the trigger and he said, 'Don't, don't, don't'. And ah....he said....finally he said, 'I'm the owner'. You know, and I could of easily shot him. I would of regretted it the rest of my life you know, it's bad. But I ...we came up on a service station back in the days when they had a service station and ah....we ah...my partner and I saw this guy....they had what they call floor safes you know, little old safes that set in the concrete in the floor. This guy was bending over....the place was locked....locked up and all the lights were out, but there was enough light from the outside that you could see in there and see what was going on. So we cut our lights and rolled up there, eased in and the back door was unlocked. And we....this guy was so intent on what he was doing there, he never did know we was there. And we walked up on him, on each side of him, my partner stuck his gun right in the back of his head and this guy was down on his knees. And he said, 'You blink and you're dead'. The old boy just....you could hear the wind blow out of him, you know. He said, 'Can I look at you before you kill me'. And my partner said, 'Do it real slow'. So he looked over, and the pants we wore had a stripe down the side of them and when he saw that stripe on the side of our pants he just wilted, just fell down and he said, 'My God I never was so glad to see a policeman'. It was the owner and he was doing his tax returns and he had....putting everything together and putting it in that safe. But it was just ah...we got one old burglar....I say we, the ah....detectives arrested him and my badge number was 34 and ah...he asked them said, 'Who got badge number 34'. And he had broken into a big cleaners, it was laundry and cleaners there in Corpus. And I had rolled up and the back doors were louvered, you know the kind I'm talking about?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum.

STUART DOWELL: They were....and ah....ah....I had come down the alley and we...they'd been hitting these cleaners so I stopped to check it and I pulled on one door and it was locked. But the burglar had cut through the roof and had come to the back door to unlock it, so he'd have a way out, and I had rolled up just

as he got to that back door and he couldn't move, he just got up against the wall and stood there. And he had a .45 automatic and he said, 'If you'd of pulled the other door it was unlocked', and he said, 'I already had him', he said, 'I was close enough to read his badge'. And he said, 'If he'd of reached over and got a hold of that other door', said, 'I was going to shoot him'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hum.

STUART DOWELL: But ah...and they built a...a grocery store out the edge of town where they was building a big housing addition, they built the grocery store first, and ah....we had a bad thunderstorm one night and ah....shut off a lot of power. And we went....I went out checking this grocery store, I'd been checking it every night, and when I rolled up there...I got tied up, I usually checked it earlier and because of the storm and a lot of calls and wrecks and things it was late before I got out there. And when I rolled up the whole front of the store was pushed out, and I didn't know what had happened at the time. But ah....found out later, they had....they had a big safe in there, right next to the front wall and these burglars had put a charge on that safe and they blew the safe open but they also blew the front of the store out. And ah....when they caught 'em, they were from San Antonio, and when we went in and checked it, on top of the safe was the outline of where a Thompson submachine gun had been laying up, the dust had settled back on it and when they picked it up it left the outline of the Thompson laying up there. And when they caught 'em they said they a man on the roof with a rifle...a scoped rifle and they knew that I checked that thing every night and they was waiting on me. And just fortunately that storm came in and I was late, they got through before I got out there. But ah...just things like that ah...I...I...you know I've been in several situations that was pretty....pretty hairy but ah...fortunately I never did have to shoot...didn't shoot anybody.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...well let's go back into Dallas ah...back in...you know, any more...any other cases, Dallas cases, that...?

STUART DOWELL: Oh, there was always something going on in Dallas you know, it was constantly something. But that...that deal with the...with the two little girls up there, that was my first real introduction into murder investigations. And ah...these....these armed robberies and safe burglaries that was mainly...I got a call...or they got a call at the office one day that a old time....he knew all the Rangers and dealt with them and he was an old time safe burglar and he was in the Dallas County jail. He called out there and said that he wanted to clean his business up, and if we'd send a Ranger out why he would tell 'em about it, but he wasn't going to talk to anybody but a Ranger. Well everybody was gone, the Captain sent me down there. And ah...he had asked for some of the old timers but they had all retired you know and Charlie was out of town, Lester was gone. So anyway, they sent me, I went down there and ah....we was just setting, shooting the breeze before we got down to business you know and I was letting him get kind of used to me and acquainted with me. And he got to telling me some stories back in the old....he was...he was probably in his 60's when I went to talk to him so he went back a long ways. And I'm not going to name any names, but he...he had been over in Fort Worth and ah...he said that ah....late one night somebody knocked on his door and he had already gone to bed. And he went to the front door and it was two Rangers and he told me who they were, said, 'They didn't let me get dressed or nothing, they took me out', they took him out and put him in the car and said they drove out west of Fort Worth in a pasture out there. And ah...said they never had said a word to him, he said, 'They got me out of the car, I'm barefooted and had shorts on', said they got a piece of trot line cord out of the car and they tied it around his testicles, tied it to the bumper of the car and got back in and drove off. I said, 'Did you keep up'. And he said, 'You better believe I did'. Said, 'We went about a mile', and said, 'They stopped', and said, 'I got my business straight'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Just had to explain it to him right.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Ah...but ah...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, when did you get a chance to transfer to Tyler?

STUART DOWELL: Well that was in the latter part of 1971 ah....Bob Mitchell made ah...Sergeant and went to Austin and ah....that left Tyler open. And I had...Bob had...I had worked with Bob on several occasions and ah....he wanted me to come to Tyler because I had met officials as I stated earlier and made friends with some of the law enforcement officers over here and ah....so he asked mehe let me know first, cause he wanted me to come to Tyler, he thought I'd fit in well over here. And I turned my paper in asking to be transferred and it was approved and so first of September....first of January 1972 I was assigned to Tyler and ah...that's where I stayed until I retired in 1987.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you...you and Glenn retire about the same time?

STUART DOWELL: No, Glenn retired....let's see, I retired in '87, I think if I'm not mistaken he retired....

ROBERT NIEMAN: He retired in '87.

STUART DOWELL: '87...September...I retired in March and he retired in September.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well let's see, you retired a little bit before him?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

STUART DOWELL: I had gotten a....I had worked a case that involved some going to Llano County to ah...do some investigation and while I was down there I got acquainted with some of the ranchers and people in that area, in the Llano area. And ah...I had mentioned to one of them while I was down there that ah...I'd sure like to live down there you know. And I got a call from him one time...one day and there was a ranch owner that needed somebody to oversee his ranch, to take care of it, 16,000 acres. And ah...said if I wanted it, you know, he'd recommend it. And so ah...I went to interview with the man and he was a multi-millionaire in Dallas and had the ranch down there. And he wanted somebody to go down and just take care of everything and he hired me. So I went ahead and retired. I hadn't really planned on retiring that early, but

when this came up why I decided...(side of tape ends).all together with the DPS and then I bought my military time, gave me 32 years ah....33 years with ah... all together.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you leave Tyler then?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, I went to Llano?

ROBERT NIEMAN: How long did you stay down there?

STUART DOWELL: A year and a half.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Then came back. Well let's talk about your Tyler years then, we'll get to that later.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....well I came to Tyler in 1972 and ah....most of my work when I first came here ah...was with the Tyler PD. Bob Bond was one of the detectives and ah....Lieutenant Elliott was the...in charge of the ...he's not kin to Glenn ah....Joe Elliott, he was a Lieutenant over the detective division here in Tyler. And ah...Bob Mitchell and Joe Elliott had been real close friends and so ah....it wasn't hard to move in and start working with them. And that's how I kind of got my opening. I ah...at that time I was working Smith, Wood, Van Zandt, and Rusk Counties.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What is the area now?

STUART DOWELL: I'm not sure ah...I think it's the same. Ah...but ah...there was...there was just plenty to do. Bob Mitchell kind of conned me, he told me before I came over here that there wasn't a whole lot to do in Tyler, that I could ah....mostly just hunt and fish you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you believed him.

STUART DOWELL: And I believed him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That was mistake number one.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. But ah...I...I loved it from the beginning and ah...I ah...stepped right in and they....everybody just took me in you know. And ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well how did you work, dealing with Glenn to speak of much?

STUART DOWELL: Oh yeah, yeah. Mostly with Mathis, but ah...of course we had company....company meeting every month and ah...ah...I knew him well you know and there was, from time to time, there would be something going on over here that the Captain would send me over to work with him on.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who's Captain by this time?

STUART DOWELL: Ah...Mitchell....I mean ah....no, let's see...G.W. had....

ROBERT NIEMAN: G.W. Burkes?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Ah...Captain Wilson went to Austin and Burkes was promoted to Captain and I think this was....must of been about ah....'71 I guess when he made Captain.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you have good relations with all your Captains?

STUART DOWELL: I did, yeah. I ah...I think I was very fortunate with rare...very rare exceptions ah....I had some good supervisors on the Highway Patrol and Captain Weeks was my Captain on the Highway Patrol down in....he was in Corpus, it was District Headquarters. And ah...you couldn't ask for a better man and a better supervisor than Weeks now, he...anybody that didn't like him couldn't like anybody, he was just a prince. And ah...I think that during my entire career I was fortunate to have some good supervisors.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember your first case here in Smith County or Tyler?

STUART DOWELL: Oh, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Anything in particular?

STUART DOWELL: Ah...it was an armed robbery at ah...at a drug store over on Bow Street. A guy came in at...at ah...as the employees were....he was setting out front as the employees were coming to work and ah...he put a gun to one of....of the girls that worked there and the manager came and opened the door and of course he went in and robbed them of their money and took a bunch of narcotics. And ah....I got a....we

made a artist drawing from their description and ah...PD called me on it and you know, I went on from there. But ah...I had it laying on my desk, this artist drawing, didn't have a clue as to who it was. And ah...well his name is gone right now, but ah...George Brakefield, for some reason came over to ah....Tyler and he saw that drawing there and he said, 'What are you wanting him for'. And I said, 'Armed robbery you know'. And he said, 'Well I know where he is'. And he was an old thug from Fort Worth that he had dealt with for years. So I got a photo lineup and took it down, all the employees picked him out and best I remember we got some fingerprints off the counter, matched it to his and got a warrant and went and picked him up and he....he copped to it you know, confessed. Ah...I worked a lot of....a lot of burglaries with the Tyler PD and ah...I'm trying to think of the first murder case that I worked ah....gosh there was so many of them it's hard to remember which was the first one. We had an old couple out here inin ah...Lindale, they were beat to death in their house. And the Sheriff's office called me up there and ah....they...the guy that killed 'em had ah...taken a TV, and old black and white TV and I think they had a few dollars in a purse and his billfold, they took that and took an old single shot 410 gauge shotgun. And ah....we had...they were old settlers and they were pretty on up there in age and they'd lived there in the same house all their lives. So we had just people coming from everywhere you know and we just....I mean they flooded the place and we had to get 'em out of there. So I got...went out in the front yard and told them that if they could help us, you know, we needed to search for the murder weapon, if they found anything ah....just leave it alone and call us. So I split 'em up into teams, sent 'me out in the woods, just anything to get 'em out of the way. And I didn't really think they'd find anything, but ah....sent part of them one way down the highway and part of 'em down the other way down the road and sent 'me out in the woods and out the pastures looking for things. And in a little while they came with a piece of 2x4 that he had beat 'em to death with, it was out in the pasture. And somebody else found the billfold and purse down the road you know. In a little while we ah....wasn't too long until we had the old boy identified and ah....he ah....they put him in jail, Smith County jail, and ah....the

sad part about it, the deputies had got a search warrant that wasn't any good at all. They had recovered the TV and the shotgun and all the stuff but the search warrant wasn't any good. And the next morning the District Attorney called me down there and said, 'See if you can salvage this case some way, whatever you have to do to salvage', cause he said, 'The way it is right now we're going to lose it, and I can't use any of this evidence'. So I went down after I left the District Attorney's office and went down to the Sheriff's office, just walked in the door and one of the jailers come running down and said, 'Need ya'll upstairs', he said, 'So and so's hung himself'. So we go up there and this old boy had hung himself and ah...fortunately for us you know, cause I don't know any way in the world I could of salvaged. Cause they had every piece of evidence that would prove that he was the killer and it had been gotten with a bad search warrant. But kind of interesting, aftermath, I got a call from....they had...this couple one daughter and she lived in Dallas and ah....a few days later ah....I got a call from her at the office and asked me to meet her out at the house, out the at old couple's house. And I went out there and she said that she was down here to visit them just a couple of days before they got killed and that when she got....her and her husband got ready to leave to go back to Dallas, the old man, her daddy, had taken her out to the tool shed, it was....in the early days it had been a buggy shed, what we call a buggy shed and ah....showed her a two pound coffee can. And it was....she said he had rolled up \$100 bills, you know, rolled 'em end to end, and said that coffee can was stuffed completely full of \$100 bills. And she said, 'I want somebody to go with me, just as a witness, to get the money'. And he had told her that he was going to bury it in this buggy shed. Well it was....like any old farm place would be, you know, there was junk setting everywhere and there was a box of ah....a wooden box that dynamite had come in many, many years ago and he had used it to put cultivator points and you know, junk. So I lifted it up and there was a perfect hole there where a coffee can had been setting, you could see the imprint of it on the bottom of the hole, but it was gone. But that can....I mean that box had been set back over the hole, which ah....not logical that a thief or somebody else found it, would bother to set the box back over the hole.

So we searched and searched and I even got some people with ah....ah....metal detectors out there and we...we worked for a couple of days, just looking, but never found anything. So ah....we gave it up, didn't know what happened to it. And ah...time went on and for some reason I just, out of curiosity, I called her up and I said, 'Did you ever find that money'. She said, 'No', said, 'Well yes and no'. She said, 'We rented....after you came out there', said, 'We rented the house to two guys that were from Georgia or Alabama and they were here roofing houses'. And said, 'We rented that old house to 'em. And we told 'em that if they would recover the roof that we'd let that go as the rent'. And it had old wooden shingles one it, been on there 100 years. So they bought the shingles and these guys were supposed to re-roof the house. Well they didn't hear anything from them, so they couldn't get in touch with 'em or anything, so they came down here one weekend just to see what was going on and see if they had roofed that house. And on the back of the house....initially it had just been ajust a rectangular house, but through the years somebody had built a...like a back porch and eventually closed that in. And she said they had started ripping the shingles off of that add on out there and up on one of the rafters they had just cleared a few shingles off, about a yard square, and quite and left it, that was it. And she said on one of those rafters you could see the outline of a coffee can where it had been sitting. He had moved that and they found it and hooked 'em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And left. No telling how much money was in that can.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, it was several thousand dollars I imagine. But ah...that was one that was interesting. Ah....gosh there was so many about that time. Ah....the next thing that I can remember, I'll probably remember something else when we go along, but I worked with the Sheriff up in Wood County a whole lot, he was a good friend of mine and Bob Mitchell's. And they were having a....I just happened to go up there and ah....visit with him one day and they'd been having a series of ah...of burglaries out on the lake, one of the lakes up there in these lake cabins. And while I was there visiting they got a call from one of the people, and this was in the winter time and most of the people hardly ever came up there. But somebody had

come up for some reason, they'd found their place burglarized and several others around there and had in fact found some ah....while I was visiting with the Sheriff, they got this call and....you know, there had been some burglaries up there and they'd found....the thieves had set out some ah...ah...TV's and things and hadn't even picked 'em up, just left 'em setting on the side of the ah....this little old road that served this addition there on the lake. So the Sheriff and I got in his car and went up there and ah....checking around and....and ah...where one place...one cabin I went to, it was real sandy country there and it had come a shower a couple of days before and the ground was still kind of damp, so there was pretty good foot prints. And ah...you could see where they had set stuff down beside the road and ah....after they'd burglarized the house. And then I saw his tracks going out into the woods and thought at the time, well that maybe....maybe he's got something stashed out there. So I walked out there and ah....the burglar had taken a crap out in the woods and he had used a receipt to whip with. So I got me some sticks and unwadded it and flattened it out. And it was a receipt from a wholesale paint store in Dallas with the guy's name on it and a company....paint...you know, painter contractor. So I get a plastic bag and very carefully put it in a plastic bag.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Still using your stick to put it in there with.

STUART DOWELL: And ah....the Sheriff was....he was about to double up laughing, he said, 'You really going to take that?', and I said, 'That's all we got to go on, might as well'. So ah...we called this ah....got back to the office and we called this wholesale paint dealer and said ah....asked him did ah....you know, happen to know somebody. He said, 'Yeah', said, 'He's a regular customer'. I said, 'Okay'. So we hook 'em, go to Dallas, go get some more details and we go in this paint store and ah....ask the guy that we'd talked to on the phone, you know, said, 'What can you tell us about him'. Said, 'Well there he is right there at the counter right now'. So we go out and we've done got us a warrant you know andoh we had run a check on him and found out that he had a record for burglary, been convicted several times for burglary. So we get us a warrant and go up there, and that's what happened and the old boy he was just stunned you

know. He said, 'How didhow in the world did you know who I was'. And I said, 'Well you went and took a crap didn't you'. He said, 'Yeah'. Just astounded when I said, 'Remember what you wiped with'. He said, 'Son of a bitch'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Left a calling card.

STUART DOWELL: But ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what would you call your most frustrating case?

STUART DOWELL: Well ah....a couple of 'em I guess. Ah....after I moved to Tyler....well I'm in Tyler now but ah....ah....there was a little girl kidnapped in Dallas and that was in '70.....no I guess that was in '80 or '81.....a little girl kidnapped off the street in Dallas and nearly a year later we found her remains in Van Zandt County. And ah....she was 5 years old I believe, 5 or 6 , and it broke my heart. Ah....her friend said that when the guythey had.....her and her little girlfriend had been to the 7-Eleven and got a popsicle and they were walking back home. And this guy drove up in a car, slid over in the right hand side of the street.....ah...you know, he pulled up in front of 'em and as they were walking by on the sidewalk, he opened the door and grabbed this little girl, threw her....drug her in the car. And her little friend said that when they was driving off he was hitting with his fist and she was screaming. And ah....then we found.....found her body over in Van Zandt county and ah.....she had been stabbed and shot.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Had she been assaulted?

STUART DOWELL: We.....we couldn't tell, she'd been there so long. But ah....her clothes, she had on a little old bra thing, you know, sunsuit and shorts and there was stab wounds.....stab cuts through the material and there was one on her skull, looked like it had been.....stuck a knife into her head. And ah....there was ah....a hole....we found some .45 empty cases there and there was holes in thisin the material you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was you ever able to solve it?

STUART DOWELL: No, never did. I I came close, I found a guy that ah.....he had ah.....was convicted down in Waco of killing a little girl and he was in the penitentiary and they had suspected that he had killed several throughout the United States. But ah....he ah....he had soldwell they impounded his car and ah....ah.....then the relatives, whoever they were, after he was convicted they sold the car to a junk yard. And ah..... I went and found....finally ran the car down and searched it again and I found several hairs you know, head hairs, in the car, but none of themthey said.....the lab said they could of come from the little girl but they couldn't say.....they can't ever say for certain that a hair come from anybody, back in those days they couldn't you know. And they were pretty certain that they did, the lab said off the record it was probably hers, but we can't get up and say. And I pulled the.....pulled the floor mat up, I was setting in the car while I wason the passenger side, and I felt something under my foot and underneath the floor mat ah..... I found a butcher knife. And ah....there was blood.....the lab found blood under the handle but they said it was so rotten that they couldn't type it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Cases like that kind of make you wish to go back to the days of McNally and Hammer and

STUART DOWELL: And Gonzaulles.

ROBERT NIEMAN:and Gonzaulles and those boys doesn't it?

STUART DOWELL: Of course I....I wanted to interview the guy but when I went down to the prison, he refused to even come out, they wouldn't, you know, I couldn't make him. He told 'em he didn't want to talk to me.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did ah.....when you become a Ranger, was the Merry-Go-Round history or was it still in use?

STUART DOWELL: No, it was.....well there was remnants of it. Ah.....what I'm going to say isis not to belittle the man or....oror make him look bad, he....he was a wonderful gentleman and a wonderful Sheriff, he was just....he was born about a hundred years to late. But ah.....down in Rusk County, Tatum Brown ah.....when I went down to introduce myself to him he said.....he....he had to be up in 70's when I first came. He said, 'Now son if you ever got anybody you don't want anybody to talk to', said, 'You just bring 'em to my jail', said, 'We'll put 'em in here', said, 'We won't even put their name on the sheet out there', said, 'Nobody will know they're here and you just leave 'em here as long as you want to'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did ah.....did you know Charlie Miller?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, I knew him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Jim Ray has told me this story that.....this is kind ofI was going to bring this up from my list of names, but this seems an appropriate time. Jim Ray has told me, and I've heard other people say that ah....but I use Jim for the example, said....he said when he first became a Ranger he was at asome meeting, there was several Rangers there and he said old Charlie kept staring at him. And he said it kind of made you a little nervous after awhile. And he said, 'We got up to....when we finished up', he said, 'Old Charlie come over and he looked at me right square in eye and said, "Now boy if you ever need to kill somebody and you don't want to do it, you just call me and I'll come up and do for you, no big deal"'. And I understood Charlie told that to a lot of people and of course with Charlie, he meant it.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, yeah. I guess you already got the stories about him shooting the holes in the coffee urns?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....yeah, that's kind of legendary with Charlie Miller.

STUART DOWELL: Well I won't go into those. But ah....getting back to the old Sheriff down here, I had heard a lot about the Merry-Go-Round and....and.... you know, back in those days but it was pretty well over

with when I came to work. Andit was over with. But ah....the old Sheriff down there, he ah.....he didn't go for the modern ways. And ah....ah....a little background, hethe cars that he bought for his deputies, now his deputies worked 12 hour shifts, 6 days a week. If they was lucky they got off onone day a week. And ah.....he didn't buy.....put heaters in the cars, cause he said if they're out there working they'll stay warm, they don't need heaters and they don't need air conditioners. And ah..... I was in his office one afternoon and we was sitting in there and he had two telephones, dispatcher had one and there was one setting out on the booking desk. And ah....now if you.....if the phone ring and if it was for him, he'd get up out of his office and go out there to answer the phone, cause he didn't want to spend the money to put phones in the offices. But ah....he got a call from Amarillo, the Sheriff's office in Amarillo, they had a guy in custody, just picked him up, that Rusk County had a warrant. But Tatum tells the dispatcher says, 'Call the boys in'..... I think they just had one car working....said, 'Call the boys in'. Now these guys.....this is about four-thirty in the afternoon, they had gone to work at six o'clock that morning and was supposed to get off at six that afternoon. 'Call the boys in', said, 'Got a prisoner to pick up'. So they come in and said, 'We got old so and so', said, 'Here's the warrant', said, 'Got old so and so in custody out in Amarillo', said, 'Want you boys to go out there and pick him up'. You know, they'd done worked ten hours. He said, 'Don't be fooling around', said, 'Ya'll can...ya'll out to be back here in time to go to work in the morning'. That's what....that's the way he operated. And the boys had done worked ten hours, they drive to Amarillo, come back, go to workwork their shift the next day.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you have a good relationship with all your Sheriffs?

STUART DOWELL: No, no. Ah.... I ah.... I won't name the county, but not too long after I came here ah..... I was working with some officers and we arrested a burglar that had operated in several counties around here. And ah....we gathered up ajust a ton of stolen property and took it downwe was gathering it up so fast, we had this guy going and we didn't want to stop you know, we was just gathering it

up, taking it downdown to the Sheriff's office and ah....we was going to inventory it and try to ID it later after.....while we had him going we was going to get all we could. We finally got through late that afternoon or up on into the night really. And we go into this room where we had stored all this equipment and guns and televisions and jewelry, just everything you could think of you know. Clean as a hound's tooth, wasn't nothing in that room. And ah..... I go to ask 'em what happened, 'Where's our stuff'. And everybody would hang their head and don't know nothing about it, boy they'd leave, they didn't want to talk to me. Come to find out the Sheriff had.....as fast as we was bringing it in the front door, he was taking it out the back door. Never did find our stuff, worth thousands of dollars.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh ah....any particular Sheriff that you had an outstandingly good relationship with?

STUART DOWELL: Well I had a real good relationship with the Sheriff up at Wood County and ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was that?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Don't ask, don't remember?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Ah...gosh, maybe it'll come to me in a minute.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was Smith ever Sheriff here when you was a Ranger?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, he....he came....he made Sheriff not to long I did. I got along with J.B. well and ah....Bobby over at Gregg County.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Weaver?

STUART DOWELL: Weaver. And ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was you involved in the Welch fiasco in Gregg County in anyway?

STUART DOWELL: Not directly ah....you know, Glenn and I knew what was going on and Glenn and I talked about it quite a bit and....and ah....but to say I was directly involved, no I wasn't.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....did you work on the Animal McFadden case any?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah ah....when he broke out they called me. Ah....Upshur County was a kind of a world unto itself.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Let's see Brantley Foster is up there by now, right? Yeah.

STUART DOWELL: No, I'm....let's see....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, cause Red's already out of the scene.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. But, they reassigned....I'm trying to remember ah....either Brantley was gone or they had reassigned the County to me.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh okay, Upshur is your county?

STUART DOWELL: At that time, I believe.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

STUART DOWELL: Either that or Brantley was gone and I went up there because he wasn't available. But ah....they changed....they took ah....Wood County and gave it to Johnson up at ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lloyd Johnson?

STUART DOWELL: Lloyd Johnson, up at Sulphur Springs and ah....now Lloyd was another that was here when I, you know....he came on about the same time I did.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, okay, yeah.

STUART DOWELL: But ah...anyway ah....I wasn't in on the murder investigation because that Sheriff up there ah....boy he was something else. Ah...I couldn't....we couldn't get along at all. And he didn't want anybody in his county, wasn't just me, it was....I had talked to other officers and they were the same way. But he escaped the....the ah....then Chief of Police at Big Sandy called and wanted me to come up there. So that's how I got in on it and I really didn't ah....ah....I couldn't say I really had a part of it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well the girl that he kidnapped, did you think they'd get her back alive?

STUART DOWELL: No I really didn't.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Glenn's told me, he wouldn't of give a plug nickel that.....

STUART DOWELL: No I wouldn't....I...I was just amazed when....when we found her alive. Ah....but I spent I think two days and nights up there to....hunting for him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I understand his execution date has been set.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Of course they didn't indicate what millennium, but you know.

STUART DOWELL: It's probably down to ten or fifteen years off by now.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But what....as of this time, what around the first of December in there somewhere?

STUART DOWELL: I think so.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....

STUART DOWELL: That was ah....that was about all I had to do with it. I didn't....I had a...I got a crazy horse, like to got killed up there. Ah....I got on a horse that ah....run away with me and I couldn't get...I thought I was going....really I thought I was going to have to shoot it to....he was headed for a barbed wire fence and I said if he hits that fence....I got to stop him before he hits that fence you know. And I was just about ready to shoot him and ah....he come to a screeching halt.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you work any of the slant holes over in Kilgore?

STUART DOWELL: No, I was on the Highway Patrol down in Victoria, I didn't get....and I wasn't on the strike either.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What ah....let's talk about the...if you want, the Kentucky Fried Chicken killing.

STUART DOWELL: Well there's some things before that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh, okay, okay.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....1974 they had the hostage situation down at Huntsville?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh yeah, Johnny Crumno, you know just died, I understand, now I might stand to be....Johnny was the one that was telling this, and of course....anyway, I understand he was the last surviving Ranger who was actually inside the prison, is what Johnny had led me to believe. Not...?

STUART DOWELL: No.....well ah.....maybe...no....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Let's take...take a break. Okay, back from the break. We're going to...getting ready to talk about the hostage situation down at Huntsville. In fact I'm supposed to....set up tentatively to interview ah....with the Chaplain that was in there and the black janitor that was in there.

STUART DOWELL: Hmmm. Well have you already talked to somebody about that?

ROBERT NIEMAN: No, no I have not.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....I guess we have to back up a little bit ah....that was in 1974 and ah...must of been in 1973 ah....the department had received a grant to ah...form a SWAT team. And the Ranger's was the basis of that grant, or the grant went to the Rangers. And ah...I was selected to be on the team for this area.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was this state wide now?

STUART DOWELL: Yes it was. But ah...F Company and ah...and B Company were combined, people from both companies to make up a total team. And ah....there was myself, Jim Gant ah....ah....Tom Arnold and George Brakefield were the ones on this portion of the team up here. And ah....anyway, when...when this hostage situation and...and if you haven't already interviewed somebody, I can give you a little background.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I have not interviewed anyone on this.

STUART DOWELL: Well, there were some weapons smuggled into Huntsville, and this is the old prison there in Huntsville, the original prison.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is it still standing?

STUART DOWELL: Oh yeah, yeah, it's what they call the Walls. And ah....at the time that this took place ah....because the hospital was there ah....this was what they called the old folks home. And the people who were sick, had chronic illness like cancer and things like that, that they had to be treated regularly, they transferred them into the Walls. And of course the ah....death row was still there at that time and ah....that's where they ah....held the executions, and still do. But ah....most of the inmates inin the Walls Unit were.....not all of them, but most of them, were ill, crippled, old and ah....ah....so this fella named Corrasco and two of his cronies, they were in there on narcotic charges serving long sentences, they had ah....conspired with some Trustees to get some weapons brought in. And if you want to go into it in depth I can tell you.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yes, let's do.

STUART DOWELL: Well, what they had done, they had ah....of course the storage units for the mess halls were in....inside the Walls and they had Trustees that worked ah....of course they had the Wardens and the Director and a lot of officials that lived there in Austin and they had state owned houses....lived in state owned houses. And they had what they call the outside Trustees that were allowed to go ah....they'd clean out, did yard work andand even....I think even cooked for the Wardens and so forth, the prison officials there in Huntsville. So Corrasco made arrangement ah....he was a big drug dealer out of San Antonio and ah....apparently had quite a bit of money and his wife was still loyal to him andand she ah....help make these arrangements. But they took a ham out of the ah....out of the storage vault and let it spoil, let it set out and spoil....after they took it out of theit was supposed to go to one of the Wardens houses for a meal

and...but the Trustee let it spoil, took it back in ah...but before he took it back in they split the ham open very carefully, took the wrapper off from it, they split the ham open, took the bone out and cut out enough meat and they had weighed the pistol and weighed the ham and they took out the same amount of meat that the pistol weighed and they put the pistol inside the ham, put it back together and re-wrapped it and sealed it back up like it was. And this is the way they.....they took the weapons in, they did this on several occasions, when they got three pistols inside. And to get the ammunition, they took ah....a gallon can of peaches out and using a soldering iron they opened the can up and poured out enough juice and they had weighed the ammunition and put it in a water tight container, plastic, and poured out....you know, the can has a seam on it and they opened that seam up and ah.....poured out enough juice, this is where they weight of the bullets would compensate for the juice that they had taken out. And they put the ammunition inside the can and sealed it back up.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Pretty smart.

STUART DOWELL: And then said, we didn't want peaches, we wanted pears and they exchanged 'em....and of course they had it set up with the people in the kit.....who were working in the store.....the pantry tothey had the cans marked some way you know. And ah....that's how they got the guns and ammunition in. I thought it was pretty clever.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Pretty smart.

STUART DOWELL: But ah.....in the center of the Wallsand the reason they call it the Walls, this is the old prison they built back in the 1800's and it literally has brick walls of probably thirty, forty feet high. And on top of these walls was the guard towers all around. Inside is the ah.....old cell blocks and these are probably four feet wide and six foot long and they've got aa ah.....little old wash basin in there and a toilet, these are real small. And the top of the cells are curved at the top of them and they're all solid brick. And ah....the old ah....they turned one of the building's that sets almost in the center of the compound

ah....I'm not sure what it was originally, probably a cell block, but ah....ah....they had taken this two story....three story building, there was a basement, a second floor and a third floor. And the basement was the officers mess hall and the middle floor was the ah....prisoner's mess hall and the entire second floor was kitchen and mess hall. And then the third floor, top floor, was the library. Originally this....it may have been an administrative building, I'm just not sure what it was. But anyway, over the years all the windows had been bricked up and closed off and the top floor had been turned into a library and a craft shop. And to get up there was a windingit wasn't stairs, but it was a ramp that went up, because the mess hall....the officers mess hall on the bottom was below ground level, but it was because the land just sloped off and they had built it down there, you know, it wasn't actually under ground. But there was a steep slope off where the building was built. And anyway, so actually the ramp only was two stories high, from ground level, if you can follow that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum.

STUART DOWELL: And ah....there was two doors that go into the library, at the landing at the top floor, there was no windows, no other access to the library. So it was ideal for a barricade. And ah....they were having.....they had civilian teachers, school teachers, that came in on different periods of time and taught classes in the library. And in the library they had a craft shop, hobby shop, the library and classrooms. So during one of these classes which the inmates attended.....these were civilian teachers there to teach the inmates, and ah....during one of these classes Corrasco and his two cronies they take over. And they chain....they take one or two prisoners down to the door and they ah....these doors have push bars on 'em, release bars, and they put their arms through these push bars and tie their hands inside, so you know, you got to come them to get inside, it's an ideal situation. And they start making their demands. First thing they want is handcuffs and they get enough handcuffs for everybody they've got....as I recall there were thirteen hostages, this is the teachers and the inmates that are going to school and the librarian and ah... I guess that

was it. And ah....they ah....after they get the handcuffs, then they handcuff either a civilian or one of the inmates to this front door with their arms through the push bar. And ah....then they take ah....when you go inin the ah....these doors, there's a landing there that the floor is higher than the foyer, it's about....as best I remember it was two steps up to the main floor, and ah....they take books, racks and they move 'em....let's see, they make a V so that ah....they move 'em into the ah.....either side of the foyer and they line these book racks up down there so that one man standing at the far end, it's narrow at the far end, so that when you come in you can't go to the sides, they've got that blocked off with book racks, you got to go that way. Well one man.....a blind man standing there and hit anybody that comes in, you know, once you get past the hostages chained to the door, even if you come in that way well you're still in a funnel is actually what it is, and it's just.....all you got to do is shoot down through there and you hit anybody that comes in. So the..... Ithis happens I think like ah....ten o'clock in the morning and about three or four o'clock that afternoon Captain calls me and tells me to go down there. I'd already heard about it on the radio, but never dreamed that I'd be sent down there. (side of tape ends) G. W. had called me and told me to get down there. And ah....we were divided up into two teams, one was from six o'clock in the morning til six o'clock at night, and the other one was from six at night til six the next morning. Ah....everyI think I've said that all the windows had been bricked up, so there was just no other entrance whatever into the place. And they shut down the mess halls ah....this had happenedthey had.....they were cooking the noon meal when this occurred, so they had all that food cooked, they had to immediately lock down the prisoners, all the inmates and they're the ones that do the cooking you know. So they had to leave all that food in the mess halls and all the prisoners were locked down. And ah....this was in August, didn't take long for that food to spoil and the odor was horrific after two or three days. But ah....the prison.....Corrasco and hisand his henchmen, they threatened any noise or anything, you know, they were going to kill the hostages and they had fired two or three shots just to let 'em know that they did have guns and they had ammunition.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you have any doubt that they would do what they said?

STUART DOWELL: Well, no we didn't. We had to assume that they would do what they.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: I mean their past histories.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, yeah, they.....he had killed some people during his drug dealings, or had allegedly killed 'em. Ah....so they couldn't go in there and clean up the kitchen because they'd hear 'em, you know, rattling the pots and pans, and that got 'em upset. They tried it, was going to get all that food out of there and they had to quite. So ah....ah....the Intelligence people, DPS Intelligence people slipped in ah....very quietly and ah....through the attic, there was a hatch at one end of the attic up there and they got in the.....in the roof and also into the ah....went in through the kitchen and put listening devices in. And ah....so they would get a lot ofIntelligence would know what was going on that away. And one of the school teachers ah.....fringed a heart attack and they let her go. WE got....found out some more of what was going on. Of course we got.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well why....why did they let her go, I mean, these guys are heartless.....

STUART DOWELL: Well they....they....she fringed a heart attack and she'd been a teacher there for a long time and she was highly thought of by the inmates andand the inmates that were being held hostage persuaded 'em to let her go, you know. Cause up to that point nobody had been hurt. And ah....they didn't want to be responsible, if she really was, which she wasn't, she was just pretending. But anyway ah.....of course the Rangers were coming in from alleverywhere and ah....ah....we were.....as I said, we were split up into two teams. And ah....there was only one area where we could stay without them seeing us and that was at the rear of the building. And there was a laundry right behind this building and in between the laundry and the outside wall was where we stayed. And ah....if we had to make an assault they had decided that ah....ah....well, at that time we didn't.....there was nobody trained in the use of explosives. And....and

they constantly kept this one person chained to that front door, so more than likely we knew that whatever.....whether it was an inmate or a civilian, that ah.....that person was going to die if we assaulted there. And then this....this teacher had told us about 'em putting the book cases up there and effectively blocking off, so if you come in you know, all they had to do was shoot. So they got some....a explosive "expert" from Houston up there and he wired the back of the building which was supposed to ah....if we had to go in ah.... was going to blow some holes in thosewhere the windows had been. Found out later that as much as he put up there would of probably collapsed the whole building. Ah....anyway, Mr. Estell, Jim Estell, was the Director of TDC at that time and he hadn't been there very long, months maybe, maybe a year, I can't remember, but he.... he hadn't been there long enough that any of us knew anything about him. And their demands were that ah.....they wanted out naturally, they wanted an armored car and ah.....some more guns and they were going to take hostages with 'em and they didn't want anybody following 'em and all....you know, the normal things thatthat they would demand. But we were concerned that Estell was going to cave and let 'em out. Cause this was right at the peak of all the chaos andand ah....you know, everything was going on, Viet Nam ah....ah....marches and justit seemed like the whole world was collapsing. And we thought....of course we'd heard rumors about him, that he had come from California and we figured anybody from California, you know, there couldn't be any good about 'em. But ah....we were down there in this area, like I was telling you, between the laundry and this wall, at ah...noon the sun was shining....this is in August, the sun's shining right down on us, there's no shade whatever and it was....the sun had been shining off of that red brick wall all morning and it was probably at least 110 degrees and just put your hand on the wall you couldn't hardly touch it. And by noon it was like a furnace down there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was you armed with?

STUART DOWELL: They wouldn't let us take anything but hand guns inside, each one of us had two.... I had two .45's.....automatics, and that's what most.....some of 'em had two revolvers, most of us had .45 automatics.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But you wasn't using a sniper rifle or anything?

STUART DOWELL: No, they wouldn't let us take any long shotguns or rifles in. Ah.... I don't know why, but they didn't. But ah....anyway, that came later, this was just the first, you know, first round. And ah....late that afternoon Jim Estelle came out there where we all were and he was chewing tobacco....he's real quiet, I don't know whether you've ever met him or not. Well he's a real reserved, real quiet, true gentleman, doesn't say a whole lot and ah....he was looking at the ground and kicking the dirt and he said ah.... 'I guess ya'll are wondering how this is going to end up'. He said, 'I want to tell you right now they ain't leaving here unless they're in the undertakers wagon, so I just want to set you....', and I guess he....he knew what we were thinking. And he said, 'They ain't leaving, so you know, whatever it takes that's what we'll do'. And ah....come toover the long run, he's my hero and still is today. Ah....anybody who went through what he went through and had to make the decisions, all those people's lives were in his hands, whatever he did the news media was going to crucify him no matter how it turned out you know. And ah....he stood like a stone you know, just never wavered and he tried to weigh all the ah.....outcomes, whatever happened he ah.....had a conference with the Rangers and the other Wardens and the other people and the final....he made the final....he listened til everybody had their say, but he made the final decision, because it was his responsibility. And ah....in my opinion he's one of the grandest men that I've ever had the privilege to be around. And ah....he's just great. But any way he....after he assured us that ah....these guys weren't leaving the thing, put everybody's mind at rest, we didn't....what we were concerned about is two or three people get killed and maybe some Rangers get killed and then they end up turning 'em loose, you know, we just couldn't handle that. But after he told us that then we could concentrate on getting the job done. This went

on ah....for 11 days, negotiations and ah....back and forth, bickering back and forth. Every once in awhile they'd fire a few shots and ah.....Mr. Estelle told us that when.....if we ever confirm beyond any doubt that they've shot somebody that we're going in. So our job was to go up over the....they had ladders set up and all this, and our job was to go up over the laundry, across the roof and then they had a series of ladders set up where we could get up to these windows once the holes were blown up, we were to go up right below the windows, they were to blow the.....blow the holes in the wall and we would go up the ladders and go in.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Still with only pistols?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Found out later we'd of been slaughtered, cause they were expecting something like that you know. But.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you have on vests?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, but at that time the vests we had were those old ah....flat vest that the Air Force use, they're made out of ceramic and they weighed out 20-30 pounds. We'd all decided that we'd rather be mobile than be weighted. Because if we carried those things, as hot as it was, by the time we got up there andyou know, we'd be exhausted. Because you had to climbit was a long ways up there and you had to climb up several ladders to get up to it and you're carried that thing up there and as hot as it was, you'd probably have a heat stroke anyway see. We'd done decided..... I wasn't going to wear one, I'd rather be able to move. But ah....on the final day, you know, one of their demands they wanted an armored car with a police radio in it, and ah.....as this went along theas I recall, the Priest had exchanged himself for one of the teachers and ah.....they had let two or three of the inmates go. And we were getting information and one of the teachersanother teacher they let her go and she told us.....of course she didn't know what she was talking about, she thought she did and we thought she did, but the ceiling in the.....in the ah....library was made out of this acoustical tile and ah.....they had taken two big ah.... black boards that had rollers on 'em and ah.....with those they.....and then they had ripped up some ply board from the floor and put across

the ends of it. And she said that.....she told us they'd taken this stuff out of ceiling, well we assumed it was this acoustical ceiling you know and put that all around it and then had taped ah.....ah.....law books on the outside of this fortress thing. And what we didn't know was that they had actually used ply board, she was talking about this stuff, this ceiling stuff, but what they'd actually done was torn ply board out of the ceiling and put it all around this thing and they'd put the law books on the outside of that. And what we.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: How thick was that plywood?

STUART DOWELL: Three quarter inch plywood. And what we thought..... I say we, I'm talking about you know, the intelligence that was passed on to us was thatthat this thing was made out of a black.....two black boards and this acoustical ceiling and tape. And ah....they were going to come down this ramp, so the plan was to get some high pressure water hoses and if it was in fact made up of tape and.....and this acoustical ceiling, when you hit that stuff with a high pressure water hose, it should just disintegrate, knock everybody down and it'd all be over with you know. Well what they had done, in fact like I say, was use three quarter inch ply board, and they had got nails andand reinforced material from this craft shop and they.....man that thing was as solid as that wall there. And ah....to make a long story short, theythey agreed.....the plan was tothey ran water hoseshad brought fire trucks up outside the wall, we ran water hoses.....fire hoses, through the cafeteria and there was swinging doors at the entrance to the kitchen and there was going to be a team in there withwith a high pressure hose and another door on the other side where they could hit it from both sides when this.....when they came down the ramp. And ah....the plan was, you know, tear this thing apart, knock everybody down and over power the convicts, or shoot 'em, whatever has to be done. And they brought the armored car in and everything was on go and this all started about six o'clock one afternoon, the final day, and ah.....of course everybody wanted to be in on theon the assault team you know. And they decided that only the people from A Company would be on it. So those of us from the other Ranger Company, we was pretty upset, you know, cause we'd been there for

.....cooking out in that sun and going without sleep and everything and we weren't going to be in on the final deal. And I guess wewe was going to be in one way or another. So ah.... I guess G.W. knew us well enough to know that, you know, wewe was going to be there. So he took us into the ah.....ah.....supposedly to the.....one of the Administrative offices to brief us on what was going to happen andand this is the only thing I held against him for.....for as long as he lived. After he got us in there he said, 'I've got to go out here a minute'. And they locked us in, we couldn't get out. And he knew we was going to go, you know, after being there that long, but we did get to watch it on theon the video, they had videos of it and.....live video, so we saw the whole thing. And they came out and they hit ithit that thing with the fire hosesfirst of all one of the fire hoses broke, it burst from the pressure, they gave it fullone of the fire trucks, you know, gave 'em full pressure and with the nozzle shut off, it was just too much for thefor the hose and it burst. But they hit that thing and pushed it up against a pillar and they came.....they had put all the civilians inside and the three convicts were in there, then they had chained the other convicts on the outside....well not chained 'em but tied 'em, put handcuffs on everybody and tied 'em together on the outside and they were the ones that hadwere bringing 'em down. And when they hit 'em with the fire hoses it was expected to disintegrate, but it didn't hurt it, it didn't budge it you know. And they started shooting out of the.....from the inside out and they shot..... I forget how many of the hostages, three of 'em I believe, but killed two and the Priest was wounded and one of the school teachers was wounded. But ah....we had ah.....a little side.....after it was all over with, theythey thought they'd killed all three of 'em, but one of 'em was just playing dead, there was so much blood and stuff that they thought he was dead and he pretended he was dead.

ROBERT NIEMAN: One of the three killers?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Carrasco....whatever his name, he was killed?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Ah.....one of the things that ah.....a little side story, there was an FBI agent from Bryan that was over there and ah....his name was Bob Wyatt, W Y A T T, and ah..... I had met him when I was on the Highway Patrol down at Victoria and he always came through with his pedal to the metal, and he never looked in his rearview mirror, he was the easiest guy to slip up on you ever saw. But we got to be friends and we was always visiting, cause I stopped him nearly every time he come through. And ah.....he came over there to assist us and they had sent a SWAT team from Washington down to Huntsville, the FBI had, but they wouldn't let 'em come out there. I never understood why they sent 'em if they wasn't going to use 'em you know, but they kept 'em in a motel over there. And ah.....they sent orders for Bob to get out of the prison and not even be in there. Well he kept.....he stayed and ah.....afterduring the assault he ah.....he was in the assault, cause he was a SWAT team....you know....the.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Now who....Bob?

STUART DOWELL: Wyatt, the FBI agent. You've heard of the Sugarland Express, that movie?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

STUART DOWELL: Well he was the one that shot thethe guy that kidnapped the trooper down there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

STUART DOWELL: And he was our kind of people you know, he was just like one of the Rangers. But ah....anyway, he was on the assault team and when he came out that door, they shot him in the chest and he had that bullet.....that vest on, and it was like somebodyand he was hit.....he was a big man, a little bit bigger than I am, and he was running full tilt towards the thing when they shot. And he just looked like somebodyhe'd stretched a big rubber band out and just jerked him straight back and he went all the way back, probably from here to that wall, hit that wall and just slid down, and I thought, he's dead, you know.

Of course I couldn't tell who it was, we.....none of us could tell who he was. But ah....in the confusion, I never did see him get up, but he did.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was they.....what did they have?

STUART DOWELL: .357 Magnum's. But ah....ah....anyway, when it was all over, that was the part of it and ah.....of course ah.....Mr. Estelle was.....you know, the news media crucified him because he should of done this, should of done that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Could of, should of, might of. Well....well who were the Rangers inside during the final assault?

STUART DOWELL: Oh boy!

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lewis Crumno one of them?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, Crumno ah.....let's see, Joe Wylie ah....Bob Connell, Crumno, Bob Connell ah....G. W. ah.....who was the Captain down at Houston at that time, he's dead now? Ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: (unintelligible).....

STUART DOWELL: No, it was after him. He was a small, wiry guy ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: But Wylie was in there?

STUART DOWELL: Joe Wylie? I believe Wylie was there. Ah.....Bob Connell.....not Wylie, Bob Connell was there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is he still living?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, oh yeah. Ah.....he's retired. Oh mercy, let me think. There was ah....Jack ah.....hum.....Jack....he's retired and with the ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Dean?

STUART DOWELL: No. He was in Company B for awhile, he's with the DA's office in Fort Worth now, he was a Ranger over at Fort Worth at that time, he was down at ah.....he was an Intelligence Agent down at ah.....Houston.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well afterwards, you know, I know the Priest they asked about the death sentence and he said they ought to get it. I think what, one of thethese guys survived as you said.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I think the other two were dead. Even the Priest said, yeah give 'em the death sentence.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well on situations like this ah.....do you know Ray Martines very well?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Does he ever talk about his deal?

STUART DOWELL: He never talked to me about it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I just wondered how this.....how does it affect you, I mean, when your.....when you see innocent people like this, I mean, for senseless to.....

STUART DOWELL: Well I guess it affects different people different ways ah.....to see ah.....of course I wasn't out there where the bullets were flying, you know, and it's hard to I wouldn't attempt to say what somebody out there might feel. Ah....it wasthe way I had to watch it ah.....at first we were watching it on the video and then when the.....when they turned the fire hoses, we demanded they.....we told the guards, open them gates and they did. And we were it was a pretty good ways over there and by the time we got there it was all over with you know and done.....everything had done happened. It only lasted a few seconds. But ah....it....ityou're pumped up, you're ready to go, you know what can happen and then when it's over

it's just like you're exhausted. I guess you're just so tense andand everything. Of course we felt bad about the civilians that were ah....wounded and killed, but as far as the rest of 'em, they were nothing.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

STUART DOWELL: As far as we were concerned.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....you tell this one interesting story ah....humorous story, about the time ah....ya'll were going to have a SWAT team meeting I guess and G.W. had ya'll meet up in Harris or McKinney or somewhere, anyway, you tell that story.

STUART DOWELL: Well I can't put it all on film, but G.W. had no concept ofof distance and time, it meant absolutely nothing to him. He might call me to go to Fort Worth to do something when he had somebody there in Dallas that could be there in fifteen or twenty minutes you know. I mean that was....time and distance just didn'thad no concept about it. So the phone rings early one morning before daylight and ah....the dispatcher says, 'The Captain wants you to be in Paris just as quick as you can get there'. Well I don't know what's going on you know and he never told us, you're going to be gone a day or six weeks, so you had to takebe prepared. Cause one time he called me and I thought I was just going to office for something for a few minutes you know and would be back the same day. I was gone for a week, didn't havedidn't have a shaving kit or clothes or anything. So kept clothes and underwear and shaving kit and everything in the trunk of the car from then on. But anyway, I get a call, dispatcher says they need me up there at Paris, just as quick as you can. So I get in my car and here I go you know. And I pull into the Ramada Inn, that's the only restaurant open that time of the morning, pull in there and they're all coming out. He says, 'Don't get out of your car, we're fixing to leave'. And I said, 'Where are we going'. He said, 'We're going to Rusk'. Well I'm fifty....here in Tyler, I'm fifty miles from Rusk, I'd done driven 100 miles up there, got to drive 150 miles back to Rusk. Somebody down there was planning a riot, they was going to have a riot that day.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Down at the State hospital?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. And ah.... I was upset. I said, ‘Captain you would fu__ an anvil with a rubber hammer’. And all the rest of the Rangers’ jaws just dropped open you know. And I didn’t care, I was justthere I had driven like a race driver all the way up there and had to drive all the way back down here.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well ah.....another little humorous story I remember from the reunion, you and John Gant kind of going back and forth, I think what, it was on vacations or something?

STUART DOWELL: On vacations?

ROBERT NIEMAN: You just may as well get your lick in now cause if I know Johnny, I’m sure he’ll get is.

STUART DOWELL: Jim Gant?

ROBERT NIEMAN: I mean Jim Gant, I said John, I’m sorry.

STUART DOWELL: Well, they had athey had two old boys went berserk up in Oklahoma and they killed, if I’m not mistaken, five troopers up there, four or five, too many anyway. And ah.....they were running back and forth across the border, just....you know, back and forth and they had killed a..... I think kidnapped and killed a woman in Texas and kidnapped a couple more people and was supposed to be wanted for a murder up in Arkansas. And anyway, they got after ‘em there in Oklahoma and they ended up killing these five troopers and ah....there was.....had a hell of a manhunt going on. And I was on the SWAT team then. And ah.....so this was one of those particular times when radio skips and ah....we could hearor I could hear Sherman DPS station and the cars talking back and forth and everything you know, about this manhunt going on up there. And ah.... I turn on the news and they’re talking about it, it’s on all the stations, they’ve interrupted their regular programming you know, talking about this big manhunt, and the tragedy all these troopers getting killed up there. So I go to the house and get ah.....clothes, I’m ready to go you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And you're on.....are you on vacation or getting ready to leave on.....?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, yeah getting ready to leave on vacation. And ah....tell my wife I said, 'Well you know, forget, cause they're going to be calling me just any minute to go up there on this manhunt'. So I get my extra clothes, got my SWAT team uniform and get some extra ammunition and make sure my guns are working, they're clean and everything. And I don't..... I don't leave the phone or a radio for one second you know, I'm either by the phone or by the radio. Tell the dispatchers if I'm going to the bathroom, you know, if the phone rings over twice just hang on I'll be there. So this goes on for like three days and after the first day I sent a message to Sherman, saying, 'Advise Captain Burkes that I'm available to assist up there'. Nothing. Sent a message to Gant, cause that's his territory up there, 'Advise Ranger Gant that I'm available to assist', without just saying, you know, call me ass hole! And ah....nothing. Well it's finally over with and there ain't nobody called me just. And I am.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Fighting mad cause you haven't gone on vacation.

STUART DOWELL:and dead or alive, I haven't forgiven 'em yet, you know. You know, put my vacation off, lost my vacation on the count of setting there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well on that SWAT team, what kind of rifles did you use?

STUART DOWELL: We had a .308 ah.....it was built from a Winchester action. But there was a guy down at Fredericksburg that ah.....a gunsmith, that he built the rifle, the action was a Winchester and he put a.....hand made a barrel for it and stock and everything on it. And it had a.....had a three to nine variable scope on it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember the muzzle velocity?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....we shot factory ammunition and ah....whatever.....mostly Winchester I think.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well were you a team or did you operate individually from the stand point, when you went.....

STUART DOWELL: Well ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: I know in the military, you know, a sniper's always two, there's a shooter and a spotter.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, well that's what....that's the way we did. Ah....Tom was the ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Tom?

STUART DOWELL: Arnold, he was the sniper, we all trained on it, every one of us you know, used the rifle and trained as a sniper, but Tom was the

ROBERT NIEMAN: Shooter?

STUART DOWELL: Shooter. And then as.....as we trained we realized that one man can't ah....you know, we heard and read about different situations over the country where they might be out there for hours, or even days, and one man couldn't be effective, so ah.....one man couldn't stay there for a long period of time under that stress. And maybe weather....severe weather conditions and whatever, so we all started training as snipers and took....relieved, you know.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well how long did that program last?

STUART DOWELL: Oh mercy, I guess forup into the '80's.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Why did they do away with it?

STUART DOWELL: Ah.....they.....the grants run out. We had ah....all kinds of equipment down at Waco, Mitchell had a big trailer, they had portable generators and flood lights and.....and just all kinds of....everything you would.....in those days, that you could think of that you would need for a SWAT team operation or.....or any kind of emergency, you know, a hostage situation or whatever. And ah....we trained

repelling out of the helicopter andand ah....shooting out of a helicopter ah.....assaulting from the helicopter you know. We trained up at Camp Maxey and after the ah....ah....deal down at Huntsville ah.....you know, we realized after analyzing it and critiquing the thing, that this was something that ah.....we needed to find out more about, was how to get into a building when.... when you ah....there's no way in. So ah....we went to ah....the prison over in Louisiana and they had aState Police over there had Captain that was a.....well he'd been aa ah.....special forces man and he had learned all kinds of explosive techniques. And he was a.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: State Police?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, he was with the State Police.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember his name?

STUART DOWELL: Ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was it Don Burrough?

STUART DOWELL: No. Ah....it was.....it was just a plain ordinary name like.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I know aa former Navy Seal, he's a....on the State Police down there and his name is Don Burrough.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....he could of been one of 'em but ah....cause there was severalthey....that's all they did was ah....go to bomb....you know, disposal, bomb disposal and pick up explosives and train explosives and booby traps and things like that. Anyway ah....we made arrangements with him and went to the prison and then they had some ATF people come in and this was all a new field, so we had to ah.....literally ah....start from scratch to learn what to.... what we could and couldn't do and what the capabilities of this. And they had an old prison over there that they'd closed down and they'd built some new units and that's what we practiced on. And ah....we used ah.....well we learned howfirst of all we

started using ah.....it's a commercial explosive that's called a shape charge, a linear shape charge, and you can get it any.....any length and different ah....power. And it's used in the oil field and you can use it to cut steel beams or concrete or anything you want to, it's fantastic.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is it like C-4?

STUART DOWELL: No, no it's ah....it's in a copper....well we used C-4 and we experimented with this, but this is ait's strictly a commercial ah....oil field stuff and it's designed strictly for ah....cutting steel, like under water ah.....beams and so forth. And it's a copper coated explosive and it's ah....in the shape of a V and you can put it up against the wall and explode it and it's just like a torch had cut a line. But ah.....we had ah....oh we probably had a ton or more of all kinds of explosives. And while we were there we not only learned toto explosive entry into a building, we just practiced with all kinds, and to identify it and what it would do and all that stuff. But we spent two weeks down there. And we got to where we could blow ah....with this ah.....linear shape charge ah....we could cut a hole in the wall, concrete or brick or cinder block, and the debris.....we set up paper targets inside like they were people at different distances to see what the affect would be on 'em. And ah....we could blow that.....a hole in that wall where you could walk through it and the debris wouldn't be in further than from here to that wall, it would just crumble it inside you know. And it wouldn't even blow over those ah....paper targets. Ah....we learned how tolike that door there, it was barred on the inside...if it was locked see....like you could lock that door on the other side and it opens this way, well you....you know can't batter it down, especially if it was a steel door. I can take C-4 or those linear charges, either one, just any....any....ah....C-4 or the linear charges and cut those hinges off that door where it will just fall over. And we ah...ah...a debt cord and ah...there was just every kind of explosive that you could think of.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did ya'll ever use any of that in the field?

STUART DOWELL: No, we never....in an actual case I've ah....I had it....before I retired I had it stored out here, there's an explosive company out here at old Camp Fannin and they still store explosives out there and I had everything there that I would need to....I practiced, you know, I continued to practice every chance I got. And ah....just....and we'd have an old building or something and ah....every chance I got....I enjoyed using explosives ah....it's...you know you got to respect it and got to be careful.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh yeah. Well, any other cases here in this area you want to get into before we go to the KFC?

STUART DOWELL: Ah...well in 1979 I guess one that ah...caused me the most grief and frustration and...and a lot of hate and discontent, the City of Tyler brought in two detectives....or two undercover agents from Dallas that they had hired. And ah....ah....one of the....I...when the Rangers over in Dallas found out about it....well G.W. called me and ah....he knew this detective, this undercover agent, his name was Craig Mathews. And ah....he had been investigated....in fact I didn't make the connection until he told me later while I was in Dallas, they had a bunch of ah....ah....topless dancers murdered over there, in and around Dallas and he always seemed to be there, or associated with these girls that were killed. And I had worked on it some, but I didn't connect him to this same Craig Mathews that was going to be an undercover agent here in Tyler. And they told ah...Captain told me, said, 'You need to tell the PD that this guy is bad news, that he's on drugs and he doesn't need to be working, just doesn't need to be working for them'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is his name Gregg or Craig?

STUART DOWELL: Craig.

ROBERT NIEMAN: C R A I G?

STUART DOWELL: C R A I G, Craig Mathews. And ah....he got....brought his little old girlfriend with him ah....Kim...hmmm....first names Kim, I can't think of her last name now. Anyway ah....she had ...just

had a few months as ashe had worked at the high school undercover as a high school teenager you know. And ah...he brought her with him and ah....I went....I went to...told the PD that these people didn't need to be working for 'em. And the officer that ah....Supervisor that was in charge he told the Chief you know and the Chief said, 'It doesn't matter', said, 'We're going to work 'em'. So they brought 'em in and this was a big....I didn't hear any more about it and it wasn't any of my business, so I didn't really get into it. And ah....several months later ah....they had this....came out with all these indictments, several hundred indictments you know, that these....that this couple had supposed to of made on people here in Tyler. Well I felt like that I had a pretty good handle....you know there was drugs but it wasn't a massive organized deal like they made it to be. And ah....kind of like ah....the closest example ah....okay ah....Bobby, you know, Monday night football the Cowboys are playing Pittsburgh, why don't you bring a six pack over and I'll fix some bar-b-que and we'll watch the game. This was more of what was going on in the drug scene, somebody would bring a little marijuana over and they'd swap it for a little coke or something you know. And ah....anyway, they come up with all these indictments and they had an old boy named Ken Borra that had come in here from up north somewhere, Chicago I think, and he was supposed to be the big king pen of the drug underworld. Also a porno king making porno movies. And ah....we even went to a meeting in ah....the District Attorney at that time wanted me to go to Dallas with him, was going to meet with the FBI and the federal narcotics people and as I look back on it now, you know, he had....and he had mentioned to me on several occasions that he wanted to be Attorney General in Texas, State Attorney General. And ah....we went to Dallas and of course he was telling me he had all these great undercover....getting all this information...(side of tape ends)....and all this.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Borra was the king pen?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. So anyway, nothing developed over this meeting in Dallas and we met with the Attorney General and ah....the FBI and I didn't know anything about it you know. I didn't know of any

big deal that was going on. I'd heard this guy's name because he was operating a club over here in Tyler but that's about all I knew about him, I hadn't heard anything about him being a big drug king pen. So I mostly just kept my mouth shut, you know, while we was at that meeting. But ah....on the way back why he told me that his ambition would be the Attorney General.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Now this is?

STUART DOWELL: This is the District Attorney. And ah....anyway, this undercover operation was going on and they had come back with all these indictments and had Highway Patrol and myself and we served warrants and arrested a bunch of these people. Well after....after the indictments was served and the trials started people started coming in to me....well I have to back up a little bit ah....before this occurred, not too long after I came to Tyler, we had a pretty active motorcycle gang here, the Banditos, and ah....they had ah....one of the Banitos had killed his girlfriend, a former girlfriend, beat her to death with a bicycle chain. And the only witnesses....the only people who could testify was other bikers, so nobody had really done anything about it, cause they didn't think that these guys would....that one would testify against the other you know. So nobody had....hell they just let it set there, the murder case you know. Well the girl's daddy ah....he had gone to the District Attorney and ah...this wasn't the same District Attorney that was in office when...when the drug deal went, but he had begged 'em to do something about it. He'd been to the Sheriff's office, they wouldn't do anything about it, nobody would do anything about it. So the DA at that time we could....he was ahe was a good DA and ah...he had ah....he called me down there and wanted me to.....asked me if I would work on this case because the daddy was upset and the daddy....the girl's daddy was there, the victims daddy and he admitted, said she...you know, she was in wrong company and she did a lot of things she shouldn't of done, she shouldn't of been with these people, but he said, 'She's my daughter and she didn't deserve to be murdered'. And I had to agree with him. So I started interviewing these people in the biker club and ah....it took awhile to get....gain their confidence. And ah...but when they found out

that, you know, I wasn't hassling 'em, I'd just go in and set down and talk to 'em and I kept my word on everything I told 'em. And ah....they opened up and we made a case on the old boy and got him 45 years the first time and he appealed the case and wanted a retrial....oh he pled guilty the first time, gave him....the Judge gave him 45 years and he was mad about that so he....he withdrew his guilty plea and wanted a trial and they gave him life instead.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well how did he withdraw a guilty plea, I mean, when you don't like the verdict?

STUART DOWELL: Well, that's ah...they did it, I don't know how, but anyway it was....but ah...after the....after the ah....arrest and the undercover agents they came out and you know....and allegedly somebody tried their car up and they were getting all kinds of harassment and ah....threatening telephone calls and this stuff went on. And ah....ah....people from the motorcycle gang that I had worked on, on this murder come in and they were....a bunch of them had been indicted. And they started coming in telling me said, you know, 'I sold 'em some marijuana, but they charged me with possession of cocaine'. Or, 'I sold 'em some meth and they....I sold 'em an ounce of meth but they only turned in one gram, charged me with one gram'. And said, 'They've been using just as much as...when they were around us they were using as much or more than we did and they were selling it just like we were, probably more'. So took statements from these people and then other people started coming after, they came in, they started telling...these other people you know, were friends, their associates, and people, men and women, boys and girls, started coming in talking to me because they felt like they could trust me. And I took statements from 'em and they would admit selling say an ounce of cocaine, but they was only charged with selling a gram. So I checked the lab and sure enough they were charged, you know, just a gram was turned in and it was real weak, it had been diluted with baking powder or something you know. And ah...like they would maybe sell 'em a ounce of meth and they'd charge 'em with selling some kind of pill, you know, prescription pill. And what they were doing was they were buying this stuff, keeping it for their own use, or reselling it, and then charging 'em with some....or like

possession of marijuana. And these people were telling me all this, saying you know, say, 'I sold 'em this and they're charging me with this, what's going on'. So I took statements from 'em and run 'em on the polygraph and showed they were telling the truth. And ah...nobody wanted to listen to me. And the trials had started and they were convicting these people and giving 'em big...you know, 25, 30 year sentences.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well their defense attorney wasn't calling you?

STUART DOWELL: Oh yeah, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Calling you in to testify?

STUART DOWELL: Well they didn't know, because I hadn't....I hadn't come out you know, and I had told the Captain about it and he said, 'Aw it's just sour grapes', said, 'They're trying....they do that every time trying to get the narcotics officers in trouble'. And I didn't believe it, but they told me to kind of sit on it you know, just....so I kept all this stuff and I wasn't anxious to go as a defense witness on a drug dealer you know. So I just sat on it and finally got a call one night andand Kim and Craig had moved into a trailer house out here south of town and their car had been....they had reported their car burned, so they had moved 'em out there and it was supposed to be a secret place you know. Sheriff called me, it was out in the county, it was out of the city's jurisdiction, said they both had been shot, wanted me to come down. So I met him out there and he said, 'Since this is...involves you know, the City....', and at that time they were kind of cross ways, the City and the County, said, 'I'd like for you to investigate it'. I think suspected something was wrong you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well were they dead?

STUART DOWELL: No, ah....Craig had his leg nearly shot off and an arm had been shot, they'd been shot with shotguns. And she had got a couple of pellets on the inside of her arm. Ah....the story was that they had ah....they were moving in that day and they were tired and ah....ah...they had just laid down on the couch,

they had an L shaped couch that run along....and she claimed that she was woke up by a gun barrel poking her in the head. And ah....she saw this Ken Borra was standing at the window of the trailer house and that he had smiled at her and raised the shotgun up and shot...shot Craig and she was holding onto the gun barrel trying to keep him from shooting. And ah...now how she got shot under here you know with the gun....and if you get shot that close range well it's going to blow your arm off.

ROBERT NIEMAN: There's going to be a lot of powder burns too.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Anyway ah....I went to the scene and it just...something struck me before I even got out there you know, just don't sound right. Now they're supposed to be in a secret secure house and the same day that they move out there they get shot. And then of course all this other stuff that these people had been telling me you know, about their goings on and it just raised suspicion. And I went in and first of all, first thing I noticed that the angle of the shot into the wall from where they claimed that the shooter had been would have been almost straight into the wall, from you know, where he was hit. But it was at a real sharp angle and when you lined it up it was from the front door not from the window, or somewhere in the area of that door, to make the angle of the shot. And you don't turn shot, you know this was like ah....7 1/2 shot.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Regardless of what Warren Commission says, bullets don't change direction?

STUART DOWELL: No, no they don't. And ah....then there was a curtain drapery hanging over this window where she claims that he....the shooter was standing outside the window. Well if you...if you stick the barrel of a gun underneath a drape what have you got? You got a blind, you can't see through it, I mean this is drapery material. You got the drapery hanging over....which I experimented with, with a gun barrel, if you put it at the bottom of the drapery and raise it up, it just drapes over the barrel, you can't see anything.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Wasn't a split curtain?

STUART DOWELL: No, it was a solid curtain, but you can't see in there, you know. And ah...there was no powder burns, you're going to have some powder if it...if it's a shotgun you're going to have some powder, you know, residue on.... none on there. But if you raise that curtain up and it's draped down over it you can't see in the room. And besides that, a person holding on to the end of the barrel has got more leverage than the person up here.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How many shots were fired?

STUART DOWELL: Two.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Barrel's going to heat up too.

STUART DOWELL: And....well no, you'd be surprised, I tested that too, she claimed that....that her palms were burned by the shotgun heat. I fired five rounds through a shotgun just as fast as I could pull the trigger holding.....or I had somebody else do it and I held the..... I had the barrel. It got hot, but in the time it tookit took awhile for it to heat up. You could feel the heat generating.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: But not enough to burn you?

STUART DOWELL: Not enough to burn you, you know. And ah..... I don't know whether you know, but he had a Lieutenant here, Bill Cody, well Borra was a big.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is he state or?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, he was.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Bill Cody's with State Police?

STUART DOWELL:he was a Lieutenant with the....with the Highway Patrol. They were....he and Borra.....they were claiming that Borra was the man that shot them. And ah....Cody was about the same size as Borra, so I had one of the secretaries who was about the same size asapproximately the same size asas this Kim Mathew.....Kim.....well she married.....they were married then.....Mathews. And I had her lay

down on the couch here at the office and him stand over her with a shotgun, and she was a little old thing, probably weighed 110 pounds you know. And she threw him all over the place, just by.....because of the leverage, you know, she had no problems....there's no way he could hold that.....if she pulled down on that barrel or pushed up on it, he couldn't stop it. And she claimed that he was so powerful that he literally picked her up and she couldn't keep him from shooting. And the whole thing.....and then ah..... I just..... I felt like it was a.....it just wasn't right you know. So ah..... I go to the hospital and Craig has.....of course he's been surgery and he's under medication, but he recognized me and we talked and he's giving intelligent answers to just common questions and I have him tell his side of the story. And....and he.....it's just a monotone, like he's rehearsed it you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well..... I mean, does he lose an arm or a leg, is he hit that bad?

STUART DOWELL: No, no it....well, he came close to losing it, but they.....he was in surgery for several hours and he's still crippled. I mean it nearly, literally blew 'em off. But ah....anyway ah..... I said ah...., 'Craig'..... I don't remember the exact, I said, 'I just don't see how this could of happened the way ya'll said'. I said, 'Are you absolutely sure that Borra was the one that shot you'. He said, 'Well maybe I just dreamed that', said, 'Maybe it wasn't him'. You know, started backing down and the Chief of Police was in there and boy he....he said, 'That's enough', said, 'He's tired', said, 'He's under drugs', said, 'You need to wait til....you don't need to talk to him', said, 'You can accept the story that he's told you'. Well her story, you know, they didn't even tell the same story. So they've done issued a warrant for Borra and he's heard about it and he's hooked 'em, he's headed.....cause he figures that they're going to kill him, you know, first chance they see. So ah.....anyway, we have a meeting with ah..... now I'm supposed to be the lead investigator in this thing you know, and I call for a meeting with the District Attorney and the Chief of Police and the Sheriff. And the City Manager shows up with his attorney. And I tell them, I said, 'Something ain't right here, it's just a bad deal all around and it's just not right'. And I said, 'I don't have the answers

right now but I'm going to tell you right up front that I'm going to call 'em like I see 'em, and they're lying'. Well boy, I mean everybody went ballistic you know, just raising cane. And ah.....to make a long story short, they..... I stuck to my guns and they tried to get me fired. They went to Austin, they went to Dallas, tried to get me transferred or fired.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, when you went into that meeting, did Burkes come over to give youto back you up?

STUART DOWELL: Huh uh, no I... I just..... I didn't even ask him, I just had this meeting. I told the Sheriff I wanted to have it because I want.....he's the one that asked me to come in and I told him briefly, you know, whatwhat I had determined. And ah.... I said, 'We need to have a meeting and.....because I'm afraid the lids going to blow off of thing and it ain't going to be pretty. And I just want to tell you up front, everybody be aware'. So we did, we had the meeting and what occurred. Boy they just went ballistic and ah.... I couldn't reason with anybody and ah....they tried to get me fired, wanted me off the case. And I said, 'No, I'm on it now, I'm going to ride it out'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Captain backing you, strong?

STUART DOWELL: Well, not real strong. Nobody did ah.....nobody wanted to believe it. And ah.....you know it....things just kept coming together and....and I took the city detectives over there, some of them had been there a long time. And of course the Chief didn't know it, but Ithey were out there and I got 'em all in and I said, 'Ya'll go in there to look at this situation'. I said, 'Now here's the story they're telling and you tell me if the facts fit'. Well they all come out.....they went in one at a time, said, 'There ain't no way it could of happened that way'. You know, and then another guy that had been working undercover with 'em, I got a call to meet him, he wanted me to come out to the lake, scared anybody would see him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Which lake?

STUART DOWELL: City policeman. Out at White House, it's Tyler Lake.....Lake Tyler. And ah.....he said, 'I want to tell you', he said, 'That trailer house was full of drugs when the shooting occurred'. He said, 'There was two brief cases full, there was stuff stashed under the couch, in different places in that trailer house'. And said, 'They come in and cleaned up before they called you'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who did?

STUART DOWELL: The police, the narcotics agents that had been working this undercover operation. Kim and Craig had brief cases full of drugs, cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, pills, all kinds of pills, for their personal use and sell it. And after the shooting, the Chief sent people out there to clean it up. And.....you know, it just started all....everything just started coming together. And the more I questioned people there's more....they started telling aboutthat ah....ah....you know, they had ah....actually framed these people.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The police had?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did the police know in advance that they were ah.....what do you call it, short charging these people?

STUART DOWELL: Oh, well they just turned.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Buying....buying ah....ah....an ounce and turning in a gram?

STUART DOWELL: Well they may not have know, but they just gave.....there was no supervision over them, you know, there was no tight control, there was no guide lines or control.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And when was this going on again?

STUART DOWELL: This was '79, '78 and '79. And ah....before it was all over with ah.....well, the District..... I went to the District Attorney and I told him I said, 'You know....'

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who's the DA here now?

STUART DOWELL: Well.....now....

ROBERT NIEMAN: I mean, not at this time, back at this time.

STUART DOWELL: Ah...Smith....ah....well I'll swear.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh well, that's.....we'll remember it.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Ah....anyway, I went to the DA and told him about what I'd uncovered and tried to convince him.....now he's the same one that took me to Dallas to theto the meeting with the U.S. Attorney, you know, and thought that this was a big narcotic's ring operating out of Tyler. And I told him I said, 'You can either be a hero or you can go down with the rest of 'em'. Cause I said, 'This thing is going to blow wide open'. And I said.....they had already convicted about 15 or 20 of these people on these undercover agents ah.....ah.....testimony you know, the evidence that they had turned in. And ah....he was fixing to go to trial on Borra, because he was charged with shooting....they were going to testify that Borra.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: They caught Borra?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Ah.... I called his attorney, I knew his attorney and....and ah..... I called and told him that if Borra would surrender to me I'd see that nothing happened to him, that if he kept running, you know, some officer.....there was pickup's out for him, and if he kept running some officer was liable to shoot him. So ah..... I promised him that he'd be safe if he'd surrender to me, so I met him over at ah.....in Anderson County on Highway 31 at a little old road side park over there and he gave himself up. But he swore that he didn't shot 'em, you know. Of course anybody would you know. And I wanted to believe him, but at the same time I had reservations ah.....but I wanted to be sure I I knew that the shooting didn't happen like they said it did. And I knew they were lying about something, but I didn't know whether it was a

.....maybe he had shot 'em over a drug deal gone bad or just what the truth was. But as time went on I was more convinced than ever that he didn't do the shooting. But anyway, they went ahead and tried him and convicted him and ah....sent him to the pen, I think he got ah.....like 45 years, 50, 60 years, something like that. And ah....in the meantime I was still getting a lot of information and people kept coming in with the information. I went to the DA, tried to persuade him to help me, he wouldn't do it, so ah.... of course if you don't have the DA you.....you're inyou know, I wanted a Grand Jury to look into it and he wouldn't do that. And ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: And the Captain's not helping you put pressure on people to get things done?

STUART DOWELL: Well no, he's still convinced that this is all ah....just a deal by the defense attorney's and the people who was charged with the drugs, just to cover up theiryou know, trying to get off. So I go to the FBI and ah.....Jim Adams was the Director at that time. And they set up aa ah.....meeting with the U.S. Attorney and Adams comes up and G.W. comes up.....well they....they still don't support me, but they don't.....they don't go against me, you know, they're just neutral, I guess. And ah.....just kind of leave me dangling there, more or less, and ah.....so the FBI goes to work on it. By this time....and of course Perot has got involved in it and he took Mathews and Kim and over to Dallas somewhere and hides 'em out you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ross Perot?

STUART DOWELL: Ross Perot.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, what's he involved in it for?

STUART DOWELL: Well, he's a big anti-drugyou know, he's....he's organizing these anti-drug programs and all that andand ah....he believes that they're being ah.....persecuted by the drug dealers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Mathews?

STUART DOWELL: Mathews and Kim. So he ah....gives 'em a safe house over there and puts some of his body guards to guard 'em and they're over there you know, this is a big deal. And I'm the ass hole.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ass hole.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Because I'm picking on these poor little narc agents you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Has the press gotten involved in it yet?

STUART DOWELL: Oh yeah, it's....it's all over the world.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And whose side are they for?

STUART DOWELL: No, it's ah....20/20 has been down and

ROBERT NIEMAN: And whose side are they on?

STUART DOWELL: Ah.....well, I don't know really, you know, they....they.....mainly they're just reporting about what happened. And ah.... I found out in the meantime that ah.....one of the reporters had been down nosing around ah....that they were going to plant cocaine in his personal car.

ROBERT NIEMAN: The reporter's car?

STUART DOWELL: Huh?

ROBERT NIEMAN: They were going to plant.....

STUART DOWELL: The reporter's.....reporter's car.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

STUART DOWELL: For the Dallas Morning News, that he had been down here nosing around and was getting too close, you know, and could get embarrassing, so they was going to plant cocaine in.....in his personal car, call the Dallas PD and tell 'em that they had information he was carrying cocaine in his car. Well the Dal....they wasn't going to tell the Dallas PD that it was planted, that the Dallas PD would act

on.....in good faith on what they had been told you know, and catch him with cocaine in his car and arrest him. And ah...this was just some of the...they had confiscated cars and....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did the Dallas police arrest him?

STUART DOWELL: No, it never came about, but they had planned to do it, but for some reason...

ROBERT NIEMAN: This is the Tyler Police department?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. But for some reason they....it just didn't happen. Ah...I think the shooting happened about the time they were going to do this.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well the Dal....the Tyler Police department, were they the shooter?

STUART DOWELL: We never did know. I...I kind of suspect they wee.. That ah....that it was done to protect the Chief and City Manager. They were supposed to be killed.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is either one of them still around?

STUART DOWELL: Well, the Chief got fired, he was....the FBI got involved in it and they went and interviewed Kim and Craig and ah...they confessed to all this, that they had give perjured testimony and falsified thethe evidence records and everything.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So all those prosecutions just went right out the window too didn't they?

STUART DOWELL: Oh yeah, they had to release everybody.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Borra too?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, oh yeah. They confessed that they didn't know who shot 'em, they claimed they didn't know who shot 'em.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did....could they come back then and retry these people for a gram or whatever?

STUART DOWELL: Oh they tried 'em for violation of civil rights in federal court and they...they were convicted. They tried the Chief but they ah....he...he beat it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is he still around here?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Mathews, he went to the pen?

STUART DOWELL: He went....no...yeah, he and...and Kim both went to the pen, federal pen. And ah....he's running a....got a...what do you call it where they sell plants and....nursery.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Nursery?

STUART DOWELL: Over there in Dallas and Kim went to New York City and wrote a book and she made a million dollars off the book and....

ROBERT NIEMAN: On this thing?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What is the name of the book?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....well they made a movie out of it too.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did they use real names in it?

STUART DOWELL: Oh no. Let me think....Rush.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Rush? And was that the name of the movie too?

STUART DOWELL: Uh hum.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hmm. And...but then....

STUART DOWELL: She's a millionaire now.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And all the people that went....these bikers and what not, they had to release all them?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did they retry them on anything?

STUART DOWELL: No. You know, they could of made good cases on 'em. Every one of them admitted to me that they were doing...doing drugs.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hmm. I...you know I...I lived here then, I don't know...I'm on the road a lot, I'll use that as an excuse, but I wasn't....

STUART DOWELL: Oh you....you had to of heard about it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh yeah, well I've heard about, but I didn't pay it...you know...I didn't....

STUART DOWELL: It was on national television and every paper in the country was running ...

ROBERT NIEMAN: But you know you...you was saying something there, it's really something that you and Glenn have a lot in....are alike and one thing, Glenn has told me time after time how many times he's been able to make cases because these old crooks would talk to him. And he said, 'I never lied to 'em, I'd always tell 'em just the way it was and they knew that I wouldn't lie to 'em'.

STUART DOWELL: I always told 'em if they wanted something I'd tell 'em, 'I'm not going to promise it to you until I know I can deliver it and I'll come back and talk to you, if it's...you know if what you want is within reason and it's something I can reasonably handle'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well it amazes me, Glenn to this....I know last week, Glenn got some call from some old crook wanting him to help him up there.

STUART DOWELL: Oh I get 'em all the time, I get 'em all the time, people wanting something and telling me...telling me stuff you know. And ah...but I...I never deliberately lied to one.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well back to this...you're totally vindicated on this through ah....

STUART DOWELL: Well yeah, a lot of people had egg on their face and I had the last laugh. Cause they went to....the narc agents went to the pen, Chief got fired, the only thing that disappointed me, the City Manager should of been indicted.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He slipped the net?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, he left town though, he quit his job. And ah...Brantley...G.W. thought I had lost...gone off my rocker you know. And ah....he couldn't tell me to quit, but he was going to keep a tight rein on me, so Brantley was in narcotics....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Foster.

STUART DOWELL:Brantley Foster, he was in narcotics before he came on the Rangers, so he sent Brantley down here to help me you know. And Brantley came down and...and we had a little set to and he said ah... 'Well I want you to know that...that I think you lost your mind, that this is just something that these narc's always do when they get caught', and said, 'They're just making all this stuff up', and on and on you know. I said, 'Okay, you believe what you want to, I'll believe what I want to'. He worked with me about two days and the next day he come...come in to go to work and he said, 'I'm going to have to apologize', he said, 'Everything you've said is the truth', said, 'Them...they're rotten from the top to the bottom'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And he tells G.W. this and G.W. still doesn't come up?

STUART DOWELL: Well after....after Brantley tell...he kind of...G.W. says, 'Well, get after you know, do what you have to'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Of course G.W. and Brantley is going to get a story of their own a little later.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, yeah. That was something else and ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Stuart, I'm about to run out of tape here, so let's just schedule another session, because I don't think we've got about five minutes of tape left on this roll.

STUART DOWELL: Well I'm sorry to....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh...my...let's just stop it right here and we'll schedule another one in another few days and finish.

STUART DOWELL: Okay.

ROBERT NIEMAN: This is Saturday, March 9, 1996, a continuation of the life of and career of Stuart Dowell, Texas Ranger. Stuart, we've had about four months off so....since our last one we've had the holidays and sicknesses and everything else fall in between us, but I think we finished up last time the little problems that ah...you overcame and handled over at Tyler and here in Smith County and the little problems they had here and I guess we're ready to go from there.

STUART DOWELL: Well the next event that I can recall of any consequence ah...was the murders at the Kentucky Fried Chicken over in Kilgore in 1982, that was September of 1982. And ah...I happened to be out of town ah....when it first occurred ah...but I was notified and got...got back as quick as I possibly could. And ah...when ah...ah...just a brief outline of what had happened, the ah...employees...one of the employees daughter came to the Kentucky Fried Chicken on a Friday night and ah....it was supposed to be closing time and she couldn't find anybody at the store, so she called the police.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was the building unlocked?

STUART DOWELL: The building was unlocked, but there were signs of a struggle inside the building. Ah...there was blood found in several places inside the building and ah...but none of the employees were found. So ah...ah...the next day....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what time would this of been?

STUART DOWELL: This ah...I'm not...don't recall the exact time, I think it was around ten-thirty, eleven o'clock at night, when the daughter of one of the employees came up there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember which daughter?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, it was Mary Tyler's daughter. And ah...ah...of course the police were called and they commenced the investigation and the search for the victims. But they weren't found until the next day down in Rusk County, out on an oil field site.

ROBERT NIEMAN: It was down close to the Mount Pleasant community, Mount Pleasant...or Pleasant Hill community, Pleasant Hill cemetery.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, close to it. And ah...one of the oil field workers, a pumper I think, was ah...ah...found the bodies in the lease and they had all been shot execution style. Four of them were lying side by side in the lease road and ah...and then one of the others was by herself down close to the gate. And ah... all of them had been executed.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Were they shot in the back...back...in the head?

STUART DOWELL: They had been shot in the head, the back ah....one...Monty Landers was shot in the side, it appeared that he started to get up, from what I saw, the pictures of 'em. Ah...of course like I say, when I arrived the bodies had already been moved. So the only thing I had was ah....the photographs that were made at the time of the....when the officers arrived out there. Ah...the ah...he was a pretty good sized boy and apparently he was going to make a fight of it and started to raise up ah....there was marks at his feet where he, you know, apparently tried to get up on his knees and he had been shot in the side and also in the back and in the head. Ah....there was ah...ah...the investigation was being conducted by the Kilgore Police department and Gregg County Sheriff's office ah...Glenn Elliott, myself and the Rusk County Sheriff's office since they were....the bodies were found in Rusk County the murder case would reside there, jurisdiction would reside there. Ah...we ah...the bodies were taken to Dallas to the forensic, Southwest Forensic over there and ah...where they did the autopsies. And I was present when the autopsies were done, cause this was ah...probably one of the most widely publicized murders in East Texas you know and it was getting nation

wide and even world wide coverage. Ah...we were anxious to get any fresh information ah...any leads, whatever that might develop and that was the reason I went to watch the autopsies to see if we could get anything at all. And ah...as ah...the ah...doctor and I were starting to undress Joey Johnson, we observed a fingernail fall out of his waistband, a torn fingernail.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where about in his waistband?

STUART DOWELL: It was in the right hand side near the hip bone ah...and ah...when the doctor unbuckled his belt on his trousers this fingernail fell out on the gurney and ah...that was our first solid, physical lead that we had in the case, even though it wasn't very much, but it was important and we had something physical that we could identify with a suspect if we found one. And ah...nothing else of any consequence ah....at that particular time developed from the autopsies, that was the only thing.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well you said that they had been shot in the back of the head.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Large caliber weapon or?

STUART DOWELL: It was a .357 and .38. The ballistics people here at the Tyler office believed that there was at least three different weapons used ah....in these murders.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What kind of bullets were they using?

STUART DOWELL: Well ah....of course a .38 and a .357.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I mean, hollow point or steel jacket?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....some of them were ah....semi-jacketed ah....soft nosed and....and....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well without trying to get to gruesome, I'd assume they didn't have much faces left, if they shot 'em in the back of the head.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....surprisingly ah....they weren't tore up that bad. Ah.... I was surprised but ah....ah....the bullets apparently went through mostly soft tissue and ah....didn't tear up too bad. I'm not saying that they weren't, you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum.

STUART DOWELL: But I've seen a lot worse than these people were. Some of the bullets were just solid lead bullets, the old style .38 special lead bullets and some of them were the semi-jacketed type, you know. Of course ah.....38's anda .38 is interchangeable in a .357.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum.

STUART DOWELL: And ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was the third one, do you....was it also you think a .38 or .357?

STUART DOWELL: Well they.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: If there was a third one.

STUART DOWELL:they believe there was two .357's and one .38 was used. Ah....cause the autopsies were done on, I believe it was on Sunday....yeah it was on Sunday and ah....Monday morning we ah....had a meeting at the Sheriff's office in Rusk County and ah....the Sheriff, Mike Strong, at that time had given us....well he had gotten information from drug dealers that ah....ah....with some names of suspects in the murders cases and ah....one of them was Jim Earl Mankins ah....lived in Kilgore and ah....it was decided that we would go ahead and interview him, just because his name had kept coming up over the weekend you know as one of them that was involved in the cases. And ah....ahit was allegedly the.....the story went that ah....the killings were over a drug deal. And this is the story, whether it's true or not, I don't have any reason to doubt it, but I can't say that it's accurate. Ah....one of the guys ah....his name left me right now, I can't remember it, but anyway, he had gotten a formula for making speed which was supposed to be a short

cut and a real strong ah.....product and ah....his idea was to make a lot of money off this formula, by making a lot of meth and ah....and a real good product. So anyway ah....while he was passed out and asleep ah....Mary Tyler's daughter had

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, we had to change tape.

STUART DOWELL: But anyway ah.....whilewhile this guy was asleep ah....Mary Tyler's daughter had slipped out this formula ah.....again keep in mind this is a story that we got ah....that she had slipped the formula out and made several copies, returned the original andand took the copies home with her. And she was going to be a little business woman and you know, sell thesethis formula and make her some money. Well they found out about it, somebody snitched her off and ah....of course the pressure was on to get these.....get this formula back. Which we found out later was ah.....a copy of it surfaced and it was really nothing, that this guy had been ripped off by a so called chemist. But anyway ah....Mary Tyler had found these copies and had put 'em in her purse and had taken 'em to work with her. Again this is the story. Ah....and they decidedat the same time Jim Earl owed his supplier a considerable sum of money.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That Mankin?

STUART DOWELL: Jim Earl Mankin, yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Jr.

STUART DOWELL: Jr. yeah. And that they had taken him out and demonstrated what was going to happen to him by beating up another guy that owed 'em money. And ah....this was going to happen to him if he didn't come up with the money. So....(tape ends)....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, you were saying that he'd been....someone had taken Mankin out and whipped up on some one that owed them some money to show him what was going to happen to him if he didn't.....

STUART DOWELL: Right, yeah if he didn't come up with the money, so it was decided they would ah.....go to the Kentucky Fried Chicken, get the ah....the formula back and rob it at the same time. Ah....it's my understanding that during the robbery itself they....they were wearing masks, there was four of them went out there, two women and two men. Ah.....this was deduced from the investigation and from information we received through the years. Ah....there was a scuffle which we could verify in the.....in the ah....restaurant and that ah.....Jim Earl was recognized.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who did the.....

STUART DOWELL: By the....by the employees.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did we determine.....was it determined who he.....who had fought him? Was there blood there in the Kentucky Fried Chicken?

STUART DOWELL: Ah.....we....we think it was Jim Earl that they had the scuffle with, one of the employees.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But do we know which employee it was that?

STUART DOWELL: Probably Monty Landers, his cap was on the floor.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was there any blood or anything there?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, there was blood there and ah....Mary Tyler....apparently she had put the ah.....money and thesethe copies of this formula in the office in a filing cabinet in there and her blood was found dripping.....apparently she'd been hit in the mouth and nose and her nose and mouth was bleeding. And her blood was found in different places in the building. So ah....we ah....we pretty well confirmed there was a struggle in there and then of course after Jim Earl was recognized then they decided they had to get rid of them, couldn't leave any witnesses. And that's when they took them out to the oil field.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well how do you figured they kept four people from struggling any more....that long, I mean it.... I don't think we....or do we know yet how they got to the oil field, I mean what route they took ?

STUART DOWELL: Well, there's different ah.....there's different stories and I don't know the.....the true story, that Jim Earl had ah.....had a pickup truck with a camper shell on the back of it. And ah.....then there was another story that they called a friend of theirs that had an old van with a....you know, no windows in it and just.....it was just a regular old work van and that they got it out there, loaded 'em in it and took 'em out. But ah....ah..... I don't....personally don't see.....some people think that that's a big problem to control that many people, but I don't see it as a problem. Ah.....there....you can go back and there's lots of instances where one person has controlled a half dozen or a dozen people. You know, when you got the only gun and people want to live, it's just self preservation. Ah.... I I personally don't see it as a problem that they could....one or two people could control all of them. Cause they had the guns and the victims didn't. So ah....anyway ah..... I forget.... I started to tell that we....we had ah....decided to interview Jim Earl Mankins at the Sheriff's office. He came in with his father, we sent word that we wanted to talk to him. They came in voluntarily to the Sheriff's office and at that time we were working out of the old jail down at Rusk County and ah.....there was a small waiting area as you came in the front door of the jail there and some benches and chairs there where people waited. Ah.....when I went out to get Jim Earl to take him back in the office to interview him ah.... I immediately noticed that ah.....the middle finger of his right hand, the fingernail was missing, tore off down to the quick and he was biting on it cause it was real ragged. And ah.....so ah....we got him back there and I had a mental picture of the fingernail that we had found in Dallas at the autopsy and mentally, in my mental picture, it fit the....you know, the missing fingernail off of his hand. So we got permission, consent, and ah.....made a mold of his finger that was missing the fingernail. And ah....of course he denied being involved in the murders and had a alibi and ah.....ah.....after we got the mold of the fingernail....or the finger ah.... I made a cast of it, poured plaster of paris in a mold and made a cast of it....of

the finger and headed for Dallas with it. And ah....we got the ah.....Dr. Stone was the Pathologist over there that was handling it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember his first name?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....Ron Stone? Dr. Stone.....let's see.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's all right.

STUART DOWELL: I...I can't remember his first name, I just always called him Dr. Stone. And ah....we got the fingernail out and of course it was a perfect fit of the cast. And I had used the sameor the material that dentists use to make a plasteror make a cast of your mouth you know, when they're working on your teeth. And I had, had it used on me ah.....for a cast of my teeth and I knew that it was as accurate as anything you could get. And of course when the doctor put that fingernail on it, it was an irregular surface where it had been torn off the face of the nail and ah....it was a perfect fit. Under the microscope the....the ah....thickness was the same and ah.....there are striation marks on your fingers, the fingernails grow out from the bone up back towards the joint of the finger. And Dr. Stone tells me that ah.....all your life these marks that's made by the fingernail growing out over the bone will always be the same, their just like finger....fingerprints, they never change. And ah....under a comparison scope ah....you can match the striation marks on this fingernail that we found with the striation marks on the cast that we made, it was a perfect match. Ah....at that time we didn't have DNA of course, couldn't do any matching. Ah.... I could spend probably the next twenty hours or so telling about all the things that happened, but I think it's ah...ah... we can say that the investigation went on for years. Ah....there was problems with it as there always is and ah....you know if youhind sight is always 20/20. I never worked a case in my life that later on I wished I'd of done something different ah.... I don't know anybody that hasn't. If we knew at the end whator if we'd of known at the beginning what we knew at the end, we'd always do something different.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Everyone's got 20/20 hind sight.

STUART DOWELL: Oh yeah, yeah, it always is. But anyway ah....ah....during the investigation ah.....bits and pieces came together. We found....Glenn Elliott recovered a pistol that we could put inin the ah.....possession of Jim Earl Mankins. On the day of the kidnapping Jim had his pistol confiscated when he'd got stopped by the Longview police and they took his pistol away from him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was it a .357 or a .38?

STUART DOWELL: Ah.... I don't remember what he had, but what ever it was they took it away from him. And ah....he was charged with carrying an illegal weapon. Well that afternoon when he got out of jail, first thing he did was go get another gun. And Glenn was able to locate this gun that he had borrowed, it was in his possession that night, it was brought back to the people that he borrowed it from the next day. And Glenn run it down, got it to the lab and one of the guns that was used in the murders had a real bad barrel, it left irregular markings on the bullets, well this gun did the same thing. And of course it's....it's just very, very difficult to get a...a lab technician to say, 'This is the gun that shot this bullet'. They'll say it's similar to the one that shot it you know. But they will not just lay everything out and say, 'This is the gun'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember if this was a .38 or .357?

STUART DOWELL: It was a .38, it was an old Houston Police department gun, it had been wore out and sold down there. Anyway ah....off the record....no, of the...the technician believed it was the same gun that was used for the murders, but wouldn't get on the stand and say, 'I can verify that this is the same gun'. But anyway, we knew from our investigation that he had that gun in his possession and everything else matched. Ah....we had the fingernail, it matched him, of course the blood....blood type was the same ah....but that wasn't....blood type is not....it's good, but it's not final. Ah....we had some people who, at that time, were willing to testify that Jim Earl and some of the other had admitted they did the deal, you know, they killed

the people, kidnapped 'em and killed 'em. But we had the problem with the District Attorney in Rusk County.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was he?

STUART DOWELL: Bill Ferguson. Ah.....I'd had problems with him before this occurred on some major theft cases that I'd worked and he had told me that he didn't care what we brought in he wasn't going to prosecute him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did he give a reason why?

STUART DOWELL: Well it went back to the slant hole oil.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Man, that was back in the early '60's.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. He had been investigated by the Railroad Commission in reference to being to being involved in the slant hole and he didn't like 'em, hethere wasn't any state law enforcement.....he didn't like any law enforcement period.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And I guess he really didn't like Glenn then.

STUART DOWELL: No, he didn't like Glenn, he didn't like me. But ah....he fought us on everything we tried to do, we couldn't get anyany help. Instead of cooperating with us, all he did was blame us for screwing up the investigation, and ridiculing us that our only witnesses were drug addict, which what else are you going to have, you know, when you're dealing with drug addict you're going.....that's all your kind of witnesses you're going to have. And that can be overcome, I've done it in many, many cases where ah.....old sorry's testify against another sorry. And if the prosecutor has got any backbone at all he can overcome that and it's done every day you know. But anyway, to this day the case hadn't been finalized and as you are aware ah.....when they run the DNA on the fingernail, if it was the same fingernail, ah....it showed that it didn't match Mankins. Well I don't know....personally I don't know what, but I'll swear today until

the day I die that, that was his fingernail, he was there and ah.....why it didn't ah..... somebody screwed up is all I can say.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did the other doctors agree with Dr. Stone on the striations?

STUART DOWELL: Yes, yes. See this is very limited ah....you don't have very many fingernail comparisons you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum.

STUART DOWELL: And this was a new field really ah..... I think that.....this is just my personal opinion, that if they'd went ahead with what we had, it's a real simple case, everybody's familiar with the O.J. Simpson case and all the DNA and the days and hours that they spent and the millions of dollars they spent on DNA, and the jury just totally disregarded it after all they went through. Ah....it's ah....if we'd of just went on with what we had, it was a simple case, but it was strong as you well know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well do you feel that ah....was....Ferguson bottled necked this up, asking just strictly for your opinion now, on your part why didn't the State step in?

STUART DOWELL: Because the State can'tthe ah....Attor....if your talking the

ROBERT NIEMAN: U.S. Attorney.... or I mean the State Attorney.

STUART DOWELL: Attorney General's office?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum.

STUART DOWELL: They can't come in unless the District Attorney request that they do.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well here just last year, 12 years after the fact, they did come in, did the District Attorney there in Rusk County ask 'em?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, he requested it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....let me back up just a little, how much money was stolen, did we ever determine that, or was that ever determined?

STUART DOWELL: Well ah....yeah ah....approximately \$2,500.00, give or take you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum. Did ah....

STUART DOWELL: And ah....Jim Earl paid off his drug debt that night. That's another thing thatthat we found.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....since Joey had the....Johnson I think you said his name was had the fingernail inside between his pants and his shirt, around the belt line, didwas there indications that he had fought?

STUART DOWELL: Well ah....it very well could of been ah....he could of....you know, they may have just been holding on to his belt and for some reason when he jerked his hand out it tore the fingernail off, or there could of been a struggle. There could of been a struggle with Joey and ah....ah....the other boy at the same time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....but you believe that there was what, two men and two women there?

STUART DOWELL: That's the informa....that actually went in. Ah...we've since heard that, or I've heard, that several people knew it was going to go down, just the robbery, and that they were setting across the street watching, over at the motel over there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Kilgore Community Inn?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. And ah....the.... I don't think anybody knew it was going to turn into a murder, mass murder, but they knew it was going to be a robbery.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well somebodyif that many people saw the event happen, you got the....we think....or the police....or the officials think four people involved, and then other people possibly watching

across the street, somebody had to have somebody....it would seem to me, awfully afraid for that many people to know something about it and nobody talk.

STUART DOWELL: Well yeah, theyah....these people are crazy enough, you know, that the others are afraid of them. And ah....they figure if they killed five, what's one more.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. Just for the record, for people.....

STUART DOWELL: And besides that, there was a loyalty and still is even today, a loyalty among this bunch that reminds me of Manson. Ah....it's unreal his ex-wives and ex-girlfriends and friends, how loyal that they are to him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what I was going to say, for the record, last year 1995, Mankins was charged but ah.....after several months he was dis....the charges against him were dismissed when they said the DNA did not match. But do you feel he'll everthis case will ever be resolved? Do you think it's pretty much reached the end of the road?

STUART DOWELL: Well ah..... I would think that it would be very difficult to overcome this kind of ah.....this situation with the with the DNA test now. If ah....if there wasn't a mistake and the wrong fingernail was sent or they did some kind of mistake on the test, to overcome that is pretty tough. I don't care what kind of evidence that you come up with now.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well do.....

STUART DOWELL: I'm not saying that it can't be overcome, but it would have to be something awful strong and maybe I don't see how the could keep from allowing this to come in or allowing the defense to bring in this fact that the DNA test, you know, showed that it wasn't his. But ah....ah....it could be done, but it's going to be very difficult.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, moving right on we're.....

STUART DOWELL: Ah....you were talking awhile ago why the....why the Attorney General, you know, they....theythey volunteered several times. The U.S. Attorney's office volunteered to assist with the prosecution. The case was presented to the ah....oh lord ah.....a copy of the case, everything we had was presented to the U.S. Attorney's office here in Tyler and to the Attorney General's office in Austin years and years ago, and they agreed thatthat it was certainly a tryable case and felt like there would probably be a conviction ifif the evidence and witnesses that we had....what we had at that time ah.....if it was presented to a jury. And they were willing to ah....ah....take over the case and try it, prosecute it and Ferguson refused.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well a question that I've heard asked several time then is, and it comes to my mind too, if we couldn't get the Rusk County prosecutor to move on this, and there was....you know with this much evidence, why didn't the FBI move in and file kidnapping charges at least and pursue it from that angle?

STUART DOWELL: Well they weren't protecting interstate.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh II

STUART DOWELL: The FBI they.....we tried that ah.....and

ROBERT NIEMAN: I thought

STUART DOWELL:the Justice Department just wouldn't go for it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I thought kidnapping was a federal offense?

STUART DOWELL: It is but they got to cross fed....state lines.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well then the next question would be....

STUART DOWELL: Interstate.

ROBERT NIEMAN:well what....that kidnapping would of fallen under the jurisdiction of the Gregg County DA, since that crimethe kidnapping happened in Gregg County.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, yeah that's true but ah.....the District Attorney in Gregg County wasn't much stronger than ah....you know, he was looking for aa trap door too. And ah....so he opted out by saying, well the murders happened in Rusk County so we're going to turn over jurisdiction to them. It was one of these things, No You Got It....No You Got It....and ah...nobody had it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Not like kind of today where I understand Smith County has got a real fire eater for a DA today.

STUART DOWELL: That's right, that's right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Skeen is his name I think.

STUART DOWELL: In fact I had to bring one of my cases ah....it was a multi-million dollar theft case that happened down in Rusk County that had been going on for several years and this was the first case that....that I'd presented to ah....Bill Ferguson to prosecute, had paperwork, paper trail, witnesses, statements, anything that you could want, physical evidence ah....pictures and he just told me to my face, 'I don't care what you bring in here, I'm not going to prosecute it'. And fortunately ah.....the people who were involved lived in Smith County and had planned and conspired in Smith County to commit the theft in Rusk County. And the....and the proceeds from the theft were paid in Rusk County.....I mean in Smith County. And under the conspiracy law I was able to prosecute the people involved, cause the prosecutor here in Smith County took it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was that Jack Skeen then?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's what....he spells that....for the transcribe....S K E E N.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....did ah....well you may not want to comment on this ah....may not know anything to comment on, but rumor has it again, up in Longview where I live, that ah....Ferguson has actually officially or unofficially been assisting now Mankins' defense attorneys.

STUART DOWELL: That wouldn't surprise me in the least. I ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: He's no longer in office by the way.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Ihe had no scruples as far as I'm concerned. And ah.... I have never understood why if a person takes an oath of office why they don't do what they're being paid to do. But unfortunately in the State of Texas and throughout the United States this is common, it is not unusual in the District Attorney's offices. That it's nearly impossible or impossible to get 'em to prosecute once they get in office. They have all the power. There is nothing.....one lawyer is not going to do anything to another lawyer, so you know, they can set there for their.....til they get in enough time to retire and the County's paying for them an office and paying 'em a salary, and ah....they can set there and do absolutely nothing.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Some of them unfortunately do. Well ah....let's move on from the Kentucky Fried Chicken killings. Other than.... I do want to just ask one other question, other than rewards, did the Kentucky Fried Chicken Company offer any incentive....well not incentive, that's a terrible word to use, the wrong word to use too, help ...say look , if you need extra expertise we'd be happy to hire it for you or?

STUART DOWELL: They....any....the word we got was, anything they could do, you know, just name it and they wouldand they did, they cooperated fully.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay. Well moving on ah....

STUART DOWELL: I might say that we had....we had full cooperation from federal agents whose ah....there was no lack of cooperation, there was rumors that ah....ah....there was a lot of dissension andand ah....no cooperation between agencies and that'sthat's untrue. I never saw as many agencies and

officers work together, of course we had disagreements as any.....you know, but it wasn't ah....like ah....well I'm not going to work with you if you don't do it my way. You know, it would.....we disagreed on how to do things but we went ahead and did what we thought was right and....and ah....there was no dis....no animosity in this disagreement, it was just a discussion of how to proceed with certain things. But basically everybody worked together.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I have heard from other people, other than you, the only animosity did come from Ferguson.

STUART DOWELL: Oh yeah, yeah. It was very deep.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well ah....using.....talking about Jack Skeen, using him for the example, in your opinion do you feel if Jack Skeen had been the DA in Rusk County that the case would of went to court?

STUART DOWELL: I think we could of gone to court and I think he would of gone to court and I think we would of won. Try....charge one person or charge the suspects with one murder, you got five murders, try with....try on one murder, there's no statute of limitations on murder. Ah....if they had been found not guilty on that one, you still had four more cases. It only takes one. And so you know, that's what we were urging Ferguson to do, is try 'em onon ah....on this boy ah....that we found the fingernail on.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Joey?

STUART DOWELL: Joey Johnson. Try.....just try him and Debbie on.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Dopey Debbie Smith, her nickname.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.....on this one murder.

ROBERT NIEMAN: She was Mankins girlfriend I believe.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. And ah....you know ah....we felt like, and I still felt like.....feel like that at that time ah.....he would of probably rolled over once it really got serious, he would of rolled over and give us the rest of it. But his confidence now is out of sight.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. I think most people unfortunately feel that, you know, it's a dead issue now.

STUART DOWELL: I.... I personally do. It....it....something.....a miracle would have to happen right now, and I don't expect that to happen.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well moving on from the Kentucky Fried Chicken killings. It's now into '83 and you're going to retire in '87 I believe.

STUART DOWELL: '86.

ROBERT NIEMAN: '86.

STUART DOWELL: I don't recall anyany earth shakingit was just routine. Most of the time I spent ah..... I was working on that murder case and other....just murder cases that ah.....the last four or five years, that's all I did was work on murder cases, I didn't have time to work on anything else.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, before we get to your retirement ah....one of the questions I wanted to ask you was ah....near the end was, your most satisfying case and your most frustrating, and I'll come back, I want to make a comment, Glenn Elliott told me in his interview that, of course the Kentucky Fried Chicken was his most frustrating case and in away it lead to his ah.....his retirement. He said just one of many reasons but he said, you know, the frustration of working on it and not seeming to getting to the results he wanted, that was his most frustrating case he ever worked. What would be your most frustrating case?

STUART DOWELL: Well, I would have to put it at top ah.....along with a couple of others, but ah....to be that close to prosecution and knowing and having the evidence that we had, and being unable to get it prosecuted, there's no doubt in my mind that was the most frustrating thing. Ah....there was a little girl

kidnapped in Dallas and her body was found in VanZandt County, she was kidnapped off the street, that was in '82.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, and ah....not being able to complete that case and find her killer. Ah....that was frustrating too, but ah....yeah the KFC....

ROBERT NIEMAN: I think we talked about that one .

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, I believe we did. But I would of really liked to have finished that one out and have been brought the KFC to some kind of conclusion, other than the one it came to.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was your most satisfying case Stuart?

STUART DOWELL: Hmm....that's hard to say. I guess ah....the one that I drew the most heat off from was the investigation of the narcotics agents in Tyler and ah....the way it came out, finally ended up. And the one about ah.....the State Representative Martin over at ah.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Mike Martin.

STUART DOWELL: Mike Martin. Ah....there was....well, I'll take that back ah.....the ah.....the murder cases that I've told about, the first ones that I worked up in Dennison with Lewis Rigler?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum.

STUART DOWELL: The two little girls?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

STUART DOWELL: I guess that would have to be the most satisfying. To get that guy off the streets that killed them little girls.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

STUART DOWELL: Any time you put somebody in jail that has the potential of hurting or killing somebody else ah.....it ah.....it's awful satisfying . I'll admit, I love to put....put these old sorry's in the penitentiary.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Thank goodness, thank goodness.

STUART DOWELL: You know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You're going to retire in '86, what brought you to the decision to retire, to hang it up?

STUART DOWELL: Well, it was....when I went to work I could of worked, if I was physically able, I believe I could of worked twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. Ah.... I looked..... I looked forward to going to work ah..... I enjoyed every minute of it and at the end I was looking forward to my next day off, wondering when.....how much vacation time I had. And it seemed like every directive that came out of Austin was negative, don't do this, don't do that and you can't do this anymore and you can't do that anymore. And I think what broke the camel's back was when the ah....ah....when the Federal Government came in and made this directive that ah....we couldn't work but forty hours a week. And we had to juggle our hours, lie about it and we had to spend more time figuring out how we can work then just going out there and doing our job. And it got more and more ah.....frustrating on a personal level and it just wasn't any fun any more. And....and it was like we were fighting the criminals and the system as hard....you know, fighting the system as hard as we were the criminals, or trying to and we were losing.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was your retirement date?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....March 1st, 1986.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember your last case?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, ah..... I can't remember any names but ah....ah.....a girl was in a psychiatric hospital in Fort Worth and her ex-husband lived here in Tyler and she disappeared from the ah.....this

psychiatric hospital and the last visitor was her husband. And ah....he ah.... I interviewed him, I knew he was lying, I knew he knew where she was ah..... he denied it. I'd found out that he had bought a pistol and ammunition and ah....knew he'd killed her, but I just couldn'tif I'd of followed my hunch I....up there whereup north on 271 where it crosses.....where 271 crosses the Sabine River?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum.

STUART DOWELL: The old highway....the steel bridge over there where he threw her off in the river and ah....ah.... I had a hunch one day to get the ah....game warden with a boat and go up there and go down to the river. And something happened, I got side tracked that day and I just didn't get back to doing it, if I'd of gone ahead, cause a fisherman found her body the day that they were having a retirement party for me here at the office. And I got a call that that a fisherman had found her body in some brush up there on the river. And I'd always.....if.... I found out if you'll usually do what your instincts tell you to do, you'll be right most of the time. And I'd of gone on that day I'd probably found her body then. It was cold and ah....ah....when she disappeared in I think it was in February and ah....latter part of January or February, I know it was cold, and the body was well preserved, but ah.... if I'd of gone on up there when myself told me to do it, you know, I'd of had that wrapped up. But we got the old boy convict.....he was convicted of killing his wife, so it all ended up. That was the last case.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Came out in the wash.

STUART DOWELL: Of course I had ah..... I've been to court several times on cases that....on appeals and you know, retry cases.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what have you been doing since you retired?

STUART DOWELL: Well ah...after Iwhen I retired ah.... I went to ah....Llano County, ran a ranch there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Llano, what town is?

STUART DOWELL: Llano, Llano County.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay, that's out in West Texas?

STUART DOWELL: Ah....well it's ah...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Or South Texas?

STUART DOWELL: No, it's....it's northwest of Austin, about 90 miles northwest of Austin, it's in the hill country.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

STUART DOWELL: But ah....when I was workingwhile I was still a Ranger I had worked a casethis deal that I was telling you about with the swindle and the multi-million dollar theft down there in Rusk County. Ah....this guy had swindled a bunch of people outout in Llano and ah....got them to invest in some nonexistent oil wells you know. And ah....so I had to make several trips to Llano to interview these people and talk to them. And I made some friends down there and I loved that county and ah....theythey invited me down to visit their ranches. And of course several of them I went out to their ranches to interview them you know, and I just loved that country.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That hill country is easy to love.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. And one of them.....one of these ranches was 32,000 acres and ah....this real estate man was trying to sell it and ah....but he was one that got swindled. And we got to be close friends and I had ah....gone out to his ranch several times and always talked about how beautiful it was you know. So he called me one day and said, 'You want to come down here and live?', said 'I've got you a deal'. He said, 'This guy that owns this land, 32,000 acres ranch, needs somebody to take care of it'. And ah....so I went and called the man, he was in Dallas and ah.... he said, 'Well come in and talk to me'. So I did and to

make a long story short, he said, 'I'd like for you to go to work for me'. So I turned in my papers to retire and ah.....loved it, it was the most satisfying thing I've ever done. And ah.....we thought we had all our business squared away here, but ah.....my dad died just a couple of monthssuddenly right after we moved down there. My wife's mother got real sick and we had to come back and put her in a nursing home and it was just a.....just seemed like everything fell apart back here. And ah....we were having to run back and forth and she got real unhappy with being down there, so I decided well, you know, this is not..... I can't take care of the business down here and take care of business in Tyler, so I gave it up.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what are you doing now?

STUART DOWELL: I started a PI business and it's been real good to me. I work for some oil companies that have a lot of operations in East Texas and Louisiana and Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma and ah.....they keep me pretty busy. And I do a little work for some of the law firms here in Tyler on some insurance adjustments, you know, settlement cases. But ah....it's....the business has been real good to me.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well before we close, I traditionally everyone I've ever, you know, that I've talked to in the past, I just briefly mentioned some of the people I know you've worked with andand your feelings ah.....towards them, if we could. Ah....I guess one of the first ones to start with would be your successor, Steve Black.

STUART DOWELL: Ah....well, I knew Steve, of course, my entire ah.....my career when he came on the Rangers and ah....we never had to opportunity to work together on anything because he was in Corpus Christi and then in West Texas you know, the whole time that I was here. But ah....we saw each other in retraining school and of course Steve was trying to persuade me to retire so he could come here. Steve owes me.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah. Ah.... I guess, you know, great friend Glenn Elliott.

STUART DOWELL: Yes ah....Glenn kind of raised me I guess when I came on the Rangers, him and Red Arnold. And ah....I'm alwaysbe proud and thankful for their friendship and advice that they give me and Glenn gave me plenty of advice and still does. I don't know how I'd of made it without all the advice from Glenn. But ah....ah....they werewere and are great people, I miss Red, still miss him today, even though he's been dead all these years ah..... it seems like yesterday. And ah.....ah.....I've had, let's see, there's Max

ROBERT NIEMAN: Max Womack.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, and ah.....we....we had great times, you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well you had Slick Alfred, Howard "Slick" Alfred.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, Howard.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He's currently Sheriff of Henderson County.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, I worked with him in Dallas. I hope he's forgiven me, he was pretty upset at me cause I got to come to Tyler and he didn't. But maybe he's forgiven me.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well he's made sheriff in Athens which

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, yeah so it all worked out.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....you mentioned Lewis Rigler. Old Lewis.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, Lewis is ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Lewis is Lewis.

STUART DOWELL:Lewis taught me a lot, what can you say, Lewis is Lewis you know. Ah....but I learned a lot. You know everybody that I worked with I learned something from them. And I either ah.....how not to do something or how to do something and ah.....but Lewis gave me some good advice, I

consider him a good friend of mine. I hope we are friends, he's a friend of mine, you know, and ah.... I respect him, still do today and I think a lot of Lewis.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Jim Ray, he lives down there in Bullard, below Tyler.

STUART DOWELL: Oh man, you just can't say enough about Jim Ray, you know. Anybody that doesn't like Jim Ray, they got a problem, it's not Jim. Ah.....Jim is fantastic, but I didn't know him when he was a Ranger, but I've heard some stories about him. Ah.... I know he was great when he was Chief of law enforcement and highly respected by everybody. I just think the world of him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You worked with ah..... I ...well I don't know if you worked with him or not, you knew, I know, Jay Banks when he was Chief over at Gladewater.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah.....did you work any with Jay?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, I worked a murder or two cases, you know, a couple of cases over there when he was Chief. And ah.....Jay was real good to me ah....he ah.....very I was astounded thatthat he showed as much respect to me as being a rookie like I was you know. But he ah.....was very respectful and ah.....very cooperative, just as nice to me as he could be.

ROBERT NIEMAN: In his book there was some bitterness seemed to come through, did he still carry that?

STUART DOWELL: I didn't find that when I was.... it didn't come up. Ah....now he was inhe was having health problems and he wasn't well at all, but the time that we spent together was very pleasant, I didn't ah.... I didn't bring up any past problems and he didn't either. We discussed ah....future and the problems that we were having right then.... not problems, but our cases that we were working together. And ah....you know, that was it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, two others I want to mention, one ah..... I know you didn't work with him, you only knew him in passing, but I am rather infatuated with him, is old Bob Goss.

STUART DOWELL: Yeah, yeah, Bob ah....again(side of tape ends)....

ROBERT NIEMAN: We were mentioning that you didn't ever work with him, you just knew Bob Goss in passing.

STUART DOWELL: I had met him through Glenn Elliott.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh hum.

STUART DOWELL: And if he were alive today ah.... I seriously doubt that he would remember me. Ah....he ah.... I drank coffee with him a couple of times in Kilgore ah....Glenn and I went by his house to visit there towards the end, when he was sick, and you know he was ah.....pretty well down to the house. And ah....ah....of course I was just a Rookie, he had no reason to know me or know anything about me.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who was your favorite Captain, Highway Patrol or....I know Glenn, he's....Bob Crowder and J. Guy Smith ah.....J. Guy Smith with the Highway Patrol was his.

STUART DOWELL: Well I think..... I think that I would have to say my favorite was Captain Herbert Weeks.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Highway Patrol?

STUART DOWELL: Yeah. Ah....a real gentlemen, a man with more integrity than anybody I've ever seen. Ah....he ah....was strong, but at the same time he was gentle when he needed to be and supported his people. Ah....just a terrific man, still alive today, still active ah.....in Church work and I respect him. Everybody that I worked with treated me good ah.....with one or two exceptions and I don't think it's important enough to even mention. Ah....but ah.... I can't..... I can't say that much bad about anybody that I've worked with, in the DPS I've worked with....we've had disagreements, I've....I certainly don't.....didn't agree with every

decision that my supervisors made ah.... I didn't make.....agree with every decision I made, soso you know ah....that's just part of it. But all in all I think I was treated very well. And I'm proud to have been a Ranger and I'm proud to have hadthankful to have had the opportunity to be a Ranger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Stuart, that's about all I know to ask.

STUART DOWELL: Well, I've said too much anyway.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Great interview Stuart, thank you.