

INTERVIEW WITH

GLENN ELLIOTT

Texas Ranger, Retired

DISCUSSES
M T “LONE WOLF” GONZAULLAS & BOB GOSS

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PROJECT:
TEXAS RANGERS

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED AT HOME OF
GLENN ELLIOTT
LONGVIEW, TEXAS
MONDAY – FEBRUARY 14, 1994

INTERVIEWED BY:
ROBERT NIEMAN
LONGVIEW, TEXAS

PRESENT AT INTERVIEW: GLENN ELLIOTT, ROBERT NIEMAN, & BILL UTSMAN



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Glenn Elliott
Texas Ranger, Retired

ROBERT NIEMAN: I am with the Americana Research Center. We are at the home of retired Texas Ranger, Glenn Elliott at 317 Ruthlynn, Longview, Texas. The purpose of this interview is to discuss the Texas Rangers, both past and present, in general and in particular Lone Wolf Gonzauillas and Bob Goss. Ranger Elliott, do we have your permission to video tape this interview?

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yes you do.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ranger Elliott, you understand that this videotape will belong to you and the Americana Research Center.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yes sir.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ranger Elliott, do we have your permission to present copies of this tape to various historical organizations such as libraries, museums, schools, etc.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yes sir you do.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ranger Elliott, what is your full name?

GLENN ELLIOTT: Just Glenn...G L E N N.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When and where were you born?

GLENN ELLIOTT: I was born in Fannin County, Texas on August 1, 1926.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And who was your mother and father?

GLENN ELLIOTT: My mother was Edith Winchester Elliott and my father was Dewey Lee Elliott.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what is your wife's name?

GLENN ELLIOTT: Katherine.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And where is she from?

GLENN ELLIOTT: She was born in Fannin County also.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you have any children?

GLENN ELLIOTT: Have..ah...ah...a daughter, Diane Hinson that lives in Texarkana and a son, Dennis Elliott, lives here in Longview.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What were you before you were a Ranger?

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well I was a Highway Patrolman for 12 1/2 years.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And before that.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Before that I had...well I served in...most of it's in the military. I worked a year after I got out of the military before I went to work for the

ROBERT NIEMAN: What did you do...when were you in the military?

GLENN ELLIOTT: I was in the military at the end of World War II, I served in the South Pacific for 18 months prior to...

ROBERT NIEMAN: What branch?

GLENN ELLIOTT: In the army and I served as a Military Policeman. I first served as a... in a search like company and ah...then ah...they made us a military police company and we...I was in the invasion of ah...liberation of Borneio and then we started studying for the invasion of Japan and ah...worked traffic and I served six months in Japan after the war was over.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Who influenced you the most to get into the law enforcement bus...law enforcement business.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well, I tell ya'. Jim Riddle, I don't know whether you've got any research on him but you need to. He's another Fannin County, Texas Ranger. Ah...Jim was a...when I got out of service ah...ah...we moved into (unintelligible) in a little community called Windham,

Texas where I was raised and where I went to school. And Jim's mother and daddy lived there and ah...of course this was back when...when people died they kept the body in the home all time you know and I set up with his mother and daddy both and they lived right across the street from us and was fine people. And Jim was a Highway Patrolman stationed in Lubbock at that time and he...he joined the Department of Public Safety in 1941, he was a school teacher there in Windham. And then he of course served his military obligation during the war and after he returned he went back to work, so Jim Riddle was responsible for me going to work, I guess, he asked me...he got me interested in law enforcement. I just....I needed a job and he asked me what I was doing and asked me if I'd ever thought about applying to the Highway Patrol and ah...I told him I hadn't and he said, well think about it. He gave me the name of the people to write. I got interested and applied and was accepted.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When was this?

GLENN ELLIOTT: This...well I...actually I took a test twice. First time I took a test was in 1947, I took it again in '48 and I was accepted ah...I went to work April 11, 1949.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you always want to be a Ranger?

GLENN ELLIOTT: No I...I had...I didn't have any ambition of even being a police officer. And after I...after I got interested and ah...like I say, I was looking for a job....I...you know I was going to be truthful with you, I needed a job and... and I needed something I could depend on you know and so this was sounding good to me and old Jim told me, he said, they furnish you clothes and a car and said, that's two pretty good items. And he always told me this, he said, and it beats the heck out of picking cotton. Cause we was raised up there in cotton country. So ah...after I was accepted and...with DPS well I got interested right away in the Ranger service. I'd met quite a few Rangers and ah...I just ah...I thought I wanted to be a Ranger. And then I had

some friends later, Jim Riddle..this guy I'm telling ya' about he ah...he transferred to the Rangers. And when he died he was a Captain of the West Texas company out of Midland company. And of course Jim and I were real close and he'd been a lot of influence with me and I..and I.. I met some more people ah...down here in East Texas that I was...that I thought a lot of and were Rangers. Ah...Captain Crowder, Jay Banks and of course I'd met Gonzauillas but not to...you know not to many occasions at that time because sometimes they'd be in this area and of course we were always...always here and they'd come to us for information you know. And I guess oh...back in the mid 50's is when I applied to transfer to the Rangers. And ah...and it was about 5 1/2 years after I applied before I was accepted.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...any thoughts that...how truthful was it as far as being a Ranger the... the old clichés of ah...for instance one Ranger...one riot....one Ranger or the old saying when they talked about the Rangers that...you know they rode like Indians, they tracked like Mexicans, they shot like Tennesseans and fought like the very devil.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well I think that ah...depicted what the Rangers really were in the early days. And I....and I still think that ah...the Rangers carry some of that steam with em' now. I...I...ah...there's a lot of folks to pick from in the Rangers. When I applied I think there were 5,000 applicants maybe with the Rangers back in the 50's. And everybody wanted to be a Ranger. And at that time the department was accepting people from outside the DPS. Ah...they stopped doing that several years ago. And I approved of it. Because I know as big as the Department of Public Safety is that we have....I think we've this....that we have plenty of people that works with the department that's ah...makes good Rangers. So it's no need of going outside of the department to get em' in my opinion and I think that was a good move. But ah...they...to answer your question...I think people still expect a whole lot out of a Ranger. And

I...and...I...and I was disappointed if I couldn't a job that they asked me to do. And you just got to try that much harder you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...did you...when you joined the Ranger's...did you...did they ever give you books or courses or anything to study the history of the Rangers.

GLENN ELLIOTT: No...no...ah...I...we just ah...a lot of Rangers do this now...they...a lot of Rangers wanted to be a Ranger all their life and we're all different. The Ranger's are just different people...they ah...and I think that's what makes em' so unique. It ah...we're all different, we don't like the same things, we don't study the same things and I'm a workaholic and I enjoyed working travel cases. I didn't have time to sit around and study Ranger history. I know Ranger's that do. But I don't know of anything that I could read that...about what they did in the early days riding horses or whatever that would help me solve a criminal case today you know and...and that was what I was trying to do and I wanted to make my mark as a Ranger you know in...in...in the society of today you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did...does Ranger's...do Ranger's have a uniform.

GLENN ELLIOTT: No...no..Ranger's wear whatever they want to. Ah...most of the time we tried to look like a Ranger you know and wear a big hat and the cowboy boots and the gun belts and...and ah...I always felt like that that's the way we should dress you know. If we're going to carry the title well we ought to carry the looks along with it you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well does...does you badge say Texas Rangers or does it just say DPS, Department of Public Safety.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Ah...ah...the original badges are right up here and the first badge I got is a Texas Ranger's one up there on the right and ah...and then in 1961 ah... we ah...well Captain T. W. Burks at that time was a Ranger stationed in Fort Worth and somebody had ah...done some

research on the Rangers and they discovered that ah...the original Rangers worn a badge made out of a cinco pesos. And ah... so he went to Haldrom's Jewelry store in Fort Worth and they agreed to make all of us in Company B a badge. And they did out of this cinco pesos. And then it ah... the rest of the Ranger's saw it and everybody wanted one, so the department ah...adopted the policy then to have all of em' made that way. So they started making the Ranger badges again like they did back in the early days. But they've had various badges through the years. I...in fact I...I don't even know how many they've had. I know since I've been a Ranger we've only had two badges and ah... and that's the ones I described to you.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do ah...when your...when your in the Ranger's ah...is your rank the same as any other DPS officer.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well...they...when I...all the time I was in the Ranger's we had Private, Sergeants and Captains...that's what we had. Ah...

(There was a knock at the door, tape interrupted.)

BILL UTSMAN: You were giving ranks I think.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah...ranks...we were talking about ranks.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah...like I say ah...there's Privates, Sergeants and Captains. Now there, all the Ranger's are Sergeants and...and Lieutenants, and Captains. And this is because of the Federal Government ruling and I advocated this way there. They had...there was ruling that we're not supposed to work over 40 hours a week you know and ah...without getting comprehensive time and all this and that. And ah... this did not apply to supervisors. So I made a suggestion way back early in ah...when they first started this...of course the Governments got in to so many things you know. They taught us how to...they run our penitentiary's, they run our schools and ah...they run so much of it that ah...I don't know what their going to ruin next you know. But

anyway they ah...they are now Sergeants but they've...now they ruled that they can't work overtime you know. So this is ... this is the way it always was with me..it's Private, Sergeants and Captains. And I chose to be a Private ah...all my career. I didn't...I had the opportunity to advance in the mid 60's and move and ah...I didn't want to. I...I loved what I was doing and didn't want to sit behind a desk. And most of the Sergeants and Captains are supervisors, and they check reports and give assignments, which we get very few assignments out of our district offices because most of ours are calls from local citizens you know. Local officers won't help.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What...you said ah...ah...what is the proper way for a ...whether it's a Sergeant, a Lieutenant or a Captain for a civilian to address a Ranger. It is Ranger or....

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well that's what everybody called me is Ranger down here in East Texas and most everybody...but ah...ah...I think a lot of folks the Captains, Captain you know and ah...they ah...and Sergeant but ah...that doesn't bother...we...the rank doesn't mean any difference if the Ranger Captain...if we had a problem here in East Texas and a Ranger Captain would come down here he'd ask me what...what do you want me to do you know. Because he...he knows that I know what's going on down here and he just come to see if there's....if I need any help you know and ...and not...not to supervise me or to run the show. That's the way the Rangers work. They...the Captains would come out in the field, if they did, they came out to see if they could help you do whatever you was doing.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You mentioned reports...I want to jump here a little...ah..I've heard the story you know that now a days a law enforcement officer, a Ranger, whatever, you know...picks someone up for jay walking you know you have to write a 746 page report on it and I'd like to relate to this one report...this gets the 19th century Ranger and it's...you know official reports have changed dramatically. In the early years of this century...this century... reports were slim to

say the least. A classic example of this was in the early 1930's when a Ranger named Nate Kiowa Jones was sent after a notorious Mexican outlaw. He caught the Mexican and his whole report said "Mean as hell, had to kill him." (Laughter.)

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well, of course they didn't have a whole...their tablets weren't very bit in those days either. And the pencil the lead was broke out of it a whole lot. But ah...of course we...this is one thing that makes the Ranger's what they are today and...and what they're going to be tomorrow. We've always been able to adapt to change. You know, I think...you mentioned that Texas Monthly article ah..ah.. back when the Miranda warning and things like this come down and...and the Federal Government telling us how many hours a day we can work and all this mess you know. And...and they Ranger's have always been able to change whatever comes...we've been able to...we've...we've found out through M. T. Gonzauillas. He was the first one that...he served as...in intelligence, the DPS for some time and ah...and he was...he's one of the first ones that I remember in criminal law enforcement and...and..on the state level that insisted on reports for the Rangers because he..he..he could see the need in ah...in testifying in court. And ah...of course they started appealing cases through the years you know and ah...and they...and then not only for your records and the courts records but to establish ah...what he called a modis operandi of these criminals. Because they all had certain ways that they did things and that's...in the earlier days, even after I was on the Rangers we could sometimes determine to committed the crime by the way it was committed. By reading reports and all...that other officers had written about the same criminal, how he'd go about stealing the safe for instance you know and they'd...they all had their own way, whatever they was successful at, that's the way they'd do it. And...and..all of them had different ways to get into the safe or get in the building or whatever you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That ah....how would a Ranger get called into a case. Did he just pick out one and say this is one I like.

GLENN ELLIOTT: No...no..it don't work that way. Ah...we all...we got all of our calls... I got all of mine from ah...officers, Sheriff's, police chiefs, constables ah...wanting help...they'd call and say Glenn we've had a murder in Hallsville, Texas out here...near Hallsville and I need some help on it you know...can you help me. And ah...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well when you were brought in on a case were you ah...subordinate to say the Sheriff of Harrison County or did you answer only to the...your Texas Ranger superior.

GLENN ELLIOTT: No...no we...I didn't answer to anybody to be truthful with ya'. I just went ahead and helped the Sheriff just like I worked for him. Just like I was one of his deputies. And, of course, I had a lot more freedom because of movement and.. and this was one of the advantages that I had over other officers and ah... most of his officers will be working shift work, attending to other calls in the county at the same time you know and...and I'd have a little bit more freedom of movement and ah...I guess that and ah...experience is why they call. Because we'd been successful on other things you know and ah...and we tried to keep a close working relationship with all our local officers because that a way...we used their jails, we used their criminal identification sections and ah... everything you know. So it was real important that we work real close with all the local officers and you know besides we all had the same motive in mind and that's you know, protecting the lives and property of people of the State of Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...I'd like to address this a moment and talk to you about maybe some Rangers that have been...that you may have known that may have been already retired but you may have known. I guess you have to start any conversation about older Rangers who...Captains at least was Homer Garrison. The...I believe you probably served under Garrison when you first

started and that he had an open door policy, anybody could walk in unless he was fighting for one of his men with the Governor.

GLENN ELLIOTT: When I carried my letter of application to the Rangers to Austin, Texas and I think it was probably in 1955 or '56, I walked in his office...I was down there for some other business, no doubt school or auto repair or something because you didn't...we didn't make a special trip to Austin just to take a letter ah... you couldn't, you know, there was too much to do out here and too expensive. But I was in Austin for some particular reason and I carried my letter into his office and told him I wanted to be a Ranger sometime and I knew how popular the Ranger's were and that I didn't expect to get the next appointment, but I wanted to be considered. And I never will forget he told me this, he said, ah...ah... I tell ya' something Glenn, I appreciate this, he said, most people come down here and they hear of a vacancy and they want it, right...they want the next vacancy. And he said, now I promise you that if you continue to do your work like you've been doing that you'll be considered. And ah...(unintelligible) in the future. Colonel Garrison was a leader, he was just a...I'll show you another example of how....how he operated. And a lot of people don't know this, but we had a... at one time here in Longview, Texas Mr. Carl Estes was on the Longview News and Journal and ah....he did this community a lot of good. I liked him, he and I were friends and ah....but he got upset with a Highway Patrol Captain over in Tyler one time for making a speech and ah...ah...at a city group in Tyler and the Captain kind of...may of got carried away, but he was referring to Highway 31 between Tyler and Kilgore, there was blood running one....down one side of the highway and alcohol down the other. And Carl didn't like it. And he wrote a bad editorial about him in the paper here. Well shortly after that he acquired this ranch out here south of town and Eastman was coming here and Carl had put together a big program and invited the Governor and a bunch

of politicians from Washington here to celebrate the coming of Eastman, which was one of the greatest things that happened to this community I guess since LeTourneau came here probably. Anyway, ah...ah...we got an invitation, my partner and I, I was on the Highway Patrol. Colonel Garrison got an invitation. We got a call from the radio station that said to meet that morning, said the Colonel...meet Colonel Garrison at the Gregg County airport at 3:00 and ah...to attend a function in Longview. And ah...so we called our Captain of course and told him and he met us at the airport. Well we got ready to come on down to Mr. Estes' place and ah...and so the Colonel said, well let's go. And ah...the Captain said, well I'm not going, I'm not invited. And ah...Colonel wanted to know why. He said, well Carl's a little bit upset at me about a speech I made over in Tyler, a safety speech and....and he said, well I want you go. And he said, well he may ask me to leave. And I tell ya'....I'll never forget the Colonel's reply. He said, we together, we leave together. Now that a leader for ya'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Um hum...that 's a leader.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Very few politicians would do that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah...that's right.

GLENN ELLIOTT: They'd say, well you go on I don't want, you know, any problems. But ah.. that was Homer Garrison, Jr. And I was standing right there listening to him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's great.

GLENN ELLIOTT: You don't think you respect a man like that, well you can just go on.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah...

GLENN ELLIOTT: He was a great man.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...A. Y. Allee, Sr.

GLENN ELLIOTT: I knew Captain Allee. I never worked for him of course because he was down in the valley.

ROBERT NIEMAN: There's a lot of controversy about him in the valley.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Valley Ranger's and the Ranger's in East Texas were different. You know, they had different things to work down there and ah...and...they ah...it was altogether different you know. And that's...of course that's why all the Ranger's are different you know. But, I knew Captain Allee ah...and...but I knew his son, because he...his son and I went on the Rangers at the same time. And he didn't stay long. He didn't last all that long. And ah...but I never did .. I never...all I knew about Captain Allee was what I heard about him you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...Frank Hamer.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Frank Hamer. No I never...course never knew Frank Hamer.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I didn't....

GLENN ELLIOTT: Charlie Miller....he's ah...I don't know whether you got....ever got around to Charlie. Charlie's a mason. I had the opportunity to see....when I...I went on the Ranger's in 1961 and there was a bunch of old Ranger's. And we'd have schools...I've been in schools with Captain Allee and a bunch of those old guys...I mean the guys that rode horses you know, back in the early days, you know. Ah...and they...they were trying to...well ah...the Assistant Director was kind of handling this and he...he....saw the need of some younger blood in the Ranger service. And a lot of these old people ah...at that time didn't like it you know. Of course, you know, we all don't like change you know. And ah... but we've adapted to it as I said. But ah...Captain Allee was one of em'. He thought they that was picking to....he wanted older, more mature people. And ah... was Assistant Director at that time and ah....and...he...he saw the need in having some younger blood in the Ranger Service you know. Somebody that could get out

here and stay up day...you know day and night. And ah...do the things that we needed to do. And a lot of the older Captains didn't like that idea at all. And Captain Allee was one of em'. He...and he let it be known. But after we course....and I'm sure that that was probably ah...had something to do with his boy going to work at that time. And....and...the decision that they had to make you know to kind of appease him would be my guess. Because he was tough. Now he was a....he was a tough Ranger. And ah...he served in his day well. those farmers down there in and around Carrizo Springs, Crystal City and all up and down McAllen, that area down there, they didn't like the idea of the unions coming in there and telling them that they couldn't take their produce to town. And I wouldn't like it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Lone Star Steel didn't like it. You know, because the union didn't...they wanted to block and keep them from....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Tell us about the Lone Star Steel strike.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Lone Star Steel strike, which one. You know, I was a highway patrol when the....when the wild cat strike in '57 hit and this was ah....I had already asked for a transfer to the Rangers and ah....another highway patrol and myself were assigned to work with the Rangers during that 57' strike. And ah...I arrested one of the guys that blew up the pipeline and ah...they blew up a Garrison pipeline they thought was going to the Lone Star Steel plant...was a main supply of gas to the city of Pittsburgh. And this was the coldest spell they'd had that winter and...and hospitals and churches and everything in Pittsburgh was gone out without gas...they blew up a big gas pipeline up there. But ah...I worked... that's how I got acquainted...really...I think that was what helped me get on the Rangers. I worked with those guys up there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That was my next question.

GLENN ELLIOTT: And they knew you know, a lot...what I could do and they saw what I could do and...and I guess they liked it because I had some recommendations from Red Arnold and Jim Ray and Jay Banks and....and ah...others that ah...Lewis Rigler that had seen me in the trenches you know. And...we had some problems up there and I remember the first night, somewhere around midnight or so there were three gates up and there was a gate that we assigned, there was a Ranger and my partner and I. And there must have been 2,000 people around this gate, up and down it, that they'd blocked. And we served the court order ah... and removed all of em' but two. And ah...without any incident. Ah...when that ...you know it was kind of a challenge you know. Ah...one riot or one Ranger or one riot and three Rangers, if you've got that many people around, you know and you get something done without any problems well....and ah...this ah...and I worked a second strike up there, of course, one that they had that really broke the back of everybody up there, union and plant too, lasted I think a year. I ...Bob Mitchell and myself I think stayed in the same motel room there for like nine months and eleven days up there. And we worked a lot of 100 hour weeks you know and ah...it was just a lot of violence and a lot of shootin's and a lot of problems up there. And ah...any labor dispute is not good. And of course I ... I doubt very seriously now that ah...the department would even get involved in labor disputes other than to...of course we were up there to protect life and property. But those people kind of felt....they was...you know they didn't really look the situation over. I never will forget. I had a guy tell me one time that...stopped me on the road...and he said, you know he said, if you Ranger's would get out of here, said, we'd close this plant down and lock all the gates and they'd come to our terms and everything would be all right. And he said, you're havin'....I'm havin' to go to Houston to work...I'm havin' to hire somebody to look after my cows...and he was out there feeding his cows right then when he flagged me down and ah...and

have to hire somebody to serve the picket you know and ah...in my place. And I asked him, I said well let me ask... use an example. And he didn't realize it was this way. I said, suppose you come home from Houston and the guy you got hired to attend to your cows here has got the gate blocked and not gonna let you go in there and feed em' and he's not gonna feed em'. What are gonna do. Well, that's different, those cows belong to me. I said, well man who do you think owns that steel plant. I said, you and a bunch of stock holder own that thing, you know, don't belong to no one individual. And I said, you guys, you know it's no difference and this man's not lettin' you get to your cows and those folks not lettin' you come in there and do what you want to has shut down the plant. And I think I got through to the guy a little bit you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Huh..

GLENN ELLIOTT: But it's hard to talk with one of them people. And back to Allee, you know this was his fame down there, was...ah...at this time, you know. And there was a lot of produce raised in the valley...lots of it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When you joined the Ranger's ah...how many Rangers were there.

GLENN ELLIOTT: There was 51. They added 10 of us...six...there were six company's...51 Rangers and the...and the Legislature in 1960 ah...ah...advocated adding 10 additional Rangers. And I was one of the 10 picked. And we went to work in 1961.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How many were there when you retired?

GLENN ELLIOTT: 97.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I'm sorry?

GLENN ELLIOTT: 97.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Still six districts?

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah...six companies. See the Ranger company's are divided up like the regional command in the Highway Patrol and all of the Department of Public Safety and the headquarters are like down in Houston, San Antonio, Midland, Lubbock, Dallas and Waco. That's six company's and...ah...then they've got a headquarters company now in Austin and that's for the Rangers. And ah...this is ah...this is how it's operated. And the Captains are all stationed and ah....they call em' Lieutenants now...are all in headquarters. And the Rangers are out in the field. Of course there's a Ranger station in each headquarters.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...do you have a particular favorite Captain you served under?

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well, I guess Bob Crowder was ah...he was my first Captain and probably my favorite ah...I served under Bill Wilson and he's deceased. I served under G. W. Burks and he's deceased. I served under James Wright ah...Burks and I when through the Highway Patrol school together. Ah...I enjoyed working for him but ...Crowder was the best Captain that I worked for...without any question.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did....do Rangers pick their own weapons or are they issued.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well...we're issued a weapon but I ah...they issued us a .357 magnum pistol and ah...I carried a .45 most of the time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Revolver or automatic?

GLENN ELLIOTT: Automatic...I ah...so many of them...ah...this weapon right here...the one I carried...ah...all the time. Ah...sometimes I carried an extra guy in my boot or somewhere...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hide out gun?

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah...but ah...I...I've....I like to carry a .45. We could carry whatever we wanted to just...we had to qualify with it...twice a year. Still do. I still carry a Ranger commission...still have to qualify.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Once a Ranger, always a Ranger?

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah...I hope so.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...you questioned mass killer, Henry Lee Lucas, I understand.

GLENN ELLIOTT: I questioned him and a bunch of other killers in my day, I promise you that. I worked a lot of cases.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was he....any different really than any of the others. I mean other than...the...the vast numbers, hundreds possibly, that he may or may not have killed.

GLENN ELLIOTT: There all different. Henry Lucas ah....I think to say that I had no fear at all of Henry Lucas ever trying to hurt. I meant...you know...it...it just didn't come out...I....I....you know, I knew he was bad...and he....but he...he killed helpless people...you know. And he didn't kill near as many people as he claimed he did. He...you know he tried to claim he killed from down there that he didn't kill. He committed one murder that there's no question in my mind about over here at Marshall...ah...that I worked on. But Lucas...I've worked a lot of criminals that...and I mean...I, you know...I say a lot...I can remember three or four in particular that...that I know that if they got today...if their out today and...and...had to opportunity that they might try to hurt me, you know. Ah...and one of em' killed a police officer in Carthage, Texas and then ah...I know another one that worked a rape out of El Paso and he was just...there was a guy that would just stare you down in the witness stand you know and try to intimidate you with their stares. And they...they were...they were mean people is what they were.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Were they sociopaths....no feelings.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah...I feel like that's probably the right phrase.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You know the Rangers got a lot of bad, bad publicity over the Henry Lee Lucas case that they'd bungled the case supposedly.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah...they did...they did. And ah...and some of it may have been justified, I'm not sure. Ah...I...I don't know. Now...here's the thing about it, ah... you'd be surprised at the....everybody wants to clear up their cases. This is something that ah...I...I didn't want to quit and have a pending case, you know. I...I like to...that was what you was supposed to. You know if you get involved in a case you supposed to clear it up you know. And everybody wants to do that. And ah...it's just ah...some of em' want to do it harder than others you know. And ah...especially your local bosses and you can't blame em' now... but some of em' were political reasons. Ah...you know...I remember a day...I remember since I've been in law enforcement... a Sheriff in a rural East Texas county have a prominent citizen murdered and don't solve it, he's not re-elected. I mean that ...that was kind of a rule you know....it...it just was. And still these folks want to clear em' up. And some people are not trained, you know. Some young officers don't have the proper training and some are....and they let Lucas kind of wet on their leg a little bit and ah...there's no question about that in some cases. And maybe because they didn't take time and maybe some of the guys that were coming in....but why the Rangers got bad rapped on this is...the ones that there trying to blame is that the ones that were handling it, you know. And ... and Captain Prince and those guys down there ah...they were just making Lucas available to these other officers. And the other officers were the ones that questioned him and...and deciding whether or not he committed their crime. And I think the articles that I read...some of em' since then that they are trying Prince and them for Lucas lying to these officers. Well, you know...if...if the way I handled Lucas...I didn't call Captain Prince and say I want you to talk to Lucas for me to see if he committed the crime. I said, when can I see ... you know...get Henry Lee Lucas and he's gonna have to...I'm gonna have to have him up here in order for him to tell me which crimes he committed in my area. But I want him to lead me to the spot and show me where it was. I

want him to tell me some details about it that's not in my reports or not in...that nobody knows about but the investigating officer. You don't put everything down in your reports that...about your crime. Because ah...you know if a guy gets a hold of your reports and reads em' they might be able to confess to it you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

GLENN ELLIOTT: So...I think this is how this thing happened. Bob and them were making him available to these other officers and...and using the Rangers sometime to haul em' around and...and...of course that was one of the rules that they didn't...we couldn't afford to lose him you know...so I think they kept a Ranger with him nearly all the time. But a lot of these cases he confess to...he confessed to other officers you know...other than Rangers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I have a question...(tape fades out for a period)...on the present Rangers. In this months Texas Monthly ah...they really hammer at the...the supposed good old boy system that used to be with Rangers and the....what they call the old East Texas Merry-Go-Round and the Rangers putting milk buckets over peoples heads and banging on em' with hammers to get confessions out of em'. But there also bringing new Rangers in, some clearly unqualified, I mean a clerk...driver's license clerk and what not. Do you...and there's been some old Rangers that's resigned ah...because of this. Do you see possibly a Ranger revolt kind of like the Ma Ferguson revolt back in the 30's when most of the Rangers quit and you had the infamous Ferguson Rangers.

GLENN ELLIOTT: No I don't see that. Ah...I read that article and I was hesitant to even ah ...to be interviewed by Texas Monthly to be truthful with you. Because I told this guy, Draper I believe is his name that wrote that story, isn't that right. I told him when he called me, I said, partner I quite taking ya'll magazine 16 years ago. They wrote an article about a Ranger, Bob

Daugherty, gettin' killed up at Denton in a narcotic's raid. Man it was...it was a terrible article. And it nearly....this one wasn't as bad but no, I don't see any revolt. And I read what Joaquin said of course I....I'm opposed...I'm...I'm...I was opposed and still am opposed...to women comin' into the Ranger Service. I'll be frank with you...ah...there may be a place for em' some day and I told this Marie Garcia.... the girl that's goin' into this company...I've...she's visited right here in my home...ah...after she got on....she came here and working with the local Ranger and come...they was out here to visit with me. And I qualified pistol with her. Had dinner with her and ah...but I told her...you know it's to early for Ranger ...for women in the Rangers you know and I said, now you...in ten years from now if you get out and do a job well you may make eat my words but I'll sure do it you know. Now but...I read what Joaquin said and Joaquin didn't tell ah... the folks that ah...that they had an incentive for retirement where he could draw 80% of his pay at his...when he...when he told him he quit because ah...the woman. I feel reasonably that Joaquin would still be working today if it hadn't been for the incentive. And I like Joaquin...he and I are friends.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Now he's out in Alpine..in West Texas.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah...uh hum...But no I....

ROBERT NIEMAN: What's his last name Joaquin...

GLENN ELLIOTT: Jackson

ROBERT NIEMAN: Joaquin Jackson

GLENN ELLIOTT: I don't see any revolt or anything in the Ranger Service. I think most retired Rangers like myself are going to continue to support the Rangers. We know of course I, I blame the..our...ourState politicians for this .. you know they've got federal governments giving em' mandates. You got to hire so many women, so many minorities, and so many this and that and we've lowered our standards is what we've had to do. And it's not helping the Rangers

any. It's not helping law enforcement in general and ah...if we...if you got to lower your standards to hire somebody to please....appease the federal government now then you....you're just doing away with what you worked hard all these years to build up. But we can...the Rangers can adapt to this. They can...they can adapt to the women Rangers. I mean they going to, because we've adapted a bunch of things we didn't like. We like...like I said, we didn't like the Miranda. We don't, I don't like the idea that the federal government is running our penitentiaries and our schools. But they are and you see what a mess their in. The judicial system is broke down and it's all because they can't make up their mind ah... the Supreme Court's making laws instead of regulate....instead of rules, you know to go by. And it's all messed up, but we...we work with it you know. We work with the system and gonna continue to work it. The Rangers are not going to...there still going to be Rangers and these women are probably...if they want to make hands, there going to get some experience and there going to try to make a mark. If they don't then they'll probably be gone.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And one other question. You've shaken the hand of every President from Harry Truman through George Bush.

GLENN ELLIOTT: That's remarkable that a country boy could say that, but if I hadn't of got to be a....if I hadn't of been a Ranger ah...you know I wouldn't have done this. When...I...I had already met Harry Truman ah...through Sam Rayburn. Now I was raised in Rayburn country and my dad and my uncle went to school with Sam Rayburn in a little old community called Flag Springs which is south of Windham. And ah.. I heard my dad a many of times that Sam Rayburn and I had a whole lot in common. My brother said we left Flag Springs community going north, said Sam Rayburn went all the way to Washington and I stopped in Windham. And ah...but Sam went to Commerce with ah...ah...one of my aunts and ah..at the college and ah...and I met...I met

Truman in Bonham, Texas through Sam Rayburn before I went to work with the Department of Public Safety. I met him since then ah...our company handled security on the north side of that Church in Bonham where Sam Rayburn's funeral was held. And every President, past President and future President, I guess, came through that door. From Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson and Eisenhower ah...Truman...ah...ah...

BILL UTSMAN: Nixon..wouldn't you...

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah..Nixon was there. Ah...came through that door. And then of course how I got to shake hands with him is providing security when they were out in the field you know. I think ah...Eisenhower was the first President that I know that came to Gregg County. And Earl Hollinsworth...you know Earl...Earl brought ah.. brought ah...Eisenhower here and we got ah...got to shake hands with him you know. And most of the time when you're behind security your right there when he gets off...off the plane and there when he gets back on. And most President's appreciate security. Of course we've served after the Kennedy assassination you know...well they started looking a lot heavier you know. And...and of course we've always been there you know ah...when the Presidents were in the area even Dallas...we'd go to Dallas and it's not unusual. This is about the only assignments we'd get out the company headquarters, something like that. Security for the Governor, security for the President and most of our cases like I told you, we got....we worked em' right here in East Texas when people would want some help you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay Ranger, let's talk now...let's talk about Lone Wolf Gonzauillas.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Alright

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...did you grow up hearing of the legend of Lone Wolf Gonzauillas.

GLENN ELLIOTT: No..I didn't. I...I didn't grow up hearing the legend of anybody. I was raised in a cotton patch. And ah...I went to a country school and I guess Texas history when I went to school...I graduated in 1942, well ah...probably we studied a little bit about Texas history and the Rangers and Texas history, you know. But it...they...I wasn't all that impressed obviously, but ah...because I...like I told you I had no burning desire to even be a police officer. And ah...as I said you know...law enforcement just didn't...I...I respected...I knew the Sheriff of Fannin and my...my father and his family always took an active part in politics. We always voted and...and...but I...far as Gonzauillas was concerned I got acquainted with him...he taught in our...in my patrol school... he taught some classes down there. And I was impressed.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When was the first time you met him.

GLENN ELLIOTT: I guess during...while I was in hi...excuse me...while I was in the highway patrol school in Austin. Well we went...I had to go to school just as soon as I was accepted, in April. And we went April, May and June I guess and ah... ah.. well the first week in June I guess in school. So we had some criminal instructors down there and Gonzauillas was one of em'. And ah...ah...and then of course after I got on...on out working in the field I heard about him and being stationed...see Longview was my first highway patrol station and being stationed here I got to hear a lot of stories about him and the Kilgore area you know and ah...and ah...my first highway patrol partner had 12 1/2 years experience on the Highway Patrol and Willie broke me and Floyd Webb and he knew him and ah...so ah..ah...we had a Ranger stationed then down in Jacksonville and one at...up at Clarksville. And there wasn't any stationed in this area down here...of course at that time there wasn't but 50 Rangers, you know in Texas. And then later they ah....Jim Ray, who was later Chief of criminal law enforcement ah...Jim was a highway patrolman stationed in Athens and a good friend of mine and...and Jim transferred to Rangers in

the late 50's. And then Red Arnold who was a highway patrolman stationed up in Greenville...I knew Red and Red's folks lived here at Hallsville...between here and Hallsville and he was raised here at Longview. And I knew Red as a highway patrolman. And Red had been accepted to the Rangers and his first day in the 50's about '56 I guess. And he was stationed out at Comanche and then he moved to Mt. Pleasant. So you know, I got...after Red and Jim Ray got into the Rangers and then I got...of course I met Lewis Rigler up at Gainesville...and ah...and Lewis and I got to be good....I met...I got real well acquainted with Lewis during this '57 strike up here and ah...so...ah...then they knew Gonzauillas you know. But I...as far as knowing him personally I...you know... having all that bunch of.... ah...associate with him I didn't until I got into the Ranger service. And then he would attend our company meetings and functions that we had and ah...and I was pallbearer at Gonzauillas' funeral. And Homer Garrison and Tom Hickman's. I just happened to be there and they wanted Rangers to carry em', you know and they picked me to...I don't know if it's cause I looked like one or acted like one or just happened to be on the list you know. But I...I...that's a great honor for me to be a pallbearer for those people.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Sure. Could you describe Gonzauillas physically.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Small, wiry, ah...ah...just business...he was business. Everything was business to him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How did he dress.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Neat. Man looked like he just walked out of Neiman Marcus every time you'd see him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did he drink, smoke or cuss.

GLENN ELLIOTT: I've never seen him drink. I'm sure he'd swear ah...but he was a gentleman. Polite ah...I can't remember him ever smoking. Ah...and I...I nev...I don't smoke. Never have.

I'm...and I...you probably noticed that. I can tell you that a bunch of other folks that did and didn't. Ah...I don't believe....I don't remember ever seeing him smoke a cigarette.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...he had a real fascination with guns.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And he owned in his lifetime somewhere between five and six hundred. Ah... did he ever talk to about his...and he was a crack shot, but did he ever talk to you about that.

GLENN ELLIOTT: No...no he never did. He ah...I've got a couple holsters up here that belonged to him. There right up here with these guns and ah...some of those guns are down at Austin and ah...that he sold to a friend of mine...Fred Green up at Quitman. And ah...I...down in Austin...I meant down in Waco. And I arranged through Fred's widow for her to loan those guns to the museum. And he's got five guns down there loaned to the museum from the Green family estate ah.. right now...down at the Hall of Fame in Waco.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well...he was a two gun Ranger. What kind were they.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah..he carried...well ah...there was two .45 automatics and .45 revolvers and a .45 snub nose revolver.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was that a boot gun.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah. I carried that gun during the Lone Star Steel strike. It had the trigger ah...bent on it where you could fan it....and ah...and it was later cut off. It's that little short snub nose pistol..you'll see it in there. And it's got....oh it had...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Part of the trigger's already cut away.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah. Fancy...no not the trigger guard. This particular gun had the hammer bent. It was the old thumb buster type pistol.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Single action.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah. And it had the hammer bent ah...for some reason. I assumed where it'd be easier to fan, you know those old guys would fan those guns in those...those ah...single action pistols. And ah...but I carried that pistol some during that Lone Star Steel strike and Pet was living them and he let me have it. In fact I think....I've got a holster around here for it somewhere. I forget where it is....but...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...Gonzaullas was known as the first Hispanic Ranger....or Captain of the Texas Rangers. But technically this was not true. His father was a mining engineer who traveled all over the world. And his mother, Helen, was a Canadian of German heritage. His father, Manuel, was an American but was of Portuguese decent.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah...that's right

ROBERT NIEMAN: Gonzaullas himself was born in Spain and of course he doesn't spell his name in the Spanish...Gonzaullas. It's Gonzaullas, the Portuguese way. Did he ever make any comments about, you know, hey I'm the first Hispanic supposedly, but I'm really not.

GLENN ELLIOTT: No. I ah...Gonzaullas helped to...he liked to give press. That was obvious. And ah...and...but I don't think he...he wasn't a braggart he just...kind of tell it like it was, you know. And ah...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...his parents were killed the devastating tidal wave that hit Galveston on September 8, 1900. And his parents bodies were never identified. Years later he ran ad's in newspapers asking if anyone could help give him information on his parents. He was...of course just a young child when this happened. Did you ever hear him speak of his parents or the tidal wave or...

GLENN ELLIOTT: No...no I tell you what. I didn't hear him talk a whole lot ah...mostly he listened after you know...I...he made this...he went out in California you know and was gone awhile out there directing movies. But...it could be that ah... oh you know I...I just for some reason or other I guess the Rangers think I'm the awfulest Ranger but I...I wasn't too concerned about the history of the Rangers. I was trying to do my job you know and ah...I tried to make a little history maybe you know myself.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did he ever talk about any of this younger days. For instance he joined the Rangers the first time on October 1, 1920 in El Paso and he...he tells about once that ah...he had quite a checkered career before this...joined the Mex... the Rangers...he...he said he served with the Mexican army during the revolution between 1910 and 1916. Another story was that he was in China during some of the revolution over there. And he tells the story of once in 1898 he was with his father in Cuba and they went down after the Maine blew up and his father made the statement to him, son there will be war over this. But...

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well...no....he...I tell you what...he just never...I...and I've been around him a whole lot...I visited him in the hospital up there right before he died. He's ah...

ROBERT NIEMAN: He died by the way ah...yesterday, in 1977...February 13th.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Is that right. I didn't...I...

ROBERT NIEMAN: What'll that be..17 years ago yesterday.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Ah....I...I was in Dallas a whole lot...working criminal cases...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah...17 years ago yesterday.

GLENN ELLIOTT: And ah...his wife...ah...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Laura

GLENN ELLIOTT: Owned part of this hospital on Gaston...ah...there where he was. And the first time I went to see him I'll never forget I was so impressed with ah...I was going to Dallas and I asked ah...to a company meeting and I asked Lewis Griggs, an old time friend of his from Longview here if he wanted to go with me. And I said, we'll go by and see Captain Gonzauillas on the way home. And we called and made an....told em' we was coming and ah....we drove down there and it was late in the afternoon you know...5:30, 6:00 in the afternoon I guess...not late but you know it was in the evening and ah...and Mrs. Gonzauillas had arranged for us to have dinner with them and we had....we had dinner there at the hospital in this special room and ah....and they had ah...ah...white shirts and tails...the waiters did. And ah...it was...it was all...first time I had ever attended asomething like that in my whole life.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What...what did he die of?

GLENN ELLIOTT: You know...I believe he had cancer. Ah...he was in pretty bad shape and he didn't live all that long after that time. But you know I was...but this was something that probably he you know...he liked....stuff like that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah...he ah...well when he...when he joined the Rangers his shining idol in the Rangers was Captain John Hughes.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah

ROBERT NIEMAN: Of out of El Paso. Did he ever talk to you about Hughes.

GLENN ELLIOTT: He never talked to me about...he...he's mentioned the fact a time or two about...he said...you know I've heard a time down there during the oil boom you know, you're going to hear a lot of stories about me, some of them may be true, you know, something like that. And that's all he'd say. He...I don't know... you might talk to Lewis Rigler up in Gainesville. Lewis can...Lewis worked for him you know. And ah..he can tell you a whole lot more about

Gonzaullas. But as far as I was concerned he...he's always acted like he was glad to see me. I've gotten an autographed picture of him up at my trailer house on...up at my farm. And ah...and I'm proud of it. And I also...

ROBERT NIEMAN: If you ever want to sell it you've got a buyer.

GLENN ELLIOTT: I've got one of Colonel Garrison. Well I tell you what the...the autograph that's by....it's faded on it so bad now it's hard to see. But he's on the horse and it's made over here in Harrison County.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That's a question I do have...I'm going to jump ahead to this. This was made over at the Pendergrass Ranch.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah...yeah. George Pendergrass was a....he was on commission at one time ... DPS commission.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I've had a theory for years....ah...I'm also working on a project on Mattie Castleberry...you know, Mattie's ballroom and the Palm Isle and what not.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah...yeah. She lived down there in Harrison County.

ROBERT NIEMAN: She lived right there by there.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah

ROBERT NIEMAN: And ah...her ranch was right there close to this. But she...

GLENN ELLIOTT: Mattie's ranch was over on...on the Karnack road and ah...and ah... the Pendergrass place was on (Highway) 80.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did he ever...you know it's amazing...she in Ranger, he was in Ranger... she was in Burk Burnett, he was in Burk Burnett. She was in Borger, he was in Borger. She was in Pampa, he was in Pampa. She was in Kilgore...

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well Mattie followed all these...oh that's how she made her money you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But did Gonzauillas....they had to of known one another. I mean it's just, coincidence was just too much.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Oh I'm sure. Oh everybody knew Mattie. And nearly everybody knew Gonzauillas so surely they had crossed....cause I knew Mattie...cause I..

ROBERT NIEMAN: I'm going to ask you about her here...cause that's the last person I'm going to ask you...

GLENN ELLIOTT: Even when I came....after I came here she was driving back and forth...she had a big rock house down there if you remember and kind of built kind of like the Reo. At that time it was out of rock if you remember and when I first came here the Reo Palm Isle was...

ROBERT NIEMAN: It...that house burned...well that Reo burned and that house burned.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah. And she had a son that ah...that ah...I'm trying to ah...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Henry and J. C. were her sons.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well J. C. must have been one because they called...

ROBERT NIEMAN: He lived in Kilgore. Henry lived out there...

GLENN ELLIOTT: He had a honkey tonk over there at Kilgore.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah...J. C.'s

GLENN ELLIOTT: And he was kind of a rounder and ah...I have an idea we probably arrested him a time or two for drunk driving or something you know. But anyway ah...I knew Mattie. Of course she was still here when I came on the...

ROBERT NIEMAN: She owned the Palm Isle up into '51 and then she died in '54.

GLENN ELLIOTT: See Bob Wills was...and some of them...a lot of the national known entertainers were here a whole lot during that time. But...but yeah I knew but I...it was probably a coincidence cause Gonzauillas was assigned to those areas and it had to be a coincidence because ah...Mattie was ah...I'd say much older than Gonzauillas probably, I don't know her...

ROBERT NIEMAN: She was born in 1890 and ah...

GLENN ELLIOTT: He was born in 1900 you say.

ROBERT NIEMAN: No he was born in about 1891 or '92 so they were about the same age.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well they must have been the same age. Yeah...I was thinking she was older.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...Gonzauillas was in and out of the Rangers numerous times. He would join the Rangers and then drop out. And ah...several time he was ah...I guess an Elliott Ness...he served with the Treasury Department in the prohibition, as a prohibition agent. Did he ever say anything about...

GLENN ELLIOTT: Ah...ah...that's ah...he just never mentioned any of his past to me much you know. Generally we was just socializing you know when we'd be together.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How did he get the name Lone Wolf?

GLENN ELLIOTT: I think he kind of liked to work by himself obviously. And ah...I...you know I've kind of...I...I...prefer...I can...I can get something done...I never did carry anybody with me unless I needed em' you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Bob Goss one time said laughingly, and in Gonzauillas' presence that ah...they send the Lone Wolf and Goss laughed and said, well you know sometimes the Lone Wolf doesn't like to as alone as he likes everybody to think he wants to work alone.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well Bob...I've talked to Bob probably more than I have Gonzauillas. Because Bob lived in Kilgore and I used to see him over there at the Streamliner Cafe a whole lot. And at some socials, bar-b-ques, and things. And he was working for the game and fish industry ah...commissioned as ah...on stream pollution I think is what his enforcement job was. And of course he had ah...he had been work... I think he was Police Chief maybe one time in Kilgore, Bob was if I'm not mistaken. Ah...and we'd ah...we'd meet and talk and ah...Bob was ah...he wasn't as complimentary of ah...Gonzauillas as you'd expect him to be you know...ah...ever. So I have an idea there was a bad little personality and I have an idea that after we visited you know that Bob was pretty quiet and he didn't you know ...he was...he didn't go around boasting about what he did all the time. And Gonzauillas was pretty open. He....he wanted like I say he liked the publicity and...and there was a lot of us...lot of other people don't particularly care for the publicity. You know like I told...I was reluctant to talk to those folks from Texas Monthly and ah...and I wasn't to hung up on even visiting with ya'll until I found out what you was really doing with yours you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: We appreciate that.

GLENN ELLIOTT: As far as me getting my name on the....you know...in the Life magazine or something ah...I...I don't care for that. But Gonzauillas did you know. Because I...in fact we talked about the Texarkana deal. You know he's a...as I remember Life magazine carried a pretty good story.

ROBERT NIEMAN: That was on the phantom murders...

GLENN ELLIOTT: Phantom murders up in Texarkana...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where they wished they'd made movie out of the town that dreaded sundown.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah....and ah...of course ah...he...they did a lot of work on that thing.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well...it...it said that he was terribly...this was the most frustrating case he ever worked on, because he was never able to solve it.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well all of em'...those that you can't solve are the ones that are frustrating. All of em' are. You know and....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Going back to Lone Wolf...when ya'll were setting around talking I wouldn't think you'd say, well now Lone Wolf what did you...what'd you call him...I can't imagine you settin' around and....

GLENN ELLIOTT: Ah...Captain...Captain Gonzauillas, that's what everybody called him, Captain, in the Rangers.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay...okay

GLENN ELLIOTT: That's how we did...but well...we just didn't talk about it. I don't ask, if you want to talk about ah....something, you bring up subject you know... I'm not...I've never been one...the only people I pick is the people I want to ... people that are accused of a crime, I want em' to tell me about it, you know. And the...I never have been bad to ask somebody to tell something about their life and their history and ah....I guess I just wasn't all that interested in it to be truthful with you.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you ever hear him speak...you was talkin' bout that you served as body guards and what not for Presidents and what not...that in 1928 in Houston, the Democrats had their convention and he served as body guard for Al Smith.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Uh huh..

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...what can you tell us ah....that you either heard Gonzauillas or Goss or any of those guys..about the Trout Line...the fabled Trout Line in Kilgore.

GLENN ELLIOTT: You know what ah....all I've heard em' say is...I've heard Captain say we didn't...you know I've heard him talk about that. Yeah...we've tied em'... we had to tie em' up out there and in front of the Church house and handcuff em' to a probably a old cable of some kind and to keep cars and the horses from gettin' up on the Church yard or something. But ah...but that's about...you know he.. he just talked about how times are changing. You know, I've heard him mention that some. But I...just to get into it all that much ah...ah...he never did. You know I've to the house over there where they stayed and he...he'd mentioned that old Crim house over there a time or two you know. And the facilities they had to stay in you know. And he liked to be clean and neat all the time and it wasn't all that easy. But you know they restored that old house over there and in fact they've got a statue of him sitting in front, you know over there now.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah..well did he actually take the passenger seat out of his car and mount a 30 caliber machine gun?

GLENN ELLIOTT: I...I've never heard him say that and never heard anybody that saw it say it, you know. I've seen some pictures I think of the car or something like that...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well that's...that was my next question. There's a picture of a Ranger with ah...sitting in a car with a Thompson sub-machine gun it looks like in that... and I...do you know who that Ranger was.

GLENN ELLIOTT: I think it must be him...I've always had the impression it was but..

ROBERT NIEMAN: And it's not Gonzauillas...I...I was thinking maybe....I wonder if it was Bob Goss.

GLENN ELLIOTT: I don't think Bob would do that. You know, Bob was a good shot with a hand gun.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Uh huh

GLENN ELLIOTT: And there wasn't many folks that could shoot any better than Bob Goss I'll tell you that. His daddy told folks up there that he's probably shot up a train load of ammunition, you know. His daddy had a big plantation up there as you well know north of Honey Grove and ah...the Goss farm. And ah...he had his own cotton gin and commissary and everything down there on this place you know. And ah...Bob came from the Red River you know and ah...I don't know what prompted him to get into law enforcement...I never did ask him you know. Bob and I have set there and ah...just a few years before he died and I went to his...I went to Bob's funeral. Ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where was his funeral.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Honey Grove. He's buried in Honey Grove. There's ah...there's three Texas Rangers that I know of buried in that Honey Grove cemetery. Bob Goss and Jim Riddle and Charlie Moore. Ah...Charlie Moore went on the Rangers the same time I did. Ah...he buried there in Honey Grove but...Bob and I would talk about ... you know I talked to Bob....I want...I wanted to know what's going on around in East Texas then that interested me. I was not interested in what he did in his early law enforcement days and I don't know why but I just wasn't you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well...was Gonzauillas...did ah..he like to joke.

GLENN ELLIOTT: No..he...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Could he take a joke. Cause I can imagine that when Frank Hamer killed Bonnie and Clyde they found one of Gonzauillas' guns in the car.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And I can't...and Gonzauillas and Hamer were very close friends. But I can't imagine hardly if Hamer had any kind of ah...ah...shall we say mischievous streak in him that he wouldn't have hurraed Gonzauillas pretty good about that.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well I didn't...this is the first time I'd ever heard that story...that what his gun was in the car. I've got...

ROBERT NIEMAN: .38 special

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah...I've got a...I've got...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Or super I don't know which.

GLENN ELLIOTT: I've got the original ah...newspaper from Beinville Parish, Louisiana. I was the Sheriff down there and I got to be real good friends...I worked some criminal cases since I was a Ranger and he got me a newspaper from that old paper down there that ah...about that murder and ah...I'm but...the one about the killing you know. And ah..about Bonnie and Clyde and ah...I'd never heard that Gonzauillas had a gun....

ROBERT NIEMAN: It's from one of these books I'll show you after while.

GLENN ELLIOTT: And so...of course I'm sure they took those two highway patrolmen's pistols to kill up there at Grapevine. And ah...it could of been one of them you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did he ever talk about his...when he run for election here.

GLENN ELLIOTT: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What about ah...ah...he ah..supposedly killed 75 men. He never did deny...deny it. One of the books says that he hotly denied that, said that he could remember...all he could remember off hand was 22.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah. Ah...he never...never talked about killing anybody, to me...and in none of the conversations with him and...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did he...near the end of his career, he had a run in with ah...ah..famed ah...organized criminal, Mickey Cohen, who came off the West Coast to try to set up organized gambling and what not here in Texas and Gonzauillas basically showed him the road.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Met him at the airport I think or something. Yeah...I've heard about that but I think Captain Crowder ah...Captain Crowder was his Sergeant...my first Captain was Sergeant under Gonzauillas. And ah...he...he and I went over to Fort Worth one time and ah...Arlington area and ah...and asked Benny Bennion to leave town. And Benny was...owned the Horse Shoe out at Las Vegas and he was...he'd come into Fort Worth. I think he must of had an apartment rented all the time and some of those richer people that they'd have a poker marathon maybe and played for three or four days a week, you know. And ah...we'd had a complaint on it and ah....Captain and I went over there and asked Benny to leave. And I remembered it but it wasn't that important. Benny called it to my attention one time when I was...I was on my way to...Sheriff from Carthage and I was going to Reno, Nevada, working a murder case and ah...we stopped there and missed our plane and the Hughes west had already left when we got there and we had a couple...about a two hour lay over and ah...the Sheriff said, what're we going to do and I said, well let's go down...walk around until we run into somebody we know. I just kind of you know...I was just...bullying the Sheriff a little bit. We walked out in the lobby the airport and a guy came up to me and said, aren't you Glenn Elliott. And I said, yeah, I don't believe I know you. And he said, well I'm FBI and when I was stationed in Monroe, Louisiana in July 1964 you came down there and recovered a bunch of stolen equipment on the 4th of July and we tried em' and you was our witness...came down to testify in the Grand Jury and the Court down there. And I said, yeah I remember you now. Well he...he said let me ride ya'll ...what are ya'll doing and we told him. Well he said, I'll ride ya'll around town. Well, we

went down to the Horse Shoe, walked in there and...and ah.... bellied up to the bar and sat down and ah...and ordered something to drink and ah...the bartender said ah...gentleman over there at the table says he knows you. Wants ya'll to come over there and join him. It was Benny Bennion. He said, you remember me. And I said, no I don't believe I do. And he said, you remember coming to the apartment with Captain Crowder in 1961 in Dallas and telling me to leave town. And I said, I remember that. And he said, well that was me. So I was in Las Vegas and ran in to two people that knew me and I hadn't been there thirty minutes I guess but ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: You couldn't do anything your wife wouldn't find out about could you.

GLENN ELLIOTT: But ah..no Gonzauillas didn't talk ah...I don't think ah...he bragged to other officers ah...a whole lot about any of his exploits. I...I think he...when they happened he liked to have the coverage on it and then go on to something else you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did you attend his retirement party on July 31, 1951.

GLENN ELLIOTT: No..I didn't.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah..after the Rangers he went to Hollywood where he was a technical adviser, where he worked on such shows as Dale Robertson's *Tales of Wells Fargo (Tales of the Texas Rangers)*.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did he ever talk about any of that...working in Hollywood.

GLENN ELLIOTT: He was glad to get back home I remember that. He ah...he...he must of... he didn't stay out there long. What two or three years maybe.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah..got in a shooting.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah..ah..he was glad to be home. I think ah...he just made him a lot of money probably is what he did you know. And no doubt they paid him a good salary and

ah...and he's a...and course Cap was ah...ah...I don't know, they...you know ...his...I know his wife had...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Laura

GLENN ELLIOTT: Owned part of that hospital up there...so I don't think money was any big object to him. He just liked to do things, he was a doer you know and ah...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well he died, as I said...we was talking about that a while ago...February 13, 1977.

GLENN ELLIOTT: I didn't remember when it was but I'm...I went to Dallas and I served as a pallbearer. He was cremated, I remember that...but they had a service.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was it...was it an open coffin service.

GLENN ELLIOTT: No...no...they had a coffin in...in the church...in the funeral home or Church I don't...I believe it was in...it was in the funeral...it was the church. Because I think ah...I went to a funeral up there the other day and ah...it was a couple of months ago...old ah...Earnest Daniel died and ah...he and Captain were buried in the same cemetery up there.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was he...what cemetery is he buried in.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Oh man I wish I could...I wish I knew...ah...I can find out for you.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I'd like to know some time.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Okay.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...you said Bob Goss was born in Honey Grove.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Bob...I don't know where Bob was born. But I have an idea he was born down there on the Red River, north of Honey Grove about 14 miles. Cause they owned the plantation down there, his father did.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did...did he have a nickname.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Bob is all I ever knew him...I imagine his name is Robert don't you imagine.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah....ah...do you remember when he died.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Ohhhh...good gracious alive. I went to his funeral and ah...I picked...I called Dwight Watson who was constable over there at Kilgore and ah..he went with me. And I'd say it was ah...probably in the mid 70's.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What ah...I don't know much about Bob Goss. Could you just fill us in a little bit on Goss.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Bob was...Bob was mean. Bob Goss was a mean man...I mean I...Bob Goss didn't take any foolishness off of anybody. Bob was mean. Now I'm going to tell you something. He's fair but he was mean...he didn't ah...and he was quiet and he was dry with his wit. He was a witty guy but it was a dry wit. And ah...Bob didn't like anybody that put on a big show about anything and I think probably this is...if there was any rub between he and Gonzauillas or you know...I mean you know...I'm...like I said..all us Rangers are different you know. I've been around some that ah...Captain Peoples...you know Captain Peoples..he..he was kind of like Gonzauillas, he liked to be acknowledged for every thing that he did you know. And ah...but a lot of us just loved to do our work. And Bob Goss was one of em'..he..Bob didn't want any special ah...recognition. He just wanted to go do his job. And ah...this is my opinion you know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well...this...this would be confirmed...I've talked to several old timers around here and some of them said, you know with Gonzauillas that...we were afraid of him. Said, scary as a rattlesnake. Said, he'd kill you and we knew it. But he said, had one old timer

said, but...you know...we were respected and we were afraid of Gonzauillas, but he said, let me tell you something, Goss would drop you just as quick as Gonzauillas would, if not quicker.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yeah....yeah, Bob was...Bob was tough and he was...he was probably the best shot in the Ranger service. In fact he was the best shot in Northeast Texas after he got out of the Rangers. Plum up til a few years before he died. He'd got to these pistol matches and...and bring home the medals. Bob's got a nephew lives out here at White Oak. I don't know his name but ah...I guess he got most of Bob's guns. I don't know. I..bet..

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did Goss have any children.

GLENN ELLIOTT: No..huh uh. He didn't have any kids. Ah...and you know he lived there in that rock house. I've been in his house there in Kilgore. I went to see him when was sick you know. And ah...but most the time I'd see Bob up there at the Streamliner. He'd come up there and he had his wife and eat.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was his wife's name.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Oh man, I can't remember. She's dead too. Ah...and I worked a lot of hours. I was out at night as much as I was in the day time. I'd leave home early and get home late you know, all the time. I'd stop there at the Streamliner every once in while to eat at night and even back during the slant hole business we was in Kilgore a whole lot over there you know. And ah...spent a lot of time there and I'd run into Bob and ah...Bob helped a friend of mine do some investigation on H. L. Hunt ah..cause Bob was acquainted with H. L. and his... some of his exploits during that early oil boom days. And if you'll remember there was a lot of press on ah...Hunt being married before from a lady up in Arkansas. And Bob told us that...Bob Goss is the one that told the investigators who she was. He knew. Ah...and ah..there's a guy out of Louisiana that a friend of mine that ah...was doing the investigative work on that thing. And

ah...and...but Bob was just a...he was a quiet kind of guy about what he did. Now he'd get out and have a laugh and you could hear him all over the cafe talking. I don't mean...but he... he wasn't...he didn't brag about what he did as a Ranger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, personally, what type of would you rather have worked with. The extroverted Gonzauillas type or the introverted Goss type.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Well if...if I had my preference I'd rather get somebody in between.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Real...real diplomat.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Didn't...it...it really made...didn't make me any difference at all. I wanted to do my job and ah..let him do his you know. So ah...ah..my Captain... first Captain he was quiet type individual and ah...Bob Crowder and ah... and his word was good and you knew he didn't carry on a lot of foolishness. Ah... Gonzauillas didn't have a lot of foolishness about him. Bob has a little foolishness about him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did Goss ever say why he never went back into the Rangers after he left.

GLENN ELLIOTT: I never asked him. See like I say I...what somebody else did, that's good and I may read about when I get old you know. But ah..I was concerned of making a Ranger. And I..I wasn't trying to copy after any..any one individual. I ... I tried to find the good traits of all of em' and use some of them, you know. I'd go down...I worked with as many Rangers as I could and I was lucky...cause see during this slant hole investigation over there we had nearly all the Rangers in Texas in Kilgore at one or other, several times. The same way with the Lone Star Steel strike. So...there was two assignments that I worked. One in 1962 and one in 1968 and 69' that I got to work with nearly every Ranger in the state at one time or another. And ah...and I just ah...tried to evaluate em' all you know the best I could and I'd watch em' and ah...and...and...if

there was good things that I saw in them that I thought would help me well I tried to use em' you know. And it helped me a whole lot. I know it did.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah..also with us at this interview is Bill Utsman. Bill do you have any questions or...

BILL UTSMAN: No..I have nothing..no..thank you.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...I want ah..any questions that I haven't asked you that I should of?

GLENN ELLIOTT: Oh...course you know...I guess I've pretty well expounded on all of my associations that was important to you and to the museum. Ah...I can't think of anything...I...other than ah...I enjoyed my work you know. And ah...I just really enjoyed it. Up til the last day I worked...I just truly enjoyed it and ah...and my association with the Rangers. Now..I'd...I'd like to...for this to go on the record too...that I...I...don't think the Rangers ought to ever be done away with. I think there...there's a need for em' today just like there was in the earlier day...we just havin' to change. But if that old government don't get out of our business and let us go on about it well we...we'll do a better job you know than...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well...my final question is, with today's political climate is poor could another Lone Wolf Gonzauillas ever exist in the Texas Rangers today?

GLENN ELLIOTT: No...no...his time's come and gone. Ah...it was a very...he was needed.. in his time he was needed bad. Ah...I...I kind of think I'm needed...I was needed in my time and ah...I've been in some of these East Texas Merry-Go-Round deals and ah...I've never heard of anybody putting a bucket over anybody's head. Ah ... my son asked me one time if I ever whipped anybody. And ah...and my answer to him was, nobody didn't need it. And ah...but I'm sure...some of these stories you hear of these guys...the guys will tell you the kind of story about putting a bucket over somebody's head and beating em' maybe is the kind of guy that probably

never did do it you know. And ah...some of the things that we've done we probably wasn't too proud of, but we had to do it to...in order to get what we needed and get it done...do the job that ah...the citizens of this state expected us to do. And I don't owe any apologizes to anybody about the things I've done but I wouldn't go around if I'd put a bucket over somebody's head I never would tell anybody about it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ranger Elliott we want to thank you very much for time and I think your record speaks that you've been a real credit to the State of Texas and the Texas Rangers in particular. Thank you very much.

GLENN ELLIOTT: Yes sir..I appreciate it.