

INTERVIEW WITH

JIM CLARK & WES WHATLEY

PROJECT:
BOB GOSS, TEXAS RANGER

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INTERVIEW CONDUCTED AT OFFICE OF
JIM CLARK
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INTERVIEWED BY:
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LONGVIEW, TEXAS

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Present At Interview: Jim Clark, Wes Whatley and Robert Nieman



Introduction

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Bob Goss - Texas Ranger
As told by Jim Clark and Wes Whatley

ROBERT NIEMAN: My name is Robert Nieman. We are at Clark's Gun Shop in Shreveport, Louisiana. The purpose of this interview is to discuss the Texas Rangers in general and the career of Ranger Bob Goss in particular. Mr. Whatley and Mr. Clark, do I have your permission to record this interview?

WES WHATLEY: Yes.

JIM CLARK: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Mr. Whatley and Mr. Clark you understand that this videotape will belong to you and to me?

WES WHATLEY: Yes.

JIM CLARK: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And finally Mr. Whatley and Mr. Clark, do I have your permission to present copies of this tape to various historical organizations such as museums, libraries, schools and etc.?

WES WHATLEY: Yes.

JIM CLARK: Yes.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Mr. Clark we'll start with you, what is your full name sir?

JIM CLARK: James E. Clark.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And where are you from?

JIM CLARK: Well, I...Keithville, Louisiana is where I live. And I just recently moved to Princeton, Louisiana a little....and going to build over here.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where was you born?

JIM CLARK: Ft. Worth, Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: When?

JIM CLARK: 1923, February the 15th.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And who was your mother and father?

JIM CLARK: John ah...James Clark....James Albert Clark from Waldo, Arkansas and Amanda Pearl Mauldin from Texarkana.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And do you have any children?

JIM CLARK: Three.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And their names chronologically?

JIM CLARK: Kim is my oldest daughter, Jim is the middle...let's see he's ah....now 39 and Kay is 36.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And your wife's name?

JIM CLARK: Bernice.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And when were ya'll married?

JIM CLARK: 1953.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Wes, what is your full name?

WES WHATLEY: Wesley L. Whatley?

ROBERT NIEMAN: And when and where were you born?

WES WHATLEY: I was born in Longview, Texas January the 29th, 1929.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And your wife's name?

WES WHATLEY: Sharon Caldwell Whatley.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And your children?

WES WHATLEY: One son, William Clayton Whatley lives in Seattle, Washington, is an engineer for Boeing Aircraft.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Wes you're a retired school teacher and school administrator.

WES WHATLEY: Correct.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Jim what was your business?

JIM CLARK: Gun business, been in the gun business since 1952.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Gun smith?

JIM CLARK: Yes.

WES WHATLEY: Jim is the best pistol smith in the United States and probably the world. He won't admit it, but I'm telling you he is.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what ah....ya'll both are former National Champions I believe aren't you?

WES WHATLEY: Of a sort.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And ah....Jim what was yourwell I know what....Wes you give yours first I know what yours are.

WES WHATLEY: Well let Jim talk.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

JIM CLARK: Oh there....I sent numerous records over 28 years of shooting, in fact I set a total of 74 records. And I'm the only civilian to ever win the National Championship, the only others have been either military or police who were subsidized in some manner or other. But I paid for it and did it all on my own.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And when was your.....what was your first championship?

JIM CLARK: Oh I don't remember that, I won.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Or....national.

JIM CLARK: I won the Civilian National civilian championship 6 times. Probably the first time in about 1954 and I won the Nat....the Open National Championship in 1958.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Wes?

WES WHATLEY: I had the honor of flying with Jim to Camp Perry in 1958 and I think I brought him good luck, cause he did win the National Open Championship. And as he said he was subsidized by anyone. I have won ah....a few state and regional titles ah....and ah....have won the National Guard Championship I believe 3 times at Camp Perry including the hard ball match of the service pistol match.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What's hard ball?

WES WHATLEY: It's ah...the serv...service pistol ammunition which is issued on the line. Ah...I think I have maybe 3 or 4 national record certificates that look pale compared to Jim's 70's some odd. But Jim's a little older than I am.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...how did you gentlemen come to know Bob Goss?

JIM CLARK: He came in my shop I believe in 1954 and wanted me to build him a target pistol, which I did. And we ah....became good friends, traveled to matches and ah...Bob had just started the bulls eye shooting, he'd been shooting for years and years. But he got interested in ah...bulls eye shooting, which was really at that time the only competitive type shooting there was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what is bulls eye shooting?

JIM CLARK: Well it's ah....one handed shooting, shooting at a target at 25 and 50 yards. And ah...there's three stages, there's a timed fire and rapid fire and slow fire. And ah....it's precision shooting and it's a pretty tough game. Especially for a fella's that ah....I've forgotten what age Bob was at that time, but he wasn't any young man.

WES WHATLEY: He was late 50's.....

JIM CLARK: Well I didn't know....

ROBERT NIEMAN: He was born 1898, Bob was.

JIM CLARK: Okay, yeah. And ah....yeah he was well in his 50's then when he ah....when he started. And he did real well considering his age and ah....ah.... I think he got classified as expert if I remember right.

WES WHATLEY: I believe that's right, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What....what caliber gun, or was it a revolver or automatic you

JIM CLARK: Well you shoot.....shoot three different caliber's, shoot .22 and semi-fire and .45. The .45 can be a 32 caliber or larger, which ever your choice.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well the gun you....he had you make for him when you first met him, was it an automatic or

JIM CLARK: It was a .45 automatic, uh hum. And ah....aft...from there I made numerous ones ah....probably made him, I don't know, 7 or 8. And ah...in fact the one I was telling you I wanted to show you, I fixed him a hard ball gun and sent it to him and I've got it....and when I bought his collection, it's in the original box with the original invoice. And ah...I can't remember the exact price now, but it was pretty ridiculous.

WES WHATLEY: About a hundred and ten or fifteen dollars wasn't it?

JIM CLARK: No a little more than that, I think was.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Wes, how did you come to know Bob?

WES WHATLEY: I was out at the rifle and pistol club, East Texas Rifle and Pistol Club, in '57 I believe and was on the rifle range and this fella came down from the pistol range, off the hill, and called me kid, said, 'Kid why don't you come up here on this range for me and I want you to try something'. I said, 'All right'. So I went up there and he said, 'I'm having a little problem

with .45', said ah..'Check and shoot it a little bit and see if it's all right'. So I shot and shot fairly well and ah....Bob found out that possibly maybe he'd been jerking the trigger and not realizing it. So he asked me to come back the next day and I did. And so we started a daily ritual of going out to the range about one-thirty in the afternoon and shooting 3 or 4 hours. And during that summer of '57 he asked me to go to Ft. Worth to pistol club match and I did and he furnished the weapons on loan to me. And ah...I was in the marksman's class at that time and luckily won it and of course I got bitten by the bug and....for shooting from then on. So Bob wanted me to reload him ammunition and I did and over a period of time of 5 or 6 years, he shot I'm quite sure over 100,000 rounds. He liked to shoot, Bob was good at it. He realized he was handicapped by his age and ended the competitive shooting at that time, but he could still draw a pistol from his pocket and shoot from the hip and hit a very difficult target at 25 yards without any problem.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well let's just ah....go to some stories here. I'll try maybe to ah....to ah...lead us along. What....what was the first time that ya'll remember that the three of you were together? Or do ya'll even remember?

JIM CLARK: I don't know as I remember that, but one...one interesting thing, he came over to pick me up, we was going to some match, and he always drove a white Ford sedan.

WES WHATLEY: Four door.

JIM CLARK: Four door sedan. And I went out and I said, 'Bob you want me to wash this thing a little bit before we go'. 'What for'. Bob chewed tobacco and when he had to spit he just turned his head and spit. So all down the left side of that white car was the dirtiest mess you ever saw in your life. And he did that, he bought a brand new and the first few days it was the same way.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I'm going to add a little of my own story there. Glenn Elliott, I know Wes knows, I don't know if you know him or not Jim, he's a retired Texas Ranger from

Longview area, and he's from ah...up around Honey Grove where Goss is from. And he knew....didn't really know Bob but....Bob had already left when Glenn was a kid but he knew Bob's dad and his brothers and what not. And ah...he said that Bob's dad was the nastiest person you've ever seen and he said that like Wes....I mean, like Bob, he chewed tobacco and when he got ready to spit if the window wasn't down that was all right he'd just spit in the floorboard. But ah...he said Bob's dad was the nastiest old man he'd ever met in his life.

JIM CLARK: He came by it honest didn't he.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He came by it honest.

WES WHATLEY: Bob ah...refined a little bit, he started getting coffee cans and spitting in it when I was traveling with him and of course if the coffee can tilted over and turned over on the floorboard that didn't make a whole lot of difference.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did ah....Wes and I related several stories already, but there's been some I know we didn't talk about. Ah...I know one instance where...I think happened over....possibly in the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas on some bank robbers. Ah...I know Wes you've told me this story, you want to relate it or Jim jump in on anything here or that you can add just go for it.

WES WHATLEY: Well Bob told me about the time that they had tracked some bank robbers, either in the Adolphus or the Baker, I'm not sure which. And he and I remember him saying Will Fritz, so it was probably in Dallas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: About what year?

WES WHATLEY: Ah...I couldn't say on that. But ah...there were five in that room and ah...Bob got his pistol out ready to walk in first and ah...they kicked the door in. And he said that there two sitting at the table playing poker and one sitting in a chair close by the window and one looking out

the window and one laying down on the bed over to his right. And Bob said he shot and killed every one of them, but had killed several men prior to that time and he didn't want to take the credit for it, so they quickly decided which officers would get the credit for the killing and Will Fritz got one I understand him to say and Bob came out of that scrap without any credits to his ah...killing those bank robbers. But he's the one that killed all of them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Jim you've got his scrapbook out there, do you remember off the top of your head seeing any articles or anything on that, any of those....?

JIM CLARK: No, not on that particular. We used to ride going to these matches and you know you ride along and he'd tell stories. And one of my favorite is they put him on loan to the Texas...to the Game department and sent him down to Pineland, Texas. Seems they'd run off two Game Wardens and killed one. So he went down there to straighten that situation out and it seems the City Fathers were the ones that were doing the deer poaching and that sort of thing. So he went to the Council meeting and he always was dressed to the T. Had his gabardine pants and khaki shirt and high boots, cowboy boots were always shined to the best. Told them he didn't...they sent him down there to enforce the law, he didn't make them, but they had sent him down there to enforce the law and he was going... he'd appreciate their cooperation if they would and otherwise he do it the way he had to do it. So the meeting was over and he said one of these little guys come out and met him on the street...on the sidewalk, said he was a little bitty fella and he looked up at him and he said, 'We know how to handle fella's like you', and he spit on his boot. Bob told him, 'You little SOB', says, 'Whatever your game is you count me in'. So he got him a spy and he....I don't know how they arranged this but I'm sure he was a pro so he knew how to arrange it, but anyway, got word that they were going poaching and he ah...and about where. So he got him....posted himself down in and he said, sure enough here they came down the road and went down the road a little

piece and one of them shot a deer. So he said he made sure...walked...eased up on them and about...about 40 or 50 yards, he said he made damn sure that little bastard spit on boots got the first charge. And he just said, BAM, BAM, BAM, BAM with a .12 gauge shotgun with #6 shot and turned around and went back and got in his car and drove on. They didn't show up for several days and they were all patched up and told a story about they...one of them fell in a watermelon patch and he started to... and he thought they was stealing so he shot 'em with a shotgun. And I said, 'Well Bob what if you'd of killed one of them'. And he said, 'Well so what'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: If they die they die.

JIM CLARK: And ah...he ah...I said, 'Well did it work'. He said, 'Yeah', said, 'You know those fella's never did poach another deer'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, talking about deer shooting, tell us the story Jim about the first deer you ever killed.

JIM CLARK: Well, I ah...Bob said, 'Well we'll get you a deer'. So....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where's this happening now?

JIM CLARK: This is my....it was in my shop.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Okay.

JIM CLARK: And he said ah...and it was a week or two before deer season opened and ah...said, 'Come on over there and we got to work a...a game refuge so you come over with us '. And his partner was named Rick, but I can't remember his last name.

ROBERT NIEMAN: About when was this?

JIM CLARK: About '54. And ah...so I went over there with them and stayed with them three days. And I rode around with them policing the first two days. Of course I was all hot to shoot and kill a deer, cause I never had killed one before and I heard all these stories about wounding and all

and I knew damn well I could kill one with one shot. So the third morning old Bob said, 'Come on Rick', said 'Let's go get this little fart a deer'. So I got in the back seat of the Game Warden's car and Rick was driving and Bob in the passenger seat in front and we drove down one of these little old roads in that refuge and Bob said, 'Stop Rick'. A doe walked out and he said, 'There will probably be a buck right behind it'. Well I got ready and sure enough a buck walked out and so I shot the buck, about 100 yards, and we ah...went over and the Game Warden dressed it for me. So ah...that was my

ROBERT NIEMAN: And it was on a game preserve.

JIM CLARK: On a game preserve. The only...I guess about the only thing you say legal about the whole thing was that the season was open. And I also didn't have a license. And we didn't tag the deer.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And the deer meat was tough.

JIM CLARK: Yeah. And the gravy was tough. But that was my first deer. But oh ah...but we went to numerous matches. One...I remember one when we went to Dallas with Bob, Wes and I both went to Dallas with him and we...we was all dressed in our shooting clothes, Bob in his usual. And we were driving around....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what was his usual?

JIM CLARK: Well a gabardine....he...he always was real neat. And we went...drove around looking for a place to eat and then saw this fancy Italian place. So we said, well we'll go in there. We went in and sat down and the little waiter came over and he was one of the gushy guys and he was....and finally Bob told him, said, 'Mister', said, 'If you'll shut up I'll order'. 'Oh I'm sorry, I'm sorry', he apologized and while he was gone to get the tea or something and old Bob said, 'Hell'. And so when he came back Wes and I ordered and Bob says, 'You got any ham and eggs'. 'Ham

and eggs', he said 'Ha, Ha'. He said, 'Just bring me some damn ham and eggs'. And ah...boy that shop didn't...what...what brought all this on is, we were telling stories about Camp Perry and we talk...the word champagne came in the conversation somehow or other and one of these owners heard us and thought they had a champagne customer. Well old Bob put 'em straight pretty quick.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what did he end up eating?

WES WHATLEY: Ham and eggs.

JIM CLARK: Ham and eggs, yes sir, yes sir.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ham and eggs.

JIM CLARK: Ham and eggs was exactly what he ate.

WES WHATLEY: That's right.

JIM CLARK: Yes sir.

WES WHATLEY: And they brought...brought it pretty fast.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did ya'll ever hear him talk about his ah...World War I experiences?

WES WHATLEY: I have.

JIM CLARK: A little but I...I don't remember much of it.

WES WHATLEY: Best I can remember, Bob ah...was in the 90th Division and he trained at Camp Bowie and that's in Ft. Worth isn't it Jim or right close?

JIM CLARK: I'm not sure.

WES WHATLEY: Ah...anyway he was in a machine gun company and was overseas of course and ah...was in on the action in 1918 in ah...Barne and Shato Tyre and other battles at that time before the war was over and ah...saw a lot of action. And to his left there was some French soldiers and they had mixed Americans and French together rather than the Americans all having their own Commander in under American leadership. And they resented that, the Americans did and Bob

tells very fondly of when the sun goes down in the west it...a lot of times they'd turn the machine guns over to the left and they used Lewis guns, they're British weapons and they didn't have American machine guns. And he said, 'We'd turn our Lewis guns back toward east and catch the frogs as they called them, in the trenches and we'd shoot a few rounds over there and just watch 'em scramble and run'. Cause that's what made the Americans so mad, when the Germans attacked that they'd be the first one to break and run and then their flanks were exposed. So he tells fondly about that and I think he might of mentioned this one time Jim, when they'd go on leave in Paris they'd go in groups of six to eight or ten and go in a wine place and just pick up whatever they wanted and ah...ah...put in their coats and bags and when they got through loading up then whip the owner real good and they'd just walk on out without paying. And it got to the point that ah...they wouldn't let them go on leave anymore. Little bit too tough. But he mentioned stuff like that. In fact he mentioned one time about a German Major wanting to surrender to him and wouldn't surrender because he would surrender only to an officer of equal rank or more. And Bob said he just took a grenade out and pulled the pin and pitched it down and said, 'Well chew on that for awhile', and he jumped back in the trench and ah...after they got through scrambling they decided they'd go ahead and surrender to Bob.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did ah...in ah...I guess this would of been in the '30's, it was...I think you mentioned Wes once that Jimmie Allred was Governor of Texas and ah...he sent Goss down to Alice basically to kill George Pharr, a political boss down there. And if anything ah...well I'll let ya'll tell the story and then I've got a follow up on that.

JIM CLARK: Go ahead.

WES WHATLEY: You not familiar with it?

JIM CLARK: No.

WES WHATLEY: Well it might have been another Governor, but I think he said Allred. And they sent him down there to, as he put it, get all...get George Pharr straight. And whatever that meant I assume Bob knew. But he said he got in the courthouse and two Mexican deputies approached him and they realized that ah...Bob was a Ranger and they suspicioned why he was there and in the discussion Bob had to kill one of them. And then he had to retreat back to an office and call for help. And ah... I think Bob rode....went to Mexico, they sent him to Mexico, out of Texas for about a year and a half or so and he rode with the Rurales. And he told me, he said, 'You know Mr. Wesley', and why he called me Mr. Wesley I don't know but he did, he said, 'You know those people are mean', said, 'They scared even me'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well that's my follow up there, did ah...did either one of ya'll ever hear him talk about any of his experiences down in Mexico?

WES WHATLEY: No, I didn't.

JIM CLARK: One story I remember he was telling me that he would....guys robbed a bank in Dallas, two of them, and they were on their trail, of course they was on horses. And so when they came to the Red River they of course crossed and figured they would, Bob and his partner just went on over the river and caught up with them and ah....tried 'em and sentenced them right on the spot. So he had a murder indictment on him from Oklahoma until up in the '70's. And they ah....it seems one of these guys was a relative of the Governor, then Governor of Oklahoma and so that little episode didn't sit very well with the Governor.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Wes I know you've got a good follow up on this story into Oklahoma, I don't know if Jim was along with you or not, when you and Goss, and Jim I don't know if you was with them or not, but you went to Oklahoma.

WES WHATLEY: Well it was El Reno I believe, for the pistol match. Bob and I and Jimno ...

JIM CLARK: No, I didn't go.

WES WHATLEY: It was....I'd want to say in the maybe early '60's and Bob had indicted, said, 'You know', said 'This is the first time I've been able to into Oklahoma in 25 years'. And I said, 'Why'. And he said, 'Well I've had a murder indictment hanging over me for the last 25 years'. And then he related to the story that they killed bank robbers and ah....that the State of Texas wouldn't release him to be tried in Oklahoma.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember who....either one of you remember who his partner was?

WES WHATLEY: I don't.

JIM CLARK: No I don't.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Why was the murder indictment finally dropped?

WES WHATLEY: I guess....

JIM CLARK: I don't know....

WES WHATLEY:over time, he said 25 years.....

JIM CLARK:I don't know, it was a long time though. Political influence I guess, I don't....I don't know why.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....where did Goss ever talk about when it come to ah....I don't....I think Wes you related that he said, 'Yeah you and Clark shoot paper I shoot meat'. But talking about the difference in type of shooting and what was his feelings ah....did he ever see ghosts that you know of?

JIM CLARK: What?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I've heard that....Wes has told the story that one time maybe Bob had, had one beer to many, but that he made the point that he in reflection, this was in his old age of course, that he wished he'd maybe been a doctor instead of a lawman. And of course like I said, he

may have had one beer to many when he said that, but I was wondering did he ever see ghosts, I mean was he....in his old age was he beginning to see.....

JIM CLARK: Not to my knowledge.....

WES WHATLEY: No.

JIM CLARK:he didn't. I never did hear him refer to having any problems sleeping, and I stayed in the room with him quite often.

WES WHATLEY: No. I know one thing that's unusual, he...he could sleep on his back with his legs crossed, propped up. Have you ever noticed that Jim?

JIM CLARK: Uh hum, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Now how's that?

WES WHATLEY: Flat on your back with your legs crossed this way, with this foot up. In other words, just like he was sitting down, but he was laying on his back and he slept like that a lot of times.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Is that so. Well I...you any....ah....just tell us some of the stories that ya'll have got ah...Jim let's start with you.

JIM CLARK: He ah....let's see what I want to find.... I had one in mind and then I lost my train of thought. Go ahead Wes and maybe.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Wes you tell one ah.... I don't think we got on the other one, this was a little bit cruder shall we say, is an incident happened over at Shreveport and ah...Bob felt the call of the wild shall we say.

WES WHATLEY: Oh yeah, we were going to the Caddo Rifle and Pistol Club on a Sunday morning to finish the two shoot and Bob had bowel and evidently had, had it all of his life. And when the time to go came he had to go, he just couldn't wait. And we took I think a left off of

Jewella and went around across the lake to get back to Cooper Road back toward the range and you go through some fairly nice housing areas at that time. And Bob told me to stop and I said, 'Well Bob we're right here in a neighborhood, ayou know, over ditch....a bunch houses'. He said, 'STOP', said 'I got to go right now'. So I stopped and ah...he walked up on a real nice....nice manicured lawn and backed up to the ditches and took a big dump right there on Sunday morning. And he had ahad a blue and white handkerchief that he wiped with and then he neatly folded it back and brought it back with him, he wanted to save his handkerchief. And I thought that was kind of funny.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Kind of gross too.

JIM CLARK: I asked him how he got into that....got into....said he....the first man he killed was a black man who supposedly ah.... I don't think raped his mother, but anyway insulted her, and that was when he was 18 years old.

WES WHATLEY: That's when he rode the horse up too didn't he?

JIM CLARK: Yeah, yeah. Ah.... I can't remember the details but anyway, that was the....he said that was the first....first man he killed.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You've got a few more details on that don't you Wes?

WES WHATLEY: Yeah, it seemed to me like Bob said that ah....this black had ridden and instead of stopping at the hitching pole and tying and walk up through the gate up to the house, he just rode his horse in through the gate and up in the flowers. And his horse of course was ruining his mother's flower garden and she had asked him to get off the horse and move the horse out once before. And he came in again and ah....did the same thing and got rather rough with his mother, talking to her, and Bob had a single action .45 and he said he just raised up and shot him off that

horse. And I think the words he told me he said, 'I just wanted to forever breaking him from getting smart with my mother'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He did.

JIM CLARK: Might say he was prejudice.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Say he was what?

JIM CLARK: He might of been called prejudice. He ah...he ah.... I asked him, I said, "Bob how many men have you killed." And he said, "Eighteen."

ROBERT NIEMAN: How...if you added in, did he ever say how many?

JIM CLARK: No he never did....never did elaborate on it any further than that. He ah...he ah....we went to Dallas one time. He came ah...he came down there....somebody came down there and said, 'Hey, Bob's down there, he's fixing to get in trouble'. So I went down and...and ah...they had squatted a black shooter next to him and ah...he was about kill him. So our friend Tom Park was....was.... I don't remember if he was a referee or whether he was shooting, but anyway.....

WES WHATLEY: I think he was a range officer wasn't he?

JIM CLARK: Might of been. No, he usually was a referee.

WES WHATLEY: Okay.

JIM CLARK: And so Tom went down and....and ah....gingerly escorted Bob to the other end of the line. Bob says, 'No', he says, 'I've lived with them and worked with them all my life', but he said, 'I'll be damned if I got to play with them'. He said, 'I'll just quit'. And he did, he got up, didn't....didn't finish the match. And he ah...he...he had his own set of rules and that....you know Bob....no deviation.

WES WHATLEY: Well I remember when that happened ah....Bob and I were back in his car and it was kind of cool, we had the windows up and Bob had been mouthing off to me because I was on relay one and you and I were on the same relay and Bob was on relay two. And ah...

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what's....what's that?

WES WHATLEY: Well the first relay will shoot, say on 50 targets, and then that's all he can shoot and then the second 50 will go forward on the second relay.

JIM CLARK: They have more competitors than they have targets, so they have to shoot in relays.

WES WHATLEY: So ah...anyway, Bob said, 'Well look like you people on relay one don't know enough about your weapons to get your weapons ready to fire on time and it's taking too long in this match'. And I said, 'Yes that's true, but we don't have any blacks on the line shooting with us'. And that's when Bob said, 'Well what are you talking about'. And I said, 'Yeah you got one right to your right, Sergeant Blake, with the 4th Army'. And I didn't think any more about it. And the next thing I knew well there was a big ruckus and I came up there and I remember distinctly, there was a Major Dunn, you remember him? And he pointed his finger right there at Major Dunn and he said, 'Now Major', said, 'I was killing krauts when you was sucking your mama's titty'. Exactly what he said. And he said, 'I'm fixing to put a button hole right there that ain't no button going to fit'. And That's when Tom, you know.....we was trying to get around him to get him away from the Major, but that did happen.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did these people realize when you went to these shoots who he was and how dangerous he was?

JIM CLARK: Well, no they....they didn't realize it. And....and ah....and I guess you might say I didn't realize it. I knew he in the right circumstances he could do the job if needed. But ah....as far as I'm concerned, he was a gentleman all the way. Never ah....had any problem with him

whatsoever. Now when you travel with him, he didn't take any guff from anybody. If ah...in fact sometimes he'd kind of embarrass you, like that night at the Italian Restaurant you know. But ah...ah....he....he....and he loved ...every time I eat Mexican food I think of Bob Goss, because he...he ordered refried beans 100% of the time.

WES WHATLEY: Every time. He liked refried beans.

JIM CLARK: He loved refried beans and he....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was Mexican food his favorite food?

WES WHATLEY: Yes.

JIM CLARK: Andyeah, he was....he was....he was very fond of it. Now his favorite food was steak. He went to the Stream....Streamliner?

WES WHATLEY: Streamliner.

JIM CLARK: Streamliner Restaurant there in Kilgore every evening and they cooked him aI forget whether it was sirloin or T-bone or something, it was the same steak every day and ah....of course all that fat and all might of contributed to his demise too you know. He ah....he lovedhe ate that every day.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I know Ronnie Griffin, currently the Texas Ranger in Longview, at the time was a Highway Patrolman in Kilgore. But he said every afternoon, oh four, five, six o'clock he didn't remember, but he said, you could see old Bob and Juanita coming down the road. Said he was kind of hunkered over by this time, and he'd be back there behind the wheel of that car just a giving it what for headed for the Pit Grill I think....or the Kettle, which was in Kilgore at that time, down there past the Oil Museum I think, somewhere down in there. Said every afternoon you'd see him, cause here he'd come and his head was all hunched over and his shoulders bunched up, just a giving it what for heading for that....knew they'd go down there every night to eat supper.

JIM CLARK: Well his....he lived in a museum.

WES WHATLEY: He did.

JIM CLARK: His house was totally full of antiques, very , very valuable antiques too. And his wife, if I ever saw two opposites, you'd never see anything.....see was a concert pianist in her early.....in her early years. And a lady always. Ah....it was kind of amusing to us but...that he ah....my wife and I that he....that they got along so well because they were totallyhe told me a story about when they got married they got on the train to go..... I forgot what town they went to....but some small town on their honeymoon. And said they ah...got off the train and said ah....she got her suitcase, of course said it was full and of course old Bob had his suitcase. But of course he didn't want everybody to know they were just newly married so she struggled for two blocks with her suitcase and they checked in this little old motel and....and they had....she had to tussle it and of course take it up two flights of stairs. Got it up there and he said he was going to go get some cigarettes or something and said she decided well she was going to be the loving bride, she would unpack his suitcase. So she opened it up and said, she could have killed him, she said there was a pair of shorts and a pair of socks and a box of cartridges in there. That was all there was in that.

WES WHATLEY: I remember that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did....did Juanita, that was his wife, did she shoot any?

JIM CLARK: No, no, not that I know of. Never heard of her.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....well did you ever ah....you visited her house a lot I presume?

JIM CLARK: Yeah, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well about three or four doors or just a few doors down from them, was the home of ah....you know, probably the worlds greatest concert pianist, Van Cliburn.

JIM CLARK: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did ah....did he ever come up and play with her or....?

JIM CLARK: No....well not that I know of. Now they may have, and she had a fine piano, I mean the best you know. I don't..... I don't....I don't know anything about pianos

WES WHATLEY: As you went in the front door and back to the left.

JIM CLARK:this was a fine one you know. And ah...but in her later years when I knew her best....most, she ah....she had already.....she had some sort of an affliction with her....one of her hands.

WES WHATLEY: Uh hum.

JIM CLARK: She couldn't....couldn't play very well any more. But ah...that house was a sight to see.

WES WHATLEY: Sure was.

JIM CLARK: You could justlittle....little trail where you walkedI mean, beautiful, beautiful furniture.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was she a pretty good cook?

JIM CLARK: You know we never did..... I never did eat with them at home. Ah....

WES WHATLEY: I think they ate out quite a bit.

JIM CLARK: They.....they ate out mostly I think.

WES WHATLEY: I remember.....

JIM CLARK: Now we....wewent out with them and eat numerous times. Ah...she loved....we went....we went over there one time and Bob wasn't there and we took her out and she....I remember she had the greasiest old fried chicken I ever saw and just loved it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I have another friend in Longview who was a....who liked to relate the story that he also knew Bob Goss andbut he'd say I knew a different Bob Goss than the one you

knew and I'd want to say, 'Well I didn't realize that there was more than one Bob Goss'. He said, 'Oh', said, 'Same man', he said, 'I was his Sunday School teacher for ten years'. Of course that blew me away a little bit. But did Bob ever talk relig.....he belonged to the Presbyterian Church, did he ever talk religion with ya'll?

JIM CLARK: No, not....not much. You know he mentioned to me once or twice...to me that he went to Church and went to Sunday School. But ah.....

WES WHATLEY: Uh hum....Juanita played the organ I believe at the Church. The only thing that I remember him saying about religion, if you want to call it that, was he did say one time, 'That if I had my life to live over again I'd like to be a medical doctor and try to save lives rather than take lives'. So I don't know if that was his conscience talking or what.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Or as ah...a friend....a mutual friend of mine and yours Wes ah...said he must of been drunk when he said that.

WES WHATLEY: Well he had been drinking a little.

JIM CLARK: Yeah he....old Bob loved life and loved his beer. Of course old Wes and I did too. We know about that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I don't know about you Jim but you said that in the past tense and the present still applies to Wes, so I mean....

JIM CLARK: Well I...I'm a heavy drinker, I....ah...I'll buy a six pack and it'll last about seven months, so I.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: That sounds about like me and Wes.

WES WHATLEY: Yeah.

JIM CLARK: Hit it real hard.

WES WHATLEY: Right, yeah. I remember....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Go ahead, go ahead.

WES WHATLEY:a funny incident, talking about Juanita, ah....Bob wanted me to follow him home one day from the range and I don't remember what for but he said, 'I want you to come on with me'. And he pulled up I the driveway and I pulled up behind him in a Volkswagen. And I noticed he got out and opened up the turtle hull and he reached in and got something, it looked like a Lewisville slugger and after I got to looking at it, it was and it was cut off right where the end of that trademark was. And then he turned around and looked across the street and he started walking over there and I didn't know what was happening. So I just followed him over there and wondering what was going on. So he hollered in there, said, 'Say, is that your car over there double parked in front of my house'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: This would be over on the Martin Street in Kilgore?

WES WHATLEY: On Martin Street in Kilgore. And it happened to be a black and he said, 'Yeah'. And Bob just walked right over there and hit him up side the head with that bat and down he went. Of course blood went everywhere. And ah....he walked out and went back over across the street. And by that time Juanita had come out of the house and was standing there on....in the edge of the lawn and asked him what happened. And Bob said, 'Well', said, 'This guy had parked, double parked in front of the house'. And she said, 'Well he's got just as much right to park there as you do Bob'. And he said, 'Well he may have had, but I just took it away from him'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What....did Juanita ever express to either one of ya'll any concern or any....anything at all about her husband's propensity for violence?

WES WHATLEY: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You know, cause she....as you said, they just seemed to be totally opposites.

JIM CLARK: Oh yeah. I'm sure she didn't have an ounce of violence in her.

WES WHATLEY: You know she was a..... I remember Bob was telling me a story, it was about a woman that had killed her daughter and he had arrested her that day and that he was very angry of the fact that this woman had killed her own child and he remembered that Juanita had lost her dog that day before and how, you know, terrible she was about a dog dying and here was a woman that had ah....killed her own child. And he said, 'You know that made me think about values a lot'. I remember him relating that to.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: What....was there some physical reason they never had children?

WES WHATLEY: They....

JIM CLARK: I don't know, he never mentioned it to me.

WES WHATLEY:they had a..... I think she had a miscarriage. Ah.....one miscarriage is the best I remember him ever responding to that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was he then close to his nephews or nieces?

WES WHATLEY: I don't think so.

JIM CLARK: No. All I ever....all I ever heard was the name of....if he called one of them's name it was with an oath attached to it. He didn't....they didn't....he called them leeches. He said, 'Their just waiting for me to die so they can get all the....'. And ah....see I didn't know he had died and I drovewe were over there one time and so I went by and I couldn't ah....see any signs of anybody there and so we drove around the corner to a phone and I called and Mrs. Goss answered the phone. And I said, 'Is Mr....is Mr.....and I've forgotten what....something....asked him if he was awake. And she said, 'No she guessed he wasn't because he'd died about a month before that'. And she said, 'I've been trying to get a....thinking about calling you'. Said ah....'Bob said he wanted you to have his gun'. So I set up an appointment with her and went over there. And he had all his guns

in a closet, in a little small closet, about a....oh I guess about a 3' x 3' closet and ah.....so I bought 50 guns and left her with four, two of....two parade pistols, plus a colt monitor and a M-2 carbine.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well ah....what were the....the monitor, what was it?

JIM CLARK: Well it's a commercial made Colt, made by Colt BAR.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Browning Automatic Rifle?

JIM CLARK: Yeah, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what....describe the parade pistols or did.....

JIM CLARK: Well they were highly engraved and I remember he told me that they cost \$375.00 in 1932. And of course that was a tremendous amount of money. That was probably.... the original guns probably sold for around thirty bucks at that time. And they were inlaid with gold and silver and had ah....distinctly remember the handle, they had a ah....ah....ivory handles with a carved bull's head on them and he had a gold ring in his nose and ruby eyes.

WES WHATLEY: And I remember it had, in gold, Robert G. Goss on the back strap.

JIM CLARK: Uh hum.

WES WHATLEY: Company B, Texas Rangers.

JIM CLARK: And they called that his....they called that his parade gun. In fact in his scrapbook there's a picture, I believe Hickman, in a parade wearing those parade guns.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Why didn't you buy those guns?

JIM CLARK: The....they were....for sentimental reasons I guess, she said, 'I just can't part with them right now'. But she said, 'Come back later'. And I fooled around and didn't go back. And before I realized it she was in a nursing home and the next I knew she was dead.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well you know she left a tremendous amount money I guess up there in I think it was Denton ah....

WES WHATLEY: North Texas.

ROBERT NIEMAN: In North Texas there's a pavilion up....on the campus up there called the Juanita Goss pavilion.

JIM CLARK: Uh hum. Well they...they weren't paupers, Bob made....made good money in that oil business.

WES WHATLEY: Uh hum.

JIM CLARK: He ah....he had a business of cleaning oil tanks, storage tanks, cleaning the wax out and did right well with it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He come from a very well to do family too.

JIM CLARK: Yeah, yeah.

WES WHATLEY: He told me his daddy owned 20,000 acres of Red River bottom land and you know when you take one person to work 10 acres, you're talking about 2,000 people or families to work that 20,000 acres. Now that's a kingdom in it's self.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, once again, Glenn Elliott....Wes and I's mutual friend here said that....is from that area, the Honey Grove area, and he related to me he didn't really know Bob, he knew Bob's brothers and his uncles....or Bob's dad. And he said they run a little old plantation up there, not a little, run a big old plantation up there just about like.... like a plantation.

WES WHATLEY: Well they had a commissary and a blacksmith's shop and ah.....a lot barns of course and ah....it....Bob told me many times, he'd go to Texarkana by the train and pick up people to work the farm and bring them back on the train. And of course once they got there on the farm and then got to buying goods from the commissary they ran up a bill to the point that some of them couldn't leave cause they were indebted to Joe Goss, his daddy.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Bob's nephew, Harry, I don't know....ah... I know Wes.....

JIM CLARK: I've talked to Harry several times.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And Harry has told me that ah....and family lore has it that when Bob was a young man that, you know, he wasn't much for working on the farm. They said, you know, the story is then...even then was all Uncle Bob ever wanted to do was ride horses and shoot guns.

WES WHATLEY: Uh hum.

JIM CLARK: Yeah, I don't doubt that. Yeah.

WES WHATLEY: Bob told me that his ah....duty assignments on the farm was to ride to the different people that were working in different sections and making sure that they plowed out so far ah....during the course of the day. And in fact he's told me many times he'd stop and say, 'Now you need to be by the edge of that tree line over there when I come back this afternoon late, you need to plow that far'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did he ever have an active hand in running ofof the family farm?

WES WHATLEY: No.

JIM CLARK: Not that I know of.

WES WHATLEY: No, I don't think so.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He had what, two brothers I think?

WES WHATLEY: Uh hum.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I think one of those did time.

WES WHATLEY: I don't know about that, I know he had one brother that was a....worked with the Austin Sheriff's department.

JIM CLARK: He got he shot in the groin one time and I asked him how. He says, 'Well it was one of the few times when he was a damn fool'. He ah....he set in the car and ah.....let a guy walk

up to him and he stuck a gun in the window and shot. And Bob hit his hand just as he shot and it hit him in the groin, somewhere. Which might explain why they never had children, I don't know.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Very well may.

WES WHATLEY: Bob told me, I think that he said he was using a .44 Smith & Wesson and he killed that guy.

JIM CLARK: Yeah, and he killed him. But the guy shot him in the.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did he say about when this happened?

JIM CLARK: No, I don't know when it was.

WES WHATLEY: I remember.....

JIM CLARK: But he was a Ranger at the time, I do remember him saying that.

WES WHATLEY: Talking about Juanita having sentimental values to the parade pistols, she told me a story, right after they got married, that he was driving in a T Model and it was sandy road and he had to go to the bathroom. And they were getting close to a bridge and he kind of fell out of the ruts and got stuck and as Bob was leaning over the side of the T Model he fell out on his head with his big white hat and his pistols fell in the sand. And she started laughing at him and made it very angry and that he had gotten pistols sanded up. And that might of been something that she was thinking about.

JIM CLARK: Yeah.

WES WHATLEY: But she told me that story.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did he ever relate to any....to either one of ya'll ah....as a youngster, did he want to be a Ranger?

JIM CLARK: No I....he never did say anything to me about that and how he became a Ranger, in fact I know....if I ever asked him I don't remember what his answer was.

WES WHATLEY: I don't.....

JIM CLARK: See and....and he was the Chief of Police in Kilgore for two years.

ROBERT NIEMAN: '34 and '35.

JIM CLARK: Yeah. And that of course was during the height of the boom. And you had to be a pretty tough hombre to even think about doing that job. One story he told us, he was walking going to work one day and these two guys he saw walking on the sidewalk and he....they'd just got out of prison. And he'd sent them to prison. So he walked up to them and he told them, says, 'Now Iyou don't have any business in Kilgore and you're not welcome here and don't let the sun rise on your face here'. Said, 'If you do, I'm going to kill you'. So the next morning he was driving to work and he saw these two dudes going down the railroad tracks. And he just stopped his car and reached back and got a Remington automatic rifle and said, 'BAM, BAM', killed one of them and wounded the other one. And one of his deputies run up and asked him, 'Mr. Bob', said, 'How did you know they just up and robbed the Safeway store'. He said, 'Just go on, I didn't know it at all'. He shot cause of.....cause of what he.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Sun had come up on 'em again.

JIM CLARK: Yeah, yeah, that's right.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I have ah...ah...a story you....I'm sure ya'll are both aware of, but I really liked it. This supposedly bad guy was in Kilgore and he was walking around the street and a double barrel shotgun, sawed off, wrapped in a newspaper under his arm. And Goss saw him and he come up behind him and he just pulled his pistol and said, 'All right Jim, I got the drop on you, you know the way to the jail, go on and head that way'. Didn't ask him for the shotgun or anything. And the guy turns around, you know, slowly to him and says, 'Don't you want this shotgun'. And the story goes that Goss says, 'Naw, you might get to feeling lucky before you get to the jail'. And

said that guy just....or like that shotgun almostyou know.....red hot, he just dropped it, he didn't want no more part of this shotgun.

JIM CLARK: Well when it got too tough for anybody else theythey called for Bob. He was....he...he was tough as they made them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did he ever....Jim we've covered this pretty good with Wes and I, but did he ever talk about his relationship with Gonzauillas, Lone Wolf Gonzauillas?

JIM CLARK: Well yes, he...heand he told me says, 'Gonzauillas was a dangerous man'. And he said he was a good shot up close, but said he couldn't hit a damn thing at a distance.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what's he calling, at a distance?

JIM CLARK: Well, a few feet, few feet. But he said that ah....up to ten or fifteen feet he was deadly and fast, but he said past that he ah....and ah...he had told me that he...he was consideredthey would call his Gonzauillas' shadow. And Iof course I don't.... you take all this you know, an old man talking, but when I got his scrapbook and really verified that he was, all this is true.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well ah....concerning Gonzauillas, one of the....I've interviewed a man named Lewis Rigler, who when he came into the Rangers he was under Gonzauillas and he said they used to go out to the pistol range all the time, all the Rangers, and he said, 'I've been out there numerous', and he said, 'The one thing I never saw all the times I've been on the pistol range was Lone Wolf Gonzauillas', he said, 'I never saw Lone Wolf Gonzauillas pull a trigger'. Said, 'All the rest of us had to shoot, but he never shot'. That makes me wonder if, you know, if they was shooting a distance, Gonzauillas didn't want his men to know how....that he wasn't that great a shot on distance.

JIM CLARK: Well according to that.....according to that scrapbook ah....Bob won the Texas Championship one time and....but now what Championship this was I have no idea.

WES WHATLEY: It was the Rangers I believe.

JIM CLARK: It must of been the Rangers because.....

WES WHATLEY: I saw his trophy, it was in 1938.

JIM CLARK: I men..... I mentioned that to old Charlie Askins one time and he said, 'That's a bull shit', said, 'He didn't' I was the Texas Champion'. Which he.... I nev.....but this probably had to do with the Rangers.

WES WHATLEY: Uh hum.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Wes you told me a story, which is not on our other interview, about, you know, Gonzauillas and then ah....ah...Goss, not getting along that well and you tell an interesting story that happened over at the old log cabin type Company B headquarters in Dallas, when Gonzauillas and Goss got into it.

WES WHATLEY: Bob told me that ah....whatever the situation was, Gonzauillas and Bob disagreed to the point that Bob got fed up with Gonzauillas and both were standing and Bob said, 'You son-of-a-bitch go ahead and scratch your ass'. That's the exact words he said. And Gonzauillas didn't move, but did a sharp about face and walked away from him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: He never did.....you don't remember what they got into it about?

WES WHATLEY: I don't know what it was. He might of told me, he probably did and I just don't remember. But I do remember the statement that....what he told Gonzauillas.

JIM CLARK: He had the greatest respect for old Hickman though.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Tom Hickman?

WES WHATLEY: Oh yeah.

JIM CLARK: Yeah, yeah. He sure....he....he....he was the finest man he ever knew.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....Wes has related that he also had a high respect for two other Rangers, of course Frank Hamer.....

JIM CLARK: Uh hum.

ROBERT NIEMAN:the killer of Bonnie and Clyde and ah....Hardy Pervis out of Lufkin. Did he

JIM CLARK: Yeah, heard him talk about both of them, quite a lot. And yeah, he...he was a great admirer of all of them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Do you remember any of the stories he talked about them?

JIM CLARK: No, sure don't. You know I....when we leave here I'll probably remember some, but ah....in that scrapbook you....in those newspaper articles, quite often he and Gonzauillas were on....were on a case together.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I know they went up to Sherman together on that incident which has been covered umpteen times, where ah....the black.... I don't remember what the charge was, he had assaulted a white woman was it and ah....ya'll can go ahead and relate that story, we'll get that down good.

JIM CLARK: What the one....when they burned.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: On the Sherman.

JIM CLARK:where they burned the courthouse?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, where they burned the courthouse down.

JIM CLARK: Yeah, well of course that's all inthey got old newspaper articles on that. They ah...ah....well they accused him of rape and ah....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Raping a white woman.

JIM CLARK: Yeah. And ah....cause there was of course very much doubt that he actually did. But in case the mob came after him and ah....they finally took the courthouse and set it on fire. And they had put him in a vault on the top floor to protect him from the mob and of course when they set the courthouse on fire welland then, show you how violent they were in those days, they took the corpse and drug it through the streets and hung him to a tree.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hum. Now you've got pictures of that.

JIM CLARK: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Wes, you tell an interesting story that happened too out in the street just before they brunt the courthouse, with Gonzauillas and Goss.

WES WHATLEY: Yeah, Gonzauillas, is what Bob told me, had a Thompson sub-machine gun and Bob had a Remington model 11 shotgun with bird shot. And he said Gonzauillas kept inching closer to the crowd trying to identify the ring leader and try to start talking to him. And Bob kept telling him, 'You're getting too close to the crowd, back up'. And ah....Gonzauillas kept inching forward and Bob hollered at him the second time and got rather loud said, 'You're getting too damn close to crowd'. And about that time an alley apple or a half brick hit Gonzauillas up side the head and knocked him down and knocked him out is the best way I can understand Bob told me. And so he got Gonzauillas ah.....after he shot several shots on the brick streets to ricochet up and hit the crowd in the knees with that bird shot to get them moving back. And then he rescued Gonzauillas and got him out of the way. But Bob told me when ah....the fire trucks came up that the crowd just systematically cut the fire hoses so they couldn't put the fire out .

ROBERT NIEMAN: That model 11, was that a 12 gauge?

WES WHATLEY: 12 gauge.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Any other stories ya'll can remember on....on Goss that ah...not necessarily just stories or feelings.....did....did ah....did he care.... I mean was he pretty callous towards other people's feelings or did he take their feelings into consideration?

JIM CLARK: Well he was a....he was a gentleman. I never saw him ah....man you wouldn't hesitate to take him home with you, he was a gentleman all the way, you know. Andand especially to ladies, always tipped his hat, yes ma'am and no ma'am and I mean he....he....nothing but a gentleman.

WES WHATLEY: Impeccable manners.

JIM CLARK: Yes, all the way.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Have...have you got that Jim, that first gun that you made for Bob? Was that in that collection you bought?

JIM CLARK: I....yeah I think so, yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Wes has told the story, he said ah....that in his older age he developed kind of a quiver in his hand and he couldn't shoot the way he used to. And how he'd take that gun and just slam it andout of frustration.

JIM CLARK: Yeah, I don't doubt it. No.

WES WHATLEY: I've seen him hit that wooden bench, just BAM, that accurized pistol you know, and he'd have a flyer on the target and cuss. And he told me he was going to have to send it back over to you cause it was getting loose.

JIM CLARK: He was beating the devil out of it. No wonder it was loose.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well how wouldah....how would youwhat would be your closing thoughts on Bob Goss, Jim?

JIM CLARK: Well, if I had it to do over again I would ah...ah... I would invite him to go on more matches. Ah....he was a lot of fun to be with, except for those times when somebody crossed him, now he....he'd get pretty saucy. Ah...up at the Caddo Club one time, there was something to do with ah....some guy wasn't scoring him like he thought he ought to be scored. And ah....he...he was giving him a little problem and ah....so they....somebody called the ranger officer and they sent Tom down there again.

WES WHATLEY: Uh hum.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Tom?

WES WHATLEY: Parker.

JIM CLARK: Tom Parker, from Dallas. And ah...ah....Bob liked Tom and respected him, and anyway he went down and they....they separated him and they put somebody in the other man's court, he washe was going to make button holes out of his shirt too.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Jim, the first time I talked to you on the phone, you told a real ah....almost a chilling story, to me at least, on Goss, that you and he had been to a shooting match somewhere and in the wee hours of the morning or real late at night, and you asked him about how many men he had killed. Could you relate that story, cause the way you told it then, he just kind ofwithout batting an eye, real cold almost looking at you and saying how many men he had killed.

JIM CLARK: Yeah it's ah....I don't remember why, but I asked him....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well do you remember where ya'll had been?

JIM CLARK: No....ah...he just said, eighteen. And ah....I didn't.... I didn't elaborate. There's no telling how many....

ROBERT NIEMAN: You add those.

JIM CLARK: No.

WES WHATLEY: Bob had always told me he was a lot better meat shooter than he was a target shooter.

JIM CLARK: I told him one time about Bill Jordan going up there and testifying in a trial and about them holding...having a guy hold a pistol on him, cocked, and if he saw him move just pull the trigger. But he....

ROBERT NIEMAN: If he saw Goss move?

JIM CLARK: No...time...he was demonstrating....he was demonstrating that....that his reaction was faster than the guy who....see these are guys that are just so...well....Bill Jordan is a....is a retired Border Patrol....and one of the fastest guns there ever lived. And he went up to....went to Wyoming and testified in a trial for a friend of his. And anyway, one of the demonstrations was that he had a deputy hold a cocked pistol on him, and he said, 'When you see me move, pull the trigger'. Well three times Bill in affect killed him, or shot him before he could pull the trigger. And Bob made the statement said, 'Well he could do it to that guy but he couldn't do it to me'. And I said, 'Well Bob why not'. He said, 'I wouldn't be watching him for movement, I'd be watching his eyes, have to see it in his eyes'. I don't doubt that at all. In fact, that's what this trial was all about. This ah...guy was ah...ah...was a special deputy of some kind and they sent him over to....to ah...oh I can't remember the name of that town now...Box Springs in Wyoming, to ah....they had ah...rackets and racketeers and prostitutes and they...you know, were taking the town over. Anyway, they had a....he had an assistant who was a Mexican and they didn't get along and so ah....he said it was not....wasn't his assistantthey'd of sent this guy up there to help him...to assist him. But anyway, they didn't get along at all. And one day they were sitting in a....he was sitting in the passenger seat and this guy was sitting in the left rear....and ah...this old boy pulled out his pistol and shot him between the eyes. Come to find out there were wanted over in Arp. They

asked....ah...I can't think of the guys name now, they asked him, 'Well why did you kill him'. He said, 'Because he was going to kill me'. He said, 'Well how do you know he was going to kill you'. He said, 'I could see it in his eyes'. And that's what...what all this demonstration was about at the trial. You remember this...this famous trial lawyer up in Wyoming that never had

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh, Jerry Spence.

JIM CLARK: Jerry Spence, well he was....he was the lawyer. And he...he ah...had Bill up there to put on this demonstration.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hum.

JIM CLARK: And the jury...the jury stayed out ah...ah...about twenty minutes and acquitted him and the Judge asked him to autograph....asked Jordan to autograph one of his books.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well when did you ah...ask each of you this question, which ever wants to go first, go ahead, when did you first realize that, you know, you were dealing with a man who in my opinion should at least be in the Texas Ranger Hall Fame, but it was a man that was a...a....well I hate to keep using the word deadly, but he was.

JIM CLARK: Yeah, I suppose....frankly I went to the Texas Ranger Museum and met the curator ah....(unintelligible)...who was a very interesting character, and I was amazed that they...he'd never heard of him and that they didn't have anything there in the Museum about him. And I took the scrapbook over there and showed it to the (unintelligible)....and what he wanted more than anything else was a...a portrait of Bob, which I don't know if one exist or not. And he said he would display it a prom...very prominently over there if they get a good portrait of him. And he said he also would like photos of those parade pistols to go with it, along with some stories and so forth. Yes, he should....he should be in that Texas Ranger Museum, by all means.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Wes?

WES WHATLEY: Well I just have the utmost respect for Bob and I that he was a man for the time. Ah....it was rough back there in the oil boom and back there in the '20's there were a lot of ah...criminal activity and you had to deal with people rather harshly and he knew how to do it. He may not fit the time today as far as ah....the way a peace officer should handle himself, but he was a man for the time, at that time. And I didn't have any doubt in my mind that ah...Bob ah...would defend himself at the drop of a hat. In fact, I think I alluded to this before, but I was fond of kidding Bob, I always had some, you know, laughing at a joke or carrying on, such as...I think I've said before, let me snap your old rusty pistol, talking about Shorty that he carried all the time in his pocket.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Shorty was a .38 ?

WES WHATLEY: .38 Special, snob nosed.

JIM CLARK: Chief Special.

WES WHATLEY: It was model 36. And ah....in the point of talking he said, 'You know Mr. Wesley', said, 'You're the only man alive that's ever talked to me like you talk to me'. And I said, 'Why is that Bob'. And he said, 'Well' he said, 'I guess people are just afraid to let themselves go and talk to me because they might think I was aloof or dangerous or afraid of me or whatever'. But said, 'You know I said I just kind of like the way you carry on with me', and said, 'But now if any time you get to bucks and I say now that's enough, that's exactly what I mean'. And I said, 'Yes sir Mr. Bob I understand'.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well do you think he tried to perpetuate this...or...or...this ah....almost loose cannon attitude that you might...that, you know, if you....I know Gonzauillas, in '31, when he brought in Goss and he brought in Leo Bishop and some of those others, he went around telling everybody and I'm sure he did the same thing with Goss he did with Leo Bishop. Now Bishop was

a border Ranger in South Texas and he when he got there Gonzauillas went around telling everybody, old Leo Bishop's killed half the people in Mexico and he's done this and he's killed these people and he....you know you'd think the man....you know....killed, you know, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people. In fact it got so that Leo got nervous and went and bought some extra shells, cause then he went to Gonzauillas and complained and said, 'Man what are you telling all these stories for, they're not true of course'. And he said, 'Why did you tell all these people this'. And of course Gonzauillas was a smart man and he was playing the psychological game, that these people around here thought, boy you better not mess with this Gonzauillas, or Goss, or Bishop, man they'll kill you....they'd rather kill you to see which way you would fall. Now I'm wondering if Goss also tried to perpetuate that reputation, that maybe a lot of times saved trouble.

JIM CLARK: I don't think so.

WES WHATLEY: I don't either. I sure don't. I've never, ever heard him express anything....

JIM CLARK: I never....I've never heard brag period.

WES WHATLEY: No, huh uh.

JIM CLARK: He'd tell a story, but he was just telling facts.

WES WHATLEY: That's right.

JIM CLARK: He didn't ah....no he didn't brag. He didn't have to brag.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, to kill as many men as got, would you say though that he was the type person where if he had a chance to talk or shoot, he'd talk, or if he had a chance to shoot or talk, he'd shoot?

WES WHATLEY: He'd shoot.

JIM CLARK: Well of course he...he was...he did...he was going to take care of Bob Goss and you can bet on that.

WES WHATLEY: That's right. I think he'd shoot if he thought there was the slightest chance that you might (?)....

JIM CLARK: Yeah, he would have a....he would have difficulty being a lawman now.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I'd say it would probably be impossible. Or...even for Gonzauillas or anybody, because times have changed so much.

JIM CLARK: In fact I've got ah...I've got two books and ah...came out of his collection and it was about early Ranger life. Your welcome to read it, it's real interesting, real interesting.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well ah....any other things ya'll would like...well let me ask you ah...I'm trying to cover things here that maybe....did he ever express any like toward sports? Or...what...what did he do for relaxation?

JIM CLARK: Shot.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Shot.

WES WHATLEY: That's what he thought about.

JIM CLARK: Oh yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well Jim Ray, an old retired Ranger, in fact a retired Chief of Criminal Law Enforcement, lives over in Bullard, Texas and he was a Ranger in that area and of course he said, 'I always hated to go to Kilgore and run into Bob Goss', said, 'Cause all that old...crazy old son-of-a-bitch could say was let's go shoot, let's go shoot'.

JIM CLARK: Well he did, he shot...I expect he shot more days of his life than he didn't.

WES WHATLEY: I agree.

JIM CLARK: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was it...Wes was it you that told me, or it may have been Glenn Elliott that told me, said that Goss once said, 'You're not serious about shooting until you've fired at least a million rounds' ?

WES WHATLEY: No, I never heard him say that.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I think he said that once to Glenn Elliott.

WES WHATLEY: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You're not serious about it.

JIM CLARK: Well he...he believed....he believed in practice.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well both of ya'll were, you know, as good a pistol shots as ever...ever been. Now I know Wes has related to me that for the heights that he reached at least, he really didn't practice that much. Did you Jim?

JIM CLARK: Of sure, yeah. Yeah, I...I was one of those had to practice. Some people don't have to, but I did. And ah...in fact that's one reason I quite as early as I did, because it took all my time. But I didn't...I was...Lord I shot for 28 years without interruption. And I was...I was amazed that I finally could do other things on the weekend.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well now how many rounds a week would you normally shoot?

JIM CLARK: Oh I got a....it was not...see the type of shooting we were doing, you didn't shoot that many rounds, because it's precision shooting. It...it you know, each shot is concentration. Ah...see now these games they play now, these shooting games, they'll shoot more in a week than I shot in a year.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So really you're like Wes, you didn't really shoot that much.

JIM CLARK: No, not that many rounds.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah, well that's what I was....

JIM CLARK: With...with....with the type of shooting we were doing took a lot of time.

WES WHATLEY: You still have to go out to the range and you'd get away from....

JIM CLARK: Yeah, to give you an idea ah....I got a son-in-law and he'd go....he'd prepare for a match, the Masters which is coming up, well he'll shoot 2,000 rounds a day getting ready for that.

WES WHATLEY: That would just burn me up to the point that I wouldn't want to shoot anymore.

JIM CLARK: Well, you'd be surprised, I'd tell...I could easy tell them the name of the game is to load all the magazines you have and then see how fast you can unload them. Cause that's what they do.

WES WHATLEY: Yeah, yeah.

JIM CLARK: Yeah, and they'll shoot more ah....when I first got introduced to this ga...this combat type shooting, we went up to see...Little Jim and I flew up to John Shaw's and we had a school. We took an ammunition can, we was going for two days, and we took an ammunition can for a .45. We had to borrow ammunition for the second day.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well when did you two meet?

WES WHATLEY: I guess about '57 when I was ah....

JIM CLARK: It's when you started shooting.

WES WHATLEY: I was shooting with Bob. Jim and I was on the team in 1960, Caddo Rifle and Pistol, we set the civilian, national .45 record.

ROBERT NIEMAN: It still stand?

WES WHATLEY: No, I don't think so.

JIM CLARK: No, huh uh.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What was your record then?

JIM CLARK: I've forgotten.

WES WHATLEY: I don't remember. Eleven, thirty something I think.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Jim you said earlier you still go to the...as an observer....

JIM CLARK: Well no, I go and work and sell.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well you set up a booth?

JIM CLARK: Yeah. See they have...at Camp Perry they have what they call Commercial Row, it's a row of old, actually a old mess hall, they had on the Ohio National Guard base. And ah...these...they call this Commercial Row and you rent it for the week, set up ..do what you need, sell, fix and of course I've doing it so long that I have a tremendous number of guns up there. And I have a lot of...and I do minor repairs free of charge.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And ah...do you still go to each show Wes?

WES WHATLEY: No, I don't. I was going to ask you, is Ed Polk the group tightener man, is he....

JIM CLARK: He died...some...I don't.....you know he promised me he was going to give me that recipe, the old cuss died without doing it.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Let me ask each one of ya'll the same question. We're off Goss now, but I mean you all both had your own distinguished career, don't have to take a back seat to anybody. I want to ask both of ya'll this, which ever one of you want to go first, go ahead. Describe the preparation you would go through to a national, to shoot. Say take the week before, this is Saturday and the shoot's going to be a week from today.

WES WHATLEY: I'll take...let me...let me start off with a joke. Going to Camp Perry, you get in the bathtub and turn a fan on and stand under the shower and stick your pistol out and dry fire....that's how you get ready for Camp Perry.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Say it's a little humid?

WES WHATLEY: Yeah, the wind blows and it's rain.

JIM CLARK: There ah....that...that old saying, if you don't like the weather at Camp Perry just wait a few minutes it'll change.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where is Camp Perry, Ohio?

JIM CLARK: It's right on the Lake Erie, shore of Lake Erie.

WES WHATLEY: Uh hum.

JIM CLARK: And it's actually an old...it was at one time an airport. Where...on the line where we shoot, the airplanes landed exactly on the line. So it's wide open and on the lake and the weather comes from the west and man it can just do anything.

WES WHATLEY: It would blow hard enough to blow your gun box completely off the stand.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Oh I used to drive a truck through there, I know what you're talking about. In the middle of winter I used to come through there a lot. But anyway, ah....today's Saturday, a week from today is ah...your ah....is your meet, what do you do now then in this week?

JIM CLARK: Ah...nothing special, practice if you get a chance. But the main thing is to be sure your equipment's in order. Ah....I always had a problem with that because ah...people would come up to me and say, 'Yeah you make this gun special'. But ah...and I'd say, 'Okay if it's so special I'll tell you what I'll do, I'll sell it to you'. So I...it was amazing how guns....how many matches I went to shooting a brand new gun each time.

WES WHATLEY: I've seen that happen, more than once.

JIM CLARK: Yeah. So ah...I had to be prepared to have my equipment.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well, how long do...matches would last two days?

WES WHATLEY: Most of the time.

JIM CLARK: Camp Perry it was three days. Most....mostmost of them....

WES WHATLEY: Three days.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Two to three days.

JIM CLARK: Local matches two days.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You're standing down in the weather all this time, did you do any training physically, to get ready for this?

JIM CLARK: Oh sure, sure, sure, sure, yeah. And you'd have to do...you have to be physically strong and you use muscles shooting, the type of shooting we did, use muscles you don't use any...any other thing. The closest thing to it would be a barber. We used to use...when I first started shooting there was an old fella named Jess Woody, he was a barber out in Stanton, Texas.

WES WHATLEY: Yeah, and his boy.

JIM CLARK: And ah....of course he stood there with his arm up all....well what do you do that does that, you know you use that muscle. Nobody, but this is the way you shoot. And these muscles you hold them up, do anything else that they want.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you work with weights or anything?

JIM CLARK: Oh sure. And then....

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did you Wes?

WES WHATLEY: I'd use a grip, I didn't work with weights. The only I'd do is do push ups to build your triceps.

JIM CLARK: While I....while I was ah...ah...when one time....back in the '50's when I was commuting a few miles I....I'd take a milk bottle full of sand and drive along and hold it.

WES WHATLEY: There's one thing I always remembered, when your carrying three guns and your gun box and ammunition, I never carried it in my right hand I always carried it in left, to make sure my shooting hand was ah...fresh all the time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And then what...what would the tournament itself be like? I mean would you....I mean, what did you do, go out there and fire a clip, and the I mean, describe the match itself. You got to remember, I've never been to one, I don't know anything about it, so....and most people who watch this tape will be the same as me.

JIM CLARK: Well you shoot 90 rounds with each caliber, .22, semi-fire and .45. And a third of each of that is slow fire and a third of it is time fire and a third of it's rapid fire. And ah...the rapid and time fire is shot at 25 yards, usually on turning targets. Slow fire of course you have a minute to fire your shot, so it's....

WES WHATLEY: That's 50 yards.

JIM CLARK:50 yards.

WES WHATLEY: And it's the same bulls eye diameter, scoring rings at 50 yards.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How big is that?

WES WHATLEY: 3.3" is the ten ring and 1.67" is the X ring.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And which one would you shoot at, both?

WES WHATLEY: You try....

JIM CLARK: Well your shooting for the ten of course, but they use the X ring to ah....

WES WHATLEY: Break ties.

JIM CLARK:to break ties.

WES WHATLEY: But the matches are won at the 50 yard line.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And what would you do, just....I mean how guys would be on the line or one guy at a time or...?

JIM CLARK: Oh no, no. Back at Camp Perry they had 100 target ranges.

WES WHATLEY: Caddo Rifle and Pistol Club, the old one, had 80 targets.

ROBERT NIEMAN: So your con....power of concentration has to be great.

JIM CLARK: Oh yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: With all of the shooting going on around you.

JIM CLARK: Yeah.

WES WHATLEY: Oh yeah. You had to have good ear plugs and you had to have aget your mind ready to think, what do I need to do systematically to take my time away from worrying about what I'm going to do and just have a routine set up.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well of the three types of shooting, what was each one of yours favorite? Rapid or timed or....?

WES WHATLEY: Oh....I'd rather shoot rapid than timed cause it seemed like it was too long and I always liked to dress up that last shot and wind up jerking it. Or as they used to say, ambushing the trigger.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well you say they shoot a lot more now than they did when ya'll shot?

JIM CLARK: Oh yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: What's different now ?

JIM CLARK: Different type shooting. They...they ah...combat type shooting , simulated combat. Ah...and it's more interesting and oh there's any number of shooting that was....now. One of them very popular is they shoot bowling pins. Set bowling pins on the front side of a 3' table, you had to knock them off. It's all a timed event. You start at a signal and when the last pin hits the ground it stops. And ah...that...that's big business.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Was that combat shooting and this bowling pin shooting, now is that one handed still or two handed?

JIM CLARK: No, no, no, it still two handed.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And is that still automatics or revolvers?

JIM CLARK: Both of them, both, but mostly automatic, yeah. And ah....see the...when ...when they first started all this combat type shooting, the bulls eye shooter look at them kind of down their nose at them and they were a bunch of cowboys you know. And they in turn looked at us as a bunch of old fuddy duddies. Well they have created a match called the Masters. Now that incorporates all those disciplines....so you have to learn each others games. Best thing ever happened. Now everybody respects everybody else's game see. And they...they appreciate how difficult they are.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well is there totally different type ah.....

JIM CLARK: Oh sure.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well what I mean, is rifles shot at these matches too?

JIM CLARK: Sure, sure, sure.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Did either one of ya'll ever win any championships with rifles?

JIM CLARK: No, I...I...I never....in high school I shot on ROTC's rifle team, that's all the rifle shooting I ever did in competition.

WES WHATLEY: My....

JIM CLARK: Now my son is a National Champion.

WES WHATLEY: My dad, as with Jim, was in the Marine Corp. and was a sniper and was wounded on Siapan and if I'm not mistaken ya'll, you and your buddy, killed scores and scores of Japs before....before you got shot ah....yourself.

JIM CLARK: Well it was on the 4th of July 1944, just happened to be in the right position at the right time.

ROBERT NIEMAN: You want to relate that?

JIM CLARK: Oh....me and a....me and a sniper, one of those scout sniper they called it....

ROBERT NIEMAN: What did you shoot?

JIM CLARK: It was Springfield 03 with a scope.

ROBERT NIEMAN: 303?

WES WHATLEY: 30.07.

JIM CLARK: And I went up to thison this cliff, very big, steep cliff, on the north side of Siapan and the 2nd Marine Division was running....was invading the town Garivan, you've seen these movies with all the refugees on the road and well that's what it was. Only they were....the closest ones were about 1,000 yards, furthest was about 1,500 yards. So it took me a few rounds to get sighted in but ah.... I shot three different....three bandoleers of ammunition.

ROBERT NIEMAN: And?

JIM CLARK: And after I got sighted in, there was not much missing .

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well somebody's going to watch this film and say you got...why didn't ask how manywhat was your count? Or did you ever....?

JIM CLARK: I lost count. But ah....let's see, if I remember right a bandoleer had 90 round, fired three bandoleers plus what I had on me when I got there and I went back and got ammunition twice.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well did the Japanese ever figure out where you was at or....?

JIM CLARK: No, no. Now I called for mortar to come up there, they could of really of been....but this fool Lieutenant sent a machine gun and it fired two bursts, it was full and three of them got shot. Ah...well I knew what was going to happen so I got away from it. No, they never did find me, I....single shot, you shoot one shot at a time it's hard to find, hard to detect.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well....they're just standing out in the open or....?

JIM CLARK: No, no, they were...they were....they were down and but see they...this so called smokeless powder we had wasn't smokeless. If you can shoot a burst with a machine gun and hell anybody can see you.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah.

JIM CLARK: So they.....

ROBERT NIEMAN: But the Japanese, were they dug in or....?

JIM CLARK: No, no, they were...well we really don't know who shot at 'em....or shot them, it could of been some dug in Japs, you know, I don't know. But it also could of been some of the people on the road, but not likely. Because they were so accurate with their rifle fire, they was probably over closer down under me that I didn't see them.

ROBERT NIEMAN: But I'm talking about those that you were shooting.

JIM CLARK: Oh no, they were....they... I never did get any return fire at all.

ROBERT NIEMAN: I mean were they dug in or....?

JIM CLARK: Oh no, no they was on the road. They....they were evacuating out of this town.

WES WHATLEY: Well do you.... I remember you telling me about the time when you looked back and you saw Japanese soldiers behind you and you didn't have your....your....your jumper jacket on .

JIM CLARK: Well I was laying in a.... I was laying in fox hole cleaning my rifle.

WES WHATLEY: Uh hum.

JIM CLARK: And ah....had it all apart. And this dude jumped up out of a hole and come running at us and I fortunately had a .45 automatic.

WES WHATLEY: Uh hum.

JIM CLARK: Hit him with a .45 automatic. But they ah....we were rushing forward one day, charging, and I bent down beside a tree and started to shot and I heard a groan and I looked down and there was a damn Jap right there in a hole. I guess he was out of ammunition or....anyway he was all hunkered over and I just turned it up.....

WES WHATLEY: Uh hum.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Finished him off. Well then you were wounded?

JIM CLARK: Yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: In this same action?

JIM CLARK: Well, two days later.

ROBERT NIEMAN: How did that happen?

JIM CLARK: Well they sent us down a ...a...came to a cliff...we were proceeded advance in the line , came to a cliff, of course we couldn't go down the cliff, so they parted them and sent them around each end. And they sent me and another guy down the cliff to....so we ...they would have.....so when we saw them we could signal and they'd come down. We got down there, damn Japs got...started running around down in the valley below us, so we laid down on the road and started shooting at them. Well we didn't know there was some Japs in a cave behind us. And they plugged us, in fact they shot with a machine gun and hit my buddy who was over here and I jumped up, run back across the road and turned around to ask him how he was and that's when they plugged me.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Where did they hit you?

JIM CLARK: Right.....and he was....I'm sure he was aiming for the heart, cause he shot me right there and it came out right here. I bent over and

ROBERT NIEMAN: How long were you in the hospital?

JIM CLARK: Oh, six months, I had....para....paralyzed my left arm.

ROBERT NIEMAN: It kill your buddy?

JIM CLARK: No, no. In fact he was hit three....with three different bullets and one bullet made ah...let's see, four holes, still didn't kill him.

WES WHATLEY: Hum.

JIM CLARK: One went through his shoulder, outin his neck and out, and didn't kill him.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Hum. Well did you win any decorations on this?

JIM CLARK: No. No there was....there was thousands of them doing the same thing I was doing.

WES WHATLEY: Jim....Jim should of gotten a decorationhe probably won't say anything about it, but before all this started he was walking past the sentries and ah.... I think was it liquor that the officers had ah...they had some liquor that you got a hold of and you was carrying it back and he chall....got challenged and wanted to know what it.....where you were going, and you said you had a three day pass.

JIM CLARK: Yeah, that was...that was on....that was on (unintelligible)..... That was a little old small island, that was kind ofkind ofreally wasn't much of a battle. Secured both of them in one day. But anyway they were....they had some ah...rice wine over on the other island and I went across the causeway and by that time they'd got on to it and they wouldn't let you go back across there. So I found a suitcase and I filled it up and started back across there and he asked me what I was doing and I told him I was going on a three day pass.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Yeah...well over in ah...Lindale, between Longview and Dallas ah....there's an old....I'm going to be talking to shortly....an old Marine Corp. raider, are you familiar with any of those boys?

JIM CLARK: Oh yeah.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah....this guy is very talkative, in fact I'm hoping to get him in one of our programs, to give one of our programs. Ah.... I didn't know if you ah....were familiar with them or not. But I understand Bum Phillips of the Houston Oilers' coach was a raider. They were a very small outfit, they didn't.....

JIM CLARK: Oh yeah they.....

ROBERT NIEMAN:they weren't....didn't last long. They had, had I guess maybe

JIM CLARK: Well the raiders were a pretty tough bunch. Yeah, in fact the damn training.... I had visions of that at one time or another.after Ihell they never walked anywhere, nowhere, every damn step they took was running.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well that's....I've heard you know the expression that you know, these guys, these old Marine Corp. raiders they had like Navy Seal or Green Beret for lunch and the other one for dessert you know.

JIM CLARK: Ah...they're no....they're no pantywaist, but they...it was, that damn Marine raider was too tough for me I'll tell you.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Ah...well let's go...that's....I got...about asked everything I know to ask. Any other comments ya'll have in general on Goss or ah....did he....let me ask one other question. In 1946 I know he run against, I think, Dwight Watson for Constable over in Kilgore and he got beat and Watson....I've talked to him, I haven't interviewed him, I'm going to, said that they were very good friends, I mean they never had any animosity. But ah...did Goss ever say anything about that?

WES WHATLEY: Not to me.

JIM CLARK: No.

ROBERT NIEMAN: Gentlemen, is there anything else ya'll want to add?

JIM CLARK: Can't think of any.

WES WHATLEY: No, I couldn't think of anything, Jim?

ROBERT NIEMAN: Well I do appreciate it and we'll ah...appreciate your time.

WES WHATLEY: Thank you.