

INTERVIEW WITH

WES WHATLEY

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PROJECT:  
BOB GOSS, TEXAS RANGER

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED AT HOME OF  
ROBERT NIEMAN  
LONGVIEW, TEXAS  
MONDAY - FEBRUARY 20, 1995

INTERVIEWED BY:  
ROBERT NIEMAN  
LONGVIEW, TEXAS

Present At Interview: Wes Whatley and Robert Nieman

**E-Book Project Staff:** Robert Nieman, Volunteer; Byron A. Johnson, Christina Stopka & Judy Shofner, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum staff.



## Introduction

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Wes Whatley  
Bob Goss, Texas Ranger

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Today is February 20, 1995. The purpose of this interview is to discuss the Texas Rangers in general and the career of Ranger Bob Goss in particular. Mr. Whatley do I have your permission to video tape this interview?

**WES WHATLEY:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Mr. Whatley you understand that this videotape will belong to you, the Texas Ranger Research Library in Waco and to me.

**WES WHATLEY:** Yes.

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

**WES WHATLEY:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What is your full name?

**WES WHATLEY:** Wesley L. Whatley.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And where are you from Wes?

**WES WHATLEY:** I'm from Longview, I was born in Longview and from the time...well that I spent in the service and then going to college I have been in Longview my entire life.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How did you get to know Bob Goss?

**WES WHATLEY:** I had heard of Bob Goss all my life, when I was a young kid. My daddy was a deputy Sheriff after being laid off in the depression and in the '30s ah....well Will Hayes he ah...knew Mr. Bob and ah...he had talked of him favorably for a number of years. And ah....the first time I ever saw Bob to visit with him was in early 1957 out at the East Texas Rifle and Pistol Club

Range, I happened to be out there shooting my rifle and Bob was shooting his .45 and he was having problems with it. And he came down from the pistol range which was on a hill, down to the rifle range and asked me did I mind coming up to the range with him. And I did and ah....he wanted me to shoot that pistol. And I shot it reasonably well and he wanted me to come back the next day. And we met again and Bob was having problems with the .45 and I think he finally figured it out, but maybe it could of been in the (unintelligible)...weapon. And we practiced for a number of days and in this spring of....or fall of 1957 we went to Ft. Worth to a pistol match and he furnished me with a set of guns that he loaned me and ah....drove to Ft. Worth and fired....that was my first match that I shot.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well what kind of guns were they?

**WES WHATLEY:** It was a .22 Ruger and a .38 Super with a matched barrel in it that shot .38 wad cutters and then a .45 automatic.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What is wadcutters?

**WES WHATLEY:** Wad cutters are bullets that are basically designed for target shooting, that ah...have medium velocity, not high velocity. Ah...they're super accurate. But anyway ah....going to that match I became interested and ah...we struck up a friendship I guess that ah....lasted for six years which we went to rifle and pistol range every afternoon Monday through Friday and practiced and then we went to six to eight pistol matches a year in Texas and Louisiana and in Arkansas. And I got to know Bob quite well, he told me a lot of his background and ah....his history and he shared some rather private thoughts with me. I think one I remember, in Arkansas he told me that if he had it to do all over again he would have liked to have been a medical doctor rather than a Texas Ranger. He kind of laughed in away saying that he had rather try to help save people than maybe have to dispatch with a weapon, which he had done, I think he told me eighteen times

in the Ranger service. Ah...Bob also shared an incident with me when he was a teenager when he was living at Honey Grove where a man rode up on a horse and had ridden past the gate inside the fence and trampled his mother's flowers. And ah...that had happened several days before and whatever the circumstances were, he came back and went through the gate again and again was trampling the flowers and his mother told him to get the horse out and tie it to the hitching post. And the man became rather abusive with his mother and he quickly shot him off that horse. And that, he told me, was the first man that he killed, he was either fifteen or sixteen years old. And he told me during this time that he was working with the tenant farmers at Honey Grove and his daddy evidently was quite wealthy, he had thousands of acres of that Red River black land around Honey Grove and he had some trouble with one of the blacks that ah....whatever the situation was he...the black picked up a trace chain and was started at Bob. And Bob had a single action .45 and he told me that he shot him five times with that .45 and on the fifth shot he dropped coming at him with a trace chain. I recall that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well going back to this first killing, when he killed the guy riding in his mother's flowers, was he charged or ...?

**WES WHATLEY:** I do not know. He didn't ah...get into that, I assume that he was or he could of been no-billed I...I'm just not positive on that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What about the second one, where he killed the black?

**WES WHATLEY:** Ah...he didn't say again. Ah...there was another incident where a black was trying to get away and cross...trying to cross the Red River in a boat.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And was Bob a Ranger at this time or...?

**WES WHATLEY:** Ah...I'm not sure if he was or not, I doubt that he was. But he by this time had .45 automatic and ah...Bob saw him and he thought he was going to get away and he fired one shot

ah...at him and hit him in the back of the head and killed him and ah....he stepped off and he said it was 402 steps with a .45 automatic service pistol.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What was the guy running for?

**WES WHATLEY:** He was trying to get away from that farm. Ah...I do not know what ah...the situation was, I know Bob told me that his daddy pretty well took care of all of the people that worked on the farm and he married blacks and divorced them and ah...again he was not a preacher. But Bob told me that his daddy did marry and divorce blacks that worked on his farm.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Born?

**WES WHATLEY:** Born January 29, 1929.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And what had you heard of Bob Goss and Lone Wolf Gonzauillas and I think Leo Bishop and some of the other Rangers that were here during the boom years?

**WES WHATLEY:** Well I had heard quite a number of things about Lone Wolf Gonzauillas. I do know that Bob Goss did not like him, he expressed that to me many times, that .....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Why?

**WES WHATLEY:** Gonzauillas got the credit for a lot of things that he had done a far as law enforcement and ah....during the boom. Ah....he related to me several situations, one of which I recall that ah....was at Mattie's Ballroom, a dance hall right out of Kilgore, in which they took a heavy chain and nailed it with some heavy nails between pine trees and when there was a ruckus there they're just take the men out and handcuff them to that chain and then come back the next day and release them the next morning. Because they just simply didn't have enough jail space to take the people back to jail. I know one time he told me that Gonzauillas was walking across the street in Kilgore that was.....all the streets were muddy and they had some planks going from one ah....building to another. And Gonzauillas made a misstep and stepped off in the mud and muddied

up his boots and Bob thought that was awfully funny, cause he had very shiny boots and kept them polished and took good care of them. But ah....there seemed to be a....I guess a jealousy or rivalry between the two Rangers, Bob and Gonzauillas.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well Bob was known as Gonzauillas' shadow.

**WES WHATLEY:** Yeah, well I had heard that, yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And ah...well did.....would you ah....would Goss....the type .....of course it's no secret that Gonzauillas, you know he liked the headlines, was Goss the same way, did he like headlines or....?

**WES WHATLEY:** He didn't ah...impress me as such ah....a person that desired headlines ah....he ah....not to my knowledge.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did ah....any other things he'd say about ....personally about Gonzauillas?

**WES WHATLEY:** No ah...he didn't go into any detail, he just....I detected during that six year time when we ah....practiced together and went to pistol matches, he....at night in the motel room, he'd tell me a lot of things that went on during the hectic days of the boom and he just seemed to have a little resentment that maybe Gonzauillas had gotten too much credit for what he did.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he ever mention, you know, Gonzauillas coming into Kilgore oh a week or so early and looking like a tramp and then come riding in on his horse all duded up, did he ever mention any of the things about that?

**WES WHATLEY:** No, he never did, I'm not familiar with that situation at all.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he ever talk about places like Newton's Flat and Pistol Hill and .....?

**WES WHATLEY:** He had mentioned them but ah....basically it was just the entire ah....oil field. I know that ah....there was some rough people there and you had to treat them pretty rough and

evidently Bob did a good job because the City of Kilgore hired him as Police Chief for a number of years.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Do you remember when ?

**WES WHATLEY:** I don't recall the dates, I know that it was ah.....during the middle to late '30s that ah...he was Chief of Police in Kilgore.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...did he ah....well describe Goss to us, physically.

**WES WHATLEY:** Bob was about ah....5'10" in height and weighed about 185 or 90 pounds, got gray eyes, he talked very slow ah....around ah....women he was the perfect southern gentleman ah...impeccable manners, very soft spoken, you never heard him say a bad word around a woman, at least I never did. But he could get riled up ah....if someone he thought was trying to take advantage of him and of course that would be a man. Ah...he was very quick tempered and ah.... I never did see him use a gun on anyone but I do know that ah....he made the impression on me that it wouldn't be a problem if it presented itself. In fact he told me one time that ah.....and he always called me Mr. Wesley, why I don't know but he said, 'Mr. Wesley if anybody ever bothers you', said, 'You just let me know and I'll take care of them'. And I said, 'Oh Bob, nobody's going to bother me'. And he said, 'Well I just thought I'd tell you that if you need any help well I'll take care of the problem for you'. Which I guess this was a compliment that he gave to me as far as our friendship was concerned. I know ah....he told me one time that ah.... I was the only man alive that ever talked to him like I did. And I was a great kidder, I liked to kid Bob and try to make fun out of things or incidents that happened while we were together and ah....he said that ah....no one else ever did that to him, I assume because they were afraid of what Bob might do or say. But he did say that he liked all that foolishness and liked for me to keep on doing it, but when he's had enough he's

going to tell me, now that's enough and you better understand I'm...that's enough and that's what I mean. I said, 'Yes sir Mr. Bob, I understand'.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What was some of the things you would do?

**WES WHATLEY:** Oh I don't recall, it's just a matter of ah....a situation that developed.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Tease me?

**WES WHATLEY:** Tease him for what....different things I don't recall the specific incidents. But I was always kidding him about something.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did...did he ever mention to you why he became a Ranger?

**WES WHATLEY:** No he never did. I...I'm not ah....familiar with that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he ever discuss to you....the last time I was in Waco at the Hall of Fame I pulled his records.

**WES WHATLEY:** Uh hum.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And ah...he was only a regular Ranger one time, but he was in and out of the Rangers numerous times.

**WES WHATLEY:** Uh hum.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And it....as a Special Ranger.

**WES WHATLEY:** Uh hum.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And his commissions was always signed by Tom Hickman.

**WES WHATLEY:** Uh hum.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he ever mention why he was in and out so much and what was he doing when he was out?

**WES WHATLEY:** Well he never did ah....tell me the exact reason why, but I know he was very impressed with ah....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Take your hat off there...yeah, you can't hardly see you, there you go.

**WES WHATLEY:** ....with ah...Captain Hickman, he...he thought very highly of him and he was always ah....whatever he said about the Rangers, it was Captain Hickman that was ah....ah....he gave me the impression that he thought that he hung the moon. And I would say that Bob gave me the impression that ah....Captain Hickman was one man that maybe he didn't want to fool with. So here's a bad man, Bob Goss, and ah....saying that ah....his Ranger Captain was a man that certainly was worthy of respect as far as handling firearms.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well Hickman had that a lot from a lot of people. I know Frank Hamer was a big Hickman man. Speaking of Frank Hamer, did Goss ever talk to you, did he know Hamer?

**WES WHATLEY:** Oh he knew Frank Hamer really well. In fact he told me that ah....that night before they went to Louisiana, and I think it was ah....somewhere close to Gibsland, Louisiana, where they caught and killed Bonnie and Clyde, that Frank Hamer spent the night at a Kilgore Hotel and Bob talked to him quite at length and he told him they were going there.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Him and Manny Gault I think.

**WES WHATLEY:** And they had ah....got a tip on a mail box deposit and they were going to go out there and ....and ah....try to set up a trap. And they did a good job. Bob told me that ah....in this killing of Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker that ah....Frank Hamer killed both of them with a model .30 ah.....35 caliber Remington, I think it was a #8 Remington semi-automatic rifle, which he had altered to have a clip that would hold twenty rounds ....or fifteen rounds. But ah.... I was under the impression that when he told them ah....to halt, or hands up or police officers, or whatever command he gave to those outlaws that they reached for weapons and he opened fire on them and had killed them before the Louisiana officials, deputy sheriff's and others, that they seemed to

become excited and ah....shot the car up real good with the weapons they had and I assume some could have been shotguns with buck shot.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well did Goss ever ah....talk to you about his feelings towards Hamer, I mean other experiences or just the man in general?

**WES WHATLEY:** Oh he was very fond of Frank Hamer, he told me that many times. Ah...he told me another Ranger that I did not know ah....his name was Purvis.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Hardy Purvis.

**WES WHATLEY:** Hardy Purvis, and I think he was from Lufkin, if I'm not mistaken. And ah....he's al....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** He was the captain of Company A.

**WES WHATLEY:** He ah....told me that he was a small man in statue and he always had a little grin on his face but he was as deadly as a rattlesnake.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well did Bob ever talk.....cause you mentioned Hardy Purvis, he was the Ranger in charge at the New London school disaster in 1937. Did Bob ever talk to you about the explosion or was he down there, because they brought in Rangers from everywhere, I don't even know if he was a Ranger at this time?

**WES WHATLEY:** I...I don't recall Bob ever ah....telling me anything about the New London school explosion. I was 8 years old at the time and of course I was very well aware of it. In fact ah....mother and daddy and I went over there the Sunday after the explosion to look at it, and of course it was ah...there was a lot of traffic there and it was certainly a terrible disaster that took place.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did Bob ever talk to you.....he was born in what 1890 something?

**WES WHATLEY:** '98 I believe.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** So he would have been a Ranger during that transition period from horseback to automobile?

**WES WHATLEY:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he ever talk to you....how did he handle that? Ah....Hamer handled it very well or some of the Rangers didn't handle it well at all.

**WES WHATLEY:** He didn't seem to have any problem ah....in....as far as the transition that I could detect in what ....you know the things that he told me.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he ever talk about any of his horseback Ranger days?

**WES WHATLEY:** No ah.... I don't recall any where he had to chase anyone down. I do recall a situation where he was after some cattle thieves, as a Ranger, and I don't think was Honey Grove but it was a town close to Honey Grove. And he had spotted one of the thieves in this town and was going across the street to ah....arrest him and his brother, the thief's brother, was ah....on the other side of the street and saw Bob and as Bob was crossing the street this guy shot him in the back with a 30/30 and Bob showed me the scar. It hit him ah....in the upper left chest and there's a big scar where the exit wound was and Bob knew that he was hit well. And as he fell he ah....fell on top of his single action pistol that he's managed to draw it before he fell. And while he was laying in the dust ah....he remembers that his nostrils ah...was blowing dust and he felt weak and dizzy and he thought maybe he was losing so much blood that he wouldn't be able to do anything. But Bob told me that they came up and were talking over him in the street and one of them ah....took a boot...his boot and kicked Bob over and when he did Bob had....had the pistol cocked and he killed both of them in the street.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** There in Kilgore?

**WES WHATLEY:** No, this was in.....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Oh....up in the Honey Grove area

**WES WHATLEY:** .....a town ....it wasn't Honey Grove, it was another town, I can't recall the name of it, if I had time to think about it or look at the map.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** You've got Windom and Dodd City and.....

**WES WHATLEY:** No.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** .....well that's all right, we can ....

**WES WHATLEY:** Ah....but it's one of those places up there close to Honey Grove. Now that was during the horse Ranger days in which he was checking on some cattle thieves.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did ah...he relate to you....I know he left here for a short period with Gonzauillas and went up to Denison, Texas. They was having a controversy up there over a bridge. Either Texas wanted it to be toll and Oklahoma didn't or vise versa. And you had Rangers on one....on the Texas side and you had Oklahoma National Guardsmen on the other. Did he ever relate any of that incident to you?

**WES WHATLEY:** Very little, he did tell me that ah...during those days he was quite good with a pistol, which of course Bob was an excellent shot, quick draw or target shooting either. In fact I know he won....seemed to me like he had a trophy that...in 1938 that he...it was the trophy which all the Rangers shot in, or the tournament and he was the winner. Ah...but he did put on exhibitions for them, up there on that bridge, as so he told me. But the incident that I recall more than any other was when ah....he and...I don't recall the Rangers name, were chasing some bank robbers and they had trailed them across the Red River into Oklahoma and it was a small town in Oklahoma that had a liquor joint, beer joint, and those two brothers were there. And they just happened to be related to Sheriff of that town and I don't recall the name of the town or the men either. He...he mentioned their names to me and of course this was 35 or 40 years ago. And ah...they found them and

ah....they resisted arrest, Bob killed one with a Model 1919 Browning automatic rifle and the other Ranger killed the other one coming out the front door. And ah...the word got out that ah...these two men had been killed and of course the Sheriff immediately pursued the Rangers.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** The Oklahoma or Texas Sheriff?

**WES WHATLEY:** Oklahoma. And Bob got in the back seat of a T Model Ford and unbuttoned the back plastic glass and dropped it and then stuck the BAR out the back and kept the Oklahoma lawmen at a distance until they can could cross the Red River. And I was...what he was relating this to me when we were going to Enid, Oklahoma....El Reno, Oklahoma to a pistol match and he said, 'You know'... and as we crossed the Red River he breathed a sigh of relief and he said, 'You know Mr. Wesley this is the first time that I've been able to go into Oklahoma without an arrest warrant for murder over my head'. And I told him, 'Well I'm sure glad you told me when you did'. But he told me about this incident that had happened and they had an outstanding warrant for he and this other Ranger, the Oklahoma State authorities did for 25 years.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he have any other warrants out for him?

**WES WHATLEY:** He had one out, he killed a deputy Sheriff in the courthouse in Duval County. I don't recall the situation, he told me why it happened, I think Governor Allred had sent him down there to talk to or get George Parr straight and ah...as he was in the courthouse a couple of deputy Sheriff's got wind that he was there for a purpose and Bob did say that he made a move and he had to kill him. And he barricaded himself in the courthouse in Duvall County and called the Rangers and asked them to send for help. And he got out of the courthouse and later he told me he spent a year and a half or two years with the Rurales, the Mexican police until things calmed down in Texas before he came back.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And this would have been about when?

**WES WHATLEY:** Ah...I would assume in the '30s or it could have been late '20s, I...I really...I would just be guessing on my part. But ah...he rode with the Rurales he told for quite awhile and he said those people, those Mexican Policemen, were very, very thorough and very brutal. In fact he said, 'You know they even scared me'.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well did he...speaking of courthouses, he was....was he in Sherman....

**WES WHATLEY:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** ....when the....

**WES WHATLEY:** He and Gonzauillas were there. He told me about that ah...there was a black that had been confined in the jail that had ah....been accused of raping a white woman. And a crowd formed around the courthouse and he and Gonzauillas were protecting the prisoner. In fact he said that's the only prisoner that he ever lost to a mob. But Gonzauillas had a Thompson sub-machine gun and Bob had a Model 11 Remington automatic, with bird shot, and he called this fella's name and he was a real good rodeo bronc rider and he was well known in that part of the state, around Sherman. And he was the instigator or the ringleader of this group surrounding the courthouse. And Gonzauillas walked up past Bob towards the crowd and Bob hollered at him, but not in time, there was a half brick, or brick or big rock, hit Gonzauillas and knocked him out. And the mob started coming to Gonzauillas and Bob and Bob said he shot several times on the brick streets, low to ricochet the bird shot up around the kneecaps of the people coming to him and was able to turn them for awhile until he could drag Gonzauillas out of the way and make him safe. And if I'm not mistaken he told me that they called the National Guard out and ah....they were not issued any ammunition. And they started to...the mob did, burn the courthouse. And ah...fire trucks got there and they were cutting the fire hoses to make sure that it would burn. But that was a wild incident that occurred that he related to me, he and Gonzauillas.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And the prisoner did die in that....

**WES WHATLEY:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** ....in that vault, that put him in the vault to....

**WES WHATLEY:** In the vault.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** ....and literally....

**WES WHATLEY:** Bar-b-qued him in that vault.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Bar-b-qued him.

**WES WHATLEY:** Right.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...well Goss ah...did he have ah...I understand he had one of these voices that he would whisper and be heard three miles away.

**WES WHATLEY:** He could and then he could talk very low and ah...he had a wide range in his speech. And ah...when he did get angry you could hear him a long way off.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...going back to Gonzauillas, he didn't like Gonzauillas ah...but was it because of Gonzauillas' showmanship, did...I mean did he question Gonzauillas' courage?

**WES WHATLEY:** No, he never did question his courage at all. But I think it was the whole thing of ah...maybe Gonzauillas wore too fancy of clothes and too fancy a pistol and ah...tried to give the impression, so Bob inferred, of ah...being maybe a little bit better than he thought Bob was. Not necessarily as a man being able to defend himself but ah...just as a person maybe too showy for his position.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did ah...when he was here during the boom years, did he stay at the Lou Della Crim home with Gonzauillas or did he stay somewhere else?

**WES WHATLEY:** I'm not sure about that. I don't know. He...he told me about it, I have forgotten about it.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he ever talk about like ah...oh when they burned the Churches there in Kilgore during the boom, that one night they burned three out of the four Churches in Kilgore.

**WES WHATLEY:** No, I'm not familiar with that incident at all.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Or the famous trout line you've already alluded to from Mattie's Ballroom.

**WES WHATLEY:** Uh hum, uh hum.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And ah...did he have any other stories about Mattie?

**WES WHATLEY:** No ah...that's basically about it, that they just didn't have enough space to ah...confine the people that needed to be confined and they just strung them up out there on that...or strung them to that...to the trout line. He did ah...mention to me one time when he was Chief of Police that there were two men that had been sent to the Texas penitentiary for some felony, a burglary or robbery or whatever and ah...when those people were going to be released he was notified that they were turning them out and he happened to run into those two men ah...in downtown Kilgore, when he was Chief of Police in Kilgore. And he told them that he didn't want to see them back in town any more and the next time he saw them that he would kill them. And I asked Bob, I said, 'Did you mean that you just walked up and told them that'. He said, 'That's exactly right'. And as he was going to work the next Sunday morning, this was a Saturday night that this happened when he told those two men that, and he saw the two men running between some freight cars and he stopped his vehicle, reached in the back seat and he had a model 30 Remington automatic, and he shot both of those men and got out of his car and started to them. And about the time he got there, then all of a sudden he saw some police officers running with their weapons drawn. And ah...they said, 'Well Mr. Bob how did you know those two men had just robbed this Brookshire's store.' And he said, 'Hell I didn't, I just told them the next time I saw them I was going to kill them.' And he did.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Both of them?

**WES WHATLEY:** Both of them. And he looked down and saw the bag, Brookshire's bag with money, coins spilled out in the ballast along the railroad tracks. But I do recall he told me that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well how long did he remain Chief of Police in Kilgore?

**WES WHATLEY:** I want to think around 4 years, I could be mistaken about that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How did he feel toward things like education?

**WES WHATLEY:** Oh he was a very staunch supporter of education, as far as in general and certainly education of police officers.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What about his wife Juanita?

**WES WHATLEY:** I know Juanita quite well. She was a very...I'd say a southern lady ah...I ah...rather attractive person, she was maybe as tall as Bob, almost and was ah...I would say in the range of a hundred and fifteen to twenty, twenty-five pounds. She was a great collector of antiques and ah...she used to teach music. And I've been over there when she had her music students and they'd be practicing playing with a metronome, keeping time with a metronome. And I guess because I was in education I was ah...ah...secondary teacher and also a Principal and she took a fondness or liking to me because ah...I was one of Bob's better friends.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well since she lived right down the street from him and taught a little music, did she teach any to Van Cliburn?

**WES WHATLEY:** I do not know that, I doubt that. I'm sure than Van's mother took care of that. But ah...she taught music in her home, at least there were some students there at times I've been there.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did she play professionally any?

**WES WHATLEY:** I do no know that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...living around a man with a lot of guns and being a...you know, a sharp shooter, did she shoot?

**WES WHATLEY:** Not to my knowledge. She ah...I guess was a housewife and tried to take care of Bob and make sure he was ah...well fed and clothed and ah...keep him calm any way she could.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well did they have any children?

**WES WHATLEY:** No, they do not.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...describe their home.

**WES WHATLEY:** It was...he lived on ah...they lived on South Martin in downtown Kilgore and it was a red brick home and I assume built in the early '30s, that type architecture looked apparent to me. Ah...Mrs. Goss had a number of antiques inside the living room as you go in ah....well I say a number, it was covered with them. And ah...the...their master bedroom had a big canopy over it and it was ah....the covering and all was red. And Bob had a little sitting room on the back porch where he liked to watch TV and Juanita would work in the kitchen and they could see each other while one was working and the other one was watching TV. But it was a well built home and one that was very comfortable. I know that ah...many times I'd be there and knock on the door or ring the doorbell and ah...Juanita would come to the door and say, 'Well Bob you got somebody to see you'. And she deliberately wouldn't tell him who I was and he...I could hear him back there grumbling, 'Well do I need to bring my pistol or not'. And she'd laugh and say no.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well did ah...when they ate, did they dress for dinner or was it casual eating or....?

**WES WHATLEY:** Casual. At least what times I've been around them. We've had them in our home before and ah....they....Bob had a suit on and she was dressed to go out. But I have eaten with

both of them in different places in Kilgore, one was the Streamliner and the others on Highway 259, they were very casual in dressing, but they ate out quite a bit.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...going back to Gonzauillas, did he ever make any remarks about Gonzauillas going to Hollywood to be technical advisor for the radio and TV Tails of the Texas Rangers?

**WES WHATLEY:** Oh he did, in kind of a laughing kind of a way, but they was just in a passing thought, he didn't have anything critical or otherwise. He just said, well he'd gone out there to make sure that they got their Ranger program right. But that's about all.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...you spoke of the Streamliner, I know that...I've been told that was one of his favorite hangouts.

**WES WHATLEY:** He went there every day to eat lunch.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And there was a kind of a funny story about a malt can that goes with Bob Goss.

**WES WHATLEY:** Well Bob ah...never would drink around Juanita. He never kept any alcohol in his house. But he'd go out to the Streamliner and he would get the waitress to take the malt aluminum can that they used to make milk shakes in and pour beer in there and Bob would drink his beer while he ate his lunch at the Streamliner. And this was a ritual, he'd go out and eat and drink him one or two, or whatever beers and then he'd go out to the pistol range and we'd shoot. And I've been over there with him before when this happened, I understand I was not there, but he did get excited one time when he saw Juanita coming up and he wanted the waitress to take his malt can away and the waitress was a little slow in doing so and he got rather angry with her. Ah...but I can't say what all took place but he did....he was very emphatic with her, 'You get this can off this table, right now'.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well even in older age, did ah...did Goss always go armed?

**WES WHATLEY:** Always. He carried ah...what he called “Shorty”, it’s a .38 model 36 Chief snub nosed pistol in his left front pocket and he carried what he called “Big Boy”, model 1911 GI .45 in his holster on his right hip. Now that’s the way he went ah...most of the time. He also had a holster attached to his steering wheel in his automobile and there was another .45 automatic there. But he never went anywhere without being armed. In fact I remember in Little Rock ah...we were going out to the range that morning and I was driving the car for Bob and ah...Bob got in and closed the door and he...he said, ‘Good God almighty’, and he said, ‘Stop the car’. And he opened the door and ran in there and came back out and he was grinning. And he said, ‘I just almost left poor little Shorty in there all my himself’. And he liked to have Shorty with him.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Always wanted....

**WES WHATLEY:** I understand Jim Clark, who was a good friend of Bob and mine, in Shreveport, a national pistol champion and outstanding gun smith, probably the best gun smith....pistol smith in the United States or the world for that matter, bought Bob’s collection, all except two pistols. And ah....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And the BAR. [Browning Automatic Rifle]

**WES WHATLEY:** And the BAR.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Or...Colt version of the BAR. [Colt Monitor]

**WES WHATLEY:** Right. And he ah...also has Shorty. And I used to kid Bob, because Bob ah...every now and then would take Shorty out and I’d see a few little rust spots starting on it because he carried it in his pocket and I guess in sweating and all well it started to get a little rusty. But I’d always have a standard joke to play on him when I saw him, ‘The next days let me snap your old rusty pistol’. And he’d laugh about it.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well was he as ah...a good shot left-handed too?

**WES WHATLEY:** Yes, he could shoot with either hand and he could shoot from the hip ah...or he...it didn't make any difference, Bob was a...was an excellent shoot. He ah...in the late ah...'50s and early '60's Bob had developed a slight tremor and he could not shoot as well as he wanted to, he knew what to do but he was having some physical problems at that time and I've seen him become angry at himself that he'd shoot and take that pistol and bang it on the bench where his gun box was, that he was just disgusted that he was not holding like he knew he once did. And of course I saw that, I was just a young person at that time, in my late 20s and I thought well there will be a time when that will happen to me and I can more appreciate that than anything else.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well did ah...did he ever make any remarks ah....you and Jim Clark who lives over in Keithville, Louisiana you just alluded to, used to go to shooting tournaments, did he ever make any remarks, well it's a little bit different shooting at targets than shooting at people that shoot back?

**WES WHATLEY:** That's right, he did. He said, 'You know a target won't shoot back but when you shoot at people you got to make sure your shot counts and you got to shoot quick'. And he made the statement to me that you know, as a police officer you don't necessarily let a criminal get the drop on you, if it looks like there's going to be gun play well it's better off for your to start first than to let the criminal do it. And he had mentioned to me several times about that. But I've seen Bob shoot ah...take Shorty out of his left pocket and shoot with his left hand and hit a pine sapling by the pistol range that was, oh eight of ten inches in diameter, twenty-five, thirty yards away and he'd hit it shooting from the hip. Or even be seated and shoot and do the same thing, never extend his arm. Now he was a...he was a combat shot.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Was he equally good with a rifle?

**WES WHATLEY:** Well any good pistol shooter is automatically good with a rifle, but the reverse is not true. There's lots of good rifle shots can't shoot a pistol.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Why?

**WES WHATLEY:** Cause they have not mastered the technique of sight alignment except in your arc of warble and the proper trigger control to execute a shot without disturbing the line of sights. And if you can do that with a pistol ah...it's easy to do it with a rifle because you have a sling and ah...it's...you can ....you can make mistakes with a rifle and get by with it ah...in errors. But you apply the same principle to a pistol and you made a real bad shot.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...one final question on Gonzauillas, Gonzauillas died in '77, Goss died in '78.

**WES WHATLEY:** '78.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he ever...he did make any remarks when Gonzauillas died? Did he....

**WES WHATLEY:** No, he didn't...didn't have anything to say about that really. Ah...Bob was not a man that ah...necessarily carried a grudge but he would....he was very free to voice an opinion and he didn't care who heard it and he would tell anybody what he thought about anything and you can either take it or leave it. But as far as ah...dwelling on something that's in the negative, he didn't do that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he ever speak to you about General Bill Sterling, the Adjutant General of the Rangers?

**WES WHATLEY:** No he didn't.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...Bob ah...I guess we're getting on a delicate subject here, but Bob had racial problems. Well I don't know if you call them problems but Bob had very definite racial feelings let's put it that way.

**WES WHATLEY:** He did.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And ah...can you relate any stories ah...I know he was pretty good at whacking a guy up side the head and pulling a trigger at the same time, but....

**WES WHATLEY:** He could do that real well.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** ...if the cussing didn't get him, the busted ear drum would. Ah...how would he do that?

**WES WHATLEY:** There was an art to it and he had demonstrated it on how you do that ah...to me before. When you hit somebody up side the head with a .45 automatic ah...you need to knock the safety off before you start your swing and when you tap them up side the head then just pull the trigger at the same time where the...the a...bullet would not hit the person but the explosion by the ear drum would addle them to...rather thoroughly and ah...he said it worked quite well.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Do you know of any instances where he used that method?

**WES WHATLEY:** Ah...yes I...he's told me several instances where he was involved in a situation. I know that he owned some tank trucks and ah...he had a black that worked for him named John. And John lived in the Pentecost addition out of Kilgore. And ah...he was having a lot of stealing at ah...of gasoline from his trucks and he told John ah...he wanted him to try to stop that. And he gave John a pistol and John happened to shoot a black in the Pentecost area and a big mob came around John's house and he immediately called Bob to come out there. And ah...Bob did and while he was there well ah...one of the leaders of the black community came up front and started making demands to Bob and John both, what they were going to do. And finally made the statement that, 'I don't think you know who I is'. And Bob said, 'Well I know goddamn well you don't know who I is', and hit him up side the head with that pistol and the crowd cleared out.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...I know of another incident happened at the Post Office.

**WES WHATLEY:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Could you relate that story?

**WES WHATLEY:** He was in...in line to get some stamps and ah...black person cut in front of him and he told me he said, 'You know Shorty jumped out before I realized what happened and done bit him on the nose'. And I assume that meant that he hit him with Shorty. And ah...this person went to the Post Master and ah...complained to him about being hit in the Post Office. And the Post Master asked him to describe the man and he did and he told him, said, 'Well if I were you I would get down on my knees and thank God that I was still alive and forget the situation, forget it all together'.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And did he?

**WES WHATLEY:** I guess, as far as I know. Bob didn't have any more problems about that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** The only other incident I know of happened out in front of his house.

**WES WHATLEY:** I was there when that happened.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well, relate it.

**WES WHATLEY:** We were leaving the pistol range and he said he needed me to lead him some ammunition but he didn't bring his brass with him. And I usually loaded Bob...oh at least a thousand rounds a week for Bob.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** A week?

**WES WHATLEY:** A week.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** He shot that much?

**WES WHATLEY:** Yes. Ah...it's ah...wasn't anything to shoot ah...200 rounds every time he went out to the pistol range, now this is a big caliber .45. And as we were driving up to his house on South Martin well there was a vehicle parked parallel in front of his house and I was driving a

Volkswagen then and I followed Bob into his driveway. And I noticed he got out of his car and opened the turtle hull and he pulled out a baseball bat, which was sawed off just past the trademark. And he started back across the street, there was a little grocery store there. And Bob was very unhappy, I could tell he wasn't ...wasn't talking, but I could tell by the way he was looking, he had that fierce look in his eye. And later I found out that ah...there had been people there parking and blocking his driveway and he just got tired of it. And so he walked in the grocery store and hollered at the back, a person standing in there, 'Is that your car parked across the street'. And he said, 'Yeah'. And when he did he hit him, knocked him down and blood went everywhere. And, you know, I was...I just followed Bob over there, I didn't know what he was going to do. And he came back, well Juanita was standing out there on the curb and she asked him what was going on. And ah...he just said, 'Well he just had a little disagreement with a guy parking in front of his house'. And she said, 'Well now Bob he's got just as much right to park there as you do'. And he said, 'Well he might have, but I just took it away from him'.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well was Bob a very religious man?

**WES WHATLEY:** He went to Church every Sunday.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Where did he go?

**WES WHATLEY:** Cumberland Presbyterian in Longview, on Green Street.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he ever talk to you about religion?

**WES WHATLEY:** Not a whole lot. But he ah...he went there on a regular basis. One of my teachers at Judson was a member there and she used to tell me that her husband and Bob were in the same Sunday School class. And ah...Bob every now and then would read the scripture for the class and Bob was quick to ask for an interpretation of the scripture, not trying to be funny or anything. But ah...I think Bob in away ah...during his life ah...knew that he took 18 people's lives

in the Ranger service and ah...I think he regretted it in away. In fact the time that he alluded to wishing that he had been a medical doctor to save lives rather than take them, I think that was bothering him a little bit. Ah...I know that ah...to kill someone wasn't...wasn't easy, at least the way...the impression he gave me, of something that you could...ah...you didn't just take lightly, you took that very seriously and something that you thought about at great length for a long time.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he see ghosts?

**WES WHATLEY:** Not to my knowledge.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...he got ah...he was part of the...at the end, after he was a Ranger and after Chief of Police, he was in the Game and Wildlife Commission I believe?

**WES WHATLEY:** Yes, he ah...was a Game Warden and I think he was mainly used to ah...prevent pollution of oil companies in the streams and rivers in East Texas, that's what he...he checked pollution.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And how long did he do that?

**WES WHATLEY:** He did that for a number of years, I don't know exactly how long, but it was a number of years.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And he had a trucking company too I believe, didn't he?

**WES WHATLEY:** Right. He ah...had a trucking company and of course if there was any pollution ah...that was his specialty, to ...his trucks to clean up the pollution. And he'd always tell them that if you need anyone to help clean up all this mess I can help you out.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...no conflicts of interest he ever felt there?

**WES WHATLEY:** Not at all ah...he didn't think anything about it. I know one incident he told me of while he was a Ward...ah...Game Warden, was down on the other side of San Augustine, somewhere in there, there was problems with some poachers and he went down there to try to get

the situation in order. And he went to a meeting at the courthouse with a lot of people and evidently they ah....in that particular part of the country back at that time pretty well did what they wanted to, the people in that area as far as killing game. And Bob told what...you know what the penalties were and as they were leaving, he came out on the street and Bob had his cowboy boots on, shined immaculately and ah....one of the men attending that meeting said, 'Well we know what to do with people like you', and spit on his boots. And ah....Bob told me that ah...he made mention that he didn't know what kind of game he was playing but whatever it was count him in. And a few days later he got a tip that they were going to kill some deer. And so he got out there in that particular area where his ah....informant told him where they were going to be and he had a....again a model 11 Remington shotgun and when those people appeared out there well he recognized the one that spit on his boots and he shot him with some #6 shot I believe he said....oh maybe 50 yards away and shot some more of them too, and they all took off and ah....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Kill any of them?

**WES WHATLEY:** No ah....but it wouldn't of made any difference. He told me, he said, you know he just made that they didn't kill any game illegally that night. And that seemed to clear up the situation.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Would have a way of doing that I suppose. Ah...you related to me one other time an incident happened up in Little Rock at a hotel or motel or something with you and Bob, I believe it involved some blacks again.

**WES WHATLEY:** Well ah....Bob was driving this time and we pulled in....I think it was the Ritz Motel as you go into Little Rock and this was before I-20 and I-35, any interstate, this was in the....well it was '58 I believe, '58 ..... '57 excuse me. Because there was soldiers still at Little Rock during the integration there and ah....one of the...whether it be porters or one of the men that

ah....came out to show him where to park was a black. And he put his hands inside the car and ah....started to motion to Bob where to park in a uncharacteristic manner I'd say for someone to talk to Bob the way he did. He was rather rude. And ah....Bob got out with Shorty and told him in no un.....well I won't say what he said, but he just told that ah....if he needed any conversation out of him, he'd ask for it and otherwise to get away from him.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....did Bob like to gamble?

**WES WHATLEY:** Not to my knowledge. I never did know of him gambling at all, he ah...again I don't know.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well what ah.....

**WES WHATLEY:** I've never heard him talk about it, I've never heard one mention of gambling.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well what about on his shooting?

**WES WHATLEY:** Well now yeah, he'd do that a little. But when I was working, shooting with Bob, Bob had gotten to the point that he....as I said there was a slight tremor and ah....he was not shooting as well as he wanted to. But I assumed that he did because he ....when he was in his younger days and was winning ah....I....I assumed that he would. I know I have in my time ah....usually you go to a pistol match you find some marksman or sharp shooter just learning how and they have the answer to all of the shooting techniques you can imagine and then the money would come out and so the other shooters that knew what was going on would look to each and decide which one wanted him and ah...which ever one had the most money would fade him and take him.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well was Goss not winning by the time you were going with him?

**WES WHATLEY:** No, Bob had ah....his...his shooting had deteriorated at that time. Ah....as I say it...it....it killed him because he couldn't shoot like he used to. And ah...Bob was ah....was not in the master class at that time.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...when did he quite going to shooting matches?

**WES WHATLEY:** Bob quite in....I want to say '63 was about the last time he went, and that was at Shreveport.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Was there big money in these shooting tournaments?

**WES WHATLEY:** No not really. It was ah...mostly medals and that sort of thing, a little bit of money, but not much.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Was he pretty well known?

**WES WHATLEY:** In this East Texas area?

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Uh hum.

**WES WHATLEY:** Yes. Ah....Bob was known ah...by police officers in ah....in Louisiana ah.... I know that because I know Sheriff Flournoy was very fond of Bob.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well when you visited with Bob at his house was guns in prominence or display or....?

**WES WHATLEY:** No, no. You'd never know there was a gun there.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** You say you shot with Bob every day.....

**WES WHATLEY:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** .....for....when did that stop?

**WES WHATLEY:** That started ah....I'd say about the middle of '57 and lasted on into '62, we'd shoot usually five times a week. This was more done in the ....in the summer months. But of course during the winter months when it's cold and unpleasant we didn't go out. But when the weather

was right we were out shooting and we always knew .....he lived in Kilgore and of course I live in Longview, that if the weather you'd go out to the pistol range.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And it quite when he finally quite going to tournaments?

**WES WHATLEY:** That was about '63, yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** That's when it ceased?

**WES WHATLEY:** Uh huh.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did you rem....through the remaining 14, 15 years of his life did you maintain a close relation with him?

**WES WHATLEY:** Oh yes, right sure did. I know ah...Bob ah....was talking to my daddy in the '30s when he was working for Will Hayes, Gregg County Sheriff's department, ah....daddy was a very strong person, he was only 5'7" but he had a very fine build, a big strong arms and back. And Bob called him Wes, said, 'You know if I had arms like you have I wouldn't even need to carry a gun'. He mentioned that to daddy ah....when Bob was a Texas Ranger.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did you ever hear the story of Goss coming up on...behind the man in Kilgore that had the double barrel shotgun sawed off wrapped up in a newspaper?

**WES WHATLEY:** No I'm not familiar with that incident.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well I'll tell the story the way I heard it. Goss come up behind a guy, and he knew he was a bad man, he had this double barrel shotgun wrapped up in a newspaper, he got the drop on him and told him said, 'Well come on let's head for jail, you know the way'. Didn't even ask the man for the shotgun. And the guy asked him said, 'Well don't you want this shotgun', to which Goss is supposedly said to him, 'No you might get to feeling lucky between here and the jail'. Which at that point the guy dropped the shotgun like it was red hot you know.

**WES WHATLEY:** Uh hum, uh hum.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....any other stories you'd like to relate on Bob Goss?

**WES WHATLEY:** Oh, one of the funnier stories, I remember Jim Clark ah...being from Shreveport, Louisiana well came to Longview and got in my automobile and we were going to Kilgore to pick up Bob and we were going to shoot in the Dallas rifle and pistol club match. And Jim had a number of guns for his clients and he got in the back seat and was checking them and fooling with them and I imagine he had fifteen or twenty pistols laid out in the back seat and ah....that was before we left Kilgore, Bob said stop and he got some Budweiser and ah...we started toward Dallas and Bob had several beers. And ah....it was on the other side of Grand Saline, Fruitvale I think was the name of the place, the town, that ah....Bob said, 'Pull over I need to take leak'. And I said, 'Well Bob, you know, a filling stations just a mile up here'. And he said, 'No I want you to pull over right now'. So I did and he proceeded to relieve himself and I looked up and I saw a Highway Patrol car coming and I said, 'Bob here comes a Highway Patrol'. And he didn't stop, he waved at him. And I looked in the rear view mirror and I told Jim, said, 'You better cover those guns up because their turning around and coming back'. And they pulled up and ah...one came to my door and one came over there where Bob was. And the Ranger that I saw, he asked me how I was doing, I said fine. Wanted to know where we were going and I told we was going to Dallas. And the other Highway Patrol was talking to Bob, said 'Well looked like you could of waited a little bit longer to relieve yourself'. And Bob pulled out his billfold and opened it up and he said, 'I'm Robert G. Goss, Company B, Texas Rangers and we don't want any trouble out of you Red and you god damn sure don't want no trouble out of us'. And he said, 'Oh Mr. Bob', said, 'I didn't recognize you, how you doing'. And they shook hands and we had a real friendly visit and ah....they wished us good luck on our pistol match and we left. But if that had been anyone else I know probably what would have happened.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well did you younger people, like you and Jim Clark, did you hold Bob in any kind awe knowing what he had been as a shooter?

**WES WHATLEY:** Oh yes, yes. Bob ah...I think was as danger....dangerous a man as ever lived. Ah...he had a sense of a situation and he knew when it was time to get tough, to get tough and he didn't mind doing it either.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What did he die of?

**WES WHATLEY:** Oh there was complication of things, I want to say it might have gone into pneumonia, but he had trouble breathing the last few years of his life.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Emphysema?

**WES WHATLEY:** Yes. Ah...Bob did not smoke any ah...the years that I knew him but I assume that he did prior to that and he...he chewed tobacco a lot. But he was in ill health and ah...he ah...he lived 80 years which is a good life.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well was he a....he chewed tobacco, was he clean with it or was he nasty?

**WES WHATLEY:** Well he was....he wasn't clean, I'll put it that way. Ah...but he tried to be. He always carried a coffee can, a pound coffee can, with him wherever he went and he'd spit in that can. Of course every now and then it'd get turned over in the car and he didn't get all excited about it.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well the story....well I won't get into that. But ah...did ah...did he have a drinking problem?

**WES WHATLEY:** Not to my knowledge. Now again I can only speak for the time that I was around him. I know that ah...Bob liked to get around people and have a drink or two. Again you know, early years someone else may know more than I. But ah...it didn't take very much for Bob to get to feeling good.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did you ever see him drunk?

**WES WHATLEY:** No.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he ah...did he die hard...what I mean, did he...long death or long time?

**WES WHATLEY:** Well he...he suffered quite a bit ah...you know they....they kept him, you know, in plenty of pain killers and all. But Bob ah....his quality of life the last few years was not real good.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And how about Juanita?

**WES WHATLEY:** She lived ah....a number of years after he died and ah....she appeared to me ah...even though she might look like the sicklier of the two, was the stronger of the two.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did they ever relate how they met and got married and...?

**WES WHATLEY:** No, he didn't tell me that. I know she was close by, they were evidently ah....childhood friends. Ah...I do know she was laughing about the time they were in a T Model Ford right after they got married and Bob had his two six shooters on and ah...he had to spit and he leaned out over the side of the....the T Model to spit and he fell out of the car and fell right on top of his hat and his pistols fell out in the sand. And he was infuriated that that happened and that tickled her to death. That's one of the funniest stories that she can relate, right after they got married.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What...was there physical problems they didn't have children or they just not want children?

**WES WHATLEY:** I don't know. Ah...I think they did ah...I want to say that she had a miscarriage ah...and they didn't have....they didn't have any kids. I think that's what he told me.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did he womanize?

**WES WHATLEY:** He didn't around me now. Ah...again I can't say what he did when he was younger, but see when I saw Bob, he was between 60 and 68 to 70 years of age when I became real fast friends with him.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Uh hum.

**WES WHATLEY:** Now whatever he did in the...when he was in his 20s and 30s I don't know.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Yeah. Well Wes do you have any other things you'd like to add?

**WES WHATLEY:** No, I can't think of anything other than ah...Bob Goss was a dear friend of mine and I think he'd do anything for me and ah....I relish the friendship that we had. And ah...I just feel better for knowing Bob.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Final....did you attend his funeral?

**WES WHATLEY:** No I wasn't able to go. I was ah...I forgot what came up ah....I was a principal at Foster Middle School at that time in Longview and ah....we had something that came up, I want to say a PTA dinner or something, that I had to be there and I was not able to go.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well Wes that's about everything I know to ask. I hope that you and I and Jim Clark can get together and maybe that will dredge up more memories.

**WES WHATLEY:** I'll look forward to that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Thank you.

**WES WHATLEY:** Thank you Bob.