

Interview with

JOAQUIN JACKSON  
Texas Ranger, Retired

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Project: Texas Rangers

Interview Conducted at the Jackson's Home  
Alpine, Texas  
Monday—September 15, 2008

Interviewed By: Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray  
Longview, Texas

Present at Interview: Joaquin Jackson, Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray

JOAQUIN JACKSON

TEXAS RANGER, RETIRED

**NANCY RAY:** My name is Nancy Ray and I'm visiting with Joaquin Jackson of Alpine, Texas. Today is Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> (2008), and we are in the home of Joaquin and Shirley Jackson. The purpose of this interview is to discuss Ranger Jackson's career as a Texas Ranger. Ranger Jackson, do I have your permission to record this interview?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Yes.

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

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Yes.

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

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Yes.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, let's start with information about you. What is your full name and where were you born?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Full name is uh, and that's my dog, Will, up there. It's his roost. Uh,

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

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** That's my buddy. Well, my full name is Haynie, H A Y N I E, Haynie Joaquin Jackson and that was my grandfather's name and uh, uh on my Mother's side and uh. But I always went by H. Joaquin Jackson and mainly just Joaquin.

**NANCY RAY:** And you currently live in Alpine but where were you born?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** I was born on the Llano Estacado which is the “Staked Plains” west of Lubbock uh in 1935.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, what is your birth date?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** November 12<sup>th</sup>.

**NANCY RAY:** November 12<sup>th</sup>. And what about your parents, what were their names?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** My Dad’s name was James Holcomb Jackson and my Mother was Virah, V I R A H, Virah Alice Jones Jackson.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. And in chronological order, what about brothers and sisters?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** I’ve uh no brothers, I’ve got two sisters. Uh, a sister two years younger than me is Dorothy Gail Moring, uh she’s in uh, and I’ve got a sister, Sue, that lives up near Garland and she’s ten years younger than I am so she and I never got to know each other very well because I was up and gone from home by the time she got any age on her.

**NANCY RAY:** Right, OK, well, where did you go to school?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Went to uh, uh went to elementary school in a little place called Ropesville, Texas, which is about 40 miles west and northwest of Lubbock. Uh, my Dad was, had a farm there which projects that uh President Roosevelt had, what they called the government project and he had bought uh a quarter of section of farmland there and with a house and everything. First time we ever had an indoor toilet. And uh, uh, little town of Ropesville was about three or four, three miles away and that’s where I went to elementary school at Ropesville. And uh, I moved, then we moved, Dad sold that farm and bought another over near Smyer, Texas, which was just north of Ropesville about 15 miles and so I went to high school, well

actually the Eighth Grade through high school in Smyer, S M Y E R, Smyer, Texas. And I went to college at West Texas State on an athletic scholarship, playing basketball.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, did you have any favorite subjects?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** No, not really, uh, probably if I had to say my favorite subject in school, would probably, would be uh literary English, literature.

**NANCY RAY:** Really?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Yeah. But uh, now adverbs and adjective, and nouns and pronouns, and, sentence structure, I think Shirley was good at that when she was in school but you know structuring... remember structuring?

**NANCY RAY:** I do. Um hmm.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Yeah, well, I never liked to structure a sentence and didn't care for that. But

**NANCY RAY:** I never like literature.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** (laughter) Well, I liked to read history, and I didn't mind reading history, it was kind of interesting.

**NANCY RAY:** You were evidently in sports too, if you had a scholarship.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Yes ma'am. I uh, well it was the only way I would have been able to went to college because my parents couldn't afford to send me to college. And uh, so I went off on an athletic scholarship. I had an opportunity to play at several different colleges but I chose West Texas State at Canyon. And I played uh two years up there and uh I tell about it in my first book about how I left there. I had the scholarship and was moving forward and everything was going and uh got into a fight with -- my first taste of politics -- with a guy that was, his dad was

one of the co-owners, or president or some CEO or something with Phillips 66 Oil Company and he contributed about \$5,000 a year to the athletic fund. But his son started a fight with me one day on the basketball court and I ended the fight and he lay in the hospital three days and nights with ruptured stomach muscles and I played his position on the road. And when, when it come up to the next year, come around I was set up myself and four other, to be the starting five for my Junior year in college, and uh I come off of the Bell Ranch, where I'd been working on the Bell on a Spring roundup and leaving out uh for Quantico for Marine Officers training in Quantico, the PLC program. And I got a letter from the head coach at West Texas cancelling my scholarship. So, I went to Tech for one semester and I didn't care for it because athletics and, and education was synonymous to me and uh, one without the other... I didn't care anything about going to school if I couldn't play ball. So, anyway, I didn't like Tech that well. Went one semester and then took the test for the Border Patrol and uh then I ran into an old friend of mine, a former football player at West Texas State that was on the Highway Patrol and uh... I ran into him in fact on campus there at Texas Tech and he

**NANCY RAY:** What was his name?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Delmer Tuggle.

**NANCY RAY:** How do you spell that last name?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** T U G G L E. And I asked someone here a while back from up in the Panhandle that knew Delmer and if they had uh, knew where he was at. I guess he is still around but he was a couple of years older than me. And uh, but he was on the Highway Patrol and he was telling me about the Highway Patrol so, so I uh signed up for the Highway Patrol. I also flew up to uh Dallas on uh for a Naval, because I was going through Marine Officers training because

I wanted to fly in the Marine Corps and uh, I wanted to fly fighter planes. And uh so I uh flew up to Dallas to the NAVCAS Station and uh took, passed the written test and failed the physical on account of my ears, I was deaf to high frequency sound. So they told me to go check the Air Force, they wasn't as tough about hearing as the Navy was, the Marine Corps and the Navy. And I said no, don't think so. If I can't fly for the best, I ain't flying for nobody. So anyway, I never go to fly so that's way I ended, come back and took the test for the Highway Patrol and uh, and uh I think it was, that was, I don't remember what the date was I took the test but it wasn't long that uh I ended up... and I'd already taken the test for Border Patrol. And so Highway Patrol notified me and I started Highway Patrol school in uh, in May of 1957. I don't remember the exact date, I'd have to look it up. And uh, uh I graduated from, it was eleven weeks. We took eleven... the boys go six months now but.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, was this the new academy or Camp

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** It was the new academy. It had just, just been operational for a short period of time. I think it was in the second or third, maybe the second year from Camp Mabry. But it hadn't been operational too long, it was brand new because they still had places out there was... construction dirt and stuff like that around there. They was working on stuff. Maybe about the second year, '57, I don't know when they. You'd have to look it up, I don't know what year they left Mabry. But uh, we were the last school to train on motorcycles. Last Highway Patrol, we were actually the last Highway Patrol school, the 29<sup>th</sup>, the 29<sup>th</sup> Highway Patrol school.

**NANCY RAY:** Tell us a little bit about the motorcycle training.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** (laughter) Well, basically, when I stayed down on that motorcycle about as much as I stayed up on it but... But it was a 1937 Harley Davidson flathead and uh, I

had uh what they called a killer clutch on it you know, uh that was, the clutch you gotta use by manual, by foot you know. Clutches now are up on the uh...

**NANCY RAY:** Handlebar?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Handlebar. But anyway, uh I didn't, we had two monitors, Sergeant Pringle and uh Sergeant Dalton, both of them great guys and both of them Highway Patrol sergeants. And of course, uh, Chief Elliott was uh, I don't think he's any kin to Glenn Elliott, the Ranger, but I don't think, now, I don't think I've every asked Glenn Elliott if they were kin. But, our chief of the Highway Patrol was a guy named Elliott. And they reorganized the Department that Fall and uh then all the schools after that become Texas Department of Public Safety training academies and you didn't know whether you were to Highway Patrol or Driver's License or License and Weight or MVI or where you were going. Uh, in uniform services. But uh, anyway we took that training all the time on those motorcycles during the school up until the week of graduation and uh and old Pringle and Dalton would... in those days you got a lot of harassment uh. We started our school with 65 and graduated 32, and uh in that eleven-week period. And of course they were constantly... and I agree with their, with the system that if a guy can't take it, it's like Marine Corps boot camp, if you can't take it they don't need you. And uh, so, uh anyway, we trained on those motorcycles. We'd go out about twice a week and we had, uh we had uh 65, starting out 65 in the school and we had 30, 30 motorcycles or something like that, 31 or 32. So we had to split the classes up... And they'd take half the class, Pringle would take half the class and Dalton would take half the class in different times so we'd have enough motorcycles. Because they were riding 1948 Harley Davidson motorcycles and they looked like Cadillacs compared to those '37s. And uh, and they would get us out at 2 or 3 o'clock in the

morning, when it was raining, always made sure it was raining before they'd get us out of the bunk and we'd go riding on a motorcycle. And we'd go up toward Georgetown. And at that time, it was not... I think it was four-lane divided but it wasn't an interstate or anything. But it wasn't uh the traffic you have... I remember we'd go up there, ride up to Georgetown seemed like a good way out in the country. Now you can't tell where Austin ends and Georgetown begins you know... you got Round Rock and Georgetown. We'd ride to Georgetown, turn around and come back and then we'd get back at the academy in time to get uh our wet clothes off and take a shower, and put on dry clothes and go to chow. Uh, so you pretty much disrupted your night and uh. But, then they'd take us out, then we rode that 2222 out of Austin which is a Farm-to-Market road now, it's all grown up in houses and everything. It was, went out to, to the lake, Lake Travis I believe, and it was uh like a rural country road in those days. It was a narrow, two-lane blacktop highway but it was, wasn't near as modern as it is now. And uh, not, no traffic either.

**NANCY RAY:** Was it straight?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Oh, no, it was crooked as a dog's hind leg, but uh... but anyway, I got assigned to Brownfield, Texas, when I, which is back up

**NANCY RAY:** That was your first duty station?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Uh huh, back up in the same area where I grew up as a child, in the plains. And I was at Brownfield two years and I was broke in by a Trooper, DPS Trooper, Highway Patrolman name of Amos, A M O S, Eggen, E G G..., E G G E N, I believe, or E G G A N, Eggan. And he had been a Trooper, a Highway Patrolman several, a good many years, I think maybe he'd been, he was a seasoned officer, he had 10, 12, 15 years in the Highway Patrol. And uh I credit a lot of my law enforcement uh, uh being able to do my job as a law enforcement

officer, doing it properly, to the training I took under him for the year that I worked with him. And he, and he promoted to sergeant and went to Pecos, Texas.

**NANCY RAY:** What, what do you remember the most that helped you that he taught you?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, in making decisions out, out on the road. First of all, he didn't let me, I didn't take the lead in the Highway Patrol, I went three months riding, observing. That was one thing. Observing him making contacts, how he handled situations, but he was teaching me one thing, to use commonsense. Law enforcement is, good law enforcement is based on good commonsense and uh he was training me to use good commonsense and using good judgment and... whether to arrest or not to arrest, you know. And uh, he uh, for instance uh, you weren't driving under the influence if he arrested you, you were driving drunk. Amos Eggen'd put you in jail, you know. He might, if a guy was right on the borderline or something, he might uh take his keys away from him, tell him to take a little nap in the car and we'd be working that highway and we'd come back in an hour or two and... And you can go to sleep in this car or you can go to jail. And so, you know, things like that, it's a little different than the way enforcement is done today. Uh, but uh, anyway, he uh... I never will forget uh when I did take the lead and I stopped a uh, matter of fact I stopped a guy driving under the influence... and I was trying to make up my mind whether the man... and we had in those days, we didn't have breathalyzers but we had to take them into the hospital and get a blood, draw blood and uh then send that off to the lab and see what their grade of intoxication was. And so I was trying to make a decision on this guy whether he was uh enough under the influence for an arrest for DWI and uh so I looked at Amos and said what do you think? He said you have to make up your own mind. Make your own decision. And I don't recall whether I arrested the guy, it's been so long ago, probably I went

ahead and arrested him, I think maybe I did, but I don't remember. Made the arrest, and of course Amos backed me on the thing completely. But uh, in, I was talking earlier about you know the guy with Phillips 66 Oil Company when I was in college and going to coach, going my head coach and telling him if I came back to play basketball for West Texas State that uh that uh there wouldn't be any more of the \$5,000 year to the athletic fund so that was my first taste of politics. And I've disliked politics ever since. And then I got some taste of it too starting out in Highway Patrol. Arrested a County Commissioner one night for DWI, he was actually drunk, I mean drunk, and uh and uh, and I arrested a real close friend of the County Judge one time... of course both these guys got off, you know. Uh, and that's politics. But politics and law enforcement don't mix. If you're gonna do your job right and treat everybody fair and treat everybody the same, politics can't play any part of it. Uh, ... every person needs to have their day in court and tried by six or twelve, depending on whether it's a misdemeanor or felony... tried by their own peers. And if they get... I've had a many of them when I was a Ranger and Highway Patrol turned loose by their own peers. But you know once they do that, when you go to court and you have your day in court and you testify and all the facts are presented and all the evidence is presented, and the jury decides to turn someone loose, that's our system. And I have no problem with that. I didn't necessarily mean I had to agree with their verdict but I had no problem with it. That's the justice system we have and I wouldn't have it any other way. Uh, but uh, you know, I tried, we had a murder case in this country here back when I was a Ranger... man killed this woman, man killed his wife. And he was guilty as sin but he got acquitted by his peers. He shouldn't never been tried in the community where his peers were because he was well

liked. In fact, he was better liked than his wife, and uh, and he killed her in her sleep and, shot her, but that's, uh, and he was acquitted and I wasn't happy about that. But life goes on.

**NANCY RAY:** It does. Well, let's go back to your first duty station at, at Brownfield, is that correct?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Brownfield, uh huh.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, as a patrolman, what are your primary responsibilities, once you're past, once you're in the lead?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Once you're... the primary responsibility in the Highway Patrol is, is supervision of traffic in your district. And uh, and, enforce traffic, traffic laws. And make, and, the job out there is to try to cut down on automobile accidents and things that cause automobile accidents, like fast driving, running stop signs, drunk driving, drunk driving is probably one of, one of the main contributing factors to bad, really bad accidents, fatal accidents. And it still is today but I don't think with our, I think if you took, if you took a survey on it, in the days that I was working in the, in the '50s, and the Highway Patrol in the early '60s, uh we probably had, per capita, had more DWI arrests than they do now. Uh, they've made this DWI such a severe penalty now you know, no open container you know, laws and things like that which I think has helped min... uh bring to a minimum uh the drunk drivers. But they're still out there and they're still dangerous.

**NANCY RAY:** Right. Well, can you think of anything that really stands out in your mind while you were at your first duty station?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** In Brownfield?

**NANCY RAY:** Um hmm.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Uh, oh, I remember that one thing stands... of course working, we used to work west of Brownfield a little place called Plains, Texas, which is Yoakum County. And then right west of Yoakum was uh, was the uh state line between Texas and New Mexico. And I can't think of the name of that town, the first town that was across the state line. Well they had a New Mexico state policeman was stationed there, so we worked pretty close together. We had a kind of standing deal that if I got in pursuit I'd come into New Mexico until caught who I was... and I'd get a hold of him if he was available to intercept them. Same way on coming into Texas. There's just flat, open country you know, and so I'd pursue them in New Mexico and write them a ticket and make an arrest or bring them back.

**NANCY RAY:** They thought if they got across the state line they'd be OK?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** (laughter) Yeah. They thought they'd be all right. We, I've chased them into New Mexico, Tatum was the name of the town. Tatum, New Mexico. Yeah, I chased them almost to Tatum, of course I couldn't get a hold of the trooper, I mean he was just one trooper over there and he'd be off duty or something... couldn't get a hold of him so I just... and if it was uh, it was an arrest outside of speeding or if they were out-of-state speeding, they'd get, could be arrested. You know, in those days, if you were a citizen, Texas resident or had Texas driver's license, you had to write them a ticket. But if they were out of state, you could arrest them and actually take them to jail for speeding. But uh, but I brought them out of New Mexico and, and that trooper he'd bring them out of Texas to take them back to New Mexico. (laughter) We had a standing agreement between us. We had our own reciprocity deal going. But uh...

**NANCY RAY:** Well, where did you go after your, after Brownfield?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** I went to Littlefield, and uh, I moved to Littlefield and I was stationed at Littlefield for four years. And that's where I met Shirley, and uh, actually I met her in Lubbock and uh, I was stationed in Littlefield at the time. She was a secretary at Reese Air Force Base and, and we met in Lubbock and we dated... Met her in July and married her in October. But I was there four years in Littlefield.

**NANCY RAY:** Well now, you married her... what year was that you married?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Shirley and I married, got married in '60, '62. And, uh the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, '62, which should be pretty..., another anniversary pretty quick. And then uh, we were there in Littlefield, we lived there about a month I think maybe two, and we transferred to Jacksboro and I went to Jacksboro and I worked at Jacksboro three years. And I uh got promoted to the Ranger service after...

**NANCY RAY:** OK, so, you were at Jacksboro when you applied to become a Ranger?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Yes, you had to have at least eight years service, minimum age of 30. I started the Highway Patrol when I was 21 years old and I actually ended up with nine years as a Highway Patrol at the age of 30. But when I came to Jacksboro, well, I, I was working toward... knew that soon as I got my eight years service in, I wanted to get in the Ranger service and, uh...

**NANCY RAY:** Well, before we go too far, let me ask this. Uh, one other question, do you have children or grandchildren?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** I got two sons and I got, and I got a, two grandsons.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, and their names?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Uh, well, Don Joaquin is my oldest son and Lance Sterling Jackson is my youngest son. And uh, the uh, uh

**NANCY RAY:** How old are the grandsons?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Oh, they're... I'm gonna have to ask Shirley that...

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

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Adam, we got one that's Don Joaquin, the oldest son's boy, but uh,

**NANCY RAY:** Tyler, is the one...

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** His name is Adam but he lives out in California. And uh, with his mother and uh, but his dad's in prison. His dad's been in prison a while but he ran off and left the mother before they ever got married any way. So it don't make any difference. And my youngest son is Lance, and Lance is a, is a major in the U.S. Border Patrol now. And he's, in fact he's in Washington, D.C., as we speak on an assignment up there.

**NANCY RAY:** All right. Very good. All right, you've decided to apply to become a Ranger. What did you have to do?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, you mean going from Highway Patrol to a Ranger?

**NANCY RAY:** Um hmm.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, of course you... you might be interested you know the procedure in those days of getting in the Rangers.

**NANCY RAY:** Yes.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Which is a little different than it is now. Uh, in those days, the Ranger captains selected their men... the way they did in the, in the mid 1800s. Ranger captains selected their men and and, but in those... in the 1800s, they just selected their men and they got hired, they hired them. Well, of course when I came on, the Ranger captains were still picking, handpicking their men, but they had to have approval of the Director and the Assistant Director

and the DPS Commission had to approve whoever that captain's selection was, to get the appointment. And so I went, first I went to the Ranger captain in Dallas, uh, uh, let me think a minute... Glenn Elliott worked under him, uh, he was a regional commander at one time. He left his captain, they made him regional commander and then he came back and he was chief of the Rangers...

**NANCY RAY:** What company was that?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** That was uh Company, Company uh B, as in boy.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, in the '50s, Bob Crowder?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Bob Crowder. Bob Crowder. I went to Dallas and seen Bob Crowder... on my day off. I had one day off on the Highway Patrol, we worked six days, was off one day and uh, so I drove to Dallas on my day off and seen Captain Crowder. And uh, he didn't have any vacancies coming up. He said Joaquin, I don't see, foresee any vacancies... when I get a vacancy come up well I'll certainly keep you in mind. So then they told me about going to, there's a vacancy coming up in Midland so I went, in Company E, and what was that captain's... trying to think

**NANCY RAY:** Captain, let's see.... Frank Probst?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Frank Probst. Probst, Frank Probst was the captain in Midland. So I drove to Midland and uh, to see Frank Probst, and I got out there, well he was gone. John Wood, who later become my captain, was a sergeant. So I visited with John Wood. And John told me, said uh, well we got a vacancy but Captain Probst has already picked a man for the job. So while I was there in a coffee shop, I seen Little Alfred Allee, Captain Allee's son, who was a Ranger and stationed there in Midland at the time. And I was in there drinking coffee and he knew what

I was there for and he said, have you went to see my Dad? And, I said no, I hadn't. Captain A. Y. Allee, captain of Company D in Carrizo Springs. Said no, and said I hadn't planned on going to see him. He said why, and I said I understand he don't like Highway Patrol. He said what are you talking about? I said, well he pistol whipped a Highway Patrolman not too awful long ago (laughter)...

**NANCY RAY:** You didn't want that to happen.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** No, he said no, that's not right. Said he likes Highway Patrol... he's got several ex-Highway Patrol. Said he just didn't like that one. (laughter) But the guy'd come and made an insinuation he'd given Miss Allee a ticket or something for no taillights on a stock trailer coming, going to the ranch or something. And he come in the office to talk to the Captain and he made a mistake because he come in there, then he insinuated uh, when they got to talking about the traffic stop, he insinuated that Mrs. Allee was lying. And uh Captain jumped up and hit him across the head with a pistol. And uh, so the guy got transferred and I don't remember what his name was or what happened to him or anything after that and I... but uh I don't know... there was no, was no uh disciplinary action taken against the Captain as far as I know. But I know this, you didn't insinuate he was lying and you certainly didn't insinuate his wife was lying... you were gonna get hurt if you did. But anyway, so I decided then that I'd go see Captain Allee. So I called and I, like I say, was Highway Patrol at Jacksboro, so I called. And he said, yeah, he had a vacancy, Levi Duncan at Uvalde was retiring, and uh, he was retiring the first of March or officially the first of April because that's when I went to work, first of April. Or anyway, maybe first of March Levi was going... at Uvalde. And so I went down and talked, I got in... my day off was Thursday so I left on, got off my shift on Wednesday afternoon and uh drove to Carrizo

Springs and I got in there about midnight from Jacksboro, and uh... Captain told me to come out to the ranch and uh, he had a ranch about ten miles north of Carrizo Springs. And I went out to the ranch and him and Miss Pearl, his wife, she was a school teacher, they were waiting up for me and uh... so we sat and talked until 3 o'clock in the morning. Before we went to bed, he said, well I'm gonna ask for you. I want you in my company, I'm gonna ask the... Colonel Garrison was Director, I'm gonna ask Garrison to hire you. And uh, I want you in the company and uh, uh, he said that don't mean that I'll get you because said you know, I, Tol Dawson was a Ranger stationed there in Carrizo at the time, and Tol was a good hand, good man, he's dead now. But he said, I went in to get Tol, I was gonna ask for Tol, said they had a different, at the time this happened, they had a different Chairman of the DPS Commission. He was some oilman from Synder, Texas. And he said, I went in, and we went in to the, into their meeting room and, and he told them he wanted Tol and this chairman said no, we're not gonna hire him. Said written, he'd written on his shirt sleeve this other guy's name, said this is the man we're gonna hire in the Ranger service. And uh, it was kind of, it was a political deal and uh, so Captain, but then later, about a year or year and half later, Captain got Tol in the Rangers. But Captain told me, said it's not a cut thing that... I'll go and ask for you because they might turn me down, turn me down but hopefully they won't. And it turned out that when we went in there, and they interviewed us, there was ten Highway Patrolman went in to uh to Austin for interviews.

**NANCY RAY:** Now this is an interview board?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Interview board. Actually, actually, uh, it was the first interview board probably ever conducted in the Ranger service. If it wasn't, it was the second, it was close... But it was composed of Garrison, Colonel Speir, the three DPS Commissioners and I can't, I know

that one of them was Blake, Blakemore I think, well, he was from Sanantone... Blakemore was on the board I think. Blakemore later become Chairman. This guy was from Sanantone, in fact they have a street named after him in Sanantone, he was an attorney, I can't... But there were three DPS Commissioners there, and the two directors, and that's who we went before... all ten Highway Patrolman was up, was up for a, for a job with the Rangers, promote to the Rangers, went in and... They brought the captains in first and talked to the captains. Then they brought us in and talked to each one of us. And then they brought the captains back in, then they made their selection and they called you. The night, that particular night, Billy Gunn who is in real bad condition, he has some physical problems, Charlie Neel who, who's dead... and Charlie left the, he stayed in the Rangers two, three, or four years then he went to work for, heading up security for a paper mill up north of Houston. And uh Charlie Neel and Billy Gunn and I were selected that night. And they called us in and said there were four vacancies and there was some chief deputy sheriff down... the other vacancy was at Victoria because the Ranger down there had just died, and uh, they found him in his car along side the road, he'd had a heart attack or something. And this vacancy had just come up and so Glenn Krueger, who I was very close to in my company, and who's also dead now, uh, but Glenn was there, was at the interview deal, and so Garrison told him said we're gonna wait for a little while... What is... the chief deputy in Victoria was having a lot of state senators and state reps putting a lot of pressure on the director to hire this chief deputy and so he just passed on it to kind of let the heat die down and Glenn Krueger got the appointment and come in three months later... and come into Company D and was stationed uh at Beeville.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, do you remember any of the questions the interview board asked you? What were they looking for?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Aw... boy, you know, gosh that's been so long ago. I'm trying to think of it. I remember, I remember they asked me if I could speak Spanish and I told them you know, *pocita*, I could speak a little Spanish but I couldn't, I wasn't fluent in Spanish. And uh I got better at it after I got to Uvalde and got to work in Mexico a lot but uh, but anyway uh, uh, they asked several questions... I, I... They didn't, generally the questions they asked was more, you know, having to do with using commonsense... and things like that

**NANCY RAY:** Commonsense, OK. That's what I wondered. Did you go to any kind of school or did you just go straight to your first duty station?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** I went straight to my duty station, and uh, of course we had a Ranger in-service later. I think they started some of that schooling later on... I came back to, I come back to uh Jacksboro and then transferred to, got Shirley and my oldest boy was born, and uh we moved to uh, to Uvalde.

**NANCY RAY:** So that, Uvalde was your first duty station?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** It was my first duty station, I was there 21 years.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh, you had a long tenure.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** I has under the command of Captain Allee for five years until he retired, mandatory retirement. And then John Wood come in there as sergeant before uh Captain Allee retired and then they moved the headquarters from Carrizo Springs to San Antonio, Company D headquarters. And John Wood commanded... and John Wood retired then Jack Dean come aboard. And uh, he was uh Captain... and I asked for transfer. I came out to this

country in Alpine in 1967 or '68 to pick up some stolen mercury on... the Captain had sent me on assignment down in the Valley on some people were stealing mercury out of, mercury meters in the oil patch. And I didn't know "*come here from sic'em*" about the investigation in the oil patch... they fortunately put me with a deputy sheriff down there that did. And I worked with this deputy and we captured a couple of guys named Vorhees that were stealing this mercury and they were shipping it by rail out to Alpine in 70-pound flasks because there was an old miner down south that was buying that stolen mercury and, and uh, reselling it you know as mined mercury.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, was this your first case? As a Ranger.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** No, no, this was way...(laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** Well, let's go ahead hear about the mercury first.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** I don't remember, it was, it was in early in my career, I know that, but this happened in I believe 1968. But I come on in '66 so no, I had already worked a lot...

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what happened with the people who were stealing mercury?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** They, they ended up with short term in the penitentiary uh... in my first book I talk about this, and it's really a humorous story about uh... and his name's in that book. There's a letter in there from him, he's a lawyer that turned Methodist preacher.

**NANCY RAY:** I read that letter.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Did you read that letter?

**NANCY RAY:** I did read that letter. Tell us about it.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, I met him in the courthouse, in Cameron County Courthouse, after we arrested Vorhees boys and had them in jail, across the street from the courthouse. And I

met him at a little coffee shop in the courthouse and I was there getting a cup of coffee and he walked up, and of course he immediately recognized me as a Ranger. And uh introduced himself and said he represented the Vorhees boys, and uh, brothers, two brothers. And in that day, that was the day before the Miranda warnings, so that, we... even though they had a lawyer, we could still talk to them. So, I went across that afternoon and took, after he'd done visited with them, and took confessions from both of them. And I thought, well he was such a nice young lawyer that I'll just carry a copy... he'd get them anyway in court, so I just took copies of the confessions over to his office that afternoon. Well, he'd already gone home or something, his secretary was still there. But when he come in the next morning, she handed him those two confessions, he said well I, he thought all these bad things he'd heard about the Rangers, he thought these guys are gonna be beat up they're gonna have black eyes and broke arms or something be ... be tortured or something. Because he had told them, don't give, don't make a statement, don't give a statement. He ran over to the jail thinking to see these guys was all beat up, and said he walked in, said he got them together and walked in the cell and there wasn't a mark on them. He said, did you give that Ranger a statement? They said yes we did. He said you did? Why'd you do that? They said he was the nicest fellow we ever met. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** He was surprised, wasn't he?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Yeah, he was surprised... he wrote a letter about that. When I got that letter, he was a preaching out in El Paso or... at the First Methodist Church in El Paso or one of them. But it's a funny stories the way some things work, but anyway it's a... that's the way I seen Alpine. I came out here to pick up that stolen mercury. Born and raised in Texas but I'd never been out here in this Big Bend Country and uh, I said I'm gonna come out here some day.

So it took me 20 years to get out here. And I would of came before I did. I took 21 years to get out here but I'd came 20 years earlier but there was always a Ranger here. Arthur Hill was here forever.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, let's back up to Uvalde. We'll come back to Alpine but let's back up to your first duty station. Now what do you remember about that?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, I remember when Shirley and I first moved in there we got us a little small two-bedroom house and, and my oldest boy was, he was just a baby, one year old or something like that. And uh, that was in '66, no he was born in '63 so he was three years old. And uh, anyway, we finally, we were there several months and... I'll tell you something very humorous about it that I remember about it, when we first moved there.

**NANCY RAY:** OK.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** And that's mesquite country. Of course Jacksboro had a lot of mesquite too. South Texas is full of mesquite. Everybody barbeques with mesquite wood, you know, cook with it. So they told me when I got there... now if you cook a steak, well be sure and use mesquite. And uh, so they'd told me about digging a hole in the ground and getting your wood and then get you a grill and cook your steaks. And I went down to uh, wasn't WalMart, it was another one of those outfits like WalMart... but I went down there and bought me a barbeque grill... a little round one. Wasn't very expensive because it couldn't have been, I couldn't afford anything expensive. Couldn't afford steaks but about... payday you'd get a steak, maybe, sirloin steak and salad or something. But anyway, I went down and got this cooker and I went and got... dug me a hole and took some mesquite, got me some mesquite coals and I was getting my steaks prepared. And it was on a Saturday afternoon or something like that and, uh, I

went and put these... getting my coals ready and I uh went and put some coals in that little cooker and I put the grill on it. And I walked inside to get my steaks and in a period of about two minutes when I walked back outside... that grill, which was made of aluminum, had just melted down around the coals. That was my first experience with uh with mesquite. And another experience I had with it one time was shooting .38 wad cutters at about twenty feet and one of the rounds come straight back at me. Mesquite's pretty hard too. But anyway, I ended up going and getting a grill and setting on top of that deal to cook my steak with it. But when I first got there, we had a sheriff there in Uvalde that was named Kenneth Kelley, KELLEY. And I talk about him in my book and Kelley had just come into office the first of January of '66, and I come there the first of April of '66. I recall Levi Duncan, Levi Duncan was a Ranger, he'd come in the Rangers back in the '30s I think, or the '40s or sometime. Levi was hired as a, to do undercover gambling work was what he was originally hired... He had, Levi, I've got big hands but Levi's fingers were half an inch longer than mine, he had huge hands, and he was a, he was an expert with cards. I mean, you could sit around a table and he could deal you what he wanted you to have and could deal himself what he wanted with cards... but that would be with marked cards. He marked them, can't do that with regular, but marked cards, you have... But anyway, and I, how they still do it I don't know, I don't know how you can read those marks that fast, you know, it's just an art to it. But anyway, Levi had just retired and he only lived six months and with Bill Cooksey... I don't know, there's a book out called *The Gun that Wasn't There*, it's about when Bill Cooksey was the sheriff. Bill had been a former Highway Patrol officer... was sheriff of *No Country for Old Men*... Terrell County, which was a movie, *No Country for Old Men*, was shot, was about that part of the country and it was a good title for it. But Bill Cooksey

was former DPS and he was sheriff of Terrell County and he, this, was illegal that we'd been... I guess that was probably one of the first cases that I was actually involved with Captain Allee when I went up... this is kind of started coming back... He was out of Mexico, illegal alien, and he lived in caves and stuff and burglarized houses and steal, go in and steal jewelry and steal guns. One, this one, some people named Peck up there, Captain and I went up there on investigation... this guy had burglarized, stole their car and took their car and stuff he got into Mexico. Well he showed back up in that country. But, keep in mind, this is the same guy that later shot Cooksey. What this same hombre did is, his name is Hernandez and there's a chapter in my second book about him... And uh Hernandez uh, there was an old fellow that, up north between Uvalde and Leakey uh trying, had a store there, trying to think... near, south of Garner State Park. And he had a store there, him and his wife, and had living quarters in the back of the store. And uh, this guy come in there one night and he'd taken a pair of red, silk pajama legs... I don't know whether it was women or men pajamas, don't know... But it was red, silk pajama legs and made him a mask. Cut the holes in it and then made him a drawstring on it. And he come in and he had a .38 special, 4-inch barrel, we call them military police .38 special. And he come in the house and uh, uh this old fellow... I call his name in the book and I'll think of it in just a minute. Well, this fellow was close to 70 years old, him and his wife. But he was a real wiry guy and uh, and uh, Rutherford... Mr. Rutherford and his wife. But anyway, so this hombre come in and had this pistol and he had this mask on and he had a cotton rope about, maybe ten foot of cotton rope or something. And he walked in and Rutherford and his wife were watching TV and Rutherford got up and he threw that rope to Rutherford and told him said, tie your wife up. She was in a chair. Well, Rutherford jumped him and he was standing there with a gun.

Rutherford grabbed his hand with that gun and they wrestled around the room, wrestled around and they went out on the deck and Rutherford got the gun away from him. Now this guy's in his 30s, late 20s, early 30s, small guy... probably, Hernandez was probably 5'7", 5'6", 5'7", but wiry built, strong. But he got that gun away from him and Rutherford stuck that gun in his belly and pulled the trigger twice because I seen the cotter's case indentation... it was bad primers in those rounds, neither round went off and the guy broke away and took off running. And then he went over that country and they got after him with dogs and stuff like that and that's when they went west and went to Pumpville. He shot the postmaster and the guy that owned the store there at Pumpville, wounded him when he was robbing that, robbing his place... shot him in the leg. And then he went on down there at Dryden and that's where he was hiding in a cave and Bill Cooksey come out to, they'd called him out there... somebody'd found this guy in the cave and they called him and said there's a guy staying in this cave. Well, they didn't put two and two... they didn't figure that this was the same guy, you know, and... uh a bad hombre. And in the meantime, he'd gotten another .38 M&P, Military and Police, an uh Cooksey went out there with some other folks and uh, to make a long story short, well they got him out of the deal and uh he shot Bill Cooksey, shot him in the leg and Bill fell forward and shot him in the back and uh and uh, and he got the Mexican, the vaquero to drive him to the river and he got out and wasn't gone but a couple of days and he's back. And uh, then I came back out in this country with Captain Allee when they were... Cooksey and Little Alfred Allee shot him down at a service station there in Dryden. After Cooksey had healed over his wounds, this guy come, he was still burglarizing so they shot, they got in a gunfight with him at the service station there at Dryden and Cooksey... and they, he got hit, got hit in the jaw with a .30-30 round went through one of these

old hand wringers and hit him in the jaw. And anyway, Cooksey, so... anyway, the guy... anyway Levi, getting back to Levi Duncan, Levi, they'd asked him to go guard him at the hospital in Sanantone... they asked, trying to get extra help, Terrell County was, to guard this guy 24 hours around the clock, that had shot Cooksey and they'd shot down. And so, Levi was real proud and he had an old .45 Colt single action he carried stuck down in his pants all the time with a loading gate open so it wouldn't slide further down... didn't wear a holster. Five and a half-inch barrel Colt single action. And uh, but anyway, got his gun out and cleaned it and everything and said told Pearl, his wife, his wife's name was Pearl and Captain Allee's wife was named Pearl, said uh, I want to go guard this prisoner tonight at Sanantone, said I'm gonna lay down and take a little nap... well maybe it was the next morning... I'm going in early in the morning to guard this prisoner all day tomorrow. And he was tickled to get to do something, he was a retired Ranger. He laid down on the bed and said I think I'm getting a little chest cold and laid down on the bed and died. Had a heart attack I guess. But anyway, of course Cooksey, you know, he finally left as sheriff over there and went to teaching school up here in Odessa at the college and he died several years ago.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, tell us a little bit about Captain Allee. From your book, he was an interesting character.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Very interesting.

**NANCY RAY:** And had a big impact on you, is that right?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Very big impact on me and all the Rangers that worked for him. Captain Allee loved his men, I mean he guarded over us men like a setting hen. He watched us and took care of us. Many a time that we have, I've eaten, two or three of us would go to a

restaurant and he, we didn't get much money what they call per diem, you know pay you for your meals and stuff. You had to be away from your station to draw per diem. But we'd be in Carrizo or somewhere off on something on a detail or something with him and he... this was back in the day, he was a leader... In his day, uh he wouldn't have fit into modern-day deals uh, you know because he was a leader. He got... he wanted to get out and lead his men, I mean. If there was going to be a firefight or there was gonna be any trouble, he'd be out in front, you know. He always said that nobody is ever gonna kill one of my men uh without killing me first. They gonna have to kill me, get to me to go, get any of my men. He was always out in front and he was a true leader but uh, but anyway, he uh, he uh, Tol Dawson was stationed there with us. Selwyn Denson was a sergeant and, and, with him, and I think Selwyn's dead now. And uh, Captain, Captain, he never, he didn't attend church but he was a religious man. He believed in God and he believed in Christ and he was uh, he knew he had a Boss, and uh, bigger than then one in Austin, you know. Uh, Colonel Garrison asked him one time, said he drove fast everywhere he went. And us Rangers learnt that from him too. But uh, Colonel Garrison asked him... it was 140 miles from Carrizo to Austin. And he called him up there one day and said uh, Alfred, I need to talk to you. Get up here to Austin... something. When he got there, he walked into Colonel Garrison's office and Colonel Garrison said Alfred, how long does it take you to drive from Carrizo to Austin? He said two cigars. (laughter)

**NANCY RAY:** Oh, goodness.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** But anyway, he was a character. He was a great guy and he took care... But I was gonna tell a story while ago about him buying our meals on per diem. If, if his family some way could figure up how much, how many meals he bought over the years and

didn't charge the state for it... you know and the state had to pay interest on it, it'd be a bunch of money. And uh, of course we had, back then we had to guard everything, I guess they do too now, maybe not as much. But each Ranger company is allotted so much money for per diem, travel expenses and gasoline and operational expenses and things like that... and because of budgetary things, still is a budgetary thing because getting this money from the state, you know, But, I mean... but uh may not be as touch and go as it was back then. And I know when we were in, when we went to the uh uh, Rio Grande City during the .... Strike

**NANCY RAY:** What kind of a strike?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Farm workers

**NANCY RAY:** Farm workers, OK.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** We were all, the whole company was there and uh, I was asked why I didn't write about it in my first book but it's because I run out of room and I didn't think about it. But they limit you to how many words you can have in a book, UT did. But on my first, it's the first chapter in my second book about the farm worker's strike. And uh, in the Valley, and uh I'm the only surviving Ranger that was in that company. Captain Allee was commander, Selwyn Denson was a sergeant, Glenn Krueger was the Ranger at Beeville, Frank Horger was at uh, Frank Horger was at uh McAllen, Jerome Priess at Harlingen, uh Jack Van Cleve at Cotulla, Tol Dawson at Carrizo Springs, and uh, I think, I think, well uh, the old Ranger that wore a black hat all the time was at Sanantone, but the Captain never called him down there. He's kind of a senior Ranger, he had probably the most years of anybody, more years than the Captain, I think, or at least as many. What the heck was his name. Oh, .... like Levi Duncan, you know but this... what was his name... the old Ranger at Sanantone...

**NANCY RAY:** You'll probably think of it in a minute.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** I'll think of it in a minute. But anyway, he didn't, he was in the company at the time but he didn't come down there. But all the men, all the men was involved in the farm workers' strike, they're all dead now..

**NANCY RAY:** Well, how did you handle the strike?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, our job was just to maintain, maintain you know, peace... see, Texas has a right-to-work law. And uh, and so we were there to enforce that, in fact if you wanted to work on that ranch, there were farms down there, lots of citrus farms and other farms growing vegetables and melons, and things like that. And of course we were, we were accused of being strike breakers and all that stuff but that's not true. And they had more problems, those people down there had more problems with the local law enforcement than the Rangers as far as problems were concerned. The Rangers just went in and enforced the law as we seen it... we had, we had a lot of the uh, the strike laws and, we had some laws taken away from us after that was all over... in Federal court, some of the unlawful assembly statutes and different things that were taken away but uh... There were several arrests made down there but all the arrests were legal and legit. Had a killer down there that Captain Allee and Tol Dawson arrested, Magdalena Dimas, and I talk that in the book. And uh, some of them have written stories about how he was abused... he wasn't abused, he, he was lucky to not get killed the way he conducted himself and being armed and everything from time to time. But he killed, he served time in Texas and he killed several people. He was an enforcer for the Union is what he was. But I told it just like I seen it and uh, when I was a Ranger there... in my book about that strike. And uh...

**NANCY RAY:** Well, I remember one case that you talked about that to do with the prison... and Captain Allee.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Oh, that was the jail, the jailbreak at Carrizo I guess... when we had that, had a shootout there. The prisoners, and they don't, I don't think... I don't know whether there's any jails in Texas now where the deputy lives in the jail... uh if there is, it's very few but... But one of the deputy sheriffs lived in the jail and cooked for the prisoners, him and his wife. Him and his wife lived downstairs, most of the cells except maybe a holding cell or two were downstairs. But they, they jumped him, him and his wife and then uh they got away but then they had gotten into their quarters and he had a bunch, like all deputies and lawmen, he had a bunch of guns... a bunch of seized guns there from the Sheriff's Department. And they got all his .22s, .30-30s and handguns, .45s, .38s, ammunition was there so when the uh, the uh Doc... Doc Murray was the City Marshall there then, later was Sheriff. The sheriff at that time was a former Ranger, uh in fact he rode with the Rangers back in the '20s and '30s, I'm trying to think of his name. He was the sheriff there at Carrizo at the time. But he wasn't there when this jailbreak happened, he was out of town or something. And so Captain Allee and them, our office was in Carrizo so they were some of the first to get there. Because when Murray got up there, well... when the deputy's wife escaped and told Murray what had happened, well Murray drove up there and they started shooting at him so we had a, had a shootout there when we got there. I had to drive from Uvalde up there and took the Chief Deputy Sheriff from Uvalde with me. We, it was 50 miles and we drove there in 29 minutes so...

**NANCY RAY:** 29 minutes... Well, we're gonna change discs and then we'll come back and let you finish this story. (*side conversation*)

**NANCY RAY:** OK, you're gonna finish telling us about the incident there at the jail.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Yeah, that was in Carrizo Springs... that the uh, the prisoners had taken over, commandeered the jail and... the deputy sheriff and his wife had gotten away who lived in the jail. And they got all the weapons and stuff.... Will (*that's the dog*), honey... well I guess he's out of the picture, isn't he?

**NANCY RAY:** He's OK.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** But anyway, uh, I drove, I think what I was saying before we closed that last tape, I drove from uh Uvalde to Carrizo, 50 miles in 29 minutes, and I had Morris Barrow was deputy, Chief Deputy Sheriff there... And uh, anyway he uh, Morris and I drove up and I was driving into the jail, we drove right up in the middle of shooting... I mean bullets was flying everywhere. And I never will forget... out in front of me was Little Alfred Allee, Captain Allee's son, and he happened to be there visiting his dad on that particular day. And he hollered at me if I had any shotgun shells and, so we had, they issued us buckshot and uh uh, shotgun slugs in 5-round boxes. And so I threw him a couple of 5-round boxes and uh, uh I had, I was carrying an M-2 carbine which was, had a, selector on full automatic, and I had 30 rounds of magazine, and an extra 30-round magazine, and I threw that... and I could hear hollering up in the corner of the jail and as soon as he loaded, he started firing up there on that corner of the jail where these guys was hollering, on the second floor. And uh it turns out that where he was shooting, that there's two guys, two town drunks that weren't even involved in the jailbreak, they were locked, still locked in their cells and they were hollering and Alfred was shooting at them, because he didn't know, Little Alfred was shooting at them in the window where they was at. And we found them after we got in there. They were huddled up under their bunk and uh, uh the

sheriff there said you know every Saturday night they'd have to arrest these guys and put them in jail for just town drunks. And he said that was better than AA because after that shootout, ... never see them guys on the street drunk again. (laughter) If they got drunk, they stayed home and got drunk. They never come out in town. But anyway, it done a better job on curing them of drinking and... I don't know if it cured their drinking but it sure kept them out of town. And anyway, when, after I throwed those cartridges to Little Alfred, well I got, I finally got parked and everything. And Captain Allee was there on the south side of the jail and he'd fired tear gas, we had those tear gas guns. He'd fired, none of them had penetrated, because there're bars on all those windows and none of them had actually penetrated the jail. The tear gas rounds were all outside, they'd hit those bars and some fell down. There's gas all around the jail, tear gas. And none of us had masks on, I'm not even sure at that time we'd even been issued... later on they, we were issued gas masks and I got a couple of them hanging out in the garage now that's obsolete. But anyway, I went up to the Captain. I never will forget another humorous thing was the day before, just a few days before, I'd just bought a brand new Resistol hat. And of course, times was tough and Ranger's salary wasn't that good then, but we was doing what we like to do... you enjoyed being a Ranger so much you'd almost done it free you know if you'd had some way to feed your family. Uh, but, but anyway uh, I ran up to the... Captain's on my left and he had a little short-barrel .30-30 rifle like the one I carried uh in the Ranger service. And I didn't, I hadn't traded for that, my gun, my .30, at that time. And uh, so Captain uh... I went around to the north side, east side of the jail. And the Captain was firing in there and they were firing at him. Bullets, like I said, were flying everywhere. And I went around to the east side and, and firing was coming from the second floor and I fired full automatic burst, four, five, or six-

round bursts through the bars in those windows. And I never will forget it... when, it looked like, when those bullets was hitting those bars, it looked like a swarm of fireflies... you know, just the sparks off the bars. But when I first pulled up there with the Captain... I had that new hat on and, and uh he looked over at me and said, where'd you get that new hat, Joaquin? And I said, just bought it, Captain. And I thought... it crossed my mind that uh, funny things are said and... it crossed my mind you know well I'm gonna get a hole shot in this new hat, never thought about my head being in it. But uh, anyway, went around there and so we, as I got around, I fired those rounds... when I fired those full automatic rounds up in there, well things kind of quietened down, the shooting kind of stopped... Captain come around and finally we walked around to the north side of the jail and Captain said, I'll give you SOBs 'til 10 to come out of there, put them guns down and come out of there. And he counted to 3 and started to shooting. I said Captain, I said that's not 10. He said, them SOBs can't count. (laughter) And anyway... we went around, we got them all out... we went upstairs... I never will forget. We went in this one cell and they was eight or ten of the guys involved in this thing and they were huddled up in one corner, just a small area and we come in there and got them. And then we found them old drunks you know up under, they were up underneath those metal bunks and... and we got them out but they were locked up and they couldn't go anywhere. We got them all out on the ground in front of the jail and uh searched them and handcuffed them and uh, one guy, only one prisoner out of the bunch, he was shot through the thigh, I don't remember whether it was the left or the right thigh, but he was shot through the thigh with a round, and uh, we got, EMS got him out of there and got him to the hospital under, under guard. And, but that was what took place on that uh... And another story on... when we first went in the jail before we got these guys upstairs, well myself, I went

in, and Tol Dawson and behind me was this Chief Deputy Sheriff, Morris Barrow. And Morris had a World War II uh .45 caliber uh grease gun, what they called a grease gun they used in World War II. Full automatic, flow-back operating. And the Captain looked around and seen, grabbed that grease gun and, well Tol and I started up the stairs and the Captain shoved... I meant to tell you while ago about him... he shoved us back and said no, ain't none of my Rangers gonna get shot in front of me. But he took that grease gun and sprayed it, and it was all concrete and steel, and he fired, must of fired eight or ten rounds, full automatic up them stairs. Well, those bullets were going everywhere. I mean it was... I, I told somebody I think it was the most dangerous part of that whole damn shootout... the way those bullets were flying around inside that jail, you know. But none of us got hit and, and uh we went on up there and got them guys out. But, but uh...

**NANCY RAY:** And you didn't get a hole in your new hat?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** There's guns laying everywhere... I mean there's pistols, I've never seen... those food trays on the doors where they'd slide their food, there were a couple of pistols laying in, on those things, guns laying on the floor, all of them loaded. All the guns were still loaded but they abandoned their guns and all went into a cell and just got up into a corner when we came up there.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, you're still in Uvalde, any cases stand out in your mind that you want to talk about?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** In Uvalde?

**NANCY RAY:** Um hmm

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Oh, we had a lot of cases there in Uvalde. I worked, uh, I talked about it in my second book, the Champ Carter murder case was uh, finally got that uh resolved. And the guy that done the killing on that was uh involved in the killing on that uh

**NANCY RAY:** Tell us a little bit about that case.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, this guy was a, Champ Carter was uh from San Antonio, was a notorious gambler and a pimp. And he had a string of girls and then there was a guy named Bunny Eckert that was running the same business, it's just that Bunny was a three-card monte guy and done a lot of gambling and operations and things. And uh, in fact Bunny used to come out, well he come out one time to the racetrack. We had a racetrack in, in Uvalde and they'd race there on the weekend sometime and uh, and I'd go out there because, to try and cut down on the gambling. You can't stop gambling but... uh you know I learnt many years ago as a Ranger that uh, you don't, you can't, you can legislate it but you can only enforce the laws the people in the community want enforced. Gambling and prostitution uh and uh uh, alcohol, are three things that's hard to control, it's like during prohibition when the Rangers used to work busting the stills in East Texas and things like that, Central Texas and you know... if people want their whiskey, they're gonna get it. Uh, they want uh uh, companionship, well they're gonna get that. If they want uh, uh to gamble on horses, they're gonna do that. They've done it from the beginning of time... like I said, you can legislate it but you, you can only, you're only effective, you can enforce the law, and I did that, I enforced the law... but I had a lot of acquittals and a lot of cases that never went to trial, you know... because of the fact that people were against enforcing all those laws. But on this Champ Carter, he was, and Bunny Eckert, he was killed over in Medina County... and Bunny Eckert and another guy, and Bunny had one of his girls...

Bunny was also a pimp, he was brought on prostitution, and he had this one girl with him. And uh, uh, they killed Champ Carter coming in there. Champ never was armed, he never any guns and they shot him with a shotgun coming in to this place... He bought this place he called The Castle and he was gonna start a gambling casino and a house of ill repute, in this Castle. And uh, down there close to Medina Lake in Medina County. And they killed him there. They'd been up there and burglarized the place and stolen the marble table and some other stuff and things like that and were coming out and met him on a one-lane deal and met head on and this one guy, named Hunter, I think his last name was Hunter, shot him. And he later got killed in a bar in Austin, a guy shot him in the head with a .45 automatic. But Eckert uh, Eckert since then, Eckert, he disappeared. They, some of these crooks went in and burglarized his mother's home and killed his mother and stole a bunch of stuff. And Bunny disappeared and his pickup disappeared and to this day, they've never found his pickup or found him. But uh, we had the evidence on him to try him for the murder of Champ Carter. And of course that's a long, long story about that and I ended up in Louisiana on this uh, uh this Jeannie Piper who was a girl and uh she was living with one of Carlos Marcello's capos and one of his captains and, of course Carlos being the kingpin, the head man of the mafia. And uh, he covered Texas and Louisiana, Mississippi, and I don't know what all his district was. And anyway, she was living with this captain of Carlos Marcello's and... found her and went to her and told her, I was in Jefferson Parish, and told her I wanted to talk to her and uh, on this murder case, and she said well I can't talk to you here. Said now, where do you want me to meet you? And I said meet me at the sheriff's office. And this is late in the afternoon, said meet me at the sheriff's office in the morning at eight. But she never showed. So we, I was working with a good deputy and we started looking for her. And

started, actually, we started hitting, couldn't locate her, started hitting some of Carlos Marcello's gambling dens in the back of some of those joints, some of those beer joints, and uh we hit three or four of them there one night, looking for her... so we created a little havoc too there. And I get a phone call that night, late that night and uh, Sheriff's Department. And she'd called the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and wanted to know where I wanted her to meet me.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, when you said that created a little havoc, what did you mean?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Do what?

**NANCY RAY:** When you said you created a little havoc, what did you mean?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well by, you know, just scaring the hell out of people, running a bunch of them out of the place, running them out of the place they're in there gambling and stuff going on so we just kind of run them out... cleaned the place out, looking for her, talking to people. Scared the hell out of them and run them out of there. Shut their business down is basically what we did on about three or four of them. I don't know whatever happened to the deputy, he might of got fired over that later... politics might of got him fired. Of course Carlos Marcello was very powerful, course it didn't affect me any, you know. But anyway, she called the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and said tell, ask that Ranger to get hold of me because I'd left where they could get in touch with me. And (she) said, where do, just quit looking for me, where do you want me to meet you? You know, when? I said, I've told you, you tell her just to meet me at the Sheriff's office in the morning at 8 o'clock. She was there, she give me a statement on it. But she, but uh, it was an interesting investigation and uh, but.

**NANCY RAY:** Tell us a little bit about the uh, process of investigating something like that, how did you do it?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** It, of course another thing, I ended up out in Louisiana... one of the prostitutes that had worked for Champ Carter, you know, I ended up... to find out more about Champ Carter. And uh, and about people involved in the prostitution ring and... and it wasn't a whole lot of dope going on at that time, but uh, some heroin use. Heroin was kind of a big thing, cocaine hadn't really come in the picture at that time. Some marijuana use but uh, heroin was probably the big thing in those days. And uh, especially around, in that particular crowd. Uh, but I traveled all over the country on that investigation. It was about a six-month investigation because in between time, I had other investigations that I was doing. But, uh, anyway we got indictments on, on the case but it never went to trial. Like I say, it never will now because Eckert is, nobody, he's dead somewhere, they killed him, they searched all the lakes around that country, they searched everywhere they can for him and his truck. And uh, anyway, I've got ideas about where I think he's at, I think he's in, Frio County in that sandy, red sandy soil over there on the ranch because the guy that killed him, who I think is still alive, he lives in Austin now and he's on up there in age and uh he was a hired killer and I think the guy that killed him buried him in his truck on one of them ranches out there, is where I think the truck is. It was, but, I don't know what they'll ever find his body or not.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what year did you go to Alpine? That was your second duty station, is that right?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** First of April of '66, 1<sup>st</sup> of April... and I stayed there until January of '87. Of course another thing, some interesting cases that I worked on in uh... I spent a lot of time in Mexico when I was working out of Uvalde and uh... I had a very good friend named Felipe Zamora that I worked with, he was a captain of the (*Spanish word*)..., like the Cattle Ranchers

Association was basically a captain in the state police, of the state of Coahuila. And uh, I spent... back then, I'd go into Mexico in my state car. When I had that state car, it was always lots of ammunition I carried everything in that state car that I'd need.

**NANCY RAY:** I know you carried lots of weapons in your car. Describe the weapons that you carried.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, I carried, I carried, I had an M-2 carbine and I think at that, I hadn't gotten my, didn't start carrying my short-barrel .30, uh that's in the picture on the cover (*cover on book*)... I didn't start carrying that gun until about the '70s, so I had, well I had that gun in the '70s because I was in Mexico a lot in the '70s, late '60s. Short barrel .30-30 carried under my feet and I had a uh, M-1 carbine. Later I got an Armorlite AR-18 which is a .223 caliber. And uh, I had a, I always carried an extra handgun under the seat. I carried an extra handgun either under my shirt and belt or in my boot plus a .45, Commander .45, 1911 I carried, wore. And uh, but when I went into Mexico, well I didn't wear the gun, I left, I'd leave the guns in the car and I have one, I'd always have one under my shirt or in my boot but I never carried my guns open or wore my badge open in Mexico. Uh, when I'd go in there, and going down to see Felipe or Xicotencote Flores who was a *comandante* in Nueva Rosita, Coahilla. But I'd go down after fugitives. And uh we had this murder case in Uvalde that time when these two boys, illegal aliens, murdered this other one and robbed him, it was another illegal alien that they were staying with out in the barn. And they murdered him and buried him in a shallow grave and took off to Mexico. And I went down and we got both of them boys. Got one of them out of Mexico and the other one had already crossed and we got him arrested up around Bandera working on a ranch. But then I went in there, uh I'd helped the FBI get people out of there and uh they, the FBI

had money to pay for those prisoners and things, fugitives. And uh it got uh, I could sit and talk to you all day about you know things that happened in Mexico and situations that occurred down there. Uh, we had a good friend at the time that was a very good friend of the Rangers that, Jim Nance was a Ranger out at Sierra Blanca had developed that friendship with this guy, General, uh a Mexican General by the name of uh, oh I have to think a minute, uh... But anyway, he was, when I was working out of Uvalde, he had moved, I don't know where he'd been but he moved up to Eagle Pass, he was living in Eagle Pass. Uh, Quines, General Quines, QUIENES or QUINES or something. General Quienes. He got a son that's a Border Patrolman at Uvalde or was about a year or two ago, one of his boys, Border Patrolman, in the U.S. Border Patrol now. But uh, General Quienes was a good friend of the Rangers. I visited with him in his home in Eagle Pass and uh, that was kind of an ace up our sleeve when going into Mexico because nobody messes with those generals. They are the most powerful people there are in, in a they have a district or a zone. The Federal police and the state police and the *municipal*, federal *adicial*, or state *adicial* or *municipal*, local *policia*, they all do what the general says to do. I mean if it comes that, he controls things.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, how do you build that friendship with someone or the relationship, the working relationship?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, we got this relationship going through Jim Nance. Jim Nance and him were good friends and then we contacted him. When we went to Mexico one time, I tell that on a bear hunt, we went, me and the Sheriff and Chief of Police from Uvalde, and the Sheriff and two or three others went down to Mexico and we carried all these weapons in there and we got *permisos* signed by this general you know for having those weapons in there you know. And

some of these guys weren't law enforcement, but when I went in there as law enforcement officer, I never, I'd go in there... Felipe, and... I never had any problem, I don't know whether it was because I got to be known down there or what it was but the Mexican Customs you know never give me any problem and never searched my vehicle and just *pasale*, go ahead you know. I'd tell them where I was going and could get a *permiso* to go in, and of course I got arrested one time coming out at the checkpoint, what we call the 10-mile checkpoint, which normally checked you going in but I was coming out of Mexico. But, the uh, which I guess you could call him uh, next to the governor, or lieutenant governor of the state of Coahuila, had found out I was doing some investigation. I was down there looking for these boys that committed this murder. Because something had come out in the newspaper in Nueva Rosita and uh, uh, and I was coming out well they stopped me. And this *comandante* from *agente de aduana*, the customs agents, they were there but the *comandante* from the town of Piedras Negras come out there and was... with three or four of his men. And they, when I come driving up, they threw down on me with pistols and rifles.

**NANCY RAY:** What were you thinking at that time?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** I was just thinking what the hell do they want? But then I asked them I said am I (arrested)... they said oh no you're our guest, you're our guest. You just come along and follow us and let's go to the *comandante's* office. So I go in there and we go inside and I sat out in the kind of a reception room in there and they said, uh, said uh we're waiting for the Lieutenant Governor to call... until he calls, we can't do anything. So, I sat there for two or three hours... well God, I need to make a phone call. We didn't have cell phones. I need to make a phone call to my captain. No, Señor, no problems, we're waiting on the Governor to call and

everything will be OK. So, anyway, finally he called and uh they said OK, you can go now. But the Governor said for you not to come back into Mexico making any investigation unless you cleared it with his office. I said OK. So I left and I went down to Quemada and when I was down there, I met with a friend of mine and we had, barbequed a steak or something and I got a call from Xicotencote Flores and told me that uh, that uh, I'd left him the number, I'd left Xicotencote my home number and uh, and this chief deputy sheriff, who was Morris Barrow, his family lived there in Quemada. And uh I think he had called my house and I'd tried to call Shirley and Shirley had called me and said Xicotencote and I got a hold of Xicotencote. And he said uh he had a guy in custody that he thought I was looking for, could I come back down there. So I went back down there that night and I didn't say anything about it. (laughter) I was down there a couple of days and come back out. When I come back out, they never, they never stopped me coming back out. I don't, I think that's because they didn't, well they didn't that I was down there.

**NANCY RAY:** Was this the time you had the air conditioner on your window?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** That air conditioner mounted on the dash, I traded a rifle for that air conditioner. I traded a rifle, I swapped for that rifle. It was a short barrel Trapper what they call an original Trapper Model 94, with a 16-inch barrel. They made them in 12-, 14-, 15-, 16-inch barrels. But uh, if I still had that gun today, it'd be worth \$5,000. And I traded for an air conditioning unit for that state car, for that state car, that '66 state car. I wish I had that gun back. I sure don't have the air conditioner (laughter) and it wouldn't be worth anything if I had. I don't know... if I still had that air conditioner on EBay, it might bring a thousand, you know, that... 1966 model, 1967 model air conditioner. It might bring some money.

**NANCY RAY:** Is there anything else about Uvalde you want to tell us before we move to Alpine.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Oh, I left a lot of good friends there, and we're all getting a little long in tooth and getting a little *viejo* now, and uh... Shirley was on the phone this morning with some of our close friends, one of my buddies there is in pretty bad health right now. But uh, anyway, that's all part of it when you start getting old. But then, anyway, I, I, I like this country much better than I do Uvalde.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, what about, what kind of cases did you have in Alpine? I know in your book, your first book, you had the totals broken down on the type cases. Tell the

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, probably the most interesting case is one they've already written a major motion picture screen play on which is I don't think will ever be made into a motion picture. We signed a contract with Twenty-Nine Twenty-Nine to do a major motion picture and they never renewed the option so they may come back later and try to renew it. In the meantime, I may, somebody else may give an option or something else. But it was about the shooting on the Colorado, the Rio Grande River.

**NANCY RAY:** I'd like to hear about that one.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** The wife, the wife was shot and the husband was killed and the river guide, the boat guide was shot. But uh, that happened in 19.. uh I come here in '89, 1989, and uh when I got the call here at the house about 3 o'clock in the morning, said there'd been a shooting on the river and I got up and dressed. And Shirley asked me when I was dressing said what's going on? I said I gotta go down to the river there's been a shooting. As I was leaving, she said "don't drown." And uh, because she, she's always been afraid of boats. She's had relatives in her

family drown. So I, but I got in a situation down there, damn near close to getting drowned but uh when I got in the boat with a Customs agent that didn't know how to run a boat in the rapids and the rapids was up and fast. Trying to get down to the scene and uh, Game Warden was there and had a boat but the Chief Deputy Sheriff got in the boat with him and I knew that Warden knew how to run them rapids and uh uh, so I told this, asked this Customs agent, said he was supervisor in charge of Customs over in Presidio. I said, do you know how to run... he had a jet engine on that boat, flatbed about a 12-foot flatbed boat. And he said, oh yeah, yeah. I know how to run... Well, and I dressed... Levis, got on a field jacket, Army field jacket, got two 30-round, two 20-round magazines for an M-14, I got an M-14 I'm carrying. And uh and then uh, my pistol, pistol belt's on for .45, and uh and I'm wearing these high-topped boots, 16-inch high-topped boots, and no life vest. So we get in the boat and we start out and I said follow that Warden and do exactly what... and when we hit those rapids, don't shut off on your power. If anything, keep, give it extra power and follow him. And there's boulders sticking up out there, their big ones, water splashing on them. And we get out there and the first thing we done, well he, he shuts off one and when he did well we hit a boulder and when we hit that boulder, he knocked the engine off and he's holding it in his arms. And I thought, Miss Shirley said don't drown, I thought this is it. So we start bouncing off them boulders and the funny thing I'm thinking, what's going through my mind is like a pinball machine you know, except they didn't light up when you hit one of them boulders. Then we started heading for the bluff and I figure we're gonna hit that bluff... that aluminum boat is gonna fold like an accordion. But we never hit the bluff... before we got to it, the Warden came back and threw me a rope and, or maybe we grazed off the edge a little bit but he threw me a rope and he took us back. And this guy had this

motor in his arms and he's gonna put... wait a minute I'll get this on I'll... and I called him some names that I can't repeat but I went down there and got in the boat with those people in the rubber raft that run the river all the time and know what they're doing. They took me down to the crime scene. But we worked that thing, I give credit to the U. S. Border Patrol. They're omnipresent in this country, they're everywhere. They got lots of help and getting more and more all the time. Hope they continue to get more. But, uh, as we worked that crime scene and we had four guys from Mexico because I cut the... they was on two horses and two mules, one of the mules had thrown a shoe. I had two Mexico, two Mexican state policeman from Ojinaga down there working with me over on the Mexican side and I was gathering fired shell cases and any evidence I could find. But I had cut the side, went down there in canyon there where it broke into the main canyon and where they'd camped there that night... and found some cans and other stuff and debris there where they'd been, they'd camped and spent the night. And uh, before, that was the night before the shooting of... those people come into that river early that morning and they had burned an old marijuana field that was down there on the Mexican side of the river. And that canyon was full of smoke when these people went into it and there was a landlocked cow over on the uh, on the uh US side on the bank and they started shooting and there was one guy had a .30-30, one boy, one twenty year old had a .30-30 and the seventeen year old had a .44 magnum and the two sixteen year olds were carrying .22 rifles. They started shooting at that cow and then they saw the boat coming and they said let's shoot the Gringo. So they started walking along the top, and its 400-foot bluffs and they started walking along that bluff shooting at them. And of course they, the guide went in when he was tying the boat so he got a round through the leg and the boats had all kinds of hits in them, they hit them boats, that raft several times. And in

the process of going down the river, they were following them shooting at them and they were finally, the woman was hit in the side with a .30-30 round, it didn't hit any vitals... but they were completely exhausted because they'd, several places they were outcropping and had to get in the water to go around an outcropping and they'd get back on the bank. And when they got up there, her husband had pulled her out of the water and was bent over her trying to help her, she was about to go into shock and completely exhausted. And he took a round right between his shoulder blades and come out right above his naval with that .44 magnum. And he fell there on, beside her and she lay there and watched him die. And uh, and then she got up and ran, when he died, well, she went over there and hid in some brush against the cliff wall, the rock banks over there and hid in some brush and uh, she was there all night and when the raft people come down through there after dark, they were hollering, calling out... they found the raft with bullet holes but they were calling but she never would answer them, she was too scared. The guide in the meantime, he'd, when he got out, he ran off down on the bank and out, got back in the river and floated down a little ways and went, a couple of miles, two or three miles down the river and come out and walked back to the road. Early the next morning about four, five o'clock in the morning, well a guy come along on the road and picked that guide up, in fact he brought him up there to the camp just before I left to get on the river and he told me what had happened. And uh, but anyway, getting back to the Border Patrol, I went after, we knew who the shooters were and done the crime scene, and went to the Chief of the Border Patrol over at Marfa and I said, we don't know who the shooters are, we know they're from Mexico, and uh, they're riding... they're riding two horses and two mules and they're headed back towards the little village down below Mulato on the Mexican side. And uh, I'd went off, I'd cut the sign on, there's a good sign

out there in that desert and those two Mexican policeman said they'd follow them... they didn't do it. I don't know what happened to them, they never, they never followed them because they should have been tracking them right up to the corral where they were. But I had to get back to the crime scene. So anyway, I, I went to the Border Patrol chief and I said... it's a heavy drug smuggling area, right across from Redford, Texas, and uh, Mulato... and the little villages along there, and I said if we could shut down this road that runs from Presidio down through Lajitas and over to Study Butte and then back to the National Park and then back up to Alpine and Marathon... so I went over to Marfa again and said if you could assign some men to set up roadblocks on either side of Redford, we can do it for ten days... I said before ten days is up, I said them people will give those shooters up, the drug smugglers will give them up because you're shutting their business down. So, he did that and, and on the eighth day, we got two phone calls giving us the names of the shooters. But I was beginning to sweat it, I didn't we was gonna, they was ever gonna call but they did. I guess they'd wait and see how long we was gonna keep that roadblock up and after eight days I guess they figured well they may not take it down until we tell them something. So we captured one of the shooters over on this side where his dad lived and the, actually the one that done the killing, that killed the man, caught him and the other three the Mexican police arrested the twenty year old and the two sixteen year olds, and had them down in Chihuahua City and we went down there and, and had to make two trips, the second trip before we got the weapons and we got statements from these boys on what happened, the shooting and everything. And uh the guy that done the shooting and killed the guy, he got thirty years in court over here. Those uh, the twenty year old served a year in Mexico and the juveniles served six months apiece in Mexico. Uh, but uh, the guy that went to prison over here, he's

already out you know, of course when he got out of prison they deported him, but he's probably back in the United States somewhere. But, I don't know. But that's probably one of the most interesting cases I worked on. I worked on, worked on a lot of, smuggling, you know, in the world today, uh and it was then uh, it was getting worse even when I started out in the Rangers in Uvalde, uh, the heroin was, trade was around Sanantone and metropolitan area. They were coming in over in Medina County, my territory, and burglarizing people's homes and taking their TVs and their guns and stuff that was a quick sale at pawn shops and, and uh, items that were quick sale. And so, we, but, the point I was gonna make, you know, 80% and even then, 70-80% of the crimes were drug related, now it's probably 90% of the crimes are drug related. Uh, uh,

**NANCY RAY:** Well, all of your career has been in the western part of Texas, correct?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Where we're at now?

**NANCY RAY:** Uh huh. In this general area?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Yeah, west, this is west.

**NANCY RAY:** So, never urban, it's always been pretty small towns, things like that?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** I've always worked in small, I worked urb..., I always worked a rural area, I've never... The only work I've done in an urban area is doing follow-up investigations in there you know, like when I saying, with those, those uh heroin addicts would come out of Sanantone, well I'd go into Sanantone on investigation work with detectives in San Antonio and we'd bust, we'd make raids on fence, what we call a fence, the guy that buys, buys stolen property and exchanges or gives them dope in exchange for it whatever a drug dealer, and a fence is a drug dealer. And we busted a lot of people and clear up a lot of cases, you know, and

arrest a lot of dope addicts and... but it's an ongoing, continuous thing. You see, you throw ten in jail and ten more spring up, you know, and uh, so...

**NANCY RAY:** Well, do you see any differences... what kind of differences do you see between say your area, and living in an urban area... the kind of cases that you would handle?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, I wouldn't want to work in urban area because I was in Uvalde all the time, Uvalde was a town when I moved there about 10,000 population, it's about eighteen right now. In all, I worked uh, I worked four counties out of there which is Medina County, and Real County, and Bandera County at first and uh, Zavala County, but uh and I worked Dimmit County before. But all, we, Rangers are assigned four or five counties in this area, three to four to five counties and of course these investigations I was telling, take me into urban areas. But basically most of my work was, was rural. But uh, I didn't, I wouldn't, you know... to work a lot in an urban area, is uh uh just a job I wouldn't want to do. You know, we got Rangers that's stationed in these large cities and they work urban areas and they do a great job, got Rangers that's doing a helluva job, got Rangers today that are two times, twice as smart as us old Rangers like me and Favor you know. These boys are computer whizzes you know and hopefully they don't spend too much time behind a computer, and get out and get on their feet and do a lot of work too, you know.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what kind of differences do you see in your, your life as a Ranger and the life of a Ranger today?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, more modern technology.

**NANCY RAY:** OK.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** I could have done, with some of the technology they have today, I could have done a better job, done a quicker job...

**NANCY RAY:** Such as?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** You know, DNA was something that was just coming in, had been in about four or five or six years, something like that, maybe seven years. As a Ranger, we didn't have DNA lab and DPS didn't have a DNA lab, everything had to go somewhere else, the FBI lab or some place else, some other state where they had a DNA lab. And then your results would be like three to four to five, six months before you'd get any results on your DNA. Now, they you know, DPS has a DNA lab, I assume they do, I think, I'm pretty sure they do, uh how far they can go with that and check it... but DNA has got to be a great, great attribute to criminal investigation now. You just can't hide from DNA. It's just like latent fingerprints, even better in some sense. And uh, so, a lot of these unsolved, we have, Rangers have unsolved crime units you know uh, that work now and they're able to solve crimes... but with DNA now. The crimes occurred twenty years ago, uh or longer. But uh, no I got all the praise in the world for these Rangers today, they're doing a good job. Uh, you know, its' a... when I come in the Rangers, they was, I'm sure that uh Rangers like uh Captain Allee, my captain, the old thirty Rangers of the 20s and 30s, you know thought that us young whippersnappers didn't know anything and, but you just learn it. You know, you jump in, you get your feet wet and you learn from experience from work, from doing it. Like I told you while ago, we didn't go to school... we had in-service... Now I think those Rangers do now, when they make Ranger they go to special criminal investigation... because I come right straight off the Highway Patrol, right into Ranger service. Because one attribute to that is the fact that investigation is a systematic checking of

details. Now whether you're doing an investigation of uh, of a uh of a three-car accident or, uh, a uh, or a homicide uh, it's the same principles and techniques used in that investigation. It's just a different facts and different circumstances. But it is, it's just a systematic checking of details and you follow up on that.

**NANCY RAY:** Is there a case that you can remember that, maybe you didn't, you were not able to solve and it just really sticks with you and you'd like to go back and work on that one?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** There's one case I talk about in that book, that Frome murder case, that mother and daughter that was from California but, over here at Van Horn that they found their bodies in a caliche pit and they had been tortured and burnt with uh cigarettes and they were stripped down almost nude, they were stripped down nude from the waist up and they weren't sexually molested but they were tortured with cigarette burns on their breasts and on the back of their hand and inside their hands and maybe on their neck and stuff. And their suitcases disappeared, their car was there, they was driving a Packard, they come from a very wealthy family. They were going to North Carolina, South Carolina, to visit with uh, one of the other daughters. Uh, they were, hadn't been in this country, they were originally from Germany. They was even that time some intrigue involved, thinking they might have been something to do with uh, with uh, spying uh... that was in 1938 right before World War I started and there were a lot of Germans in Mexico in that time in the late '30s and '40s. And uh, anyway, but with that case, Captain Allee sent me out to California on that case in 1968, I guess I went out there and worked with downtown homicide division and the Captain had come up with information about this guy that was a possible suspect in that thing. As they refer to now days, a person of interest. You know the world's getting to where political right stuff you know, you can't just come out and say

this guy's a suspect, or you're a suspect, you're now a person of interest, you know. And makes me want to say well, what, the interest of what, you know. What part of the interest are you, what part of this investigation are we interested in him in... just exactly what part. Kind of aggravates me, you can't call a spade a spade anymore in this world today, you know. It's just changed. That's one of the reasons why I retired. I wanted to go three years more than... I'd like to put 30 years in the Ranger service but political rights stuff, in fact I was getting tired of being called out at 2 or 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning on call. Fifty-seven years old. When you spent 36 years being on call, that's enough. And I feel like in the, I retired at a good time. And uh

**NANCY RAY:** Think back. Think back to when you first became a Ranger. It's, you know we've interview others, it's not just a job, it's, it becomes your life. Is that correct?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Um hmm.

**NANCY RAY:** And it's dangerous uh, uh, what you were thinking? Can you explain in word your feelings of becoming a Ranger?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, one thing about getting in the Ranger service is getting out of the Highway Patrol. See, when I was in the Highway Patrol, it was pursuit, lots of pursuit driving. We didn't have moving radar. And we worked about once a week or twice a week, we worked that old mailbox type radar. And so, we did a lot of fast driving, a lot of high-speed pursuit, and that's a young man's job. Of course I was 30 years old when I left the Highway Patrol and went into the Rangers, and of course when you're in your 30s, your reflexes are still good and everything, your eyesight's good, but you could see as you go on... you get to be 40, 45 years old and you're still a Highway Patrolman you know, you don't need to be running high-speed pursuit. And uh, but anyway, and I wanted to get into something, always as a Highway

Patrolman, I was always working with the Sheriffs' Departments and maybe the local Rangers would come around or something and, and I was always interested in criminal investigations so that's what I wanted to get into. And when you get into Rangers, it's a pride that uh you can't, it's hard to explain except the fact, when you pin that Ranger badge on, you become part of the tradition that's uh, started in, basically in 1823 uh, it's a tradition that you can't let down. Uh, uh you certainly... I always had the saying as Ranger that that, you used to be an old saying by saying well every man has his price. I said well, I don't think I've got a price but if I do, the badge doesn't, you know. And if you can buy me, you can't buy the badge and without the badge, it'd be worthless to you, you know. So uh that Ranger badge doesn't have a price. No amount of money in the world would buy that badge. And uh, as I wore it as a commissioned officer, uh, but uh, I'm not talking about you know some Ranger's selling one of his badges after he retires, when he's no longer a Ranger, but I'm talking about you know as a working Ranger, that badge can't be bought. And uh, it has to stay that way. And Rangers over the history and the men... always when I talk in books, I talk a lot about other Rangers and other things and uh I like to, I'd rather talk about other Rangers than talk about myself uh, it's more interesting.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, but we're talking about you so I'm going to ask you... think back... what is the thing that makes you the most proud, something you accomplished during your career that you're just really proud of that?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, the thing that I'm probably the most proud of is the fact that I met my wife, Shirley, you know when I was in Highway Patrol and she stayed with me and I'm proud of the fact that she stuck with me through uh all these years in law enforcement and Highway Patrol and 36 years, I mean 27 years as a Ranger. And uh, many days that I'd say,

Honey, I'll see you tomorrow, I'll see you tonight for supper and she wouldn't see me for four or five days. Uh, I uh, any regrets I regret the fact that I didn't get to spend as much time with my family as I'd like to have spent. But uh, the biggest attribute to being a Ranger and having my satisfaction of the people that I've helped, in my career as a Ranger... maybe a few lives that I've saved, uh maybe a few lives that I changed their direction for the good. Uh some of them is pretty sad sometimes when you can't do anything, they won't listen to you and do anything. Young people I used to uh, I always took every opportunity I could with the young criminal, young man that gets into stealing or burglary or whatever, and give him every opportunity in the world to straighten his life out rather than go to the penitentiary because I always felt like when they went to the penitentiary they come out of there worse than when, than when they went. Uh, so some of them would listen and some of them I've helped in life and helped get straight and uh, got them going in the right path and that makes you very proud to see that. You know, if you just get one out of a hundred you know that's a tremendous thing. But I think I had a better track record than one out of a hundred but just one that doesn't is a sad thing too. So, I say the biggest attribute to being a Ranger and, and my career in having service that I spent is uh is the tenure, the years that I've served this great state and the people of this state and uh little things that I might have done that uh helped other people in their lives, you know. Uh, it's been a good life for me and a good family for me and uh, and uh had a good family and I retired at the right time because when I retired, well then things went to happening. I got a private investigator's license and now I just work on what I want to work on and not what I'm told to work on. Well even as a Ranger, I pretty well selected stuff that I wanted to work on you know. Of course you get orders

from Austin, you know, they direct you to do certain, certain investigations on certain things, special investigations and things.

**NANCY RAY:** So you're still doing investigations today, on your own?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Yeah, I do a lot of work for uh, the major tire companies on these accidents. Uh, the world is so full of lawyers now and everything happens somebody's getting sued so... These uh, I cover West Texas, New Mexico on these, for these law firms that represent Goodyear and Cooper, and various major tire companies. In fact, I just got through working on one that's two years old. And people forget, I forget what happened yesterday... I don't know. People (laughter)... but that's because of my age. But two years old, I hate to go in on a case that's two years old and it's tough to get the information you want. But anyway, that's what I do now and of course you know when I first retired then I got involved in the good old boys, with Tommy Lee Jones as security, I got security on this movie and uh set up, Security Coordinator for security of the movie. And Tommy Lee asked me if I'd play the sheriff of Upton County in this movie which was a pretty good role and, had uh several speaking parts with Tommy Lee and uh and... I told him I wasn't an actor and he said well, you're a law man and I'll... just be yourself and uh I'd rather do that than go to Hollywood and bring somebody out here and teach him to be a law man so, so we done it. And it turned out a lot better than I expected and a lot better than a lot of other folks expected. And uh, I never will forget that one good friend of mine, Frank Dobbs, who is a movie director and producer, screenwriter, and he's a good friend and he's from, he's a Texas boy but he's lived out in California most of the time. And uh, after that movie was over and they done their premier, he said you know, Joaquin, you could make a good living out there in Cali... you move out there to California you'd get in lots

of roles in these movies and uh... I said I wouldn't move to California if they made me another John Wayne... I said ain't no way, no way.

**NANCY RAY:** That's kind of the same attitude you had about being promoted, isn't it?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Yeah, yeah. I just don't want to be in a big town. I just don't want to live in a big town of any, anyway, I just don't want to do it, *not* gonna do it, no. Uh..

**NANCY RAY:** Well, tell us the story about, uh not promoting within the Rangers, how come?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Well, the reason's because, I, I wanted, the reason I didn't want to promote is uh is because I didn't want to sit in an office and shuffle papers. Uh,

**NANCY RAY:** Tell us how this came about though.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Oh, we went through that once, you want to go through it again?

**NANCY RAY:** That... we weren't on, we weren't recording then.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** They weren't? OK, well, it's uh... your wives, you know of course Shirley and I'd been married for 46 minutes and so I tell... 46 minutes... Shirley and I've been married 46 years... but after I'd been in the Ranger service eight or ten years well she said you know, you need to take the sergeant's exam. I said I don't want to be a sergeant. She said, well, you can't ever be a captain if you're not a sergeant. I don't want to be a captain, I don't want to sit in an office, I want to be out here working in the field, just be a Ranger. I want to be a Ranger private, which is what we were up until four or five years before I retired when they made sergeants and no longer privates in the Rangers. They're lieutenants and sergeants and captains. But, so anyway I went and took the test for sergeant uh, didn't want to, and surprised me I made, I come out I think number four on the written test... which surprised me and a lot of others. And then I went to the interview board and there's 28 of us in Austin when I went to the interview

board. And when they called me in to the interview board, they asked me, Joaquin, if we make you sergeant, are you willing to go to Houston? I said I wouldn't go to Houston if you made me director. And so anyway, that ended that. I come out 27 out of 28 on the interview board and I don't know what the 28<sup>th</sup> guy said to them. Worse than I said I guess. So anyway, no, I avoided... I didn't want anything to do with being a supervisor in the Rangers... and another thing, one thing and you know we talked about this and we're closing this thing out... And I told them when I left the Ranger service, and I told these captains and I told the Senior Captain, I think he calls himself a Chief now instead of Senior Captain and I don't like that, I think they oughta be a Senior Captain, it's a good name. You say a Chief of the Rangers, it sounds like a police department and the Rangers are *sure* not a police department. They're police officers but they're not a police department. They're a unique organization all to themselves. And uh, I said if you want to kill the Ranger service, then you start, you start this micro management. You start micro managing those Rangers out there in the field, you're gonna kill the Ranger service. Leave them alone, hire good men, let them do their job, and keep them equipped with what they need, and back them up, and let them do their job. And so that pretty well can close this thing.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, I have one more question for you. There's no way we can capture your entire career, everything you've done in this video. But if there's something... what would you like to be remembered for so that when people of future generations look at this video and read this information, what would you like for them to know about Joaquin Jackson?

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** I'd just like for them to know that I was a family man, uh that I was, that I served, that I served time in the... with the Texas Department of Public Safety as a Texas Highway Patrolman and a Texas Ranger. And I worked for the people of the state of Texas and I

honored that and uh I was a servant to the people of the state of Texas. And I, and I think that I, I'm very proud that I got to serve the time and and, and for this great state that I did get to serve the time for, 36 years, and come through it unscathed and not killed or wounded or shot or whatever and uh, I'm just proud to have been a Ranger.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, we thank you very much for what you've done for Texas and for this interview.

**JOAQUIN JACKSON:** Thank you, you're welcome.