

Interview with  
**JACKIE PEOPLES**  
Texas Ranger, Retired

©2008, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

Project: Texas Rangers

Interview Conducted at Mr. Peoples' Home  
Shallowater, Texas  
Monday—November 3, 2008

Interviewed By: Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray  
Longview, Texas

Present at Interview: Jackie Peoples, Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray



## Introduction

Welcome to the E-Book Project of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum (TRHFM). The TRHFM, located in Waco, Texas, is the State-designated Official Historical Center of the Texas Rangers. It is operated as a service of City of Waco by authorization of the Texas Department of Public Safety and the State of Texas.

The mission of this project is to provide easy access to books, oral histories dissertations, articles, and other literary works on Texas Ranger history.

**Public Domain Works:** Many of the works in this non-commercial library are in the public domain and may be freely enjoyed—please follow the conditions set forth below.

**Copyrighted Works:** Some works, which are clearly noted, *are under copyright*. They are in this library through the courtesy and permission of the copyright holders. Please read and enjoy them, but they may ***not*** be redistributed, copied or otherwise used without the written permission of the author or copyright holder.

## Conditions & Statements

1. The Adobe Acrobat™ or other file format in which this work resides may not be redistributed ***for profit***—including commercial redistribution, sales, rentals, or fees for handling, access, download etc. These works may not be modified, changed or sued in derivative works in any manner without the express permission of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.
2. The TRHFM staff has exercised due diligence to determine that this material is in the public domain or to secure copyright permission. If you believe this work is under copyright, and you are the copyright holder, please contact us at **Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, PO Box 2570, Waco, TX 76702-2570** with proof of ownership.
3. You may link to the main page of the library, however, please do ***not*** "hot link" directly to the files or repost them.
4. If a work is redistributed for educational or nonprofit use, the following must remain intact: (1) The author/copyright holder credits (2) the registered name **Texas Ranger Hall of Fame E-Book™**, (3) the **logo** and name **Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum™**.

**JACKIE PEOPLES**  
**TEXAS RANGER, RETIRED**

**NANCY RAY:** My name is Nancy Ray. I am visiting with Jackie Peoples of Shallowater, Texas. Today is Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. Also with us is Eddie Ray. There is no video, this is strictly an audio. And the purpose of this interview is to discuss Ranger Peoples' career as a Texas Ranger. Ranger Peoples, do I have your permission to record this interview?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** You do.

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

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I do.

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

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** You do.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Let's start with what is your full name and of course we know you live in Shallowater?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** My full name is Jackie Edward Peoples.

**NANCY RAY:** And where were you born and when?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Greenwood, Arkansas, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1943.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, an Arkansas... I think you're our first Arkie (laughter)! Is that where you grew up?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, I was sixteen when I moved to Texas. My dad worked for the Army, he was a coal miner when I was a kid. And my dad went to work for Fort Chaffee there at Fort Smith, Arkansas. And as ya'll probably know, our history is that Arkansas had a little confrontation in 1956 at Central High School in Little Rock where that uh their schools, for school integration there. And Orval Faubus was the governor of the state of Arkansas and he says nope, the black kids are not gonna go to my school in Central. And uh President Eisenhower said yes they will. And he says no they won't because I'll have the National Guard come out and guard you and uh, the president says well they're not National Guard anymore because I just nationalized them. Now they're federal troops. So open a league, we was integrated. And shortly after that, Eisenhower decided that Fort Smith, or Arkansas, did not need Fort Chaffee anymore and so they closed it down. And uh because of that incident in Little Rock they closed it down and they told my dad, said all right, if you want to stay working with the Army, we have a vacancy in Alamogordo, New Mexico, the missile sites out there. And we have one in Austin, Texas. So dad said OK, we'll go look at it. So dad and mother took off. And when they got to Alamogordo, they stopped in Alamogordo and looked around, and called the people and said we'll take Austin.

**NANCY RAY:** Sight unseen?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Sight unseen. They didn't want any part of Alamogordo, New Mexico. So in 1959 we moved to Austin.

**NANCY RAY:** All right. Well what were your parents' names?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Uh Jack and Bernice Peoples.

**NANCY RAY:** Are they still living?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** They're still living in Copperas Cove, Texas.

**NANCY RAY:** All right. I know where that is. What about brothers and sisters?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I have one brother in Houston and three sisters. The oldest sister is in... she retired from State Farm in Austin. She actually lives in Hutto. And another sister who's retired from one of the state agencies, I don't know, I keep wanting to say the Health Department but it's not them. And my other sister works in Houston for an oil company.

**NANCY RAY:** All right where were you in the line?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I'm the oldest. Then my brother, he works for a banking... they build coin wrapping machines for the banking industry out of Houston.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. So you graduated from school where?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, I went to school for a while in Austin but then I went back to Arkansas and graduated with my class that I went to for years. And I graduated in Arkansas. Then I came back and uh went to UT for a year and decided I was too smart to go to college and joined the Army (laughter).

**NANCY RAY:** So what year did you graduate from high school?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** '61.

**NANCY RAY:** Then to the Army. So where did you go to basic training?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I was at basic training in Fort Leonardwood, Missouri.

**NANCY RAY:** And then what did you do?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, they sent me to uh... the Army Security Agency is the unit that I was attached to. And they sent me to Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

**NANCY RAY:** Where was that?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Fort Devens, Massachusetts, 40 miles west of Boston. And I was there for six months and then they decided that they wanted to train me in electronics intelligence. So they sent me to Virginia for uh two months or three months, whatever it was. And from there I went to Berlin. I was stationed in Berlin for two years.

**NANCY RAY:** That's kind of different. So what happened there, what went on?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** In Berlin? Not much (laughter).

**NANCY RAY:** That you had to do.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well I was in the Security Agency you know, we watched over things.

**NANCY RAY:** And you were good at it too, right?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, we did a pretty good job at it.

**NANCY RAY:** Did anything happen that stands out in your mind? Anything unusual?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh, all kinds of you know little old comical things would happen. The guys would get out and pull stunts... because like I said, it's an enclosed city at that time. It was 47 square miles of city with a fence around it. And we got there, see they built the fence, that wall, like in 1961. Well I got there in '63 and they're still killing people coming across that wall, trying to get across that wall. And that was a big thing. And so it was rather uh scary in some of those places. But uh and here again, it's a divided city. Half of it belonged to the Russians and the East Germans and the other half was divided into thirds. I guess it would be sixths overall. But that half was a third and the British had a third, and the French had a third and the Americans had a third. So like I said we had all kind of intelligence stations there. I was in what they called ELINT, Electronics Intelligence, monitoring things that went on. And we had uh comment stations there and uh...

**NANCY RAY:** So how long did you stay?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I was in Berlin two years.

**NANCY RAY:** And that filled up your time in the Army?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Yes.

**NANCY RAY:** So you came back and...

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Yes, when uh I left... I had orders to leave Berlin on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1965, and uh on August 1<sup>st</sup> of 1965 they cancelled all those orders. Of course you know Vietnam's building up you know really bad then. Of course it was going on all the time I was in the service. And so I figured OK, so much for going home. So they cancelled all those ships because they used all those troop ships to move troops to Vietnam. And uh six days later, I got new orders to go except I had to go down to uh Frankfurt and catch an airplane and fly back home.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh you really... that was really a hardship.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** And of course typical Army thing, I mean it was one of the... we landed in uh Kennedy, at Kennedy International Airport in New York City. Well right across this inlet there's a bay there that kind of divides what the... where the airport's at. Well right straight across that bay right over there, is Fort Hamilton which was a discharge unit for the Army. And uh so we figured you know that's where we're gonna go, to Fort Hamilton. We're gonna... so they put us on buses and they drove us all across the city of New York to New Jersey, to Fort Dix, New Jersey. And uh kicked us off these buses and when we got off the buses, and there's this big line of other troops and they're getting on the buses. Where the hell did you guys come from? Well, we flew into McGuire which McGuire is an Air Force Base and McGuire and Fort Dix just butt together, just a fence between them. Well, they flew into McGuire and they brought

them over the Dix and carried them to Fort Hamilton. And discharged them at Fort Hamilton. And we flew into Kennedy and they brought us to Dix. Oh, that's just the Army way of doing things (laughter).

**NANCY RAY:** But you did get out.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I got out.

**NANCY RAY:** Figured you better get out while you could?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I got out, yeah I did. And uh come back to Austin and like I say, when I got too smart to go to college there and of course to get a job back then, you know... two questions: are you 21 and have you had your military? And you know, no I don't. Well come back when you do because nobody's gonna touch you because you're gonna get drafted anyway. So I said OK so I did. And I guess the last place that I went to talk to was the DPS. And that's uh, I could remember that lady's name for years and years and years and that was her very words... come back when you're 21 and got your military. Well I was 22 and had my military and I come back and they hired me that day.

**NANCY RAY:** Huh. Did you have to take a test or anything?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, they hired me and of course they told me, they said now we have a school starting right now. So there's... I can't get you into this school so do you want to work in Communications? Yep. So I went to work for Communications and waited 'til February of '66 is when I started Patrol school.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Well had you married at that time?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh yeah.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, tell us about your wife.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** She's from Austin and uh we got married in 1962, February of '62, and uh when I went in the service...

**NANCY RAY:** What's her name?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Shelby. Her last name was Shirley, Shelby Shirley. Of course she used to catch all kind of... because people thought her name was... they kept calling her Shirley but anyway that was her last name. But anyway, we got married and uh I went in the service well she came to Berlin with me... because it was one of the duty stations that you could actually take your dependents with you. So she came over there and that's where our daughter was born was in Berlin.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Well tell us your daughter's name.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Her name is Rhonda.

**NANCY RAY:** And is that the only one you have?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I have one daughter, her name is Rhonda Richardson. She's now divorced. I have two grandsons, uh Tyler who's 21 and Zachary who's going to be 17 like in ten days. No, nine days. The twelfth of this month he'll be 17. They both, they all live right here in Lubbock so...

**NANCY RAY:** Well when you and your wife were in Berlin, did you get to see anything? Any travel while you were there?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, here again, I was in the security outfit. And Berlin was one of those locked-in cities where that if you traveled, you had... we had to ride a duty train. There was one way we could get in Berlin and one way to get out and you had to ride the duty train until you could get from Berlin to Frankfurt. And then you could go somewhere if you had time to stay or

if you had some money. So, we didn't travel as much as we would like to have but here again, Berlin was a big place so we got to see a lot of Berlin but...

**NANCY RAY:** OK, well here you are back in Austin. And you are starting DPS school or the... it was Highway Patrol school, is that right?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Right.

**NANCY RAY:** Tell us about the school.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, like I say, I went in in uh February of '65. They called uh 50 to the school, 45 shows up and we graduate 34. Out of that I think nine guys went to Drivers License, two went to License and Weight, two went to Motor Vehicle Inspection, and everybody else went to Highway Patrol. I was assigned to Austin to the governor's detail so it... For fourteen months, I watched over the governor's mansion that burned the other day.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what did you have to do that they evidently didn't, weren't able to do?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, back then, uh the security office of the governor's detail was actually inside the governor's mansion. We had a room in the back of the governor's mansion where all the security was at. Of course back then you also didn't have all these cameras either. But you know we had people there 24 hours a day, inside, and the family lived there. And we kind of watched over them.

**NANCY RAY:** Did you travel, when they went somewhere, did you go with them or did you stay at the mansion?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, we would travel with them if they wanted somebody to go. Uh surprisingly you know, Governor Connally was uh, you know in that incident with the president which happened when I was in Berlin which is one of the things that was kind of scary over there

at that time is that uh that's when President Kennedy was shot. And of course, Kennedy was rather revered in Germany you know. When he made his speech there in Germany, *Ich bin ein Berliner*, I too am a Berliner. And uh so that was probably the only words they understood what he said but anyway. Boy when he was killed, you know, they were ready to go to war. We kind of thought they were for a little while. But uh anyway that happened when I was over there and of course Connally was with him. And you would have thought that he would have liked to have people with him all the time but Connally didn't. A lot of times he would travel without people. Uh he had a driver that would drive him around and if he wanted the driver to take him somewhere then he would do that but a lot of times he would just... went wherever he wanted to. The family did also.

**NANCY RAY:** Well those days were a little bit different from today.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Yes. Like I say, sometimes Mrs. Connally, she'd come down and she'd say I want you to take me somewhere well you'd take her somewhere. A lot of times she'd say I'll be gone... I'll be back in a little while. You never knew. But nobody was assigned to go with her all the time, or to be with any of them all the time.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, so your entire time was with the Connally's then.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Yes.

**NANCY RAY:** All right, anything else you can think of that happened while you were with them?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, we used to uh, the Connally's had a ranch at Floresville. And uh they spent a lot of time down there and they wanted somebody to watch that ranch. So there were five of us that were actual troopers or we weren't troopers back then. When I came through

Patrol school we were called Highway Patrolmen. Anyway, there were five of us that had been through the Highway Patrol school who were actually commissioned Highway Patrol. Uh a lot of the other mansion detail were uh ex-Austin PD or retired Austin PD, other ex-police officers that were just hired for that job. So there were five of us and we would have to go to Austin, I mean to Floresville, every fifth week. And we would spend the week at the ranch. Sometimes you'd go down there and your week you'd sit by yourself for a week at the ranch. Sometimes they would be down there and you just kind of made sure nothing happened to them. You had a, I guess you would call it a maid's quarters or something but it was in the main house kind of on the back side and that's where you stayed while uh, while you were down there. And uh when the family was there, you just made sure everybody was all locked whenever they went... and the next morning you'd be up making sure nobody come prowling around. But Mrs. Connally was liable to come and get you. She'd come get you and say what do you want for breakfast and she'd cook breakfast for you.

**NANCY RAY:** Really?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I don't know that I ever met a nicer family than the Connally's.

**NANCY RAY:** Well this is the first time we've ever heard anything like this. It's nice to hear...

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Like I say, they were as nice a family as I've ever been around. I uh I was sitting down there one day and the governor was down there... well the whole family was down there. And uh of course when the family's not there you don't necessarily have to be in uniform, you can wear whatever you want. But when the family's there, you are, you're in uniform just like you're working. And so the family's there and uh I'm standing outside. The governor's sitting over there, there's a swimming pool in the back. He's sitting over by a bunch of these

huge live oak trees and he's sitting there with a big old pot of black-eyed peas and he's shelling black-eyed peas. And he told me, come over and sit down. So we'd come over there and we'd just sit there and visit. And uh the oldest son, John, uh John, Jr., he comes around looking for me. And he hollers out, come and help me get this saddle out of my car. And the governor turns and looks at him, John, said he's not your servant, you go get your own saddle out of the car (laughter). So he took off. That's just the way that family was. I mean, they didn't ask you to do anything at all for them.

**NANCY RAY:** Sounds like an interesting duty.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, considering the fact that later on when I left the mansion, I went to the Highway Patrol in Kerrville. Well that's right next door to Johnson City, President Johnson. When Johnson was in Johnson City or Stonewall rather, the place was actually at Stonewall, uh it took five Highway Patrol a day to block Ranch Road 1 to keep cars off of there. Five a day for every day he's there. And they would put you on the end of a road on Ranch Road 1 there were two on each end and there was a church road that you could cut across and get in. We had to have somebody there and uh you was there 24 hours a day. Like I said, it took five of you every day. And of course that was just out of two Highway Patrol districts so there was uh...

**NANCY RAY:** Now that was while he was president?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Um hmmm. And afterwards whenever he was there, when he was living there because the uh Secret Service... well they watched over him at the house but we all had to block all the roads to keep people from going down there. But uh when you work for Lyndon Johnson you know, you were just something that was there to do a job. I mean he didn't know you, he couldn't care less. And totally different working for the Connally's. You'd go work for

them and you know they'd have a big meeting or a big fundraiser or a big dinner or whatever it was you know and they'd have all kinds of caterers, well you know we had all these security people around them all the time. And at some point during that, here'd come Mrs. Connally, she'd start dragging you in, putting you in the same line as all the other guests to eat. So like I said if you worked with Lyndon Johnson, you could starve to death and he wouldn't care. I mean just two totally different people. And I didn't get a picture of Lyndon in there.

**NANCY RAY:** Did you want one?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** No, I didn't want a picture of me with Lyndon. Like I said, I never did particularly care for him. I mean he was the president but he was not one of my favorite people. But John was.

**NANCY RAY:** I can tell that and that's quite an honor I mean, that's recorded so you know people who look at this in the future, they'll hear that or they'll know that.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** No, John was one of the finest old boys I ever met. His whole family was that way.

**NANCY RAY:** Well did he have any ill effects or was... after the shooting, how was he physically?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** No, not that I know about. Or at least nothing that I would notice. You know and obviously nothing uh psychological or mental or... I suppose it would still have been there. Uh, no I think... it made it a little more careful but here again, it kind of surprised me that after that happening, that he didn't have security with him all the time. But he didn't. Like I say, he'd just kind of come and go whenever. And he would uh fly off somewhere. In other words you'd take him to the airplane and he'd get on the airplane and fly off somewhere. Well usually

somebody on the other end would pick him up somewhere and make sure he had a car or ride but as far as security...

**NANCY RAY:** Um mmm, times have changed.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Boy have they.

**NANCY RAY:** So you said after you left the governor's service, protective service, then you went to Kerrville?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Uh huh.

**NANCY RAY:** What else happened in Kerrville besides Lyndon Johnson?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh well, I was just in the Highway Patrol there at Kerrville and I was there for... well from '67 to '74, stationed there in Kerrville in the Highway Patrol. Of course you know where Kerrville's at?

**NANCY RAY:** I do.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, when I went in the Ranger service that was the only reason I would ever have left Kerrville.

**NANCY RAY:** Liked it that much? It is a beautiful area. I would imagine you had traffic problems with those curvy roads, narrow curvy roads.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** (laughter) Well, you know, it's just a different place to work. I didn't uh, I didn't know any better I don't guess because in the Highway Patrol, that's where I worked. And yeah we had a lot of curvy roads and then when I went to Kerrville, uh it was a four-man station and uh there was only two other people there and I was the third. Uh that, the two people there were Henry Ligon and Wallace Spillar. Both of those are Rangers, or were Rangers. Both of those were my partners when I went to Kerrville. Henry was... Henry actually opened the

station up in Kerrville along with Sergeant James England who was a Highway Patrol sergeant there. And Henry and England went to Patrol school together. And uh Henry opened that station up and then England, whenever he, he was a sergeant in Houston and he moved up there when they opened that and made it a sergeant's station there in Kerrville. So uh he was my sergeant and there was Henry Ligon and Wallace Spillar. And of course Wally made Highway Patrol sergeant and from there he went to the Ranger service. And then Wallace was one of the original Internal Affairs people.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, I'm gonna back up to the school for just a minute. Do you remember who were your monitors at the Highway Patrol school?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** You know, one of them just died here the other day. I saw where Captain Vines just recently died. He was a License and Weight sergeant out of Corpus. Uh Denton Rose was a Driver's License sergeant from Abilene and Amos Agan (spelling?) was a Highway Patrol sergeant in Stephenville. And those were our, I just had three monitors in that school.

**NANCY RAY:** What do you remember about the school?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh, boy, I don't know (laughter). We thought it was an awful long time but uh...

**NANCY RAY:** Was it eighteen weeks or so, how long did you go?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, we started in uh on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February and graduated like June the 9<sup>th</sup>. And of course you know back then we went uh 'til noon on Saturday. You know and we had, we went to class from like 8 o'clock in the morning until 8 o'clock that night. Well it was 8 or 9 o'clock. We had to go back to school after supper. We had to go at least... I think it was two, maybe it was just 9 o'clock, maybe it was just two hours. But we'd go all day and then

we had class in the evening plus we had to go to half a class on Saturday. So we didn't get out of class on the week until noon Saturday. And you got to leave if you was good.

**NANCY RAY:** Did you get to leave? (laughter)

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, most of the time.

**NANCY RAY:** Well it was handy for you since you were already in Austin.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, that's what I used to tell those guys that was fixing to leave and drive home you know. People from you know West Texas or Dallas... race you home (laughter). I always won.

**NANCY RAY:** They probably didn't think that was funny.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** No, it wasn't near as funny to them.

**NANCY RAY:** Well did they wake you up during the night and give you spelling tests?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh yeah, that was part of it.

**NANCY RAY:** Was it, OK? What are some things like that stand out in your mind, and why? Why did they do it?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Why did they do it? Well, I don't know. You know later on you hear that uh it was uh tests. It didn't have anything to do with the spelling. It could have been anything. It was the idea that they were gonna go get you up at 3 o'clock in the morning or 4... under these conditions that they got you up and made you get dressed and go do the... that's something that you're gonna have to do at some point in time anyway. And that was just to see your reaction to it, what you did, how you'd do it. And I think some of it was just to see if you have staying power.

**NANCY RAY:** And a lot don't?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Some don't. And if you uh decide you can't stay for that, well I mean they probably don't need you anyway. So that's probably what the deal was. A lot of that was to see if you had staying power, to see what you were made out of.

**NANCY RAY:** All right. Well let's go back... go ahead, you were gonna say something?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well I just... and a lot of the guys back when I was in Patrol school and afterwards, a lot of the guys were ex-military which makes a lot of difference because the biggest part of that whole deal was the fact that you know you could leave if you wanted to. Whereas in the military, you know you're in boot camp and you're going through the same stuff in boot camp but if you leave, they're gonna put you in jail (laughter). Now of course when you get back and you're in Patrol school and you have the same thing, uh I had a wife and a little girl. I needed a job, I'm not about to leave.

**NANCY RAY:** You had some motivation, didn't you?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** It certainly did that. That and the fact that the little boy that I worked for name of John Hilton Horton. He was the uh radio supervisor because when I went into Communications, I ended up in San Antonio as a radio operator in San Antonio waiting to get to Patrol school. And me and John Hilton, we didn't see eye to eye on some things you know. And John told me, when you get to Patrol school, you're not gonna last. Well you hide and watch.

**NANCY RAY:** Like a dare.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Yeah, you hide and watch (laughter).

**NANCY RAY:** I'll show you!

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Yep, that's exactly right. I outlasted John Horton, I sure did.

**NANCY RAY:** Well let's go back to Kerrville. Who was your first partner?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well my first Highway Patrol partner was Henry Ligon. And like I say, Henry, when Henry left Kerrville he went in the Ranger service.

**NANCY RAY:** What did he teach you? As a rookie patrolman, what did you learn?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, when you work for Henry, you go out there and you did what you were supposed to do as a Highway Patrolman. Henry'd been a Highway Patrolman for a long time. And uh we did what we're supposed to do, serve the people. Yeah, you go out there and you write tickets and you do things but you make sure that everything's OK. You patrol your roads. You know all the people there... you know who the ranchers are... you know where they live, where they go. You know every county road there is that's around there and you know where they live. As a matter of fact, it took me a while when I got up here to kind of get oriented in the fact that all these roads have numbers. And uh, well you could see everywhere. Well down in the Hill Country, down at Kerrville, uh you know they might call you and say you got a wreck on Goat Creek Road three miles out.

**NANCY RAY:** Out from where?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Goat Creek Road, I mean...where else. Indian Creek you know. Camp Verde... all these little old places. I mean they had numbers but nobody ever used numbers you know. So they just told you whenever they sent you to a wreck its three miles out on Goat Creek. So you knew exactly where it was. You knew where Goat Creek was and where it went, where it ended up, and the same way on all these roads. You knew exactly where they're going. Now they had names, they didn't have numbers. But you'd learn all that and it was just fun. Of course I had two partners in Kerrville, Henry Ligon and Wallace Spillar. And during my break-in period...

**NANCY RAY:** Now you said... I knew they were stationed there with you but I didn't realize that they were your partners. Is that what... even though you're not riding together, those are your partners, is that what you're saying?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh yeah, they're all your partners. And of course a lot of times you ride together if you're uh a multi-station... in other words if there's... this was supposed to be a four-man station. And uh here again, when I got there I made the third, there was still a vacancy there. And uh so each one of those had a car. There were two cars and they kind of... but if you're all in the same town, even though you don't ride together, you're all partners so to speak. At some point in time, you're gonna be partners. But yeah, I would... since I was the third guy there, uh then I would ride you know two weeks with Henry and two weeks with Wallace or you know we'd just rotate off of that. But those two guys, both of them like I say ended up in the Ranger service. And totally different, I mean in their way of... Henry was a, I won't say he was a little guy but he was my size. But Wallace was like 6'6", you know he's a great big guy. And he was born and raised at Dripping Springs. And Henry was the smallest. But uh you'd get in there and OK... I'm gonna ride with Henry tonight, this week. OK so we're working 5 to 2 on the weekends. So I'm ready to go at 5 o'clock. Wait for Henry... and Henry may get there at 5 and he may get there at 7. But when Henry got there, we went to work and we're supposed to get off at 2. Well, not necessarily (laughter). When you're with Henry, you just worked until you got through. And sometimes you know you'd see the sun come up... well many a time when you worked with Henry. And of course you did that with Wallace also but uh Wallace was the kind that if you're working 5 to 2, at 5 o'clock he's sitting in your driveway honking the horn, get your... you know we've gotta go to work. And at 2 o'clock in the morning, I mean unless there's

something going on, he's kicking you out at the house and you're ready to go home and go to bed. But like I say, Henry would... I mean they were just totally opposite. Both exceptional Highway Patrol but just... they just operated totally different. But they got exactly the same deal. I mean everybody knew Henry, everybody knew Wallace. Everybody knew me and that's the way it's supposed to be. We took care of our people at Kerrville.

**NANCY RAY:** I guess I had never thought about it being such a people-oriented position but that's what you're saying.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Yeah. Our wives would never, they would never go with us to town or they wouldn't let us go with them because like I say, you know you couldn't get anything done. You'd go wandering down through town and everybody'd stop and talk to you. You know I don't have time for this, I've got things to do so she wouldn't let me go with her because she never would get anything done. And of course when I was in Kerrville, at noon Saturday, if you didn't have it by noon Saturday, you wasn't gonna get it because they closed. You know at 5 o'clock during the weekdays, 5 or 6 o'clock is when all the stores closed and noon Saturday, that was it.

**NANCY RAY:** They didn't operate like Henry.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Nope. I mean it was just a small town. There was not, there was no pizza places there and there was one hamburger place. There was a little restaurant there but no chain restaurants or anything like that. It was just a small town.

**NANCY RAY:** It's grown.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh yeah (laughter). Yeah.

**NANCY RAY:** Well did you have radar when you were working there?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Uh, yeah uh, they had one that belonged to the state. It was one of them old red-mic'd things. And uh they used it once in a while. And some of the other guys that the county didn't buy them... we ended up in Kerrville, the county commissioners bought radars for the cars.

**NANCY RAY:** For the state cars too?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** For the Highway Patrol cars. And uh they ended up buying one for each car. And uh so uh we had them and like I say, we had two units there. And so we had a radar in each car. And when they come out with the new moving radar... oh you mean that's the cat's meow, boy. Well this is all right. Well somebody had to get elected to go talk to the county commissioners you know to see if they might spring for those you know. And so I ended up getting elected to go talk to the county commissioners and of course the sheriff is like all sheriffs and county commissioners you know... I want things... the county commissioners say no we don't have any money for them. So you're not gonna get them so I'm sitting over there in the sheriff's office waiting to go in the county commissioners. What are you gonna do? I said I'm gonna go in here and see if they'll buy me two new radars. Yeah, big deal. I can't even get them to buy me a chair you know for my office and everything. So I go in there and come out and he said well, what'd I tell you? I said well, they could only afford two (laughter). I think they cost what, \$1200 about that time. Which that was a lot of money back then but uh... we ended up with two of those moving radars. One day, here again you're talking about the curves and the hills... when I went to work down there we had a spotlight with a red cover over it. That was your, that was your red light. And uh that's what everybody used. And so they said well we need some overhead lights. They said you did all right with those, go see if you can... So I went in

there and talked to them and they said OK. How many do you need? Well, we got two cars and they want the red lights. They said well don't your sergeant want red lights? I said Lord no, he don't want red lights (laughter). He uh, no, he doesn't want any lights for his car. Of course he was back in the days when he said he's the sergeant... he said I don't have to get out and ride, I've already done that. If these two guys can't make a Highway Patrol out of you, I can't. So you know he'd get out sometime and ride with you but not all the time.

**NANCY RAY:** Well did you have any interesting pursuits you want to tell us about?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** In Kerrville?

**NANCY RAY:** Uh huh.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Nah. No...

**NANCY RAY:** What was the major problem, traffic problem?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Traffic?

**NANCY RAY:** Yeah, that's what you were working on, right?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Right.

**NANCY RAY:** What was the major traffic problem? Speeding? Or DWIs or both?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** You know... you had traffic, yeah. I mean it's like any other small station out there. And here again, we didn't have any.... We had no US highways... they were all state highways in Kerr County until they built Interstate 10 through Kerr County. That was the only, other than on the very end of each, of Kerr County above Comfort, a little bit of 87 was in Kerr County and on the west end, a little bit of 83, US 83 was in Kerr. But they were so far away you had to go to somebody else's county to get to those so they ended up working those. So you know we didn't... the only time we really had a lot of traffic was during hunting season.

**NANCY RAY:** Those hunters (laughter)...

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** My partner, this was another partner, Bill Gerth. I don't know whether you know Bill. Have you met Bill?

**NANCY RAY:** Not yet, we hope to this trip.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well Bill and I were partners there at Kerrville. And uh we were out on the interstate one night. Boy we thought we was doing pretty good, we was having a good time. And uh we got a call from the radio that said come in and meet the person there at the office. And it turned out to be an old boy named Dan Dowdy. Dan was the Highway Patrol sergeant in Austin at the time. And uh he come down to go hunting. He was sitting around his hotel room I guess. He decided to find somebody to drink coffee with or go just do something. So he got out with us and we drank coffee and we went out riding. And he got to fidgeting around in the back seat and he said... where's all the cars? What do you mean cars? Well they're all over the place. He says no, he said where's your... I said no, this is our traffic. You know because here again, he's from Austin. He's got Interstate 35 running through Austin. You know he's got more cars in an hour than we get in a whole weekend. And so when we get where you can see two cars coming down the same road at the same time, that's pretty good traffic (laughter).

**NANCY RAY:** That's traffic. It's all in your perspective.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Yes, it's all in your perspective as to how you look at it.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, I find it pretty interesting that really there were four people who became Rangers from Kerrville... is that right? That's pretty high odds.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, no, actually uh when I went to Kerrville, Ed Gooding was the Ranger in Kerrville. And uh Ed had been a Highway Patrolman in Houston and his sergeant in

Houston was James England. And then England came to Kerrville and when uh England was there in Kerrville, he had Henry Ligon who was there in Kerrville. And he had Bob Werner was stationed in Fredericksburg. Well, Bob Werner was my first captain when I came in the Ranger service, he was the captain. So Bob Werner was working for him, for James England, when he made the Rangers. Henry was working for England when he made Ranger. Uh Spillar worked for England. And me, Bill Gerth, Charlie Brune... Charlie Brune took my place in Kerrville when I left to go in the Ranger service. And then Joe Peters, have ya'll met Joe? Talked to Joe?

**NANCY RAY:** Uh uh.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Joe was the only rookie that I ever broke in. And Joe came to Kerrville as a rookie and was there for, oh I don't know, a little over a year I guess and he and another kid the name of Johnson, Ken Johnson, both came into Kerrville and got drafted the same day. And uh of course you know they left and went in the service and when they came back, well then after Joe came back, he went in the Ranger service. So there's been a whole bunch of them... through England, yeah.

**NANCY RAY:** Right.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** There was a whole bunch of them.

**NANCY RAY:** So who would you say was your, the person who influenced you the most to become a Ranger?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh gosh, I don't know.

**NANCY RAY:** Or can you even narrow it to one?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** You know, here again, when I went to Kerrville, you know I was, like I say, your first duty station you get to meeting all these people. Of course one of the people that I

met out there was Charlie Shreiner, or Charlie the III you know. And he was... he owned the YO Ranch.

**NANCY RAY:** The what ranch?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** YO Ranch, it's a big ranch on the west side. Well, Captain Shreiner was an old-time Ranger. Well he used to have, he used to have meetings out there and uh all the Rangers would come to Kerrville. And they would meet on the YO Ranch and I'd go out there and I got to meet a lot of those guys. Charlie Miller, one of the old timey Rangers, uh Walter Russell, uh and you know just numerable of those guys would come to Kerrville to those meetings out on the YO Ranch and I got to go to those. And Indian Creek... they used to come out there and they'd have Ranger meetings out there. And I'd go to those so I got to meet a lot of those guys. And then of course like I say, Henry was you know my first partner. And he left and I got there in '67 and Henry made Ranger in '68. So he was the, you know the first Ranger... And then of course Ed Gooding was there. I thought the world of Ed Gooding you know. I just so... you know they were all just real good people.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, while they were the Rangers and you were still a Highway Patrolman, did you work with them on any cases?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Sure.

**NANCY RAY:** What did ya'll do together?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well I mean you know when I say... you know the biggest thing I can think about right now is uh when the JP at uh Ingram, a little town just west of Kerrville, was murdered. He was, he owned a gun shop and uh Kennedy, I think his name was Kennedy, Judge Kennedy. But he owned the gun shop there in Ingram and uh he was found murdered at his

house. His wife, his wife worked at the Inn of the Hills there in Kerrville which is the, at that time, was the high class hotel there or motel there in Kerrville. She worked there as desk people, I don't know, some kind of big job there. And she went home and found him. And uh at that particular time, he had a son was working for him. And so when they found him, uh dead up there, of course Henry goes up there and he's working that deal there. And uh of course as Bill and I, we were partners then. I think this was in 1972. Bill and I were working together and we were out working and they told us to go up to Ingram where the son lived and check on him because you know they couldn't reach him. After the mother, or after the judge's wife found him dead in the house, they couldn't reach him. So Bill and I and I think one of the deputies went out there to his house and we're, you know we can't get anybody to come to the door so we're gonna go in and look. So we're trying to open the door you know. We get the door open part of the way and just kept pushing part of the way. And of course when we get inside, you know the son's body is laying across that door. So, which was blocking the door you know, and it's hard to get in there. Well, of course now we're spooked, real spooked because here's the son and as soon as you get inside, you know, open up... the kitchen's on this side and the other side over here is the door that goes into the bedroom. Well right in front of the door to the bedroom is the son's wife laying there dead. They've got twin, little twins somewhere. So boy you talk about spooked now, we got to see what we can find then. So we end up getting... moving her body out of the way and sure enough, we go into that bedroom well those twins are in the bed and they're fine. They're good I mean... you know she... Evidently whoever killed her, and of course I think Henry determined that uh... turned out to be another gun dealer who was retired Army I think or some kind, I can't remember what it was. But anyway he was their suspects for years and uh he

ended up getting killed in a car wreck. Well actually he committed suicide in a car. But they took that case to a Grand Jury after he died with the evidence that Henry had gathered during this particular investigation and uh they said had he been alive, they would have indicted him for that murder. But that was...

**NANCY RAY:** But the father, the son, and the daughter-in-law... they think he did all three?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** *(nodded)*

**NANCY RAY:** That poor mother and wife. Good gracious. Well how did you deal with things like that? I mean when you would see something like that happen, how did you then go home to your own wife and child?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh, you know... like every other law enforcement officer. You just, you go do those things. I mean you see that and we dealt with it. You don't... you dealt with death and, and dead people and all kinds of accidents and everything else. You see it all the time and you can't say well you get used to it. You don't get used to it. You get to where it doesn't bother you or at least it doesn't show like you would think. But I don't know that you ever get used to seeing it.

**NANCY RAY:** I can't see how you could.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** We uh,...

**NANCY RAY:** Especially those twins.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** This same judge, like I say his name was Kennedy. And I was working west of Ingram one night and uh an old boy had run through a fence at one of those ranches and he hit a tree in his pickup. And the pickup burst into flames. And of course by the time we get there this whole thing is just cooked, I mean everything is done. And of course you get over there

and you finally get the fire out and then you start sorting through the stuff. And of course there's this guy's body in there, what's left of it. And of course you know we get there and we can see what's going on. OK, we can't do anything until the judge gets here and tells us it's OK for us to do this. And so we're working around there and we tell them to go get Judge Kennedy or call him and tell him to get himself out here. This is one of his deals. So evidently somebody goes and gets him or something and so we're working around there. And finally I say where in the heck is the judge? I look up and there he is standing on the other side of the fence. And I said Judge, I said I got... quit lazing around over there, get over here and look at this guy. He said I've already been there and he is (laughter).

**NANCY RAY:** And I'm not going back!

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** And I'm (*the judge*) not going back over there (laughter). So uh when I got home that night you know after we worked that thing... of course you know when you're around anything burned you know, there's you know certain odors that you can really pick out. So I went home that night and got throwed out of the house. Shelby made me go take my uniform off in the garage and everything and leave it outside, she wouldn't let me bring it in the house.

**NANCY RAY:** I don't blame her.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Ah... I don't know... I don't know that you get used to it. You get to where you just, it's just a job you do. You just go do it.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Well you decided to become a Ranger so what was your first step?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, I don't know, you just...

**NANCY RAY:** Didn't you have to take a test?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh yeah. Had to take a test. When I first went to Highway Patrol and then I first went to Kerrville, you know I'm sitting here telling myself that I don't remember them giving tests back then. And a lot of times you know, the captains kind of picked out who they wanted.

**NANCY RAY:** So did you have a sponsor? To become one, to become a Ranger?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, did I have one?

**NANCY RAY:** Uh huh.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Uh uh. And I say no, I don't guess I had one. You know I knew a lot of people but like I say, I knew them all.

**NANCY RAY:** That was something that had kind of changed though, where you didn't have to have one?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Yeah, when you didn't have to. Like I say when I first got there, and Henry was interested in becoming a Ranger and we were working on... like I say, Henry would go to those meetings and I would go with him and you would meet all those people. And I would meet all those captains and everything. But you know when I went... when I first started, you had to be a policeman for five years. OK, so I get my five years and they upped it to eight.

**NANCY RAY:** Of course.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** So, and then you had to be 30 years old... eight years and be a minimum of 30 years old. So by the time I got to my eight, I was 30. And uh I, you know, when I first become eligible you know, I'm gonna go take the test. So I went and took the test and uh you know I'm sure that probably I found out what the score was. But anyway, ended up going to the interview board and uh we had our interview board August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1974. And I can't remember who

all you know... who all was there. But anyway, they had them and I think I was on the last day. But anyway, they do all the interviews you know, so many a day. They do all the interviews and then they would go do all their compilations so to speak, scores and all this thing to get. And it would usually take another five or six days before you would hear anything. So at that time, I want to say that they were... that there was two vacancies at that time. And they had created six more positions for the Ranger service. And I'm trying to remember whether it was going from like 76 to 82 or from 82 to 88. But it was something like that. It was either 76 to... I think it was 76 to 82. So they were actually going to make eight Rangers out of this list. Six to fill the new vacancies and there was two uh, two to be filled. So you know everybody goes down there and goes through this, this entire process so to speak.

**NANCY RAY:** *(pause to change discs)* OK we're back and you were telling us about the interview board.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, after we had gotten through the interview board, you know you've got a certain period of time that you're gonna sit there and sweat it out. And everybody knows that it's gonna be four, five, six days... a week before they make an announcement. We don't hear anything. It's a week, it's two weeks... August 27<sup>th</sup>, they come out with a list and they say well, the governor was, I mean not the governor but the colonel was out of the country or was on vacation so it took twenty days. And everybody's sitting, everybody that went to the interview board is sitting there and waited twenty days to know whether or not you... whether or not you made it or whatever happened. And so on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, my sergeant called me and he says you need to come to the office. Bill and I was out on the interstate, obviously we were

working you know we were out on the interstate... so we were working. But anyway, we got down there and my sergeant hands me the list and I'm number nine. And uh...

**NANCY RAY:** So they have eight?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** They're making eight. And I'm number nine. So I don't feel too bad because here again in all of this, I know through the Department, through everything, that like I say, there's two vacancies now and they're gonna put six... We know that there are two more vacancies in December. Sergeant Selwyn Denson who was from Lubbock and Homer T. Melton who was the Ranger at Benjamin are retiring in December.

**NANCY RAY:** And it's good for a year? The list is good for a year?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** *(nodded)*

**NANCY RAY:** OK.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** So, me and Dan North, we're home free because I'm number nine and Dan North is ten. Tommy Walker, he's uh eleven, and Dee Vickers is twelve. So here again, Dan and I we're home free. We know we're gonna make it in December. And all these other guys... the eight that goes on there, they've got three days to get to their stations, or four, whatever it is. I guess there were 31 days *(in the month)*.

**NANCY RAY:** Well do you remember any of the others, the first eight?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh yeah. Uh Carl Weathers, see we were all on the same list. Carl was on there, Bobby Prince, uh who else was on there? Brownlow, Ronny Brownlow who's a sheriff up over in your part of the world. Over there around Palestine I guess, or Athens. No, Slick was at Athens. But anyway, Ronny was on that. Henry Manning was on it. Uh Norman Autrey, Rudy Rodriguez from San Antonio was on the list.

**NANCY RAY:** Well let me ask you this. Do you remember any of the questions that they asked you on the interview board?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, you know... I don't know specifically a lot of times how they would go about but I'm sitting here trying to remember uh... James England is on my board, he's my sergeant at the time. And I think that when they started having these interview boards, they had to, I think there was like four Ranger captains and then they would have uh one from another service or something like this. But anyway, my sergeant was on my interview board and of course uh, Captain Wilson and Captain John Wood was on there. I was trying to think who all the rest of them were. But anyway, of course they always get down to these scenarios about what would you do... And uh how far would you go to do whatever it is you need to do. And uh I really, probably the only thing I remember as much about that interview board is the thing about your partner... Henry Ligon was your partner. And if you're in the Ranger service, Henry's in the Ranger service now, and you're partners. And uh this old boy shoots Henry and kills him and you're working on the case. And you know and you find out and you know where there's certain evidence that's gonna put your case together, absolutely, that's gonna make the case against the old boy that killed your partner. And you know where it's at. And you have absolutely no probable cause to get where it's at. What are you gonna do? Are you gonna violate the law to go get it or what're you gonna do?

**NANCY RAY:** Ooh, how do you answer that?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, the only answer I knew was that at some point in time, Captain, I will have that evidence... at some point in time. I don't know that I could tell you right now how I'm gonna do it but I will get it. That's the only thing I knew to do (laughter). Yeah, do I say, do

I tell them that I will violate the law to go do it? Well, I don't know.... We'll just say we *will* get it.

**NANCY RAY:** That evidently worked (laughter).

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I guess so to speak, yeah. It worked.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, so you get a call that you have a station and that is... where is your first station?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Lubbock.

**NANCY RAY:** And that was your only station, right?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Uh huh. Well of course now... see like I say, Dan North and I, you know he's also on that list and uh retired captain out of Houston. And uh like I say, we're home free. We got two months or let's see, yeah, two months minimum to sell our house, to do whatever we gotta do to get ready to go to our duty stations. And we don't know exactly at that particular time because there was gonna be one of them gonna move... one of the stations I think they were gonna have in San Antonio you know. And the other one was gonna be up in the Lubbock area somewhere. We're thinking that it's gonna be either in Crosbyton or Decatur. Well, Dan North is, his wife's family was from Lubbock. Well I lived in Kerrville. Dan why don't you see if you can go to Lubbock and I'll see if I can stay here. We'll try to work this deal out I mean it'll be good for both of us. And of course you know we're working on this thing and of course you gotta go talk to Captain Wood and uh, and... before any of these come out. But anyway... so in the early part of August, I guess the first week of August of '74, uh the Southern Governors' Conference was in Austin. And uh they're gonna send so many people to Austin to watch over the southern governors and there are gonna be a bunch of Rangers down there. And there's

gonna be a uh a bunch of Highway Patrol down there. And uh K. D. Hallmark was my uh captain, my Highway Patrol captain. And he said guess what, you get to go. You're not worth a flip to me anyway anymore (laughter). So you get to go to Austin to spend a week down there doing whatever the heck it is that they want you to do. So like I said, the first week of August, I'm in Austin at that particular thing going on. Well like I said, I think about the last day that I'm there, we end up having a... a game warden gets shot in Kerrville. And they're steady hunting the guy that did the shooting out there in the country somewhere. And there are roadblocks all over the thing so I leave Austin in time to go back to Kerrville to work all the weekend on this, on this shooting down there of the game warden. And the next week, Captain Wilson has asked our, our uh patrol captains because they're gonna have a new Ranger school in Austin. And all the new people that have been recently commissioned in the Ranger service, we're gonna go to Austin for a week for schooling and so Dan and I are gonna go to this. So I go to Kerrville and I work all weekend on the shooting deal down there trying to catch that old boy. Then I get to go back to Austin for another week for this training. So for the first two weeks you know, I'm gone. And my wife's there and she's getting stuff sorted out and ready to go. And of course I think that's on Tuesday, Tuesday morning... we're in this Ranger school and I'm walking out of the cafeteria, started up the hallway. And I met Captain Werner and Captain Wilson coming down the hallway and they hollered at me... come mere, we want to talk to you. OK. Are you ready to go to work? Well of course, I mean, you know... What am I supposed to say (laughter)? Of course. They said OK. You're gonna be in Lubbock October the 1<sup>st</sup>. Uh oh... but where's all this other time that I was gonna have... September, October, November. They said no, Jim Singleton, who was stationed here in Lubbock, uh resigned to go to work for the Welfare Fraud

Commission. He was gonna be one of their top guys down there so they had a vacancy right here in Lubbock. So, you know, I was number nine, first on the list, Lubbock is mine. So and on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1974, well I moved to Lubbock. Been here ever since.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, do you remember what was your first case?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Ooh gosh, I don't know.

**NANCY RAY:** What's the first one that stands out in your mind?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Like I say, when I first got here you know... of course Captain Werner, I'd met Captain Werner on other occasions other than the fact that he was from Fredericksburg. But he was a Highway Patrol, no, he was a Ranger sergeant in uh, in San Antonio when the sheriff at Boerne was killed by an old boy.

**NANCY RAY:** What happened?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well it was an old boy you know, barricaded himself in a house down there and uh went just dead blank now... one of those senior moments I guess. I'm trying to remember what the sheriff's name was. Well he was one of the nicest old boys you'd ever meet. But he never carried a gun, he was one of those old-time sheriffs. But he knew this old kid and he just you know... he walked up there he was gonna go up there, and talk to him to get him out of the house. And of course he walks up there and the old boy killed him. Well, needless to say, that didn't set well with the rest of the law enforcement around and so uh anyway, Sergeant Werner at that time out of San Antonio, was coming up there and was working on that case and I was with him quite a bit during that period of time. Uh, and the sheriff from Fredericksburg actually ended up catching the old boy.

**NANCY RAY:** You nearly said it didn't you?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I surely did. Boy this... anyway, the sheriff from up there, he was one of the old-time sheriffs from there and Hugo Clanner was his name. And uh he ended up catching the old boy and that was the first time I actually worked with Werner. Well then of course Werner made captain and moved to Lubbock and he moved to Lubbock in August of '74 and this was his first captain's job. And then I came in October the 1<sup>st</sup>. But at that time, Selwyn Denson, Bobby Connell's daddy-in-law, was the Ranger sergeant here. Now Bobby is a retired Ranger out of Bryan. Well that's his daddy-in-law and he was my first sergeant when I moved up here. And my first Ranger partner was Frank Horger, and Frank was one of the old-time Rangers that had been around for years. He was out of McAllen and in 1977 he moved back to McAllen and was Rangering down there until he retired and later on died there in McAllen.

**NANCY RAY:** Well did he give you any advice when you started working with him that sticks with you?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Uh, Henry? I mean Frank?

**NANCY RAY:** Uh huh.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, Frank taught you all kinds of things you know. Keep cool, and I mean keep cool. That man never went anywhere without the air conditioner running wide open all the time.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh, *that* kind of cool (laughter).

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Winter, summer, whatever. And uh then you know when you were with uh, with Frank and you were working with him, you got to drive. You know we'd take his car but you got to drive because he always saw to it that... you know back then we didn't have the push button deals back then, we had to open it with a key. He'd walk over to the passenger's side

and he'd unlock the door. And he'd open that door and pitch the keys up on the roof and get in and say let's go (laughter).

**NANCY RAY:** He wanted to manage the air conditioner.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I, you know, I worked with him and then Bud Newberry took uh Sergeant Denson's place in December of '74 and he was my sergeant for, well until '83. And uh so I worked with them you know and I'm thinking that one of the earlier things I can remember is working a murder in Post... which was Frank's territory and why I was working it I don't know except you know unless it was in December when Frank took off. Frank would go to uh hunting in McAllen in December and you could just count on December, Frank's gone. And uh but Bud Newberry and I worked that case. And then there was uh a bank robbery at O'Donnell that uh that I worked with Bud Newberry. He and I, he was with me, and of course back then the sergeants, they'd just go get in the car with you, you know. And I guess you call them lieutenants now. And uh you know, they were just let's go, you know, they'd just go get in the car with you and here'd you go.

**NANCY RAY:** So there you are at, where a crime occurred. Pick a burglary, tell us what you did.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh, at a burglary? You just gather up what's there. You go look and see how they got in, what they did, what they used to get in, what they took, you know, stuff like that.

**NANCY RAY:** OK, so did you go to school to learn investigative skills or how did you know what to look for?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** You just, well yeah, they sent you to schools. Now Lord knows, you got to go to school of every kind. But you know you get out here and you start working these cases, they're not the same.

**NANCY RAY:** Well is there a case that stands out in your mind you can tell us about and walk us through what you did?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Ahh... you know there's all kinds of them but uh, you know one of them kind of interesting in the fact that uh it was a case up here in Olton, up here in Lamb County, the uh president of the school board's wife was murdered. And uh the house was set on fire. And uh of course it happened in Lamb County and E. D. McNeese was the sheriff up there. And if it was a murder or a robbery or if it was anything besides a misdemeanor hardly, you know McNeese called me you know. We went up there and took care of it for him. And uh we were working up in Olton there and we got up there and of course like I say, the house was burned, or actually it wasn't burned. They tried to burn it but it was one of those uh extremely well-built houses and uh what had happened was that uh whoever killed her had killed her in the bedroom. Or she was found in the bedroom. And they'd set the place on fire. They'd poured some kind of fluid, lighter fluid, looked like lighter fluid all over the lady and it was... looked like they hit her in the head with something to kill her. Of course she wasn't dead when, when she was set on fire. But anyway, and then the fire was set but I mean it burned it seemed like for a long time before anybody even saw the smoke. In fact, uh when the fire truck was called and the Fire Department was called and they come running down to the house, you know they knew which house, which street, because you know they tell you which house it is. They said heck, we drove by it because we didn't see any smoke. But the house, like I said, was just so well built and sealed so good that

it was burning the oxygen inside. And uh turns out, that the uh school board, S. D. Bays was his name. He was the president. He was on the school board. I think he was the president of the school board there... uh found his wife. Of course he was outside just down the street. They lived kind of on a deadend street and there was some area just further south where they had stored a lot of stuff for his business and everything. And he was down there and uh their daughter walked in, their little girl, I mean like a little seven or eight-year old girl walked in the house and of course it's full of smoke. And she goes... now I take this back, that's not right because when the Fire Department was called, it was called by the little girl who had walked in on her dad who was inside the house. You know in the house. And uh anyway, turned out, of course she says he, of course he was overcome by smoke and I'm sure it was because like I say, the house was filled with smoke. And he was pretty much overcome by smoke but he went back in there. Of course it turned out that he was the one that did the killing. So his deal was, you know, he goes up there and he does the killing then he sets the fire. Then he leaves and way off down there in the country down there. And then of course the fire is supposed to come boiling out of the house and the neighbors are supposed to call the Fire Department and then of course he's gonna come running up there... my wife's in the house and all this kind of stuff. Well, he goes down the street and he's down there where he's working in all these, in all these businesses and nobody's calling the Fire Department. There's no smoke coming out of the house. No nothing. This guy's got three kids. He's got one in college, one in high school, and then this little girl. And they're all gone and of course he knows that, they're all gone. And uh so you know we're just waiting for the fire to come, except it doesn't come. And he goes back in the house to find out what it is and of course you know he gets in there and he gets overcome by all this

smoke and about that time is when his little girl comes walking in and he tells her to call 911, or call the Fire Department or something. And that's when they find them. Of course he goes to the hospital and everything. Of course then you start working on it you know. You know, who would come up here and kill this lady? I mean she's a housewife and she doesn't work outside the home so... you know you just start from, you start from that. And then you start... with all the neighbors and you start talking to all the friends and everything. Well, you found out about this lady that got killed, the victim. And wow, boy you know... if there was ever uh, oh I don't know, whether you call them bad mother or bad wife or just vindictive or jealous, I mean she was deathly jealous of him. And uh they say she was... said she cleaned the house twice a year whether it needed it or not. And that's what it looked like. And, and the kids, the school people would say you know, it was nothing to see that oldest boy to come there with a big old knot on his head where she'd hit him with something you know. She just... you know, just get away from me. And of course the more you found out about her, you know, not anybody would live with her that long (laughter). And you know, after all the investigation, we finally found out what the deal was you know and you go to talking to all these people about what he says took place. And then what all the neighbors said. Well no, this is not, that's not the way it was... his truck's sitting right here. Hers is sitting right here. Well that's unusual because that's not the way they're supposed to be because that's not the way he said they were. And then of course other people said well no, we saw him going back and forth toward the house. So you know he's not telling you about everything. And what it boils down to is that uh he's at home and he's talking on the telephone. She comes in and accuses him of running around with this other lady up the street or something. And they get in an awful fight and he ends up hitting her and killing her. Of

course now she's dead or he thinks she's dead. So he commences to try to cover all this up and make the story up and put it all together when if he just picked up the phone and calls the police and says you know I killed my wife, well he'd got manslaughter, maybe. Negligent homicide...

**NANCY RAY:** But now it's worse.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** So we ended up indicting him for murder. Got a good case and uh we had a brand new district attorney in Littlefield, good guy, nice guy. He's still the district attorney up there. But he's never tried anything before and uh old S. D. hires uh Floyd Holder. Floyd was a big time uh defense lawyer in Lubbock. Well you know I've known Floyd for years and uh Floyd is an ex-military and a great big old boy. Baldheaded with a full beard and just a big kind of overpowering kind of guy. But Floyd's just a nice guy. I've gotten along with him for years. I mean we've been on different sides many a times but... anyway I've known Floyd all these years and of course he hires Floyd. And the district attorney... when you know what Floyd looks like, just think of the total opposite, that's what our district attorney is. This is his first case, first big case. And one of the attorneys in uh Littlefield, a friend of ours... He said well, and I think... Yeah, I'm trying to remember exactly how that worked. But anyway, he is now the judge in Littlefield and he was one of the attorneys there. And he told us, he said you know, well, I'll sit in the back and so he, the district attorney who was in there before, offered to help prosecute him. And so... he aid he'd sit in the back and he'd try to help Mark along and everything. Anyway, come out and everybody in there testified and went to the jury. And the jury come out and said not guilty. Well, here again, you win some and you lose some. And of course later on, that same day, we were sitting down there talking to some of the jurors. And uh the juror told us says oh yeah, there's not any doubt that uh he killed her. We just thought that they had more

evidence than ya'll. And here again, knowing the entire story about the whole thing and you probably can't tell that to the jury, but knowing the whole story and knowing Floyd Holder, rest assured he didn't get off scot free (laughter).

**NANCY RAY:** He paid!

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Lord did he pay (laughter).

**NANCY RAY:** It was expensive anyway.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I guarantee you. Yeah, we were thinking at one time you know that after, after all this case and after we found out what the... and we offered him a polygraph and the guy wouldn't... yeah I'll take it but he wouldn't take it. And he just... boy he was just sitting there fixing to tell me about it and he said no, I'm not gonna talk about it. And then later on you'd think you know, had he come out and told us the entire story about what had... and there again if he'd picked up a telephone and called the sheriff's office or called the police department and said this has happened... negligent homicide, probation...

**NANCY RAY:** Couldn't do it.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well like I say, old Floyd penalized him.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what kind of cases did ya'll have here in the Lubbock area? I know it had to be a variety.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh yeah, we worked everything.

**NANCY RAY:** From what to what?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh you know, we worked you know... of course we worked like I said, most of the major felonies we worked uh all the killings in the counties around here you know. Because at the time that, when I first came, there were two of us. Frank and I and Frank had

everything west and I had everything... I mean east and I had everything west of here. And uh so you know Hockley County, they'd call you for their burglaries, thefts, robberies, rapes, killings, anything. And then I spent a lot of time working with police department here at Lubbock. Of course I worked with all those guys. We worked major burglary rings, bank robberies, all kinds of stuff.

**NANCY RAY:** Did ya'll have oilfield theft out this way?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh yeah, boy. When I first got here, you know hell, I thought I lived in Hobbs for a long time because that was during the oil boom. And uh they called one day and uh they said uh, the sheriff over at Denver City called me and he said OK, we've lost some oilfield equipment. He said I need you over here. I said OK, be over there in a little bit. So I took off and he said what it is, is a uh prime mover and uh what the heck was it now... anyway, it was some name for something else. Uh a prime mover... and good Lord, I mean sheriff, if I were to see it, what would I be looking for (laughter)? It's a big trailer with a great big diesel engine and a portable drill rig on it is what that is. A power swivel and a, and a prime mover and it's a portable drill unit. It was a huge piece of equipment that was on a big trailer... worth good Lord, how much money. But it was used to uh when they'd drill oil wells and they had a blowout or something, they would case them. Cover them with... dump them full of cement to cap the well off. Well OK now. We've got the well down here now we're gonna go set the heads and everything on it and we've gotta drill through all this concrete. Well that's what this power unit was for. And that big diesel engine was what run that power unit. And uh it would drill through that concrete so that you could start setting the casings and everything for the well. So we gotta go find that thing. And like I said, a lot of trouble with the oilfield is that you take an old boy

that... when I got up here, I had never seen this much flat ground in my life. And an oil well was one of them guys going up and down in the field. And uh that's all I knew, that's an oil well right there. You know pumpjack with a... no there's a lot more to it than that. You know...

**NANCY RAY:** And it was missing.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Oh yeah. You know the drill stem, pipe, and all kind of things and they'd lose that. And of course you know an old boy would come out and say we lost you know 20,000 feet of drill stem, or tubing, 2 7/8-inch tubing last night. OK... how are we gonna know it if we see it? Well, you don't, you know. Those old boys would pull it out of the well. What it is, is the tubing is where the oil comes out. And you know when they pull them out and they service them, those pulling units will service and they pull all that out and just stack it out. And you know then they'd frac the well or they'd use Hollowell units to flush out the well. Clean up the paraffin on it. And then they'd put all that stuff back down. Well while it's out, somebody would come along and steal the stuff. And there's not anyway... you know a 30-foot section of pipe looks like every other 30-foot section of pipe. So once they got it off of the rack and onto the truck and is headed down the road, you're gonna have a heck of a time. Just like stealing grain out of the granaries up here. You know these old boys would come in there with them big trucks and kick the thing open and steal you know 70,000 pounds of corn. Well if you're not standing there watching them, once they drive off, you know, tell me where that corn came from.

**NANCY RAY:** No serial numbers.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Uh uh. Like I say in the oilfield, they used to... and old boy named Jake Ford who was ex-sheriff at Lee County come up with a tool-branding service where he contracted with all these people to mark all their tools. And you could begin to get a... and a lot

of them would have serial numbers on them if in fact they ever recorded them. Of course you know if they could have serial numbers but if you didn't know what they were, it didn't matter uh who they belonged to because you couldn't prove whose they were. And nobody bothered messing with them but they'd put these tool brands and they would put them on places where you'd know them. And if they're supposed to have them on there and uh, myself and the DA's investigator in Levelland went to Casper, Wyoming, one time and recovered a bunch of oilfield equipment that was taken from uh Levelland, or Denver City rather. And went up there with Jake and got a bunch of it back. But back then, it was, the oil business was so booming that if you lost a string of pipe, it was not like... OK, I gotta go get another string. You couldn't go buy another string of pipe. If somebody comes out there and strips your pulling unit, your service rig, your workover rig where you've got all your, you've got your power tongs, you've got your tubing tongs, and your casing tongs and your slips and your elevators and all these tools are on this particular unit and that unit back then was worth you know, just the tools were worth a quarter million dollars... that's on there. And you know an old boy goes out there and steals your elevators, your slips, your tubing tongs, or your rock tongs, they'd shut you down because you couldn't go buy another one. I mean you couldn't go to the supply house because they couldn't make them fast enough for everybody to have them. So, when they shut you down and somebody stole yours, and here come an old boy come driving up looking over his shoulder and says hey, do you need a set of rock tongs? I got a set back here I'll let you have for a thousand bucks. He'd say yes sir, unload them. And an old boy told me I knew they were stolen, ain't no doubt about it, and if your coming to get them I'm gonna give them to you. But in the meantime, I'm gonna work them suckers until you come and get them. Just because you couldn't get them anymore.

But here again, oilfield equipment is not like stealing your television or your guns or your stuff out of your house. It's hard to go down here to the shopping mall and raise the trunk and say anybody need a set of slippers (laughter)? You're pretty much gonna have to go back to the oilfield to sell them. So you know, you spend a lot of time out there with that stuff. And like I say, that stuff's hard to find once it gets gone.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, what about cases that maybe you were disappointed... you were not able to solve and just really sticks with you... just frustrates you even today?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I don't know... I guess you get to the point where you don't get frustrated anymore. Sometimes you get a little disappointed and after a while it just comes with the territory. You know some of them you get done. Some of them you get done easy, some you have to work hard for. Some you work real hard and you don't ever get them done. I've got a killing in Littlefield up here at the American Cotton Growers, you know the big denim meal right there on the edge of town. Uh probably 400 people in the parking lot and not a witness one. Still don't know who did it. But an old boy who worked in the oil meal... or worked in that cotton meal, denim factory, uh and here again, he and his wife were having some kind of troubles. But anyway, it turned out it didn't have anything to do with that as far as what they had because I mean she didn't have anything to do with it. But uh he went in, he was on a shift and he walked into the building and uh had left his coat and cap or hat or whatever he had, plus his lunchbox was in the house. Well evidently he turned around or either somebody told him somebody was looking for him because he came back outside, went outside the gate, and I... witnesses tell me they saw him go to a particular car down there and said he was standing between these two cars. And of course like I say, this is a shift change now. And this parking lot is full and the people

were circling because uh it's not a big huge parking lot and people were moving all the time because uh the management up there says you come up there and block the place where people can't get in and out... you've stopped or you've parked that thing in a... you know we're gonna fire whoever it is you're working with, or whoever you're coming to get. So I mean boy, it was a continuous going all the time. And uh I had people tell me they saw him walk out there and they saw him go over here and they saw him standing between these two cars. And of course this is the witness... as I go by, he's standing right there and he's talking to somebody in that car. And so I go by. And of course this person's looking for a parking place. And uh everybody's looking for a parking place that's going through there. And they drive around this big circle again and uh said you know when I come back around, there's a parking place but there's an old boy laying on the ground there and there's people around him. And other people saw him fall but... and nobody could tell me what kind of car it was. And nobody actually saw him get shot but he was shot with a .22 and probably, like I say, you know there was probably two or three people inside that car and probably bent over to talk to somebody and of course he was shot in the head. And just shot point blank right there and... on the ground. And uh... got it narrowed down to uh he had uh something like the day before or two days before, that uh when he'd gotten off shift, at the gate up there he had met a young Hispanic girl. And uh they were standing there talking and she was crying and boy... you know some kind of emotional deal going on. And uh talking, and then all of a sudden, they... and they left. So we said OK, now we've got some kind of reason. Well of course there's lots of Hispanic ladies work up there, many of them. And they're from Littlefield, Olton, I mean all these little communities around. And most of these girls know everybody I mean they're kin to people out here. And I talked to everyone of those people who

come and go on that shift, on that particular day. And I have not found anybody yet that knew that girl. Have absolutely no clue who that girl was he was talking to. And to this day, and this was like I say, this was many years ago now. To this day, not one clue. Not one phone call, not one anything. Which kind of tells me that... that he's involved with a family of some kind that he and this girl, you know, together... and he's married and of course she's unhappy and this... people in the car are her brothers or cousins or something and we're gonna take care of this business. And if it's that way, you're not ever gonna find out. I don't know.

**NANCY RAY:** Well, let's change it a little bit differently then. We've heard people talk about you know making their own fun and how much fun it was being a Ranger or a Highway Patrolman, did you have any cases that kind of a humorous twist to them? ... Or you got some humor out of it by solving it (laughter).

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Of course... a lot of them had a certain amount of humor to them I guess. But I don't know, you know generally, and sometimes people think that police are hard, unfeeling. Because you know you go out there and you've got dead people and blood and guts laying everywhere around. And you're sitting around there kidding around, joking, cutting up. Well it's either that or cry you know.

**NANCY RAY:** That's how you dealt with it.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well sure, you know. And so you deal with that sometime but it's not like you don't feel anything. But it's just that you know... it's already sad enough as it is so you just make the best of it. But oh I don't know, there's all kinds of funny things that happen.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Anything stand out in your mind? If not, well...

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I don't know. I don't know whether Warren or Joe told you about them... we was working a deal up there in Lubbock somewhere. We was chasing some old boy down there and finally Joe catches him and we all you know get to catch him up down there and of course Joe's there and he's gonna do the search on the thing. And of course hands out here and you spread your legs and the old boy's not spreading his legs and Joe kicks his leg and of course it goes rolling down the street (laughter). ... and that guy's leg... he just kicks it and it drifts off there a little bit.

**NANCY RAY:** That was Joe Hunt?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Yeah.

**NANCY RAY:** It would have to be, huh.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, yeah. Well like I say, you know Joe, Joe came to Lubbock in 1977 when Frank moved back to San Antonio, or back to McAllen. And Joe and I were partners in the same office for, well 'til '93 when Joe went to, moved to San Angelo, back where he was from. And we had all kinds of things you know. And you know I'm sure there are amusing ones out there some place...

**NANCY RAY:** You'll probably think of them after while (laughter). You say I wish I had told them that.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Yeah. Of course in the Highway Patrol and in the Ranger service, and yeah...

**NANCY RAY:** Well what about changes. I know technology has changed quite a bit. But from the time you went in 'til the time that you retired and that was what, '95, is that right? You know

beepers and cell phones and radar... what were some of the biggest changes that you saw that affected you.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, I don't know so much about... you know technology changed more. You know when I went in the Ranger service in... and uh you worked with the sheriffs and you worked with the police chiefs and here again, we didn't have the jurisdiction where that because it is a murder it belongs to us. If it was in the county, if it was in Hockley County, then the sheriff had jurisdiction of that and if he wanted you to work on it, he'd let you know. And if you... you needed help on something, I'll help. Generally, when I went in, they liked to have you there because you had more to offer. You had all kinds... you had access to all kinds of equipment that sheriff's offices and police departments didn't have then. Well of course as things developed now, you know, the grants come in and things got, uh the technology got better. Well pretty soon, us state guys were going to those counties and saying hey, can I borrow your new super duper camera or whatever it was that you got. And they've got a lot more technology. Uh a lot of times you had things like that to offer them. A lot of times in the smaller counties, uh another body was what you offered them. A fulltime investigator for that particular investigation, you offered them. You know you have a uh, a sheriff like Littlefield had like three or four deputies. But they've not only got their things to do, they've got courts and papers and all kind of civil stuff that they have to take care of. That's part of their duty. So when they have a crime like this, they need somebody that can devote the time to that, which was what we offered them. Whatever we had, we offered them an extra person. A lot of times, the Ranger service could take a certain amount of heat, so to speak, from the sheriff's office or the chief of police office. We

would get into a deal where the sheriff would say hey, you know, I know what's going on... this, this... and I don't need to be in here.

**NANCY RAY:** Elected official?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Elected officials. This is not something that... and so we gave the sheriff an out to the extent that uh he could tell people who may not agree or disagree or agree, whatever... that I have turned that over to the Ranger service and they're going to do whatever is necessary to complete this case. And so here again, we didn't live there. We didn't vote there. We didn't run for anything there so it didn't bother us. So we could go do it for them. Which is not to say we wouldn't have done it anyway and of course we, we do our job you know, come hell or high water you know. That's... I don't care. Politics, personal feelings, whatever... we're gonna go do our job because that's what we get paid for. And if you can help the sheriff do it, why not? If you can help the chief do it, and you can help him out with something, why not?

**NANCY RAY:** Well were you gone a lot, from home?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Ah... you know, sometimes you would go, yeah. Sometimes you'd be gone a lot and then other times, no.

**NANCY RAY:** OK. Well if somebody listens to this audio or reads this transcript, say a hundred years from now, uh what would you want them to know about you, Jackie Peoples, Ranger? What would be your legacy (laughter)? And that's not a funny question.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well no, you think about that and you think about legacy... Nowadays you think of a legacy as politics so to speak.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh, we're not on politics, we don't talk politics.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** You know in terms of building their legacy or whatever. You know when you're doing a job that we did in the Ranger service, you don't build anything. Or you don't set out to build anything. You set out to do what they hired you to do you know. And to me, I thought, I think that was one of the greatest things that the Ranger service had going for them was the fact that they hired the people that they wanted that could do the job and they told them to go do the job. And they did it. We didn't have to have a sergeant with us. We didn't have to have Austin with us. We went out and did our job because that's what they told us to do. We went out and did it. And if there's a legacy, that's what it is. When I worked here in my territory, so to speak, now you know it may not be exactly like my territory when working for Sergeant England when he was talking about well that's not my county. You know that wreck belongs to the Highway Patrolman in the next county. Old England would say, what does that patch on your sleeve say? It says Texas on it, don't it? So technically, I guess they're all your territory. But I'm talking about where I'm responsible for, in my counties, that when something happened that they had a Ranger that they can call that when they called me, I went. Every time.

**NANCY RAY:** Yeah, that's good, that's good.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** The philosophy was that if you don't go, they're not gonna call you, so you go. There were times when they would call and you know I couldn't go but I explained to whoever it was whether it was the sheriff whether it was the chief whether it was a deputy, that I can't go, I can't be there but I'll make sure somebody else is. We always tried to get them the help they needed, when they needed it.

**NANCY RAY:** Camaraderie, that's a word that I feel. Can you tell me about the camaraderie between you and the Rangers and other law enforcement...

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well yeah. Here again, the Ranger service was special. Uh it wasn't, it's not like other law enforcement uh where that you know you have certain territory that you go take care of and you know you may be working a murder case in one county and you know a robbery in another county and two or three burglaries in another county that you've got to juggle these things to do what you have to do everywhere. And if you need help, you call somebody. And if I needed help, you know Joe and Warren or Jim Mull in Plainview or wherever, they would come and help you. If I needed something in uh in San Angelo, Abilene, El Paso, I just called that Ranger up. I don't have to talk to anybody else. Buster... I've got a problem, I need something out of El Paso. And whatever Buster's doing or whatever Sid Merchant in Abilene was doing or Joe or uh George Frasier in San Angelo, whoever... OK, we're gonna go do it. And it was done. Well we were taught that way that if a Ranger calls you, unless you are in some kind of a god-awful situation that you just flat can't get out of, he's first. It's always been that way. And he's first and you go do it. And you tell them exactly what you found out.

**NANCY RAY:** It's a strong bond, isn't it?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** *(nodded)*

**NANCY RAY:** Well, when you retired in, I show August 31<sup>st</sup> of 1995, is that right? What did you do then?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** I uh

**NANCY RAY:** And what are you doing now (laughter)?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** When I retired in '95, I'd been with the Department right at 30 years. And uh you know you get to the point where I'm just... you know it kind of wears on you after a while or at least it did me to a certain degree. And uh sometimes you uh, and especially your

family notices that sometimes you get kind of down or you, you know, you're not fully attentive. And so it got where that you know I, I didn't want to do that. I didn't want to be that committed to that particular, an investigation that particular. Because like I say, we didn't have anything that was uh throw away so to speak. If, and we always looked at them where if the sheriff called you for a misdemeanor, you know we're not supposed to do that. Here again, I'm not gonna tell the sheriff I'm not supposed to do that. We're gonna go do it and we're gonna go do the best we can on it. And so you just go do it. And anyway, you know it just got to where I would... it's not like the Highway Patrol where you go out and you work eight hours a day and you work wrecks and you write tickets and then you come home. And tomorrow you start over again. You start working these cases that, that go on and you can't... OK, it's 5 o'clock, time out. We're gonna go home. You can't just go cut it off, you know, because it's there. All the time. So that tries on you and it just keeps going. And then... so I thought well, in '95, I said OK. I'd been in the Ranger service 21 years, right here in Lubbock. And uh I felt like that was my opportunity to retire and go do something else. And a uh Motor Vehicle Theft lieutenant name of Jerry Johnson. I had uh, we'd been working with him here in Lubbock for many years. And he says, I've been working on a deal where we're gonna start this auto theft task force. Do you want to help me? And uh... (*short pause*) What I did, was we got together, Jerry and I got together, and worked on a deal where we put an auto theft task force together through the ATPA, Auto Theft Preventive Association, uh Authority. It's a, well they're part of TXDOT now but they were just kind of an independent insurance-funded group that they provided funds for task force. That's all you did, was chase stolen cars. And I finally... of course you were talking about comic stuff. I used to tease Jerry I'd tell him... I finally got a job where I have a throw down. I mean one that really

didn't mean anything you know. One stolen car... how do you tell the difference? And so what if you screwed up a deal, an investigation on a stolen car and some little old boy gets away from you for stealing cars. He's gonna steal another one so I told him that was just one of them throw-down things (laughter). But I did that for oh, eight and a half years I guess. And uh until funding began to, you know things got high and funding got off... And about that time I, a friend of ours here in Lubbock, name of Larry Manly. I don't know whether ya'll met Larry today or not but uh, had been talking to uh some people about the attorney general office. They were gonna open up a Medicaid Fraud unit here in Lubbock, the attorney's general office out of Austin you know. That was all worked out of Austin at one time. And they were expanding it to like, they were gonna end up with 200 investigators and so they wanted an office here. Well Larry was gonna do that and he ended up heading it up. He said I need some investigators. So Warren, when you talked to Warren... Warren went over to talk with... and like I say, at that time I was still with the task force. He said come go... no I'm not... Finally I went over there with them and so uh Warren and I and uh Louis Cardinal who was a Motor Vehicle Theft, he retired and went over there. And then later on, Jim Mull was a Ranger in Plainview retired up there. He came down and worked with us. And so we did that for a while, it was different. You know working for the people out of Austin is a different thing you know. And after uh a little over four years, I said no, I can't do this anymore.

**NANCY RAY:** Had enough, huh?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Yeah, I don't... I just can't in good conscience do that anymore. And so I just, August 31<sup>st</sup> of this year, I just said I'm through. I quit. I tried to get my wife to go with me and she says OK. And she was... of course we found out then, years ago, when I retired with, at

the ERS, the retirement system, uh you know they send you little packets and you fill out all this stuff. It takes a month just to get all these packets gathered up. Well when uh, of course she's Human Resources there at the Highway Department. Of course she has access to all that and she said it won't take me that long. But we come to find out that it takes an email now and you know, the next day you can be gone. So she said that's what I'm gonna do. And so we went down and got all her stuff and got her... And then she got to thinking. You know if I stayed until... a few more months or whatever it was... until the first of the year or something, that it would enhance her (*short pause*)... Anyway, she said if I stayed until the end of the year, it's gonna enhance her retirement a certain amount of that. Why not, that's 120 days? So, she just sent them an email saying I'm cancelling all that. And she's just gonna stay working and I'm going in uh, at the end of the year. So...

**NANCY RAY:** Well, is there anything else that you would like to share from your Ranger days or anything else that stands out in your mind that you would like to say?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well, I don't know that anything stands out or anything. It's just like, you just feel like you were part of something special.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh yeah. Bigger than life.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** And you can't back down from anybody when it comes to that. And the fact that the people I worked with... you know, good, bad or indifferent you know, they're all good folks. And uh like I say, I'd do it again in a minute.

**NANCY RAY:** That's quite a tribute to the Rangers, isn't it?

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Anything in a minute (laughter).

**NANCY RAY:** Well thank you for your time today and...

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Well I hope I helped a little bit.

**NANCY RAY:** Oh you did, yes. And thank you for your service to the state. We appreciate it.

**JACKIE PEOPLES:** Thank you.