

Interview with
CARL WEATHERS
Texas Ranger, Retired

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Project: Texas Rangers

Interview Conducted at Mr. Weathers' Home
Lubbock, Texas
Saturday—November 1, 2008

Interviewed By: Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray
Longview, Texas

Present at Interview: Carl Weathers, Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray



Introduction

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CARL WEATHERS

TEXAS RANGER, RETIRED

NANCY RAY: My name is Nancy Ray. I am visiting with Carl Weathers of Lubbock, Texas. We are at the Weathers' home. The purpose of this interview is to discuss Ranger Weathers' career as a Texas Ranger. Today is Saturday, November 1st. And Eddie Ray is also with Ranger Weathers and me. Ranger Weathers, do I have your permission to record this interview?

CARL WEATHERS: Yes.

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

CARL WEATHERS: I understand.

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

CARL WEATHERS: Yes, you do.

NANCY RAY: OK. Let's start with what is your full name and where were you born and when?

CARL WEATHERS: My full name is Carl Allen Weathers.

NANCY RAY: ALAN?

CARL WEATHERS: ALLEN. And uh I was born in Indian Gap which is Hamilton County, Texas, in 1940.

NANCY RAY: What month and day?

CARL WEATHERS: October the 17th.

NANCY RAY: OK, tell us about your parents... their names?

CARL WEATHERS: My father's name is J. C. or James Clifton Weathers and my mother's name is Estelle. And she uh, she's still with us, she is 93 years old, be 94 in December.

NANCY RAY: You have some good genes, huh?

CARL WEATHERS: I hope.

NANCY RAY: What about brothers and sisters?

CARL WEATHERS: One brother and one sister. My brother is older than me and he's still with us. He's living in Gatesville.

NANCY RAY: What's his name?

CARL WEATHERS: His name is Jay, JAY. And my sister's name is Marjorie and uh she married a high school sweetheart named Mark Sheffield. And tragically, they both died at the same time in a house fire. And I've said since then that they were so close that it was probably a good thing that they both went at the same time.

NANCY RAY: How long ago was that?

CARL WEATHERS: It was about um I'm going say twelve years ago.

NANCY RAY: Well, where did you go to school?

CARL WEATHERS: I went to school... I started to school in Priddy, which is in Hamilton County. And uh went there the first grade then the second grade I went to Goldthwaite. And I think the reason for it was that the school district's bus came closer to where we lived you know the first year in Priddy and the second year in Goldthwaite. The third year I went to Priddy and uh then we moved to Rising Star and I graduated from high school in Rising Star.

NANCY RAY: OK. What did your dad do?

CARL WEATHERS: He was a stone mason, brick mason, and he was also a Baptist preacher.

NANCY RAY: My father was a Baptist preacher.

CARL WEATHERS: Is that right? Yeah. He attended Howard Payne when he was a young man and that's where he met my mother, she was a Brownwood girl. And uh then when he left Howard Payne well then instead of preaching in bigger churches, he felt called to go to the small country churches and that's what he did. Churches that couldn't afford to hire a preacher, well he was their pastor.

NANCY RAY: All right, so that's why you moved?

CARL WEATHERS: We moved from one country church to another you know... my first eighteen years of my life I guess.

NANCY RAY: Well I've always heard that preacher's kids were the worst, were you?

CARL WEATHERS: I don't think so.

NANCY RAY: You don't think so, all right. That's what the deacons' kids say, right?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah.

NANCY RAY: Well when you were in high school, did you have any favorite subjects?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, I did. I liked English and literature and I didn't like math until I got one good math teacher. And I learned a little bit so I liked that pretty well.

NANCY RAY: What about extracurricular activities?

CARL WEATHERS: Well, in Rising Star, you know you're involved in everything. All the sports and uh Ag and FFA and you know that kind of thing.

NANCY RAY: So did you have projects in FFA?

CARL WEATHERS: Oh yeah.

NANCY RAY: What about sports? What did you play?

CARL WEATHERS: I played football and uh basketball. And we didn't have a baseball team in Rising Star so I played softball in the off season from football and basketball.

NANCY RAY: Well does anything stand out in your mind, any teachers or anything, from your school days that you want to talk about?

CARL WEATHERS: We graduated 23 and that was our class total. And there was about 16 of us still living because we had our 50th anniversary this year.

NANCY RAY: So you graduated in...

CARL WEATHERS: 1958.

NANCY RAY: That's quite, that's quite a record to have that many.

CARL WEATHERS: And uh I don't have any favorite teacher over any other. They were all good, I really liked them.

NANCY RAY: Good. Well when you graduated from high school, what did you do?

CARL WEATHERS: Well I went to Howard Payne, you know, that following fall. I worked during the summer then I went to Howard Payne. Went one semester and uh did pretty good... started the second semester and kind of burn out on it. And I wasn't by myself. There was five of us that decided to join the Army so in the fall of '59 I joined the Army. And uh we uh did our active duty in the Army and go out and got recalled back in 1961 to the Army.

NANCY RAY: Well where did you go for your basic training?

CARL WEATHERS: In Fort Ord, California.

NANCY RAY: And what was your job in the Army?

CARL WEATHERS: Well they sent me to school to teach me how to be a sheet metal worker and a pipe fitter. And I never did do any of that in the Army. Most of the time I was uh driving a dump truck or doing PT instruction and just odd jobs. But uh...

NANCY RAY: Well when they called you back, what was that for?

CARL WEATHERS: It was in the Berlin Crisis in 1961 and uh... you wouldn't remember, you're too young but they called up the 49th Armored Division of the National Guard and they were referred to as Kennedy's crybabies you know. It was for one year but I was in an Army reserve engineering battalion. It was a little combat engineer battalion in the Army reserve. And that little battalion got called up along with the National Guard. So I went to Fort Carson, Colorado, and that base had been closed so the little engineering company that I was in went to Fort Carson, Colorado. And we got it ready to reopen. We did a lot of construction work out there on the barracks and the mess halls and the roads and the fences... runways, everything. Got it ready to reopen and they started training recruits there when we finished up with that.

NANCY RAY: So you never had to go to Germany or never deploy?

CARL WEATHERS: Never left the United States.

NANCY RAY: Well OK... anything stand out in your mind that you want to share about your Army experience?

CARL WEATHERS: Well, it was like a vacation out in Colorado because I hadn't made up my mind... I was still a kid. You know I was old enough to be doing something worthwhile but uh I didn't know what I wanted to do yet so that was... it was a lot of fun out in the mountains.

NANCY RAY: Especially in the summer.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah. We were there in the summer too.

NANCY RAY: So what year did you go back or were you released from the Army?

CARL WEATHERS: In '62, in October of '62, I'd finished my Army active duty and so I decided I could go back to college then. And I did. I did about the same thing. I went to Howard Payne and did about the same thing as I did before. I really you know... lights out the first semester and then the second semester started dwindling again. And so during all that time in

'62, I met a girl I really fell in love with. And so I had to find a job you know. I had worked different, all kinds of jobs... from filling stations to construction work with my dad and companies he worked for. And uh so I decided I better find something more permanent.

NANCY RAY: Well, tell us about that girl.

CARL WEATHERS: Oh, yeah, she was a Brownwood girl. And real pretty.

NANCY RAY: And her name?

CARL WEATHERS: Mickey.

NANCY RAY: And when did you marry Mickey?

CARL WEATHERS: '63. I had to wait for her to graduate from high school and so we married in August of '63. She was 18 and out of school.

NANCY RAY: So did you have a family after that?

CARL WEATHERS: Oh yeah, we... first our daughter was born in '65 and we were in Brownwood at the time. And I was working for the Brownwood Police Department. And uh then in 1976, my son was born.

NANCY RAY: Tell us their names.

CARL WEATHERS: My daughter's name is Carla and she lives here in Lubbock. And she's married, got a son and a daughter. Her daughter's married so I got a great-grandson now. And my son's name is Allen, we call him Bud. We named him after my grandfather, his name was Allen. So everybody called him Bud so we call our son Bud. And now we're the only ones that call him Bud.

NANCY RAY: Just the family.

CARL WEATHERS: Everybody else who knows him calls him Allen.

NANCY RAY: Well so you had to find a job to support this girl you met. What did you... worked for the police department.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, I went to the police department in Brownwood. Worked there three years and I had topped out as far as advancement or anything, it would be a long time before I'd be able to promote. And even when I did, it wouldn't have been much you know to support a family on. So I, and I liked police work, so... but I went to work for the post office in Brownwood, working both jobs. And uh finally it got to where I wasn't getting enough sleep to work both jobs so I quit the police department. But I had applied for the Department of Public Safety.

NANCY RAY: What prompted you to apply for the Department of Public Safety?

CARL WEATHERS: Well, there's a couple of things. I liked police work. And of course they, they uh the Highway Patrol got a better salary than the Brownwood Police at the time. So that was one thing. And the other thing was I knew a couple of Highway Patrolmen stationed there in Brownwood and the old Ranger that was there at the time.

NANCY RAY: Who was that Ranger?

CARL WEATHERS: Earl Stewart. And uh I had gotten to be close friends with those and I really had a lot of respect for all of them, the two Highway Patrolmen and the Ranger. So that prompted me to try to get the DPS and I did. In uh 1966, well I went to work for the Highway Patrol. And went to Bryan and I was there for nine years, actually eight years.

NANCY RAY: Before you go to Bryan, tell us about the school.

CARL WEATHERS: The Highway Patrol school?

NANCY RAY: Um hmm. Do you remember what your class number was?

CARL WEATHERS: Well, I don't guess I do.

NANCY RAY: That's OK, all right.

CARL WEATHERS: It was the only school in the fall of 1966. So...

NANCY RAY: Do you remember who were your monitors?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, I do. I do.

NANCY RAY: Tell us about them.

CARL WEATHERS: There was uh a Drivers License sergeant from East Texas name Joe Davorsky (*spelling?*). And a great guy, I really thought a lot of him. And there was an MVI, Motor Vehicle Inspection, sergeant from Midland and his name was Davidson. And it turned out that I had some, by marriage, an uncle named Davidson and old Jim Davidson, my monitor, and my uncle were cousins.

NANCY RAY: Oh my, small world.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, that's what I thought too.

NANCY RAY: Well tell us about the school, how hard was it?

CARL WEATHERS: Well, for me it wasn't real hard. It was intensive study. Yeah, I mean you had to really study hard to keep up to date and the physical activity, it was... it was good. I mean it was strenuous but it was necessary. I mean... I got in real, real good shape.

NANCY RAY: I bet. Did you box?

CARL WEATHERS: Oh yeah, Yeah, and uh every once in a while I'll see a couple of those old boys that I had boxing matches with you know. And they're still in dispute who won. Yeah.

NANCY RAY: Well what all were you learning when you were in school? What did they teach you?

CARL WEATHERS: The first thing I learned was how to study. That's the first class I guess that I can recall. And they taught us how to study. If I had that class before I started Howard Payne, I might have gone ahead and graduated, I don't know.

NANCY RAY: Sounds like a good course.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, it was. And uh golly, they taught us everything from business law to traffic law to criminal law. And uh all the DPS policies and procedures you had to learn. And uh it was extensive.

NANCY RAY: Well do you remember how many people started your class and how many finished?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, we showed up down there the first day with 54 and uh we, when we graduated there were 32 of us. We had a few that didn't want it bad enough to stay.

NANCY RAY: So what makes you think the ones that graduated... what made them stay?

CARL WEATHERS: All I can say is why I, I had to have a job then. I couldn't you know... I didn't have a job to go to if I quit and then too, I never have quit something you know that I started without at least finishing part of it you know. The only thing I quit was college.

NANCY RAY: Just wasn't for you though.

CARL WEATHERS: No, I had too many people depending on me to quit.

NANCY RAY: So...

CARL WEATHERS: Besides, I wanted it real bad. That's what I wanted to do.

NANCY RAY: Well I understand that they wake you up at all hours of the night too. Did they do you that way?

CARL WEATHERS: You know I've heard people talk about that and that didn't happen a lot in my patrol school. I've heard about them getting woken up to, to uh give them a spelling test.

NANCY RAY: That's what we've heard, right.

CARL WEATHERS: No, that didn't happen in my school.

NANCY RAY: OK, I just wondered.

CARL WEATHERS: I guess Davorsky and Davidson must to have liked to sleep better than some of the monitors that went down.

NANCY RAY: You're fortunate. So you said your first duty station when you graduated was...

CARL WEATHERS: Bryan.

NANCY RAY: Tell us about them.

CARL WEATHERS: Bryan-College Station.

NANCY RAY: Oh my, that must have been an interesting area.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, it was good. It was good, I liked it.

NANCY RAY: Tell us about... how long were you there?

CARL WEATHERS: Eight years.

NANCY RAY: OK, tell us some things that happened.

CARL WEATHERS: Well, like what? I was out on the highway enforcing traffic laws you know.

NANCY RAY: Did you have any strange things happen that stick out in your mind.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, quite a few but you know...

NANCY RAY: Did you have a lot of DWIs? Were they speeders? What kind of traffic problems did you have?

CARL WEATHERS: I guess it's the same everywhere. But personally, I arrested more DWIs than the average patrolman did. And I wrote fewer speeding tickets than the average Highway Patrolman did at the time. And I made more criminal cases by you know along with traffic stops.

NANCY RAY: Now with the criminal cases, what were they?

CARL WEATHERS: They were anywhere from prohibited weapon charges to dangerous drugs. Uh you know things that you run into on traffic stops. And felony warrants and I call a criminal case one that was at least a county court case or higher and it caused me to have to leave the road to go follow up on it.

NANCY RAY: Can you tell us about that?

CARL WEATHERS: Well, yeah I mean that's what I'm talking about you know. If you stop a car for a traffic violation and you check on the driver and find out, or someone else in the car, find out they're a wanted felon well you're not going to turn them loose with a ticket you know. You're gonna take them to jail and serve a warrant and notify the people that have the warrant for them.

NANCY RAY: Well what about... you had a big university in that area. Did that cause any problems with the kids?

CARL WEATHERS: No, I want to tell you something. Of course they were all men then, they were all boys. And uh the ladies came on maybe during the time I was there or a little after I left. But anyway, they were some of the finest guys you ever want to find anywhere. And they had fun. They had a good time you know. They'd get out and do some drinking and stuff but overall, the Aggies were really, really good.

NANCY RAY: I think A&M would like to hear you say that.

CARL WEATHERS: It was true, yeah.

NANCY RAY: Good. I've heard that being a Highway Patrolman was probably one of the most dangerous jobs. Do you agree with that?

CARL WEATHERS: It is. Any uh traffic officer... I don't care if it's a Highway Patrolman or a city police officer, because when you stop a car for a traffic violation, you don't know where that car came from you know. They may have just robbed a bank, may have just stolen a car, uh and you know they may be armed. When you get out and walk up there, you're at a disadvantage... because if they decide to shoot you, you don't have much defense. So yeah, it's a dangerous job. And not to mention all the, you know, on the Highway Patrol the fast driving. You know you have to chase people down sometimes that don't know you're trying to stop them. They're trying to get away from you on some little two-lane roads that are hilly in hilly country and it's dangerous. Yeah.

NANCY RAY: Well when you went to your first station, they issued you a car, is that right?

CARL WEATHERS: Oh yeah.

NANCY RAY: Do you remember what it was or how fast it was? What was it?

CARL WEATHERS: Well the first one I got was a '65 Plymouth and it was. And it was a pretty-good running car. Of course the Highway Patrol back then had a reputation they had the fastest cars. They didn't really but the kids you know they thought the Highway Patrol had the fastest cars there was. And then in '68 we did get the fastest cars on the road.

NANCY RAY: What was that?

CARL WEATHERS: It was a Plymouth but it had a great big Chrysler engine. It uh, it had a lot of power, a lot of torque. It would go faster than anything would measure at the time.

NANCY RAY: Did people try to escape, run away from you?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, yeah they did. Even with the older... but it's hard to do you know. You got a radio and if you got a pretty-good running car well you can usually catch up with them.

NANCY RAY: Well you mentioned stopping people with prohibited weapons. Can you tell us anything about that?

CARL WEATHERS: Well...

NANCY RAY: Did you stop anyone and there's one that stands out in your mind about what they had?

CARL WEATHERS: Well, not really. I've got every kind of weapon I guess you can think of.

NANCY RAY: Well did anybody ever draw on you?

CARL WEATHERS: No, but I did uh... One night there at College Station, the Sheriff's Department wasn't out. I was the only one out working. And the Sheriff's Department called and they got a call from a lady that said there was a car getting stopped on the highway by two pedestrians. There was a white guy and a black guy... were stopping the cars. And the black guy was laying down in the pavement and the white guy was at the door. And it was a woman in the car. So I took the call. I went out. It was just a little bit south of College Station on Highway 6. And I let the lady that they had the car stopped go on. And got to questioning the guys and one of them said that he'd been run over. The one laying down said he'd been run over, his foot was hurt. Well he didn't look like he'd been run over. And they were just transients. I mean they were not old guys, they were probably twenty-five years old. And uh so I decided I'd put them in the car and take them on down to the Sheriff's Department and question them a little further. And uh they, they... the boy that claimed he was hurt, had been run over, I told him I'd take him by the hospital and the Emergency Room and they could treat him there and see if he needed to go to the hospital. And he agreed to that. Well we started down there and uh he decided he wasn't hurt. He lied to me about that. And I didn't have but one set of handcuffs so instead of handcuffing them, I told them to put their hands on... one of them in front on the dash and the

one back seat, I told him to put his hands on the back of the seat. And so they did. The black guy was in the front seat and the white guy was in the back seat. And I kind of shook them down before I put them the car to see if they had any weapons or anything on them. And uh the white guy had on about three different shirts. And inside there was something in his chest area. There was something kind of hard. And I pulled his shirt and I looked in there. Well it was a magazine that was folded so I just said OK. So on the way to the jail, to the Sheriff's Department, the guy in the back seat said... asked me if it would be all right if he smoked a cigarette. I said no, if you want to smoke you can do that once we get down there. Just keep your hands on the back of the seat. So he did. We got down to the Sheriff's Department... got them inside and I went to shaking them down then. I mean I'm searching and I pulled that magazine out of this guy's shirt and a pistol fell out of it. It was a .380 automatic Colt pistol and it was loaded, had one in the barrel, the hammer was cocked. All he had to do was pull it off safety and shoot it. I took it all apart, unloaded it and all. And I asked him, I said what were you gonna do because he didn't have any cigarettes. I said where're your cigarettes? He said aw, I don't smoke. I said you wanted to smoke a cigarette. What were you gonna do, pull that gun out and shoot me? He said you need to be more careful of when you search people in the car. I said yeah, I think you're right. (Laughter) And I checked them out, the gun was not stolen. It was his. He had bought it in Oakland, California. And they weren't wanted for anything. And they's trying to catch a ride to Houston. So I thought they were pretty bad folks. So we, I think there was a deputy sheriff wanted that gun so he bought the gun from the guy for enough money to get them to Houston.

NANCY RAY: Why were they... They were just trying to stop people to get a ride?

CARL WEATHERS: They were gonna steal a car. They were gonna hijack a car. And no telling what else they might have decided to do. They had that lady stop so...

NANCY RAY: You just never know.

CARL WEATHERS: I may have prevented a crime. May have prevented them from doing something they never would have recovered from you know.

NANCY RAY: Probably did. Well what about narcotics? Were they big? Were they a lot of trouble when you were on the highway?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, they're always big. You know I didn't see a lot of heroin and cocaine wasn't real popular at the time. And marijuana was. There was lots of marijuana. And it was still a pretty bad crime. It was during that time that they made it not so bad. But uh the main thing that I ran into was methamphetamine and it was little pills you know they trafficked, especially the trucking industry. They trafficked those methamphetamine pills. And I was always finding that stuff.

NANCY RAY: So you would stop them for something else and you'd find...

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah and you'd suspect it. I mean you could tell by looking at their eyes that they had been taking speed because the pupils of their eyes when you shine a flashlight in them you know, they'd contract. But if they're barbiturates, the pupils are dilated and you could tell that because they wouldn't contract if you shine a light. But if somebody that's taking speed, their eyes are like little bitty pinheads you know. The pupils of the eyes are real small. So there's things that give it away. You can tell so go to asking about it and a lot of times they'll tell you, yeah, I've got some.

NANCY RAY: So where did you learn to watch for these things? Did you continue... have to go back to schools or...

CARL WEATHERS: No, they covered that in the Highway Patrol school. And I guess I paid attention.

NANCY RAY: Sounds like you did. Well, was there ever a time you made a stop that you had a feeling like you were kind of nervous about what might happen or frightened or whatever?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, I'm sure there was lots of times but you don't know. I've had people that I was gonna arrest that say no, I'm not gonna be arrested. Yeah. And uh have to force them.

NANCY RAY: Say yeah, you are?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah.

NANCY RAY: Well with these high-powered cars and chasing people, did you ever crash a state car?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah.

NANCY RAY: Do you want to tell us about that?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, the first time I did, I was in a hurry for some reason or another to get home and I was backing out of a place and I backed into a big old signpost. And so that was the first wreck I had. I didn't have any high speed crashes because I was going fast. There was a guy stopped in front of me on a rainy day and didn't have any brakes. And he couldn't stop but there was a whole line of cars in front of him so he pulled off the road and then I could see there was a line of cars stopped. And if I turned right I'm gonna hit something. If I turned left I'm gonna hit oncoming traffic. So I just plowed into the back cars. That was my fault. It was raining and they'd had a bad wreck there. So those are the only two wrecks I had. Nobody got hurt.

NANCY RAY: That's good. Well did you spend your entire Highway Patrol career there in Bryan-College Station?

CARL WEATHERS: Sure did.

NANCY RAY: What did you do after that?

CARL WEATHERS: I went in the Rangers.

NANCY RAY: So what prompted you to go to the Rangers?

CARL WEATHERS: Well I'd been trying to make Highway Patrol sergeant because I'd been on Highway Patrol for eight years and it was great fun for about five years. And the last three were... I was thinking about this fast driving and seeing bad wrecks all the time. Said you know it's just a matter of time probably until it's gonna happen. And so I was trying to get off the road and I wanted to promote to so I was trying to make patrol sergeant. Studying real hard and I almost did. My partner and I were both really trying hard to promote to sergeant. And we took the test and they took ten. He came out number eleven and I came out number twelve. So we didn't stop studying. We just kept studying until they give the next test and before that came up, well we got information in the normal correspondence that they were gonna give the Ranger test. And you know the requirements that you had to have to take that test was all along with it. I got to looking at that and I said well, I qualify. And uh so I went to studying for that. Took that test and I thought that the experience of taking the test and if I made the interview board, that experience would help me to make patrol sergeant. I didn't have any idea I'd make Ranger. I didn't have any hopes that I would you know. I mean that's just something that was too far fetched for me to think about. But I took the test. Made the interview board, went to the interview, had a good interview.

NANCY RAY: Tell us about the interview.

CARL WEATHERS: Oh, it was uh very, very interesting. I mean they were...

NANCY RAY: Do you remember who was on the board?

CARL WEATHERS: I think I remember most of them. Bill Wilson was the senior captain at the time and he was chairman. Skippy Rundell was assistant senior captain and he was there. Uh

Pete Rogers, who happened to be my first Ranger captain, was supposed to have been there but the Carrasco fiasco at Huntsville had just happened.

NANCY RAY: Is that the prison...

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah. They tried to escape the prison... had a big shoot out and everything. And so Pete Rogers was over there. He was supposed to have been... so Captain John Wood sat in for him on my interview board. Old Pete Grimmert was a Highway Patrol sergeant that uh was in Brenham when I was in Bryan for a lot... I think Pete had probably promoted already. And he was, but he was on the board. And uh there was one...

NANCY RAY: You're doing very well. Most people don't remember that many. You're doing well.

CARL WEATHERS: Well, there was a, there was a captain from Dallas and you know I'm having a senior moment. I know him real well...

NANCY RAY: You've done extremely well.

CARL WEATHERS: But I mean he was accidentally shot to death later on. Many, many years later up there in the office in Dallas. I can't remember his name.

NANCY RAY: Maybe Burks, G. W. Burks?

CARL WEATHERS: No, he was a License and Weight captain I think. But uh...

NANCY RAY: Well do you remember any of the questions they asked you?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, I mean that was one reason I was trying to remember that captain's name. He seemed to be on my side you know. When one of them would really be grilling me about something and trying to get me to change my mind, well this fellow would, he'd say something to kind of encourage me. I don't know if he was doing it because he liked me or what. But uh I don't know why I can't remember his name.

NANCY RAY: It'll probably come to you in a minute and you can say it then.

CARL WEATHERS: But uh, I really remember him supporting me you know. Or it seemed to me like he did.

NANCY RAY: It worked, didn't it?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, yeah.

NANCY RAY: Well can you tell us one thing they asked you to kind of give us an idea of what you would go through on an interview board?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, it's interesting because they don't ask it anymore. Things have changed. And along about that time was going from one era to another. And uh the question was... you're a Ranger and you're working, investigating a crime that involved a little five year old girl who was raped and murdered. And there's not any evidence to point to the guy that did it but you know that this guy did it. I mean it's obvious to you and all but as far as courtroom evidence... you can't convict the guy with what evidence you have. And they exact question was "could you twist his arm to get him to admit this thing?" And uh I said yeah, I think I could make him admit it you know. Well, today, not too long after that, they wouldn't want you to... for a while they wouldn't want you to say publicly that you would you know that you would use force to try to get a confession from somebody. And then it got to be if you do... do that, then you'll go to the Federal penitentiary yourself for violating somebody's civil rights. Because they have a right against, you know, coercing confessions and interrogations. So that, that stands out in my mind.

NANCY RAY: Well, when you became a Ranger, was that before or after the Miranda rights became...

CARL WEATHERS: It was after. Yeah, it was actually at the same time because that went into effect in 1974... and as far as our state law was concerned. Now Texas had a warning that we were required to give prior to Miranda case that uh was just as, just as restrictive as Miranda. Just nobody complied with it. And you know if somebody asked for a lawyer, well you let them have a lawyer after you get through talking to them. But that, those things changed, they really did. Miranda changed that.

NANCY RAY: Well, when you made the, when you made Ranger, who else made it with you?

CARL WEATHERS: Now there I'm gonna forget again because there was a bunch of them. They increased the size of the Rangers by eight. They went from 88 to 94 so that was by six that they increased them. So that made six vacancies. And they had some retirements so there were eight of us promoted at the same time on September 1st, '74. And then there were four more off the same board that were promoted as vacancies came up before Christmas that year. So there were twelve of us.

NANCY RAY: That's quite a few. And no one died on the list?

CARL WEATHERS: No. No uh the list was Jackie Peoples and Dan North and Dee Vickers so there's two captains right there, Dee Vickers and Dan North. And Tommy Walker was the other one that was on that list. The eight that were promoted from that interview board included Bobby Prince and George Frasier, Rudy Rodriguez, and I could think of all of them if I took time.

NANCY RAY: Well you're doing amazingly well on those names. And we've interviewed some of those.

CARL WEATHERS: I figured you had.

NANCY RAY: Yeah, we have and some more to come. So that's good. Well now this was '74. And you said your first captain was Pete...

CARL WEATHERS: Pete Rogers.

NANCY RAY: So what was your first duty station?

CARL WEATHERS: Bay City, in Company A.

NANCY RAY: So that was quite a bit different from where you had grown up. Is that right?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, but I liked it you know. I liked Bryan and College Station. That was a good place... that's why... you know we never did move just to change locations because we liked it.

NANCY RAY: So what did you do when you went to Bay City? Let me ask you this first. What were you issued from the state as tools?

CARL WEATHERS: Well, I was issued a Model 19 revolver, Smith & Wesson revolver. I used it to shoot snakes with. I put shot shells in it and I carried my own personal gun.

NANCY RAY: What was your own personal gun?

CARL WEATHERS: First to start with was a Colt .45 automatic. And then in about '78, I went to a... '77 or '78, I bought a Sig which it was marketed by Browning but it was a Sig Sauer .45. Then they're still carrying Sigs now. I never have used anything else since then as far as pistol. Haven't carried anything but a Sig.

NANCY RAY: And what is that? What do you like about them?

CARL WEATHERS: I like it. If you knew anything about guns, the barrel and the frame and the uh the slides are all machined like a Browning high-power where you don't have a barrel bushing. And a Colt has a barrel bushing and if it's got too much tolerance, then it won't jam... you know but it's not accurate. The barrel waddles around in it. But that old Colt high power, when the barrel, when the slide closed, well it locked the barrel and frame and slide all together. So it was always the same. Well the Sig has got the same kind of locking mechanism without the

barrel bushing. I like that. Uh it would chamber empty hulls, you could put empty hulls in your clip, put it in there and shoot until you came to the empty hull, it would chamber that empty hull. A Colt wouldn't do that. Some of them have been machined down to where they will but boy it takes a lot of work to get them to. And that was another thing I liked about it. And it was just like carrying a revolver. The Sig didn't have a safety on it anywhere. And uh when you load it, the hammer is down. It's got a locking mechanism. You close the hammer and it has a bar that keeps it from hitting the firing pin. So you carry it that way. But when you pull the trigger, its double action and it's just like pulling a trigger on a revolver. Its double action and so it... if you get into a situation where you have to pull your gun and shoot it... If you have to take it off safety and you're used to carrying a Colt and a Smith & Wesson and a Browning high power, the safeties work differently. In a heated situation, you might forget which way that safety works and it might be dangerous. So with that Sig, you don't have to worry about it. It's like carrying a revolver. You pull the gun and pull the trigger, it shoots.

NANCY RAY: Better be ready.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah.

NANCY RAY: So you went to Bay City. Was that an established station or were you the first one?

CARL WEATHERS: No, I wasn't the first one there. Yeah, it was established. And uh it was a very, very good station. And uh old Bob Elder had been there immediately before me and he transferred to Houston. And uh I was talking to him one day. I was always using Bob when I you know... crooks from Houston come to Bay City and to other rural areas down there. Small places and do their crimes and then go back to Houston. So I was always in Houston trying to find somebody or find some clues against somebody and I'd get Elder to help me a lot. And I'd

been there long enough to really like Bay City. I liked the area of Wharton County and Matagorda County and Brazoria County. And I loved it and I asked him one day, why'd you transfer to Houston? And he said when your captain tells you to move, you move. Oh, (laughter) I said I'm sorry, I didn't know that.

NANCY RAY: You thought he wanted to go there, huh?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah.

NANCY RAY: Well what was your first case?

CARL WEATHERS: Uh of any significance... my first case probably was just riding around with a deputy sheriff and watching him solve a crime you know. I didn't know what the heck I was doing. I was learning and uh... But I guess the first one that really stands out, I hadn't been there very long. And they, this copper wire thief had gotten out... well he'd been in prison, in Texas prison. So they taught him a trade. They taught him how to climb a pole, make a lineman you know. And as soon as he gets out, he goes to climbing poles all right but he's cutting copper wire off of telephone lines. And he did it in eighteen counties. Well they had him caught down in Calhoun County at Port Lavaca. And the deputy sheriff and I went down there. They couldn't get anything out of him. They caught him stealing copper wire but he wasn't cooperating with them very much. We went down there to talk to him because we had a whole bunch of it in Matagorda County had been cut and stolen. And uh that deputy was Joe Ryan.

NANCY RAY: RYAN?

CARL WEATHERS: RYAN. Yeah. So anyway, we were questioning this fellow and he was lying. We knew he was lying you know but we'd ask him a question. And this old Ryan, he just slapped the desk. We were sitting at a desk and he slapped that desk with his open hand, real hard. And the guy liked to have... I mean it scared him. So he went to telling us all about these

copper wire thefts that he'd done over eighteen counties, every little location. He had a phenomenal memory, he could remember each strand of that stuff and where it was. We could go back and document it all. So that was a, a pretty good case you know.

NANCY RAY: Did he go back to prison?

CARL WEATHERS: Oh yeah. Yeah, he sure did.

NANCY RAY: Well what kind of crimes did you have in that area?

CARL WEATHERS: Every kind there was.

NANCY RAY: We've been interviewing West Texas Rangers. I'm interested in what you had there.

CARL WEATHERS: There were robberies... uh a couple of guys from Houston robbed the HEB food store there in Bay City and got away. Well we had to go find out who they were. They were from Houston, had to go over there. Even got the SWAT team out to arrest them.

NANCY RAY: How did you find out who they were?

CARL WEATHERS: I don't remember. Uh had some kind of clue you know to go on.

NANCY RAY: Well, when you were investigating a crime, what were the things that you looked for?

CARL WEATHERS: Well you always looked for fingerprints you know, any kind of personal, physical evidence. And, but other than that, you get witness uh descriptions from people, license plate numbers and descriptions of cars. Just whatever you can get to... At the time we could use blood to type you know, we could match it up with a blood type. Didn't have DNA at that time. So there was all kinds of, all kinds of things you looked for. And in a murder case you know, you find out things on the body.... How they did the crime you know and what was used. If it was a

gun, what kind of gun... Get a bullet and match the bullet to the gun if you can find the gun. Those kinds of things.

NANCY RAY: Did you have many murders?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, yeah, sure did. We had a lot of them.

NANCY RAY: What caused them? Why do people murder? Is it family, is it...

CARL WEATHERS: I don't know. There was a guy, he liked... for some reason or another he was attracted to older, white women. He was a young guy. And uh he had tried to go into a couple old widow women's house under the pretense he wanted to use their phone. They were kind of scared of him so they called the Sheriff's Department. They sent the old deputy, had a black deputy and they sent him out there. He talked to those old widow ladies and got a good description of this guy. And found out what his name was, where he was from, where he worked and all that. And told him to leave them old women alone, don't be messing around with them. And sometime after that, maybe a month or six weeks, well the lady that ran the bus station, ticket office, was murdered. And found her body... there was some people went to try to get some bus tickets, catch a bus. And they found her body in there in the storeroom, all chopped up with a grubbing hoe. And uh so I was involved from the very start in that investigation. And wasn't getting anywhere you know. We would of have but... probably. There was a fingerprint and some blood that was on a broken Dr. Pepper bottle that was in this storeroom where her body was. Preserved that and it turned out later to be the guy's fingerprint. Her car was missing. We found out she had a car there but it wasn't there. And so we knew whoever did it took her car. And uh before... there was a Bay City detective working with me on that, or I was working with him. And before we were able to even come close to coming up with a suspect, this old black deputy called me at home. And said, he told me about this incident with the young guy and

the two old widow women. And uh the guy was from Wichita, Kansas. And uh so we went to checking on him. Found out he had caught a bus in Houston right after that killing to Wichita, Kansas. And didn't have enough evidence to extradite him but we had enough for a justice of the peace to issue a warrant just on that information. And they arrested him in Wichita. So that detective and I went to Wichita, Kansas, to try to talk him into signing a waiver of extradition, which we did. He did, he waived extradition. And on the way back, he told us that yeah, he was the one that did it and uh he told us where he left her car in Houston. It just so happened that it was at a 7-11 store that was right close to some apartments where a friend of mine who was on the Houston Police Department vice squad, lived in those apartments. So I knew exactly where this U-Totem was, or 7-11, whatever it was, where he left that car. So I stopped, got on the phone and called the Ranger office in Houston. And told, got Kelly Whitehead on the phone, he was a Ranger in Houston. And I asked him to go out there and see if that car was there. And he did. And sure enough when he called back, said yeah, it was there. Had blood on it and everything so. Matched that blood up to him, his blood type. And then corroborated everything he had told us with finding the car. And I took confession from him and stopped in Hillsboro, and went to a JP office up there. Got him warned of his rights again and then he wanted to give a confession. And he did. We convicted him. He got the death penalty but it was later commuted to a life sentence.

NANCY RAY: Is he still in prison then?

CARL WEATHERS: I don't know, probably not... because life at that time averaged about 10 years or less. So... and there wasn't any such thing as life without parole. So I'm sure he's, he got out.

NANCY RAY: Well that has to be frustrating. I mean if you find...

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, for that particular one because it was real... There was, they tried it in Wharton, the case was tried in Wharton. They just wouldn't try him... couldn't get a jury in Bay City. Everybody loved that woman in Bay City and everybody knew her. And whoever killed her was gonna get the death sentence. Well, went to Wharton which is not very far but anyway went to Wharton, got a jury. Well the lady, there was one prospective juror that they disqualified because, the judge disqualified because of the way she answered death penalty questions. And uh so on appeal, that case got tied into another one I investigated. There was another Bay City murder. It was a white guy robbed a 7-11 store and takes the little black, female clerk out of the store. Takes her off out in the country, rapes her and shoots her in the head, kills her. So I have to go to North Carolina to find this guy. Didn't take too long to narrow this down thanks to a former Highway Patrolman that was delivering gasoline to a gasoline station down the street from that and he saw this car over there. And he's nosy enough from his police officer days that he, he uh saw that... got the description of that car and noticed that it has a Florida license plate on it. So that turned into us identifying that car. Anyway, long story short, we tried this guy. He was a white guy. Tried him for killing that girl and he got the death penalty. On a change of venue in Wharton, same kind of deal, tried him in Wharton. This same woman, the prospective juror, was also on the jury panel for that case. And she was disqualified for the same reasons, for the same questions, on the death penalty. The judge wouldn't... disqualified her. Well, on appeal, the white guy's case was upheld. He was on death row and his conviction was affirmed. The black guy was overturned on the account of this woman that answered the death penalty questions in both cases the same way, both disqualified. One of them it was used by the Court of Criminal Appeals to overturn the case or remand it and they commuted it to life. And the other one it was affirmed.

NANCY RAY: *(pause to change discs)* OK, we're back and we're in Bay City. But we're gonna back up a minute and talk about when you first became a rookie Highway Patrolman. What about your partners?

CARL WEATHERS: I worked... didn't have a steady partner but I worked with George Garrett, Don Sybert, and Durwood Kennedy about equally until I kind of was broke in or off of probation. And then I worked by myself mostly until uh Vernon Stehling...

NANCY RAY: How do you spell that last name?

CARL WEATHERS: STEHLING. He uh, he was from Fredericksburg and he came from Austin Police Department, came to Bryan. And he and I worked partners for about five years. And he's the one that was studying for sergeant with me and all. Well he promoted to sergeant right after I promoted to Ranger. Next time they gave the sergeant's test... he took it and was number one on the list. He come out number one. But when we, when I went in the Rangers, I left Bryan and went to Bay City. It was also like getting... we had community property you know. We weren't just partners in Highway Patrol, we partners in a lot of stuff. And uh we were close neighbors and we shared a boat, we shared a... we were partners in all kinds of things. We had to split that property (laughter)... it was like getting a divorce.

NANCY RAY: Well a partner is an important person in life.

CARL WEATHERS: It is.

NANCY RAY: What makes a partner so important?

CARL WEATHERS: Trust. Yeah. That's what it is.

NANCY RAY: Well when you became... when you were a rookie, uh you didn't start out as lead, is that right? Did you have to... you had a lead partner with you?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah. It was... for about three months I guess, something like that. I would lead as long as I had a partner with me, had somebody you know an older guy riding with me to learn how to do it. But and that was right away. But I didn't work by myself for about three months.

NANCY RAY: OK. So you finally got your property split between the two of you.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah.

NANCY RAY: And you went to Bay City. Now we've talked about your first case. Are there any other cases that stand out in your mind?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, there were a lot of them that did. There was... the drugstore got robbed there in Bay City. And I just about investigated that by myself. With the help of an old constable over in Brazoria County, found out fairly quickly who did it. Got them arrested, recovered the drugs that they had... they robbed the store for the drugs, narcotics. And uh went out to where they had them buried and dug them up. And uh found out they had burglarized a drugstore in Bellville. They didn't rob it, just broke into it and stole some narcotics. And that chief of police at Bellville... I remember how happy he was. When I called him on the phone and told him we had come down there and solved his burglary because he was getting a lot of, you know a lot of flak from the citizens about having a burglary like that and not solving it. So and it was funny, when I came out to Lubbock, in the Rangers, that same guy that was chief of police in Bellville at that time, back then, he was chief of police out here at Idalou (laughter). So I had a ready-made friend out here when I got here.

NANCY RAY: Well, that kind of brings up another question. It seems like there is a lot of networking and camaraderie that goes on behind Rangers and law enforcement.

CARL WEATHERS: There has to be, yeah.

NANCY RAY: And how do you establish that?

CARL WEATHERS: Just being there I guess, I don't know. You know I did it by getting to know everybody that I would be subject to work with... deal real closely you know. I know when I first went in the Rangers and went to Bay City, the sheriff there was Edge (*spelling?*) Graham, a great guy. He was an older fellow and he never had been in law enforcement in his whole life before he went to work as deputy sheriff. Then he got elected sheriff. He'd been in the food business all his career, adult life. But he was from Georgia. And uh just a fine gentleman. I learned a whole lot from him about how to meet people, get along with people in law enforcement. And that's what you gotta do. I mean along the way you'll run across some you know after a while they're not right you know. They shouldn't be in law enforcement. And so you watch what you do around those. Watch what they do too. And most of the time they don't stay very long.

NANCY RAY: Well can you think of a person who had the most influence over you, over you and your career... maybe supported you or whatever? Who would that be?

CARL WEATHERS: There have been so many I don't know if I could narrow that down. Pete Rogers for sure did. Yeah. Because he... I was a brand new Ranger, scared to death I was gonna do something long you know and he turned me loose. Said I know I got a... I was issued some equipment. You asked me while ago about what equipment. Well they issued me a fingerprint kit. A little box you know with your brushes and fingerprint powder and everything was in there... a brand new box. I thought man they give me some new stuff. I opened it and it's empty. So I called the company office at Houston and the captain wasn't there but the lieutenant was. He was sergeant then, their lieutenants now, he was sergeant. And Johnny (*unknown name*) and I said hey, this fingerprint kit is empty, doesn't have anything in it. He laughed. He said well

you're supposed to go around to your ID officers in your area for the cities' and counties' ID officers and get some from one, some from another and some from another and fill that box up. That's how you put stuff in it. I said you're kidding me (laughter). He said no I'm not. Yeah.

NANCY RAY: So they just emptied an empty box.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, that was one of the interesting things. But I called the captain one time about... I don't remember exactly what the details were but I was working a murder case. And I called him and asked him about a certain thing I had in mind I was gonna try to do to try to get some evidence in that case. Instead of telling me what to do, he just said you just do whatever you feel like you're big enough to do. So I knew then I'm on my own here, you know. And he's gonna back me up whatever I do. I don't have to worry about that. So that was a, that was a pretty big influence right there.

NANCY RAY: I guess so. Now how long did you stay in Bay City?

CARL WEATHERS: Nine years.

NANCY RAY: All right. Any other cases at Bay City stand out?

CARL WEATHERS: Oh yeah, there was one big one. L. T. Carpenter pawned one off on me. He was a Ranger over in Seguin but he'd had open heart surgery and his health wasn't real good. And they found a Cadillac over there, Eldorado, and it had two bodies stuffed in the trunk. It was abandoned on the side of the road on Guadalupe County, close to Luling. And L. T. and the sheriff over there, Pete Calise (*spelling?*), they had gone out there and they'd... of course the Cadillac had license plate numbers on it and it had license plates and all. They identified that car as belonging to the victim, one of the victims in the trunk of the car. And so they contacted his family and uh his dad down in Edinburg and found out that uh, from the dad, that this boy had been, since he graduated from high school had been selling marijuana wholesale... 500 pounds a

week wholesale. And uh so L. T. wasn't able to, but the dad told them who some of the boy's associates were in Brazoria County. So L. T. called me and wanted me to go over there and talk to them. He said matter of fact, he said you can just take this over and... because it's probably gonna be the only connection we have with Guadalupe County or my area is gonna be where the bodies are, where they were found. So I worked that case. And I didn't have... I had a deputy sheriff here and there to work with me in different counties you know. I'd contact them and get them to go with me... whatever I was gonna do... interview somebody or whatever, collect evidence somewhere. But for the most part I was by myself on that case. And come to find out, they were killed in Brazoria County and the uh, there's a guy from Jackson, Tennessee, that he'd been selling this marijuana to wholesale who'd take it on... did I say Jackson, Tennessee? Jackson, Mississippi. He'd take it on to Memphis and distribute it up there. But he got behind on his, he was buying this on credit and selling it and he'd pay the man back. Well he got behind so he quit dealing with him. And by then this fellow knew, the one that was dead in the Cadillac, he knew who was buying it in Tennessee so he didn't need this guy from Jackson. Cut him out. Well the guy from Jackson, Mississippi, got with the people in... there was a man and his son in Brazoria County who had a ranch and that's where they'd store the dope and the guy from Mississippi come down to get it and take it. So it would come from the Valley up to Brazoria County and then they'd go from there to Mississippi. And I found out just from interviewing people who all was involved in this thing. And the dad, the boy's dad, helped me a lot too by telling me who his associates were. Another long story short... the boy from Jackson, Mississippi, and the two in... the rancher and his son in Brazoria County, are the ones that killed them two. And the second body was just a little pool shark friend of the dope dealer. And uh he was always with him. He just happened to be with him when it come time... But they decided

well we know where he's getting his marijuana in Mexico. We know how he's getting it across. We know who's buying it. Well we can do this without him. So they decided just to waylay him. He had 500 pounds of marijuana to deliver and they did, they ambushed him and killed him. So the rancher... it took me two years and uh to get indictments on them. So I got three defendants and one of them is pleading guilty. He's cooperating... the guy from Jackson is cooperating with me. So he pled guilty for ten years and he's the only one that got any time. The other two, the rancher and his son, we tried. And uh tried them in Bay City. And they uh they were acquitted. Racehorse Haynes and Jack Zimmerman were the defense attorneys. Racehorse was representing the father I think and Jack was representing the son. I believe that's the way it was. Anyway, they were doubledipping... They got to ask me... cross examine me... And I spent like three and a half days on the stand and I had like fifteen minutes worth of testimony you know. It wasn't... but the evidence... anyway, the uh way they got off was the indictment alleged... of course in a murder you allege how a person's killed you know. And in this case, he was shot in the head with a gun. And uh so you have to prove those things that are alleged in an indictment, with their charge. Well that was a murder. If the witnesses were determined to be accomplice witnesses because I had the people that worked for him on the ranch that were witnesses to it. I had a guy who was a cocaine dealer in Houston. He was a witness to the conspiracy. They met at his place and they conspired to do this killing. And uh so he was in on the conspiracy but he didn't go with them to do it, he was just there when they planned it. So he testified. And uh so if the witnesses are determined by the jury to be accomplice witnesses, well then you have to corroborate what they say with other evidence. So we couldn't prove... and the jury did determine yeah, your witnesses are accomplices. They helped destroy the evidence. They were there right after it happened. They worked for the guy that did it and they helped destroy the evidence. Well, get rid

of the, you know, the bullet hulls and personal property and the bodies and all that stuff. Well they said there's a reasonable doubt about whether or not they're accomplice witnesses. So my eye witnesses that said yeah, they did it. I've got to corroborate and can't do it on shooting in the head with a gun because they weren't there when that happened. So, we got'em indicted also for solicitation for capital murder and for conspiracy to commit capital murder which is a two to twenty you know deal. And they indictment alleged all three charges that he shot them in the head with a gun. So the conspiracy was easy to prove and the jury even said yeah, they did conspire to do it and the evidence is obvious. But uh the charge to the jury was shooting in the head. So if you prove conspiracy the way it's charged, then you've done proved murder. And it's just not gonna work. So they acquitted him. And so Racehorse... we didn't become friends. I like him and he's a good lawyer, he's a good guy. I like Jack Zimmerman very much so too. And uh but they were lucky that they got that acquittal because of the way the indictment was written. And it was just an error on whoever typed up that indictment from Brazoria County just typed that same little phrase in all three charges. And if the charge for conspiracy had been properly written in the indictment, well then they would have got twenty years. But, the Lord took care of it. While we were even preparing for trial, I got information that they were doing this, just what they said. They were going down there and buying that dope and bringing it... So I give the DEA and the TPS Narcotics all the information they needed to go down there and catch them and they did. And they caught the rancher's son's wife with 37 pounds of marijuana. And then later on, that rancher's son was hauling it in an airplane and he crashed that thing after he was acquitted. And the old man died of a heart attack. We tried them in February and the old man died in July of a heart attack. So it all turned out all right anyway (laughter). And Racehorse was a hero again. But Racehorse wound up with a real nice ranch in Brazoria County.

NANCY RAY: I bet he did, among other things probably. Well when you left Bay City, what did you do?

CARL WEATHERS: I promoted to uh... then it was sergeant. We didn't have lieutenants. So I promoted to Ranger sergeant and came to Lubbock.

NANCY RAY: And how did you promote? Testing again?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, same thing. The written test and interview board and uh... George Frasier and Bruce Casteel and I were taking the sergeant's test every time it come up. And I died on the list. Bruce died on the list. George never did make it. George... the time before I made it, George was number one and I was number two. And there weren't any vacancies so we both died on the list. And then when I come out number one, George was number two. Well I made it and George didn't. So he never did... he died on the list every time he took that sergeant's test. Of course Bruce made it too and he went on to be my captain here. He made captain before I did here and then he went to be senior captain.

NANCY RAY: So how is being a sergeant... what's different for you as a sergeant?

CARL WEATHERS: You're not out there working cases. You're, you're supervising Rangers which they don't need supervision but you're keeping them in... I always said I'll supply them with what they need. The training and the equipment they need to do their job and I stay out of their way. So whatever they need, I provide it for them and let them get the job done. And uh I did that as a sergeant and lieutenant and as a captain too. I didn't interfere with...

NANCY RAY: So how many Rangers did you have in your...

CARL WEATHERS: Thirteen. There's fifteen in the company, captain, sergeant and thirteen ranked privates. Now there's a captain, a lieutenant and thirteen sergeants. So and now we have two lieutenants now in the same group of people.

NANCY RAY: So what year is this that you made sergeant?

CARL WEATHERS: '83, 1983.

NANCY RAY: Do you have any stories you can tell us about being a sergeant.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, old Bud Newberry was a sergeant that was retiring. And he announced his retirement. Well I'm there on the list, I'm next up. So I know I'm gonna make it. So Mickey and I decide to come to Lubbock and look around. I come out here and I've never been to the Ranger office in Lubbock. So uh I'm on the edge of town coming in, on Highway 84, and I call the office. We had radios in the cars. I called the office radio and Bud answered the radio, Bud Newberry. So I asked him for directions to the office. And here I'm fixing to replace him and I'm asking him how to get there. I thought that was kind of funny.

NANCY RAY: Did he have any words of advice for you?

CARL WEATHERS: I'm sure he did. Bud was a wise man, a very wise man. And we were friends anyway. But uh... yeah... I don't remember anything specific but I'm sure we discussed it. Everybody in the company you know and that's one thing a supervisor needs to know is who you got working for you and what kind of people they are and uh what kind of family they got... all kinds of things about them.

NANCY RAY: So who was your captain when you moved to Lubbock?

CARL WEATHERS: Charlie Moore. Charles A. Moore. And... a little fellow with piercing blue eyes.

NANCY RAY: Look right through you huh?

CARL WEATHERS: He's a good one. Yeah.

NANCY RAY: Well what kind of differences did you see between Bay City and Lubbock, or the Lubbock area I should say?

CARL WEATHERS: Well, down there you've got the Gulf and the bays and all the fishing holes in the world you know within ten minutes of where you live. And San Augustine grass grows wild down there. And there's lots of big old trees with moss hanging off of them you know. If you see a tree out here, somebody planted it.

NANCY RAY: That's true. Well, were the crimes that you had to solve here different?

CARL WEATHERS: They were pretty much the same, yeah. Most of them dope driven. You know your robberies, thefts, burglaries, robbery crimes are generally all dope driven. And you can't work to make enough money to buy the dope you know that you have to have if you've got an addiction to it. And uh so the other crimes are, personal crimes... crimes against persons, and there's all kinds of reasons in the world for that. Everything from wife beating to just random killing you know.

NANCY RAY: Well when did you become captain?

CARL WEATHERS: In 1993.

NANCY RAY: Again you had to go through a testing process?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah. Yeah and uh it was... that happened... the testing process went on during the time of the Branch Davidian investigation. And I don't know if you've talked to anybody that was down there or not or how that came about.

NANCY RAY: We have.

CARL WEATHERS: There ain't no sense in me going through it again.

NANCY RAY: No, you never know who's gonna see this video. Tell us your side of it.

CARL WEATHERS: I don't have a side of it. It's just that the Rangers were involved because you had two Federal agencies in dispute down there. Uh the Treasury Department and the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearm Division and the FBI were kind of in dispute. And the ATF

agents had been assaulted when they tried to serve a Federal search warrant and arrest warrant at the Branch Davidian's compound. And uh they had some people shot and killed. And so that's a crime. You shoot a police officer that's serving a valid search warrant, you committed a capital crime. So anyway the FBI was there to try to settle this deal. They had their hostage team down there, hostage response team. And so the Treasury Department and the Justice Department together and asked the Texas Rangers to come do the criminal investigation. So we did and I was part of that, as a lieutenant.

NANCY RAY: Can you tell us a little bit about what you had to do?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, I spent most of my time checking and editing. Well not editing, but checking reports and uh filing them with the proper people... the U.S. Attorney's office and all, and supervising Rangers who were conducting a criminal investigation. And the first part of it was mainly just taking witness statements you know. And from the ATF agents that were there and from the Branch Davidians that we had, that had come out of there that we could talk to. So... and then we got into once we could get to the compound, it was after it was burned up and everything. Then we had to go collect evidence and it was in pretty bad shape but we did collect evidence. And made cases against some people and tried them in Federal court for Federal crimes, assaulting the ATF agents. And out of I think it was eight that were charged and tried, there were seven convicted. Or there were nine charged and eight convicted. There was one out of the number that we charged and convicted that didn't get convicted. His name is Clive Doyle and he's still down there in Waco... still spouting off this same stuff that he was doing before. And he's one of the people that set the fire, burned that place down.

NANCY RAY: Never could tie it to him?

CARL WEATHERS: Oh it burned his hands off doing it and got out. Yeah, we tied it to him but he wasn't tried for the, for whatever reason he wasn't tried for setting that fire. The evidence... Lane Akin was in charge of the Ranger's part of that arson investigation and the evidence was enough to convict him easily for arson. Which would have also convicted him of capital murder because you commit an arson and people die as a result of it, that's capital murder in Texas. But he wasn't tried in state court for anything. And there he is still there.

NANCY RAY: I just can't imagine how you go through all that work and time and effort and things still don't...

CARL WEATHERS: It wasn't wasted but, and I'm not frustrated by it, it just galls me to see Clive Doyle down there spewing his hatred and lies when he should be, at the very least, serving time.

NANCY RAY: Well that's a very well-known case. Did you have any others that were as well known? That one had nationwide...

CARL WEATHERS: I don't know. Every one that I was involved in was well known where it happened to tell you for sure.

NANCY RAY: Did you have any that you keep going over in your mind that you'd like to go back... maybe it wasn't solved... I'd like to go back and work on that or it sticks with you?

CARL WEATHERS: There's only one that I knew who the guilty party was and there wasn't any... he destroyed all the evidence... there wasn't any evidence. And he, until he died, he kept it to himself. And uh I... he was the black sheep of the family. His old daddy was 76 years old and he shot him in his bed through the window, with his own shotgun. Then he got rid of the shotgun. And uh never did find it. I don't know of anything else I could have done. But that case wasn't going to be solved without him admitting it. And he didn't. So that sticks out you know.

NANCY RAY: Being a Ranger is just not an 8 to 5 job and it's not one that's definite. I mean there are so many variables.... What traits do you think it takes to make a good Ranger?

CARL WEATHERS: Well first and foremost, it takes a keen sense of right and wrong. And it takes total honesty and integrity. You gotta be truthful with yourself and with everybody else. And outside of that, you have to be intelligent enough to learn and, and uh have enough commonsense to apply it, what you learned.

NANCY RAY: Right. Commonsense... that one pops out a lot. Well when you became captain, who did you replace then?

CARL WEATHERS: Joe Wilie. Joe was here for a year. When Charlie Moore retired, Bruce Casteel promoted, came to Lubbock. And then he promoted and Joe Wilie made captain and came to Lubbock. And uh he was here until the vacancy in Waco came up. And by the time that happened, I'm eligible. I'm either gonna go to Waco or Lubbock, depending on what Joe does. So Joe transfers, of course he's still got his home down there. And I get to stay in Lubbock so I kind of lucked out.

NANCY RAY: Worked out for you, didn't it. Now you're having to oversee everybody. I know you're saying its supervision and all that.

CARL WEATHERS: Oh, you mean as captain?

NANCY RAY: As captain, yes (laughter).

CARL WEATHERS: I'm thinking now I don't oversee anybody!

NANCY RAY: No, as captain, I'm sorry.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, it's not that much different. You got you know the first line supervisor is a lieutenant and his job is more supervision I guess than direction and the captain's

job is directing. And that's about the best way I can describe the difference in it. They do about the same thing.

NANCY RAY: Well what part was most fun in your career? At what level was the most fun?

CARL WEATHERS: Being a Ranger private. Being a Ranger investigating criminal cases.

NANCY RAY: Out doing the work.

CARL WEATHERS: There's no better job in the world.

NANCY RAY: What makes it such a good job?

CARL WEATHERS: Well a lot of things. The main thing is when you go in the Rangers, you've already got a great, great head start. Just because you're a Ranger gives you an advantage in every area of your job. The respect that's shown you just because you're a Ranger... people that don't even know anything about you but they know you're a Ranger, the law enforcement agency. They respect you because you're a Ranger. Because they know what... and that's happened because the past has been created by the Rangers that have gone before and that's a heritage. We didn't have to do anything to gain that.

NANCY RAY: You're contributing to it.

CARL WEATHERS: Well... now that's where you feel a responsibility because you have a duty once you're a Ranger to keep that going... improve on it, make it continue. That tradition and that heritage... And then you got to, to look ahead to the future, you got a responsibility you know. The people that follow you, they're gonna do their duty. I mean it's just a never-ending thing we hope. I hope it stays that way.

NANCY RAY: Well when you were... when you pinned on that badge, when you became Ranger. Can you describe the feelings you had?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, yeah... my dad, he about busted. Dad, he about busted you know. Yeah... and I guess I was the same way. Yeah... I never dreamed that that would ever happen you know. And when it did, I was in the Highway Patrol and I'd been to that interview board. And I had moved. I was living in an apartment and moved... I was doing security work for apartments and didn't have to pay any rent. So the company had built a new set of apartments. And they wanted me at the new place. So we had moved and it hadn't been long enough to have a phone hooked up. We had just moved, still had stuff in boxes. And my partner and I, old Vernon Stehling, we were splitting our days off. And I was over there helping Mickey unpack stuff and he came to the apartment. He was working and he said uh, got a message while ago that you need to call the captain. I said yeah, I said what do you want? He was always trying to pull something on me. Oh now, he said this is, this is Captain Rundell, you gotta call Captain Rundell, the Ranger captain. And I said let me tell you something. I said we ain't joking about this kind of stuff. He said, and he finally convinced me that he wasn't joking. So I go across the street from the apartments to a 7-11 store, there's a pay phone over there. And I called and Mable Rundell, Skippy's wife, answered the phone. Called his house because that was the number he had given me. And it was a little after 5 o'clock... it was about 5:30 in the afternoon. And Mable said well he's not here. He called while ago and he's on his way home from the office. Said if you'll give him about fifteen minutes and call back, he'll be here. And I knew what... there couldn't have been anything else. Skippy Rundell wouldn't have called me for anything else. And uh so that was the longest fifteen minutes I guess I ever remember. It finally passed and I called and the first thing Skippy asked me when I told him who it was, he said you got your bags packed? Or he said are you packed up? I said you'll not gonna believe this (laughter) but we're packed up. And he told me we was gonna be, I was going in the Rangers and I was going to be in

Company A and I needed to call Captain Rogers to find out where I was gonna be stationed. And that's how that happened.

NANCY RAY: That started it. Well thinking back to when you first became a Ranger, and the time when you retired... between those years, what kind of changes did you see in the Ranger service?

CARL WEATHERS: I guess the first change was just what we talked about earlier about the way you go about interrogating people, suspects. That changed right away. And I had to... I had to be amongst the ones that learned a better way to get somebody to tell you what they did... than that had been the rule. And I survived that. The laws changed a lot. The drug laws, the penalties had gotten much, much more lenient and that's I think contributed to more crime. And uh the uh... as far as law enforcement itself and police officers, they're much, much, much more educated, intelligent now. And they've got a lot more sophisticated equipment to work with. And my goodness, I didn't know what DNA... somebody could have said DNA and I wouldn't have known what they were talking about ten years after I was a Ranger. But in about 1985 or '86, I learned what it was. We didn't have access to a laboratory. There was one in Corpus Christi and one in California and if you had enough money or if you had somebody that would sponsor it, you could get a DNA analysis done but you had to have a great big... a lot of material to be tested. You had to you know... and I've seen that come down now until you just have a minute amount and you can get a full DNA analysis. So that's one of the greatest changes. That and the education and the equipment and techniques used. It's all kept up with the times.

NANCY RAY: Well I see a picture, there's a helicopter. Can you tell us about that picture?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, that was a... that was taken on the Four 6s Ranch. We were... I'm sorry, it wasn't the Four 6s. It was the Blue Goose Ranch... it belongs to Bobby Day. He's from

Lubbock... he's a good friend of mine. And uh we were... he had a little landing strip down there on his ranch and we would go down there periodically and have training exercises. And this particular one with the helicopter, we were shooting rifles and shotguns from the helicopter in the air at targets on the ground. And uh that particular picture, I had just... I had been up there and just landed. And I had gone and did my shooting out of the helicopter, and uh with one of the other Rangers. And then I came down and the rest of the guys, my guys, were gonna get to go up and do that.

NANCY RAY: I see. Well can you think of a case you ever used, where you were ever in a helicopter?

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah (laughter). Yeah it was when I was at Bay City. Uh I went to Pierce... the DPS radio station in the DPS office where the sergeant and the lieutenant worked for Highway Patrol was in Pierce. It was about halfway between El Campo and Wharton, in Wharton County. And it covered that, it was about a five-county area down there. And they had a gas pump so I was traveling. And I don't remember if I was... I think I was going like to Gonzales or somewhere. But anyway, I stopped at Pierce to use the DPS gas pump and get some gas for my state car. And a Highway Patrol had run a license plate on a car he was following and it was running from him. And it turned out to be a wanted felon and I mean for... he was a bad guy. And so the helicopter was there at Pierce for some reason. I don't know what the helicopter pilot was doing there but it just so happened that he was there. So I grabbed him. We get in the helicopter and get up in the air and we go to where this Highway Patrolman is. It's been raining cats and dogs and where he's got this guy going. Its construction area and they're working on the pavement but they're not working because it's wet and muddy. And its caliche-looking, red-looking caliche mud and I got a brand new pair of boots on. I think it was the first time I had

worn them. So we get in front of that car and get him stopped, it was the helicopter. And the Highway Patrolman gets there. And there was another one coming up about that time so they had the car stopped. And the guy's not gonna get away but I gotta get out of the helicopter.

NANCY RAY: In your new boots.

CARL WEATHERS: And I know I'm gonna get that much mud on them. So I jumped off of that thing in the mud. It was fun. I hated to ruin my new boots (laughter) but they cleaned up. There was another time out here. There was an escape. They've got a private prison over at Dickens, it's close to Spur. It's in Dickens County. And it belongs to, the prison belongs to the county but they lease it out for private prisons. Well there was a guy escaped from there. And I took the sheriff up in the helicopter and we were flying around looking. We saw the guy and he was hiding in a little old small canyon area. And he thought he was hid but we could see him. So we went down there and the guy saw us coming. And he wasn't moving but we was afraid he was gonna take off and run or something. Anyway, we got about I don't know, about three foot off the ground, and uh I jumped out of that thing you know. Went up there and the guy was, I guess, trying to play possum or something. But he was holding onto that bush. I was wondering you know... I didn't look around to see if the sheriff was there or not. I grabbed the guy and was pulling him off... he was hanging onto a little old bush in that canyon. I pulled him off of that bush and there was the sheriff. He had jumped out too and he was helping me. Ken Brendle who is the sheriff over there at Dickens, he's still the sheriff.

NANCY RAY: How do you spell his last name?

CARL WEATHERS: BRENDLE.

NANCY RAY: You're reliving some memories now... I can see it in your face. You had some good times as a Ranger, right?

CARL WEATHERS: That was fun, it really was. And nearly everything I did was fun you know.

NANCY RAY: Well you progressed up through the ranks to captain. So uh you had a good career.

CARL WEATHERS: Sure did.

NANCY RAY: And out of all of the accomplishments, all of the things you've done in your career, can you think of something, an accomplishment or something you solved or somebody you helped... what made you proud? What made you feel good about yourself? Something you did.

CARL WEATHERS: I guess if I ever failed at anything real bad I didn't know it, you know.

NANCY RAY: I see some awards and commendations on...

CARL WEATHERS: I call this my "I love me" room. You know you get those things over the years. They give you plaques for this and that. Matagorda County... when I promoted and came to Lubbock, well they had resolutions and the city, the city government and the county commissioners and all... they gave me plaques. I solved a crime down there of the bus station lady. Well they... I got a plaque for that. The ATF gave me, the Texas Racing Commission... The one I'm most proud of is that one right over there... (*pointing to the wall*) that first one on the left there. When I retired, the Rangers at the time in Company C gave me that. And that set of spurs. So... that's, you know it's good. Anybody feels good if they get recognized for doing something.

NANCY RAY: Oh yeah, that's for sure. Well this video is only capturing a small portion of a long career. Uh what would you want people to say about you as a Ranger, to remember you for doing... or being?

CARL WEATHERS: Gosh, I don't know. I didn't make any bad case laws that I know of. Uh I guess I did my job and enjoyed it you know.

NANCY RAY: I've heard people say we made our own fun. Did you make your own fun?

CARL WEATHERS: I didn't have to, it just came... it just came about.

NANCY RAY: Can you remember a time when you saved somebody's life?

CARL WEATHERS: I remember a time I didn't kill somebody.

NANCY RAY: Can you tell us about that?

CARL WEATHERS: And boy I wouldn't be talking to you right now if that had happened.

NANCY RAY: What happened?

CARL WEATHERS: It was when I was when I was in the Highway Patrol. I had a partner, old George Garrett. We was talking about him, his dad was Bull Garrett. Uh but he, he was in the lead and it was at night and he stopped this car for speeding. It was just a normal speeding stop. Well I'm riding shotgun. I get out and I'm being a good partner you know. I walk up there and I look in the back of the car and on the right side. There's a guy by himself, nobody else in the car. In the backseat I saw there was a gun belt and an empty holster laying across the backseat. So I go on and I'm looking the front as this guy's getting out of the car, I'm shining my light underneath the seat and in the seats and stuff and on him. I don't see any gun or anything. This guy's wearing a blazer. He don't have a tie on but he's got a coat on. So he walks back there and my partner asks him for his driver's license and he gives it to him. Then my partner plops his ticket book down on the hood of the car. And I'm standing here by the right headlight of the patrol car. And my partner is to my left and this guy is to my right. And of course the headlight, the left headlight is shining on the guy. And my partner is asking him questions to fill out his ticket. He's writing him a speeding ticket. And uh he asked him something about what was on

his driver's license and the guy reached and gets his coat with his right hand and pulls it open and he starts in with his left hand. And I see a holster on his belt and a gun in his holster. Well the very next instant my gun is cocked and it is a revolver because that's what they issued. And I've got it pointed right at him and I'm telling him, I said put your hands up right now... or something to that effect. Well he did and my partner looked up and he says what is it? I said he was going for a gun in his holster. And I still... it's still cocked I mean and those things have hair triggers. I could have accidentally killed him if I just flinched a little bit it would have gone off. So my partner reached over there and pulled that coat open and he reached in there, in the holster, and it's his eyeglasses.

NANCY RAY: Oh no!

CARL WEATHERS: The guy was gonna get his glasses on so he could read what he was putting on that ticket. He was carrying them in a holster, gun holster. So naturally I asked what are you doing carrying your glasses in a holster? I mean it was a holster, an empty holster in the backseat. And I said where's the gun for these holsters? He said it's in the trunk of the car. I said what's the deal with the holsters and all? Well he's a radio disc jockey for a radio station, I think in Waco. He'd been to Houston to a fast-draw competition. He's a fast-draw enthusiast you know. Well they go and have timed competition. But there wasn't anything illegal about his gun. I mean it's lawful to carry it. He didn't even have to have it in the trunk but he did. I mean he was about as weak-kneed as I was over that. I got to thinking... what if that gun had gone off... what if I had shot this guy? You know it would have been bad. I doubt I would have been here talking about it. But uh yeah, that as one of the closest times I ever come to... All the other times that I've pulled my gun is because you know I had the upper hand and people with guns drop

them you know. I knew that like... this was the closest I ever come to really shooting someone and it would have been terrible. So yeah, it stands out.

NANCY RAY: Well can you tell me what did you like most about being a Ranger?

CARL WEATHERS: Gosh I don't know. That's kind of a hard question to answer. Everything.

NANCY RAY: Everything. OK. Well what are you doing today? You retired in '93...

CARL WEATHERS: Oh, what am I doing.... I play golf. That's about all I do. When I retired, I retired in 2002.

NANCY RAY: Oh.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah. And uh it don't seem like it's been that long but it's been over six years. And yeah, I never did play golf much. Well I did when I was a kid and I had a set of golf clubs given to me one time. And I was stationed in a place where the Ranger had an honorary membership in the country club. So ever chance I'd get to go out there and play. I learned a little bit about playing golf, not very much. Until I retired, I didn't play a whole lot of golf. But now I do nearly every day. And I love it.

NANCY RAY: Well I just thought of a question I meant to ask you earlier and that was about forensic hypnosis.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, now that was an interesting thing too and it still is. And uh in 1980, the Rangers got the DPS to send some of us to hypnosis school to learn how to conduct, induce hypnosis. And a few of us went to that. I don't know how many but there was a few, a dozen maybe. And I was one of them and learned how... I was skeptical at first, a real bad skeptic but during that school I learned what hypnosis really is and the benefits of it. And uh really just to let you know what it is, it's relaxation. Everybody in this whole world is hypnotized

at least twice a day and that's just as you're waking up in the morning and just as you're going to sleep at night. You're totally, completely relaxed and that's what hypnosis is.

NANCY RAY: Well how did you use it with a case?

CARL WEATHERS: Well, a person's ability to recall memories are at least 60 percent... enhanced by 60 percent when they're totally relaxed. And so you can see something that you remember, but vaguely. If you get totally, completely relaxed and somebody asks you in the right way to relive that time that you saw this or heard this or whatever it was, this memory, then it's like you're there again reliving it again. And, but it's your memory that's doing it causing you to recall it. And so in... a witness to a crime may not realize that they actually saw a license plate number and were able to recall it. They can tell you yeah, that car had a license plate number, had a license plate on it. But if the lighting was good and everything and they looked at it, it's a good chance that it's recorded in their memory. All you gotta do is retrieve it. And uh it's a... The first time I used it was a lady and her husband were traveling and they had a... There was a Highway Patrolman got me to do the hypnosis. But her husband was changing a flat tire, they had a flat. And he was changing it and a truck hit him, killed him. And this lady was... she had dyed hair. She smoked, like a chain smoker. And she was about 47 or 48 years old. And she was, she looked to me typically like the people you see in a bar every night you know. And not a bad person, just that kind of a person... goes to the bar and has a few drinks every night. And uh she's nervous as she can be. And I thought man, why would they bring me something like this. Well this was one of my first, maybe the first actual case. And uh so I just went... I even got my notebook from my school and it... We'd written out a verbatim narrative "how to induce hypnosis" you know. And I' more or less just read it but I kept it there so I could see it. I had it pretty well memorized but... It worked. She just, boy I mean zonked out, relaxed...

unbelievable. So anyway, under hypnosis she described this incident where she saw this truck hit her husband. She didn't just see it. She got out. It decapitated him and his head was rolling down the highway and she was chasing trying to pick it up. But during that, when that truck went by, she was able to describe that truck enough that we identified it as one of several in a... it was an oilfield, cement hauling flatbed trailer with oilfield cement on it. And the name on the door of the truck, she saw it and remembered it. And she didn't have no idea. She just knew it was a truck and it was gone. But she did see enough of it that she remembered the name of the trucking company.

NANCY RAY: So that was another tool that you had.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah. And I did one in a criminal case that uh that turned out to be... I testified in it.

NANCY RAY: Do you want to tell about it? If you do, we're gonna put in another disc.

CARL WEATHERS: Nah, it's not necessary. People have written about it. It's Texas state law. The transcript of the trial is available. I mean you can read it. It's the Zani case. Anybody wants to look up the Zani case...

NANCY RAY: ZANY?

CARL WEATHERS: ZANI. And uh it was a 13-year old homicide.

NANCY RAY: Let's go ahead and capture it. (*short pause to change discs*) All right, here we go. We're gonna hear a little bit about the Zani case.

CARL WEATHERS: OK. Well it was in 1967, a convenience store in Austin was robbed. And uh the robber killed the clerk. Put the clerk in the walk-in cooler in the back. When he came out, the robber came out, there were some customers come in the store. I think maybe five in all. So the killer waited on those customers until they were all gone then he left. This was pretty well

known at the time. The initial investigation was done, that's how it happened, and didn't know who it was. So it was a cold case. Thirteen years later in 1980, they got a cold case squad down there. The DA's office and uh Travis County and the police department, the sheriff's department I think. But anyways, they got a little group together for a squad. And uh one of those detectives called me and said I understand you do hypnosis, forensic hypnosis. I said yeah, I said I just recently learned how to do that. He said well I've got this case and he told me about this case. Said we got a witness, one of those witnesses in Houston. Said I'd like for you to hypnotize that witness and see if he can recall the clerk that waited on him. If the guy waited on him, well if he can describe him it would be evidence. I said well, I'll try, we'll do it. So I went to Houston. And I got it set up. The instructor in our hypnosis basic school was Michael Boulch.

NANCY RAY: How do you spell that name?

CARL WEATHERS: BOULCH I think. And uh he had an office and business, a studio, in Houston. And had all the equipment, he had the recording equipment and stuff was already there. And I thought well that would be a good place to do this. And I called Michael and he said yeah, he'd like to provide that. And I was also thinking you know maybe I can get old Michael to do this and you know I won't screw it up. But that didn't happen. So I went over there and they bring the guy in. I use the normal technique... Now you probably do a better job when you're fresh out of class because you're gonna do it exactly verbatim like you learn how to do it. And anyway, it worked real good. The guy relaxed I mean to tell you. We had an artist there who had been a policeman. His name is Arthur Duet, DUET. And he's a forensic artist. And so got this guy under hypnosis. I got him to regress... age back to 1967. He and his dad had a construction business and they'd go in this store on their breaks and stuff to get Cokes and snacks. Well that was one of their trips in there. And uh he uh... I had him in there and he was reliving it. He was

telling me verbatim what was going on. I would have to stop him because time was going like it was in regular time back then. It was gonna take forever! I got a two-hour tape I gotta get this on you see. So I said OK, time's moving forward real fast. And you can do that in hypnosis. Time, you can make it stand still, back up, go forward, slow motion, whatever. Anyway, got him to the point where he's up at the counter and the guy's waiting on him. And I get him to describe this clerk that's waiting on him. And he started at the top of his head, come down as far as he can see and go back up, back down, back up... The artist, old Duet, he's over here drawing what this guy's saying, the description. And it goes on and on and on and finally, we get as far as we can go with it. The guy can't improve. I even have him open his eyes, still relaxed... open his eyes, look at that composite, and tell me if there's anything he thinks needs to be changed on there. And uh there were of course... he never looked at the guy's eyes because he never could describe... I'd go back and back and back and back trying to get him to... because the artist, he had a place for the eyes and they were just kind of blank. There was nothing there because he didn't describe his eyes. But uh he never did. He'd say I don't see his eyes. And he's talking in the first person like he's there. And uh then I let Duet ask him questions. He's still under hypnosis. And Duet's asking him... he starts back at the top, goes all the way back down. And finally, it's the best we're gonna get. So I've still got him under hypnosis but I put him... and there's techniques and I won't go into all that, it would take forever. But you have a safe place that anybody can go to anytime because a lot of times they'll recall something you're not expecting them to and it's traumatic for them and they go berserk. I mean not berserk but they react. So you can tell them to go to their safe place and it relieves that. Anyway, I had him back in his safe place and he was enjoying it. I mean it's... Mickey will tell you, its fun to do. Oh man to be so relaxed. Anyway, Paul Reese (*unsure of name*) is one of the detectives on the Police

Department. And this guy Zanic had been a suspect. They just didn't have any evidence on him at the time. But he had a picture of Zani in his briefcase. And he picked that up and showed it me. He pointed, said come here. I went over there and...my gosh, it looked like that artist had used that picture to draw this composite. It was scary. And I thought how did they do this? I thought they've pulled some kind of trick. But then I got to thinking. No, this guy described this you know. Anyway, it was the real deal. And I got them to go get, you know the Police Department, to get some pictures that are similar to him and stack them. We had seven or eight. I mean a bunch of them stacked. So when we brought this guy out of hypnosis, I had that stack of pictures and without him looking at that composite anymore... see if you can pick this guy out. He goes through those pictures... that's him. And the only difference was the eyes because the composite don't have any recognizable eyes. And the only other difference was a difference in weight. The guy weighed more in the picture than he did in the composite because it was you know, it was, the picture was an older picture. So, and he'd gained some weight. But anyway, Zani, to make a long story short, Zani was convicted. They tried him, I testified, and they had an expert witness for the defense. It was a hypnotist, a psychologist... he grilled me on cross examination... or got the attorneys, told the attorneys what to ask me and all. And he kept saying that you know under hypnosis, people will confabulate. They will fill in blanks where... and they'll do it just to please the hypnotist you know. And you ask him questions... well I didn't ask any leading questions. It was always open ended and you could tell... Anyway, the tape got admitted and the jury heard the tape. And I testified. And the guy was convicted and so the Court of Criminal Appeals, the Court of Appeals I think in Amarillo, did the first appeals on him. And uh they agreed. And it went to the Court of Criminal Appeals and they sent it back down to I think the Amarillo Court of Appeals, those three justices up there. And the Court of Criminal

Appeals wanted them to put some guidelines on the use of hypnosis. They affirmed it. The use of hypnosis by police is accepted. And but they wanted guidelines so if it's used in the future they gotta go by these guidelines. And I didn't know when I was doing this hypnosis that I was creating guidelines that the Court of Criminal Appeals was gonna use in this case law. And it's case law now. And if a police officer does hypnosis, forensic hypnosis, he has to comply with these like ten guidelines or it won't be... the trial court won't accept it. So that's pretty significant, really.

NANCY RAY: It is. Very significant, and you contributed to that.

CARL WEATHERS: Yeah, I mean... I'm like the woodpecker though, you know, that was in this real tall tree, pecking away. Directly a bolt of lightening hit it and split the tree half in to. Well the woodpecker still thinks he did that (laughter). So there's a guiding hand on me, I guarantee you. It wasn't because I was that smart, it just... I had some good training and I was lucky. I had a guiding hand.

NANCY RAY: We do, you're right. Is there anything else you'd like to share about your career as a Ranger?

CARL WEATHERS: I've loved every minute of it. Until the day I retired, the last day I worked, I couldn't wait to get to work in the morning. And the only reason I retired is because I felt like I had become a dinosaur. And I knew there was young, bright individuals... If I get out of their way, they're gonna move up.

NANCY RAY: Well let me thank you for your time today for this interview.

CARL WEATHERS: Well I've enjoyed it.

NANCY RAY: We have too. We learned a lot. And we thank you for your service to the state of Texas too.

CARL WEATHERS: You're welcome and I thank you.