

**Oral History Interview of
James Oswald**

**Interviewed by: Andy Wilkinson
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Lubbock, Texas**

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Transcript Overview:

This interview features James Oswald as he discusses his life and accomplishments. In this interview, Oswald describes how he got his education and how that lead to him going to multiple places all over the world.

Length of Interview: 01:51:57

Subject	Transcript Page	Time Stamp
Native American history and heritage	05	00:00:00
Background information and family history	10	00:13:43
Going to college and studying anthropology	15	00:24:48
Working in the public school system in Salt Lake City, Utah	19	00:39:36
Going to Stanford	24	00:57:08
Getting to Singapore	27	01:08:42
How he know J. Evetts Haley	30	01:20:08
Visiting the spirit world; Lyndon Johnson	36	01:35:47

Keywords

Family life and background; education; public schools

James Oswald (JO):

Sixty-six stock and I always use their stuff and I had cousin who lives in Bartlesville. Well, Bartel is an Indian word from the Delaware's.

Andy Wilkinson (AW):

Oh really? I didn't know that.

JO:

So Frank Bartel was an Indian who created the town around and that's the headquarters of the Delaware's.

AW:

Well, I'll be darned you know I had no idea. I just assumed it was some Anglo guys that had moved down there. [laughs]

JO:

I know. Everything's connected. So they have a—that's their headquarters and they've got a pools of people in Indiana. Indiana says they got more Delaware's than any other state. Toronto, Ontario says they got more Delaware's than the US, but to Delaware's we're a diffused people. Now, we're friends of the—we gave our farming upstate New York to the United Indians with an indigenous education institute at Syracuse, but Joanne Shenandoah, who's great-great grandfather was George Washington's best friend and George named the Shenandoah Valley for him and they saved us at Valley Forge with food because the Quakers wouldn't feed us. So, Joanne married the Mohawk chief, who's a Canadian, big, tall, Syracuse, athlete, and of course they got grandchildren and they're Americans, but I've said to George Canentillo, "You're an Indian, have you figured out where you came from?" because the people wandered through the mountains in Pennsylvania and then they came on over. He said, "Oh yeah, we've nailed it," and I said, "Where are the Northern New York Indians from?" and he said, "The Las Cruces area in the Pecos Valley."

AW:

Really?

JO:

Don't believe me, but I could give you his phone number. You can verify it.

AW:

Wow, that's cool.

JO:

And they visit New Mexico, but cool ain't it?

AW:

Yeah, well you know when you think of the date of its—at least currently, assume to be correct about the migration of Native people. They would've come in on the west—from the west and move south so they would have to come some place before they went east.

JO:

Now, I watched them at the Caliche pit and about 1940 when the University of Texas dug up the Plainview Caliche pit and found Plainview man, Midland man.

AW:

Um-hm, yeah.

JO:

I thought that was cool. Then I went to India and there's artifacts from Plainview and meteorites in museums in India and I thought, "Oh, it's a small world."

AW:

Yeah, that is interesting. Yeah.

JO:

And then, I live near the Chesapeake Bay and I read the archeology and anthropology. We have something like twelve thousand sites that are the same as Midland and Plainview and Folsom. So the newest thing is they came from Europe over the land bridge and probably went this way, because if you've got twelve thousand sites and only one arrowhead, but nobody knows.

AW:

Yeah.

JO:

So now a story I picked up at Dartmouth, when an archeologist and he just got a job at Princeton and he was leaving Dartmouth and he gave his goodbye lecture. I lived with him three years. Our kids play together, but I never knew that he knew something that'd be useful and so here's what he said, "People wonder why the Indians disappeared from this area so suddenly eight hundred years ago twelve hundred," and that was his specialty and he said, "We found the answer in the folk songs and poems," and here's the story. Natives live and they lived in the land of the one-legged God who went stomp, stomp, stomp. Chiniloo, chiniloo, chiniloo. Stomp out the fire.

Stomp out the teepee. Stomp out the babies. Stomp the horses. Stomp, stomp, stomp, destroy. It's Shiva the Destroyer.

AW:
Yeah.

JO:
And then God spoke to them. They had had a hell of a time with what I think were tornadoes and that was his hypothesis and God said, "Go south until you hit the blue water," and they are the Chiapas Indians of Mexico who are the lowest status, have the tribe that the Mexican government would rather get rid of. They do massacres and starvations. They try every way. So the Chiapas Indians culture is rooted up here.

AW:
That's interesting.

JO:
In the land of the one legged God, if he knew his stuff in the Dartmouth-Princeton network back then. So that might be a fun thing for you to.

AW:
Well it would be interesting because about that same time is it not when the Antelope Creek Focus people, you know, near the Canadian, you know? They were at one time *pueblos* [villages].

JO:
But I lived there and I'm pretty ignorant of it so I'm listening.

AW:
Did you ever—so you didn't ever get to see them?

JO:
No, we went up and Jack T. Hues and his wife Polly, my anthro mentor. They put their money in buying an old site and then they gave it to the son to give it to Texas. So, it's preserved and it would be Puebloan and I used to dig stuff, but I.

AW:
Well there was—the one I'm thinking about was one where when there was interest events in doing archeology. That rancher that owned the place according to all the local lore, turned someone lose with a bulldozer and they destroyed it.

JO:

Yeah, Jack wanted to not let that happen and he called over thirty years and he'd say, "You're going to get a call from National Park Service. You're going to get a call from the Texas Historical," and they did call and put my dissertation stuff in their book on Fort Elliot, but what he and I wanted from the beginning was for Elliot to become a rehab. And I can tell you that a rancher owns the land and from outer space satellites you can see it and he grows corn there. And the people in Mobeetie have a good organization like you demonstrated last night. And I'll visit them in a couple of days, but we need to rebuild Fort Elliot, set it up. And I thought because my Oswald ancestors came out of Thomasville, Georgia, which is where Joanne Newman came from and they were pretty light on Negroes and let Negroes—insisted they learned to read and write and they had a lot of freedom and so on. So they were not, the evil slavery of whipping and flogging was not the thing they did in Thomasville. Educate African American people was the thing. So, Henry Flipper came out of Thomasville.

AW:

Oh, really?

JO:

And was the first guy.

AW:

Yeah, Lieutenant.

JO:

And then he was sent to Fort Elliot, to manage the color troops and then they did the set up to court martial him and that didn't work, but he went up a mining engineer in Chile and Bolivia. [pen clicking] I've read four books on him. Then he did in Chicago, happy. What a hell of a life, but we need a movie on Fort Elliot with the Philadelphia black guy who's so famous that makes movies.

AW:

Oh, Spike Lee?

JO:

No, the actor.

AW:

Oh, the actor.

JO:

And is still with us now. Anyway, you know him and he was a cute black boy on TV for years as a teenager. Then he grew up and now he's that tall. He had a mansion near Philadelphia and probably lives in Hollywood, but he could write you a check for ten million quick, but if we could get him interested and he could play Flipper and do the scenes at WestPoint and do the adventures in Arizona and learn Spanish.

AW:

Fort Stockton.

JO:

And do the court martial and visit and be in jail down in Fort Louis. What a good story and it could be done in an hour and a half, but then in Philadelphia, and I saw him a month ago. Early in Philadelphia I drive from my house down the Peak Mount Plateau into Philadelphia through the Fairmount Park and I see black cowboys wearing Levis on horses in the fog and I thought, "Man, am I delusional? Slow down James. It's foggy." And they were Negro cowboys. Well there—they take care of their horses. They're still there. And so I say, "Do you have any records of your great grandfather?" and they say, "Yeah, he was a colored soldier," and so on. So there's all that.

AW:

And where are these?

JO:

Deep roots stuff, among the African Americans in Philly. And I give them my card and I say, "Give me a call, would you like to take a boat—a bus ride. You load up the black people and we'll go to Mobeetie," and they don't ever call me, but you see the links? And I'm laying out the magic dust for you because I could be dead by midnight.

AW:

I think we all could.

JO:

We need to get Fort Elliot and the Texas Panhandle and you know that adobe walls. It was the satellite pictures that showed where things had been. Well I have a—there's a boy from Oklahoma who became a soldier, went to Afghanistan and Muslims were coming and he said, "Shoot," and they shot and then his men got scared and they testified against him in court martial. And in 2009 he went to Leavenworth and he's still there and we're trying to get him out and President Trump I think would release him, but we're funding the lawyers and the evidence. So, we've screwed around for nine—for a decade to get Clint out and he's now a lawyer in

prison, but suddenly somebody went through the photographs from a dirigible in Afghanistan and they saw that the Muslims did have guns as they were approaching. So his platoon soldiers testified that they had no guns, but when they were shot they let the Muslims from the village come in and so we now have concrete evidence. Thanks to a dirigible, but it's taken ten years for that, and fortunately the retired soldier who was in the dirigible and studying photo analysis remembers it. So, took a decade to find they guy that had the evidence to save the guy who was accused of the—giving the order of rape, murder. He didn't shoot, but we're unravelling these cases and the thing was President Obama came in and it was really, basically lock him up. When I went to Thomasville, three years ago and I went to Fort Benning. I'm at Fort Benning and there's an Army museum and I said, "I'm an infantry officer, I never heard of this," and they said, "We're not allowed to talk." It's all volunteers.

AW:
Yeah.

JO:
And I said, "Can I take a leaflet? Can I give you a hundred dollars? Can I join?" and they said, "Yes." So I saw it, I met the guys, and they couldn't talk, and the government was not going to allow anything and then I got in the museum and it's infantry and I think, "This is the best military museum I was ever in," and then we're in armor and I went back to the—and I said, "We're not an armor school," and he said, "There is no armor school," and I said, "What do you mean? I have buddies who went to Fort Campbell in Kentucky.", "Obama closed it. You didn't read it in the New York Times?" He shut it down and they moved armor and attached it and got rid of 50 percent of everybody and there they are. The infantry in the armor and they're not allowed to talk and the front gate is full of protestors and the other gates back in the jungle say, "Z X Blue Q," and you get a phone call in the morning. This is three, four years ago and the phone call says, "Captain you go in the Q. You go in the blue," because they can't get to work because of the protestors. So as we unravel that there's a whole history of that eight years and then when this eight years is over, that'll be another history.

AW:
Where were you born?

JO:
I was born August 17th, 19—and are you going to record or—

AW:
Yeah.

JO:

Oh, you're recording. James.

AW:

You never know how—what interesting things are said before the recorder comes on so I always start it during. [laughs]

JO:

No.

AW:

August seventeenth?

JO:

I'll try to shut up and follow.

AW:

No, no.

JO:

I'm James Marlin, M-a-r-l-i-n, Oswald, O-s-w-a-l-d. I was born in Plainview, Texas. August 17th, 1935.

AW:

August seventeenth is my wedding anniversary.

JO:

Congratulations.

AW:

Thank you, fifty-one years this year.

JO:

My father's name was James Buchanan Oswald and only last week did I realize that there was no connection between our family and President James Buchanan, the slavery tolerant, Pennsylvania democrat. It's either he had two n's or one n. And I'm the son of Yula Beatriz Marlin, M-a-r-l-i-n, who was born in Plainview, Texas and my father was born in Plainview, Texas.

AW:
Really?

JO:
All families that had come from diverse places.

AW:
Well, my great grandfather on my Wilkinson's side was named Buchanan and he was called Buck and so it must've been a—and I don't think there was any connection to the President either so I don't know why that was a relatively popular name. [cups moving]

JO:
My father's grandfather, his father was an orphan, second marriage, runaway from Georgia, Florida. That's a side story, but go back another generation and the Oswald in Thomasville was one of the Georgia boys.

AW:
Oh, really?

JO:
And he was in prison in Vicksburg and then he was allowed to go home and he walked home and a mile from home they shot him. And then the wife was told, "Your husband's dying in the ditch. Go get him." So she hitched up a wagon and with her two or three boys and one girl went and fetched him and he's dead. So it's the end of the Civil War, so she married a guy and he took her down to Florida, which is probably just a little safer territory than Georgia, because there's still shooting and burning and you know the sad stories of all that, but in that there's old Henry Flipper getting born. Now that man, Oswald, from Thomasville, his rifle reportedly had survived and my brother Jack Oswald in Plainview has it.

AW:
Oh, really?

JO:
And I ask, "What are you going to do with it?" and he said, [watch beeps] "In the past, like I'm going to keep it." Jack was never going to die, never going to retire, and so on. [laughter] So I ask him a month ago, "You know, you got the rifle, you never hunted. What are you going to do with it? It's got the bayonet. You got to give it to an institution," and he said, "Yes," and I think he's going to give it to Southwest Museum.

AW:

Oh, cool. Did you grow up in Plainview, too?

JO:

In the 1940's, I had a great life, five years, on Broadway in Plainview. I was the king of Broadway. [AW laughs] I could walk a block that way and a block the other way. In the— between seventh and eighth street, I grew up across from the Methodist church in the shadow of a giant Jesus. I grew up in Plainview, but at age three, my mother grew up in an extended family and I say I grew up in an extended family, four sisters. So they sent us away and where work was to be done we got to participate in it. So, had an uncle.

AW:

Was it agricultural work?

JO:

And he had—I had an uncle and he bought a—he owned a ranch between Santa Rosa and Fort Sumner. So starting at about age three, it's Christmas, you don't go to school, so Uncle John and Maxine take me to the ranch and we live in an adobe house with a gasoline stove and a windmill and I'm a ranch kid.

AW:

What was the ranch name?

JO:

The LS.

AW:

The LS?

JO:

Slaton Ranch, S-l-a-t-o-n, and Slate was a banker. First well and Hill County. He let him dig it on his land.

AW:

Is that where Slaton, Texas get its name?

JO:

Yeah probably. And he fought for Tech to be in Plainview and lost to the politicians in office, so his son was bitter. So my Uncle Dire, who had been a banker and then was a capitalist and investor and managed land for eastern landowners. Uncle Dire had a boy with a disease that

made him not able to walk, a genetic disease. So I became his fictive son and we'd drive the packers out the ranch and then I'd get left. So I spent my life in Plainview during school days and that was only 120 days and the rest was in the ranch and I had allergies in Plainview, acne, in the ranch I had fresh air and no allergies and they needed a good hand for de-horning, castration, branding, and just shoveling shit, so I had these two lives. Then we had an aunt who married a guy in the oil business so I got to—in the forties in Plainview, mother would take me to Clover Lake Dairy next to the Baptist church, a block off Broadway, and put me in a milk truck, no doors, and I would ride with the ice and the milk and we'd go straight down to Lubbock. I think thirty-five miles an hour and the driver—I just was a boy who sat on milk crates. And then we got to Lubbock and I'd get in another milk truck and go to Levelland and then in Levelland I'd get in another and go to Sundown and my aunt Nowma [?] [00:20:57] and her husband J.L. Matlock had the Phillip sixty-six station and he had a Quonset hut and it's World War II and he's fixing the diesels and keeping the grasshoppers pumping and always greasy. And Aunt Nowma had a boy younger than me and a boy older than me, and she had babysat me on Broadway—on Baltimore in Plainview, sort of raised me early on and mother take care of her kids. So I would go see Aunt Nowma and then her husband moved so we got to go to Alice, Texas and to Reynosa and Corpus Christi and Brownsville and the—we were too poor to have a car but Uncle J always had a car and it was an Oval Ford made in Texas or we'd borrow my mother's father's car. And then my mother's father probably felt sorry for my dad who didn't make money, so he came up with a deal. He paid like 125 for a Plymouth and he said you know, "Give me fifty dollars and you'll own half of it." [AW Laughs] So we owned a portion of a car and I guess that was fairly common in the late thirties and early forties. You take care of each other. And then I would sometimes mom and dad would go somewhere and then I'd be put out with Aunt Fay Currie and she'd say, "Well you've got long fingers you have to play the piano and then we'll trim the roses," and then her son had a dark room.

AW:

That was pretty unusual for that day, wasn't it?

JO:

Yeah, but then he's trouble. He was sent to military school so I just have Aunt Fay and Ramona and she's a girl.

AW:

Ramona Roberts?

JO:

Yeah, and she's capturing JB, not much time for me, but I get to wear her old clothes. [laughter] So I went through high school in Ramona's flannel shirt. She'd left it in the trunk and moved on. And I thought JB was just big, strong, handsome. And that time when he was a football player I

had a camera. So I remember being on the sidelines and he broke his arm and I photographed and he's just laying there and I thought jeez movie star. He's my cousin's boyfriend and he'll come to pick her up at Thanksgiving and he'll say hi and then he leaves, but he's Hollywood, he's Elvis, he's a God. So now I'm best friends with him and we both have dead wives and we're buddies. He calls me buddy, but back then he was—so we have these entanglements.

AW:

Um-hm.

JO:

And so I grew up knowing that I was growing up in an extended family and then we went to WT [West Texas] and studied anthropology and archeology and so on and then I realized we're not the only extended family.

AW:

[Laughs] Right.

JO:

And Margaret Mead would say things, "You know you don't have a grandmother. There's one in the neighborhood. Go get her," and every home needs a grandmother. So and I got to meet Margaret Mead and got to hire her one day. So God just moved me all around. So did I grow up in Plainview? Yes. Did I grow up on the ranch? Yes. Did I grow up everywhere in the southwest? Yes, because my folks were travelers.

AW:

Um-hm, um-hm..

JO:

Did I answer your question?

AW:

Oh, yeah. Quite well, so you went to West Texas and studied anthropology.

JO:

When I was eighteen.

AW:

Yep, and did you graduate there or did you?

JO:

Yeah, twice.

AW:

Twice.

JO:

I'm a boy and if you ask me what jobs do you have, like at the ranch they'd need me and they had no phone. They'd go to Santa Rosa and call the Slaton's and the Slaton's would call the Oswald's and then I'd be in the next car going west, near a milk truck.

AW:

Why not?

JO:

The story about the milk truck to Lubbock, the trust of putting a four year old boy and a five year old boy and a six year old boy on a milk truck and sending him with two changes and then they might not be there when he gets done. That's so unique to those times and different from now. So I grow up and I became a printer because my dad's at the newspaper and he doesn't own anything, but his grandfather had owned it, then sold it, then three men came in after World War I and the grandfather needed money to retire, so he retired two blocks away. And The Plainview became these three foreigners who own it, but then as they matured and so on, they sold my dad a third share back. So at the end he was the general manager, but then he's working for the Midland money guy, who owns the Midland paper, and then there the Busch family connection people. So, I'm eighteen—I'm seventeen I come back—I'm eighteen I come back from the ranch in September of '53 and I have to go register for the draft and I go to the court house and the lady says, "You're a month—you're late. You could go to jail. You were supposed to be here August 17th." I just kept my mouth shut and signed the papers and then suddenly I'm at WT because I had thought of Boulder and I had thought of Tech, but Aunt Fey had gone. She's the brightest girl, the oldest girl of the Marlin four. She went to WT and her dad's a farmer, but the Influenza thing happens, so she called and said, "Daddy—" and I have this on tape recording which I'll see that you get, "Daddy, everybody's sick," and then, "Daddy, they're closing the school," and he said, "Come home," and then she worked for friends and relatives in the fancy lady dress businesses, Pierce's on Broadway and developed this sense of texture and class and address and so on. So she was in the clothing business because she didn't get Influenza and WT was shut down. So she would drive to Lubbock and get food and things and Ramona had a Demitasse tea cup collection. So they would fantasize—they'd make up a story, a scam to drive to Lubbock in a Nash and buy something and buy creampuffs and then go back and then they'd go to Amarillo to shop at Hemphill-Wells, which had an elevator. I think it was White and Kirk here? Stuff is just coming back.

AW:

No, we had a Hemphill-Wells here.

JO:

Well then maybe it's both. Anyway, we would go to Amarillo. So in my last year, in May of my senior year or April, Aunt Fey was going to Amarillo and she said, "Jimmy, I want you to go with me to Amarillo," and I said, "I don't want to go shopping," and she said, "You're going with me," and she dumped me in Canyon and I've never been there and she just drove—she'd been there so she drove to appropriate place, probably the library and she said, "Get out, walk around. I'll pick you up at five o'clock. Go see if you would like to go to school here." So why did I go to WT, I think I was placed there by an angel named Feybell Currie and she knew me, and she knew it, and she knew she'd miss college and she had two children that were older and were already into college. John's at Tech, so I think I was dumped by Aunt Fey. And then I went in and I went into a basement because it was cool and I met the drafting teacher in math and then he says, "Now you want to go here and you want to go there?" So I spent the whole day and that's what I tell kids, they say, "Well I don't know what to do or where to go." I say, "Go on a college campus, spend a day, wander around, just go in and read the bulletin boards." It's like the pen and the map and you'll see something and it will lead you to—and if you like it, just stay a couple of days. If you ain't got no money go to the college president's office say, "I don't have any money, but I'd like to go here," and the secretary will say, "Well he's very busy," or now, "She's very busy," and they'll say, "But why don't you go to financial aid?" That'd be the new thing. Don't tell me you don't have money or you can't go to college, but your parents can't decide for you. So Aunt Fey got me to an environment and that's the way the educated person—reflection is the motive to education. Period. And I won't pursue that because you know about it. So put the student in a situation and they will figure it out. Put the rat in the box and he'll figure it out. [Laughter] So I was at WT and I'm from Plainview so I major in journalism and I love journalism and history and geology, and suddenly an abandoned gym burns and I live in a dormitory near and it's smoke. So we go and watch the firetrucks and stay up all night and I photograph and I interview the fire chief and he said it's arson. So I wrote the story I mean the sun's rising and I'm typing out the story onto yellow paper and I turn it in and then I go to class. I was in Lowell Harrison's history class and he said—somebody brings a note and it says President Cornet wants to see you. You don't have to sit through the end of class. So I go to President James Cornet's office and he says, "I've read your story and you don't want to do this."

AW:

[laughs] Really?

JO:

And I said, "I do," and he said, "Well you know it could be trouble. The fire chief, maybe he didn't say it was arson." I'm eighteen, but I'm already thinking of their setting up the insurance claims and maybe it was inside arson to collect money. I don't know, not pinning the tail on any donkey, except that I sat through the interrogation, one of many in my life and I just realized he's a nice man. He goes to Baptist church too, but if I'm a journalist it's going to be this way all my life and there isn't—now there was never anything other than fake news. Period. I can give you the newspaper from the 1776 and I can show you that in August of 1777 for example where I'm expert, everything in the paper except the ads is a fake. It's propaganda by the Quakers to set up and pretend there is no war, the British are winning, so on, but I can read between the lines. So I just said to myself—and at that moment I became a history major and I finished the year in journalism and I became a history major and then I got a—I did high school in three years, three and a half years and then I did college in three and a half years. And my mentors in history said, "You know you're doing really good. You're just nineteen, think of a master's degree." So these are angel spirits appearing and so I start taking graduate classes. Well, I'm taking—so I hadn't got my baccalaureate, but I'm already half through my master's. And then, I just don't love history, I got to take every geology, every archeology course Jack teaches and it was only Jack T. Hughes and I'm his assistant at the museum and I'm putting together a Pliocene turtle, that's my project. Kurt Tunnel did the sloth and he became the archeologist of the state of Texas in Austin, never saw him again. After the Navy, he was from Quitaque, but he was the genius, then I came along did the Pliocene. They put it out every once in a while, James Oswald and then they put it back, but Jack and I and his wife were friends for life. And to go ahead of the story, I went to see him and he had taken a Mormon wife after Polly had died and he's old and he's sitting in a haze of smoke with a bottle of whiskey, just like J. Evetts Haley, and I just said well I don't smoke and I don't drink, but I'm his buddy, I'm going to sit through this. And I'm thinking don't cough, don't sneeze, get close, listen to every word, and he said, "Have you figured it out yet?" and I said, "What?" and he said, "What you are," and he had followed my career all around the world and I'd written him letters like he's a fictive parent and said—I mean I don't remember the word exactly. Yes, I got it thank you. And he was student of Margaret Mead at Columbia, whom I later hired. So it's a small world, everything's connected, everybody knows everybody. So he said, "You're a participant observer. You get to a place and you immediately keep your mouth shut, start looking. You're a natural anthropologist. And in Nigeria you'd learn the names of all the leaves. In Scotland you'd be wearing a kilt," and that's me. I'd lived with Mormons ten years. In one telephone call I'm an Oneida Indian and so I'm an easy in to the, don't want to change the culture, but I'd like to learn about it. And then I have this little philosophy, probably got from Walt Disney, "Don't burn bridges and leave everything better than when you got there." So when I leave a motel room it's cleaner than when I went in. So I'm working in archeology, paleontology; it's really subliminal anthropology and history and then I'm getting a dual bachelor's and one year later a dual master's and then I'm off to Utah and I was hired. Dorothy were hired sight unseen and we did the Army half a year, came back and finished the master's,

Fort Elliot, went to Utah pulling a U-haul-it truck. And we were hired sight on seen by Arthur Arneson and I said, "We'll drive up, are you sure?" and we'd rejected Albuquerque and we were rejected by Phoenix and he said, "Nah, I don't need to hire you. You're from the Panhandle." And when I got there he says, "There's somebody I want you to meet." And he introduced me to his first grade teacher. She was a big, tall, ugly woman who could pass for man and she was a rancher's daughter. Her skin was rawhide, everything about her was male and she was his first grade teacher and she'd grown up on a ranch in Canadian and I would guess inherited the ranch and she rode with her daddy, near Mobeetie, near Fort Elliot. And this old, old woman who was living on a retirement pension of something like sixteen dollars and fifty cents a month, but had younger friends who were getting twenty-one fifty a month. So I said about changing the Utah retirement system and getting the health insurance because the old lady, she had—she's the only American I ever knew that had total false teeth made of brass.

AW:
Wow.

JO:
So this male appearing, almost ugly, cowboy woman who was—she was famous, everybody loved her. I don't remember her name.

AW:
I was going to ask, so where in Utah was this?

JO:
Salt Lake City.

AW:
Yeah and what was the organization you worked you went to work for?

JO:
Salt Lake City Public Schools.

AW:
For the public school?

JO:
And zing, zing, zing I got there and I was to teach—I went to Horace Mann Junior High and F. Norris Boyd [?] [0:39:50.2] was my principal, smart guy. So we—Dorothy is at Washington Elementary School teaching first grade and she walks two blocks that way and I'd walk north and I walked two blocks south. We had a basement apartment. No garage, first week somebody

side swiped her car and welcome Salt Lake City. But they had outhouses, they had horses. We're four blocks from the temple and we're thinking we've been to Utah, but we saw the front. Now we're backstage and we're dealing with the bishops who were on the third wife and are having trouble with that one and the kids that are being passed around and the horses and the outhouses and the poverty. And so we're in the bottom pit of Salt Lake City with the refineries and the teenage prostitution and so on. So we—they did put us in the bottom part. Dorothy had to go—her school was built—mine was built in 1898, but pre-electricity so the windows we're big enough to let the light in and the seats were screwed in and I had more children than I had seats. So I wrote the counselor, a good Mormon lady, Clara Richard, and I said, "Miss Richards, I have 294 students. That's approximately correct, but I only have 275 seats," and she said, "Mr. Oswald—" wrote the note, "Mr. Oswald, don't worry they all won't come on the same days." [AW laughs] But they sat on the radiator. So I got into the humanities of Salt Lake City and I loved it, and then I got my assignment. I'm hired to teach US History in the eighth grade. I'm just out of the army and I'm trained. My idea of fun is give me ten pushups. So he said, "Well your contract says US History, but we need someone to teach Utah History and you're it," and the other teachers didn't want to teach it, but they're in Utah. So suddenly I had to sign up for Utah history courses and go to the library and read everything. Fortunately, I had a couple of weeks to get ready and then I'm the Utah history teacher, but I did it as an historic anthropology—I was learning as the kids were learning.

AW:
Um-hm.

JO:
So one activity I gave it was to climb the nearest mountain and then report back. [laughs] So I remember back to school one mother said. I said, "Can you make any suggestions?" and she said, "Well when you make these weekend assignments just think of the parents. We made it to the top of the mountain, but it was pretty sweaty." So I said, "They tell me I'm teaching history. We're going to do history and we're going to do her-story." And I discovered that seventh graders are the smartest people on earth. They know everything and they will help you be successful and then my eighth grade students helped me be successful and then Mr. Boyd said. "And you're the health teacher."

AW:
On top of all that.

JO:
And I was an officer, and I was the health officer often. And I said, "It doesn't say that in the contract," and he said. "Yeah, but the coaches aren't going to do it anymore." [laughs] So the first activity was having the kids take art gum erasers and there was a room full of them and we

erased the dirty words from the textbooks, and that gave me a subliminal connection with the kids. And pretty much all my life it was my own kids, I would say, “We’re going to say fuck, shit, doo-doo, pee, piss.” We got that over with. Now we can move on. So if the kid ever wrote a bad word I’d just take the piece and put it front of the room and say, “Johnny wrote a bad word and it’s front of the room, anybody who goes by can go see it, and most wouldn’t want to see it, but it took all the sting out of it. No punishment. So I’m a no punishment, love the children. So about three years later Clara Richards brother is the East High School principal and she says, “My brother wants you to come teach.” So I got to be the teacher who introduced Advanced Placement to Salt Lake City schools.

AW:

Really? What year about would this have been? 1960?

JO:

Dorothy and I went there in August—we started school in September of 1978. I finished the master’s degree. I’m out of the Army in April. I’m finishing my dissertation.

AW:

Now you said ‘78?

JO:

Of ‘78.

AW:

Nineteen seventy-eight? Not 1958?

JO:

Nineteen seventy-eight.

AW:

So not 1958, 1978 okay.

JO:

So 1978 we leave Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. We’re done and I’m a second lieutenant and we leave the army temporarily in the spring of ‘78. We come back to Canyon, live in a garage apartment, go down in the canyons. I almost killed my wife. We almost died on a 110 degree day, but God gets us back home and we live. Then I drive to the University of Texas to research there with primary documents in the tower and then I come back finish the dissertation in June—May or June of ‘78 and then we get it all tucked out in five copies if you remember carbon paper and typewriters. And I look back and I think how did we get the spelling right on five carbon

copies and they were all readable. And then we get the job and I'm working at the new Sears Warehouse in Amarillo for a dollar seventy-five an hour, unloading chains and batteries from railroad stations and being supervised by a seventeen year old boy, and I'm a lieutenant. So I always take whatever job's available. I've never been without money and I've hardly ever been without three jobs. So then we get the job in Utah, we get there in August of '78 and we start teaching school, we go to orientation, and we're new teachers and in September of '78 and then we're often running in three years at Horace Mann in Washington. And then Joe Richards wants me to teach at East High and there's this thing called Advanced Placement and a guy is coming from New England to teach me how to do it. And then I'm a high school teacher because a lady retired and I'm Mr. Chips. I'm in a three story building looking out over the playing field at the best high school. So I've gone from the bottom to the top, but for two reasons. I'm the non-Mormon, so I get a—I would say not everybody's happy that I'm there, but most are. And I'm active in the Salt Lake Teacher's Association so I start a newsletter called and they debated in committee, what do we call this darn thing? But I'm from the Panhandle of Texas, it's going to be the Salt Lake City Teacher's Association Propaganda—all capital letters—high. That issue hit and it was honest, good, real journalism. Who, what, when, where, why, and how and no crap. It was an immediate success, but they couldn't allow it to be issue number two propaganda so we changed it to Newsletter probably. And so I'm there but it's too good a job, so I cry when I leave the junior high students, but then I see them later in life and I still know some of them. So I'm a high school teacher. I'm Mr. Chips. I'm replacing the old lady. I've got this beautiful view. It's just—I'm next to the University of Utah. I'm taking classes at Birmingham University. I'm taking classes. Then I'm working with a contractor doing roofing. I get two kids in '63 and '65, but then I get a call saying Superintendent Benion wants to see you and so I became an Assistant Principal at West Jordan High School which is surrounded by peace gardens because it's built in the twenties and so there are—I'm the assistant principal. So I'm teaching Advanced Placement from seven to eight in the morning.

AW:
Wow.

JO:

So that it's not in my contract and I don't get paid for it and I'm equal with the other teachers. And then the first class—to show you how the subculture in teaching works, not at all like journalism. My first period eight to nine—eight to eight forty-five is the flunkies. The other teachers have flunked these dummies so I go in and the guy in the row says, "They give you the smart ones and now we're the dumb ones." So I did the same history with the smart ones and the dumb ones and we got all the dumb ones up to smart level. So I developed the history of if you take a high IQ person and you put them with a low IQ person that the low IQ will advance. So I even wrote it to Utah State where I did a summer project putting the stupid kids with the smart kids. Zig zag, zig zag and it worked we raised the IQs in sixty days. I carried that my whole life.

If I tell people, they say, Oh I don't get the—I can't do algebra. "Who's the smartest kid in class?" Johnny. "Go to Johnny, say I need help. Johnny will help you, but everything one learns, one learns oneself, but Johnny's the better teacher than your teacher." Later I parlayed this when we created computer supported instruction in the middle 1960's. At American Institute for research in Palo Alto. There I had a room overlooking San Francisco Bay and worked for the psychologist who created the Army Air Force Psychology branch and the Air Force Psychology branch. A genius who graduated from Princeton at sixteen had a doctorate at eighteen. Dr. John Flannigan, who also was created a project on smart girls. He took Westinghouse money, identified smart girls in America and did longitudinal studies of them, and that they mostly quit school, get married, get pregnant, go to alcohol, go to suicide, and he invented ways to give them scholarships. And when I got to Stanford the Dean said—I said, "Why'd you pick me?" and he said, "Well we did." And then second time I met him I ask him a question and in a conversation he said, "All the girls here are smarter than the boys, but we have to bring in some boys," [AW laughs] And I have a smart genius daughter and a smart genius granddaughter, and in our culture we have kept women down, put women down and it has led to all the things. So I generally am supportive of them. So I'm back in Salt Lake City and I'm starting at seven in the morning and then I'm going on. I'm Assistant Principal from twelve thirty on; I'm eating a piece of peanut butter sandwich driving completely across Salt Lake City. We don't have a union yet. I'm the editor of the newsletter. I'm on the board. I'm in a church. I had them writing books and articles and I'm creating stuff. I'm the Supervisor of Social Studies for secondary schools. And somebody says—then I become the—Doctor James—no James Marlin Oswald, Supervisor of Social Studies, Salt Lake City. They let me take a trip a year so I met the Supervisor of Kansas City, New York City, Miami. I began to get friends around America and their stories were about the same as mine. And then they say, "You did a good job, we're giving you to K-12. You're the Supervisor of Social Studies for Salt Lake City, and then a book publisher from Scott Foreman said, "You buy a lot of Dick and Jane books and so on. I can bring you a speaker. I can bring you Paul Hannah, you name it. You're the supervisor. I can do anything you want." So we invented the first TV studio. We're printing our own materials in Utah history. I organized the film catalog and we had thousands of films. I look at every one of them and write a description and create a book. So the teachers can use them because that's identified as problem in the culture, but one nobody wanted to deal with. So when I leave the toilets in a Motel Days Inn cleaner than when I got there. I did the same in every place I've been. Mop up. And when I left they had this beautiful catalog with every film and just to give you one film in it that I found, it shouldn't have been there, but it was a US Army film of Hiroshima, but not the bomb. The US Army found that the Japanese knew we were going to bomb some place or do something and Doolittle a bomb, so we were just going to destroy and we were going to keep destroying and they had already lost, and they already knew they lost. So they had a lot of Christians, they had a lot of Anglos so they moved whole schools—missionary schools of Christians out of Tokyo to a place called Hiroshima, and so we killed the Anglos and we killed the Christians with the bomb, which woke

me up in July of 1945 on the ranch, and then I went over to see it on my tenth birthday and picked up a piece of glass.

AW:

Now, are you talking about the bomb in Hiroshima?

JO:

No, I was awakened by the bomb in New Mexico.

AW:

Yes. Okay.

JO:

That's July of 1945 and then my aunt and uncle, John and Maxine Slaton, Jimmy's there little boy, they never had a baby. I'm the only boy in forty-two square miles. They own me, I own them. They teach me everything about ranching. I'm the artificial insemination guy because my arms are little. So at four and five I'm putting my arm in cows with cotton balls of semen and we're going and paying forty thousand for bull's sperm. I have a life of—I'm covered with sperm, shit, piss, blood, and smelling branding smoke.

AW:

[laughs] Yeah, but write it down.

JO:

So, I have to go back every once in a while, but in Salt Lake City then Paul Hannah comes and lectures. He writes textbooks and he's a genius. He started in Vermont. He's a millionaire. He lives in Frank Lloyd Wright's house, and at the end of the thing he says, "I'm glad you invited me. You're coming to Stanford." I thought it was in Los Angeles. I was pretty dumb. I didn't know that, but I did know that Reno was further west than Los Angeles, and other people would argue with me so I'd show them a globe. So all of a sudden I was invited to Stanford and I'd saved up eight thousand dollars and I owned my house and I'd built five houses, and I had two kids. So they—just at the right time we're going to try this thing called a sabbatical, so they voted for full time sabbaticals which would give you full time pay.

AW:

This is in Salt Lake?

JO:

Salt Lake City, and I've been this Social Studies supervisor for Salt Lake City for a couple of years. People say, "Why'd you get to that? Why did you get the job of Social Studies Supervisor for Salt Lake City schools?" and I'd say, "Because I don't have a lisp."

AW:

[laughs] Yeah, you could say that.

JO:

I'd try to turn things to comedy.

AW:

Yeah.

JO:

So I'm a Disney kid as well as a foundation digger. So I packed the kids and we're going and then the school board meets and they resend their sabbatical. And they say, "It's too much money. We'll be giving Oswald 5,500 dollars and he won't be here for two years and we'll be giving the highest paying principal twelve thousand and he won't be here. He'll be doing nothing for two years." So they went back to half. I have one foot at Stanford so I said that's okay. And my confidante is the Jewish lady who's on the school board. So I accept their 3,500 or twenty-3,500, but of course you get it in monthly payments and I get to Stanford and I get there a month early and we go over to the coast and we rent a motel room and it rains for about a month. It's just chilly and cold and I think, "What have I gotten into? This is cold, wet hell." And then we go back to Stanford and now the professors are back from wherever they are and the students and the sun's shining. And I start going to class and I take logic and these eighteen—I'm twenty-nine and these eighteen year olds are really smart. I'm sitting in these classes with a hundred teenagers and I'm thinking, "Boy these California kids are smart." And I'm thinking, "I'm old," but I bought a bicycle and I tried to groove in, and I go to the library and I get a call and a guy says, "We're giving you a scholarship. There was a minor in Utah and he left twelve million dollars. It's twelve million and he didn't like his kids and he didn't like the wife and so he got rid of her and he gave the kids a dollar and they went to court and we got twelve million dollars. Nobody comes from Utah, like we haven't had a Utah boy. It's only for boys." So I got in and then I got a full scholarship. So I had my 8,500. I invested that. So I'm at Stanford and I'm taking learning psychology so people say well I'm majoring in Social Studies Curriculum Development which morphed into Social Studies Curriculum Design. So I got a full scholarship and then I'm just paying 117 a month for rentals and there's no taxes and I own the house back in Salt Lake City and my father-in-law's paying the payments. So I'm in gravy and I'm writing Jack T. Hughes in Canyon saying, "Boy, I just keep landing in clover." And so then my advisor Paul Hannah says, "I'm elementary, you're secondary. I'm transferring you to Richards Gross.

He's a Catholic from Madison, Wisconsin," and he has boys and I name my three children Richard, Ramona, and Roberta. Three R's and he named his three children the three R's. So we have that in common and he's so cheap that in the summer his wife cuts off his sleeves and hems them and re-collars, and then in the winter she sews them back on.

AW:

[Laughs] Oh my gosh.

JO:

So he's the professor with—he's very cheap, but he built his own house and he grows apricots and dries them. So Dick says, "I'm going to let you supervise teachers and you'll get 2,750." So I get to back to the same training that I had in Salt Lake City. I'm supervising the Stanford Master's degree students that are out in the Palo Alto schools. So I get to see the whole Bay Area and then Dick calls and he says, "There's a job and if you want it you can have it and if you don't I'm going to take the damn thing. You get 17,500 and you work at American Institutes Research and they're developing computer supportive instruction. I don't know what it is, but it's 17,500. And so I had the twenty-five fifty from Salt Lake City. I don't—I'm getting the 2,750 supervising teachers in the Bay Area. It's just fantastic. So back in the forties I'm a—I write a letter to Richard Buckminster Fuller and his wife answers and then he starts appearing and then I go to all of his lectures and we become buddies.

AW:

Why did you write the letter in 1940? In the forties?

JO:

About 1946 and popular sciences picture of his Die Maxine car, 1938. I just thought the qualities of the car are so good. I would—now I was the kind of person who would write the President of Ford Motor Company, the President of General Electric. I got a letter from Steinemet's who said, "You seem like a good boy. I'm sending you literature." So I would write to the Texas Sulfur Company. If I learned that they were mining titanium in Creek Colorado I'd write the before—so it's the kind of guy who was bold and I would interview the fire chief and he'd say arson. I would argue with the President of the college which could've kicked me out. So I'm just—that's just my spirit. So Bucky Fuller, Richard Buckminster Fuller, Dr. Fuller. Periodically, he'd send me a book or I'd write a letter and I'd read these all over the world and then I met him all around the world. And he said, "The world's not all that big and we can make a photograph now and we can show every house and you can see the people coming out." So he had the cosmic vision and the global vision at the Dymaxion, everything on Earth. Everything in the universe is vibrations. Everything is triangles and I'd get films and he would explain these things. So I followed Bucky and I picked up his stuff and worked it into curriculum materials and then I'm a conspiracy theorist. So in reading I found out that when he took his Dymaxion car to the world's

fair in Chicago as they opened the gate he was his hit at a ninety degree angle by the male secretary who's of the President of General Motors. So he went the next day and got one and they destroyed that one. So he was unable to exhibit the Dymaxion car because evil forces had destroyed it. And I—they were the evil forces that are the heart and soul of the crook company called General Motors. That was founded by a corrupt person and continued the founder of General Motors conned people out of companies. Had no money, didn't pay debt, he went bankrupt and he went to prison. And so GM just had this corrupt side of Catholicism thing through Roosevelt into Obama. They got ten or twelve billion dollars and so on, free money. It's just an interesting crooked history. So they did Bucky and then they did the Tucker. I knew they're going to do Tucker so I taught at Syracuse's found out—Tucker wanted to buy engines and GM put out the word, "You sell it you're done." And the Mafia and GM is not all that far apart, and I've known people who knew Mafia. I've sold wood burning stoves to mechanics who work for the Mafia in the Philadelphia area. So I got that close, but I've also observed Mafioso giving free bicycles to kids in Philadelphia. So I can see into the dark side, but I don't get in and even when I meet the people in the dark side they will say things like, "You don't want to see this," or "You know all you need to know, disappear." And it ties with anthropology and Margaret Mead and Jack Hughes could see—he could go to Austin and ask for money and probably look into the eyes of politicians and know this guy is working for Satan and that guy isn't, but that's just a quality.

AW:

How did you get to Syracuse?

JO:

Well so I graduated from Stanford, but I'm getting all these cash flows.

AW:

Did you get your doctorates at Stanford?

JO:

And then I'm going to my doctorate and then they say Ph.D. or ADD? And I said—I thought about it. I reflected a year, reflection is the mode of education and I decide I'm education. I'm philosophy, but I did not—and I'm a physicist, but I want to say Doctorate of Education because that will lift up that degree EDD, but also that is me. And then I get a phone call and it says, "Jim I have a flyer. I want you to look at it. It says Fulbright Haze Program." Lyndon's President and it's 1967, and it's February and so I sign up and I become a—they don't want me to go to Egypt, but they send me to Singapore. And I go to the University of Singapore in May of '67. I come home in September of '67 and I'm a Fulbright Haze Scholar, one of twenty-one, who were sent out. So that Lyndon Johnson, who's a person I love and a person I don't love. Who's is a great guy and an evil guy, Lyndon's boys, I call them. He wanted to send us out all over the world and

come back, and so I loved him for that because my grandfather, Jesse Marlin, in Plainview had grown forty acres of vegetable for the first, "Feed the School Children." I think that was a Lyndon project probably in 1940, but they declared it socialism and then they all quit and then school lunch didn't come back until Harry Truman get rid of the surplus commodities. So my life is always in and out of these successes. Somebody cuts it off but then it reappears. So here I am in Singapore at a time when Lee Quan—they've just been thrown out of the Federation of Malaysia at a golf game and Lee Kuan Yew has been told the year before by the Tun Qu, the Prime Minister of Malaysia. Their independence, the British can't afford them, they're holding onto Hong Kong, but Tun Qu says, "Sorry, but I have to dump you." Singapore had to be independent. So they're surrounded by a hundred Muslims on the north, a hundred Muslims on the south, and they're Chinese. They're living on the ground and British colonial things. So I'm in Singapore and I'm a scholar living at the Queen of—the Queen Hotel and my roommate is a WestPoint guy, but he's off duty. Bill Hauser and I are roommates in the Queen Hotel, a British Colonial hotel. Electricity is going out. Li Quan Yu is trying to run the government and we walk to the—and then they take us on tours so we get to see all of Southeast Asia. So I get to meet Li Quan Yu, Prime Minister, and he is big, tall, Chinese, good English, and I'm from Palo Alto. And I say, "You got to quit it. You've got to give up your steal. It rusts before you can get it. You got to quit making cars, give up rubber. Heavy industry will not make Singapore rich. You got a million people. You've got to put some of your boys on a plane. Meet me in San Francisco and I'll introduce them to Ampex, Memorex, and I had buddies in all these, IBM and I said, "You need to make little things," and that's what he did and that made Singapore a success and not just because of me, but I grew up in Plainview and there was a guy named Carlos Garner who married Noelia Nice, whose mother was Sam Curry's secretary, who became JB Robert's secretary. She's a millionaire. She died. Carlos liked to play golf and he majored in math and was in ROTC at WT with me. So off and on we know each other, don't know each other. He's out at Stanford and I don't know he's there, but he's playing with clay in his oven and designs the chip. A mess of clay, he must've taken some geology classes, too and the feldspar and so on. Differentially transmit electrons through and replace the tube and so he's in on the founding of the computer business right there. Then, Carlos later owns his own company and he's—they make the calculator, the one they sell at Staples and he opens a calculator company just out of Singapore. And I buy the first one in Allentown, Pennsylvania, thirty-five bucks. It's got errors and it still has those same errors. That goes back to the nineteen—mid-seventies. The world's not that big. So I've been around it four times, took my wife around once. I have friends in Singapore, exactly opposite, and every day I get emails and my friend in Singapore took everything I'd learned in Salt Lake City schools. Everything I'd learned in West Texas State and he was a poor boy who came out of Malaysia and he winds up in a high rise paid for by German reparation money and he's to design a curriculum for Asia, with German money, but he doesn't know curriculum design. So I gave him everything and as I'm developing curriculum in American and developing computers supported instruction in Palo Alto. I'm lateraling him everything and he's putting it in the education program for Indonesia and Cambodia and Asia,

the [inaudible] [1:15:21.0] up to Korea. And what he discovered, he went in with actors so they read scripts, and video is big. And so they're having these Ampex, Memorex, and they're making video cassettes, air shipping them to Jakarta and it's how to sew, how to weld, basic English, making mud bricks, concrete. So he takes school and college and they're trying to educate these nations and they find that everybody rejects everything they design because of cultural differences and so they go from actors—you see Koreans don't like a Chinese face and they won't take a class from a Chinese, and Indonesians don't want a Chinese face and that's all you've got in Singapore. So they tried bringing in an Indonesian. That didn't work. So then they went to cartoons with the script. That didn't work and then the spirits gave them the insight. If you keep trying God will help you. They came up with the idea of making the script, sticking with an alternate—they'd show graphics, and about that time in West Chester [Pennsylvania] they developed the Commodore computer and it does six hundred and forty colors and it's graphic. So animation is all based on the Commodore out of West Chester, which makes Lasko fans, which Sammy bought three days ago at Walmart. It's a small world, everything's connected. So they video tape cartoons and send scripts so in Korea a local dialect script can be read on. Open the box, remove the sewing machine, look at the right side, push the button, look at the left and so that's how they educated East Asia, not Japan, not China, but the Independents. And Tiantian Lyott is still alive living in her high rise. When Dorothy and I visited him about '91 in the high rise, money was no problem. He could fly to Moscow and so on, but he—no one had ever heard of Tiantian Lyott, but he was buying people. He was buying Harvard kids, Cornell kids, and selling them to the Chinese.

AW:
Yeah.

JO:
And so you graduate from Harvard and you're a physicist and he can offer you the best salary if Corning will pay you five hundred thousand; he can pay you a million, because he works for the Chinese government through Singapore. So the Chinese bought talent in America and paid it unlimited salaries to come to China and teach them what they needed to know. So he—we emailed regularly. I'm a capitalist, anti-socialist, and he would pretend to be a non-Marxist. He's a socialist, but he lives in the tiny republic to me and people of Singapore and he's been a significant developer in helping that turn into the Disneyland that it is, but nobody ever heard of him. And just north of him is another smart Chinese who built the casinos on the British highlands and got so good at it after World War II that then and he only liked—he's a Donald Trump. He only likes mud, caterpillars, and building and he understands money is liquid, like Buckminster Fuller did wealth is just something you imagine and it's unlimited. So he's the guy who came to the Indian Nations of American continent to using their loophole in the law and building the casinos. All that tracks back to Kuala Lumpur to one billionaire who really would rather work than talk about money. It's a small world, everything's connected, and I'm an

integral thing in it. So I'm a participant observer who goes everywhere, becomes part of that extended family and always goes back home, but always maintains the unburned bridges.

AW:

Tell me, and I know we don't have the entire date, would you tell me something about J. Evetts Haley. How did you know him?

JO:

Well, another phone call. So I get to Canyon, and I'm a history major and Hattie—and I'm a journalism major and then I become history. So I say to Hattie Anderson, "Could we—could I become a history major?" and she said, "Yes," and I loved her so I became her gardener.

AW:

Oh my god. [Laughs]

JO:

Okay and then she said, "Mrs. Haley wants you to work for her." So she's—Hattie Anderson is making me lunch. It's kind of romantic and I'm a boy from Plainview and I work for Boone McClure in the museum. I just walked in and he hired me for forty cents an hour and I could make forty dollars a month, but no more, but I could work twice that and I was okay. So I'm always protected. Boone gives me cash and I learned why the hell would he do that? But he's the brother of the postmaster who lives one block from my father. So they all knew that Jimmy Oswald is going to Canyon and they reached out and made my life a success. I have friends I don't know. So, Hattie says, "Mrs. Haley wants you to work for her." So I go over and she says, "I don't really need pruning, but I know that you know the printing business because I know that your father. That you worked at Plainview Herald, you know how to run printing presses and Mr. Haley bought a bindery." So she takes me into the part of his house where they've—there's a lot of filing cabinets and all this binder equipment that he probably bought at a Sheriff's auction when a bindery closed and she says, "He bought this and we love books and there's a wall full of damaged books. His and other people. Would you like to learn to be a binder?" So I'm already a ranch boy. I'm already a brander. I'm already a geologist. I'm an archeologist and anthropologist and now I'm going to learn binding. So the first thing you do is the library, you look at bindery, read every book there. It's some medieval art of gluing things together. You need linen thread and glue and then here's something and I think, "Well if you put water on it maybe it will soften up." Looks like dried out jello and all of a sudden I've activated this bindery and I've taught myself, like I taught myself trigonometry in one night. It's called autodidact and I can just learn anything because everything one learns one learns oneself and the quickest way is just do it, and you know it when you say got it. You look at the—so I, I don't know if it's two nights, but I'm bringing home books and any—I can go into Mrs. Haley's. I could just call and say, "Can I come over?" And we'd stand at the porch and I could ask her questions and then I'd see him. He's

drunk and he's smoking and he's dragging his—he's humped over. So she hires me and my memory was she said I will you pay a \$1.75 an hour or maybe Mr. Halle will pay you two dollars an hour, but whatever it was she wrote the checks and she's Aunt Fey. She's the boss and she's taking care of an old man. She's a Methodist. He would claim to be an atheist. He's hard-nosed. She's strong but tender and I'm in love with her house. All my life I've said, "Man, go Santa Fe style. Go with a balcony in the wood." So I'm getting to work in this house and getting paid and then he interviews me and he shows me all his files. And I'm already pretty good at three by five index cards but I think, "Man he's really good," and he's been piling it away since World War I. So I get to see his filing system and then he has somebody come in and type, sometimes several people. I can't say I knew him, but I met him and he approved my hiring and he probably said something like, "Can you do it?" and I, smart-ass, probably said something like, "Sir, I think I can." And so it mixes good with anthropology and a blonde blue-eyed girlfriend and Baptist theology classes at the student center and so on. So I become a binder and all of a sudden stuff comes in from the counties and they send me these big books and the—it's frayed. So I become a master of matching linen and so on and I have catalogs. Anything I want to order I can order and Mrs. Haley will—I write the order and she'd write the check. That went on three years, possibly four. That'd be max. Forty-eight months would be max. Thirty-six months would be minimum. So I can go into any print shop in the world and start work tomorrow. Hand set type, I could read upside down and backwards. So could my grandmother, but my father couldn't, but he taught me to lay out a newspaper. So if you sell the ads I can do the layout. So God is just teaching—letting me learn these skills and bindery is one. So any book, I immediately see how it's bound and so on. So Haley did not transmit to me anything about how a historian goes out in the works, but I went over to the Historical Society and started reading all of these books and then when I do my dissertation, you know I've been through Goodnight several times and then I'm thinking, I even know him, and probably if I call him and say, "Could I talk to Mr. Haley?" She'll probably say he's taking a nap, but I know him as, not senile, but bright, genius, old guy that I would call an alcoholic and nicotine-aholic who's at the end of decline and doesn't want a lot of communications. So when I read the biography of Humphrey Bogart by his son who grew up with an alcoholic father who didn't want him—didn't want the children to see the father die, kill himself. I was sort of at that stage with Haley like the wife would intervene. So when I went home one time, and I always went to Jack's house and Boone McClure's and Hattie Anderson's and I'm a Barlow's and Lowell Harrison, who I followed to his death, and Penny Harrison who I followed to her death in old folk's homes in Kentucky. It was no surprise when Jack said, "Well you won't be surprised that Mrs. Evetts Haley died," and he said, "That's quite a story." He wouldn't go in the Methodist church, but she was a Methodist. So he put her in the pickup and delivered her casket to the church and carried it in with help I'm sure and wouldn't stay inside because he smokes and drinks and they don't. And then went in and got her, took her out. I would guess to his property, to the cemetery and he dug a hole, put her in it, and had a service. I'm sure he was as close to God as I am, but in a different way.

AW:

What is your mailing address currently?

JO:

I'll give you a card with it.

AW:

Good.

JO:

And that'll be easy, but to verbalize it [REDACTED].

AW:

Yeah, no the card will do good.

JO:

And I'll reach in my card and get them.

AW:

Yeah and what about a phone number in case we want to do a phone follow-up?

JO:

It's all in the card.

AW:

Okay, great.

JO:

And I will give you my cell phone in addition, but I have to say because it's in the tone of what all I've said that I had no idea when I went to Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania forty-years ago. Planning to stay a year to three years, which was my norm as a participant observer to solve the problems of research for better school and save the people of Philadelphia and we were totally successful and in three years Jimmy Carter terminated the funding and that was that, and next day I get a phone call and I worked at the community college of Philadelphia and I was there for about twenty years and we from five thousand to five—fifty-five thousand and from five—one campus in a—my office was in a basement and in an old Jewish department store and then we built five campuses. I was there three weeks ago at a reunion. So I helped build it and we built it where Ben Franklin flew his kite. [AW laughs] And where the first treasury building was. Well, now I come there and I have fifty grand in the bank. When I went to Stanford I had eight thousand five hundred, but at fifty thousand so I want to live over here and want to live over

there, but we keep getting pulled back to this thing, and so at a sheriff sale I bought a house at [REDACTED] and it had nineteen rooms.

AW:
Golly.

JO:
And I've lived there forty-two years.

AW:
Nineteen rooms?

JO:
It was built in the 1890's. Nineteen rooms.

AW:
Yeah.

JO:
And the address is [REDACTED] and the top of it is 333 feet above sea level and it's 333 miles from the Western boundary of Pennsylvania. And who died in there in 1937 was the geodesist, the state geodesist, who graduated from West Point, born in Carlisle. His father was Lincoln's favorite general, Herman Haupt, who built the railroad to Richmond and tore it up and built it again, who built the Great Northern Railroad, who had several families, who was in on the development of powdered milk. Who died in the Pullman coming back from New York where he had just been voted off the board of the company he had founded. And this guy Lewis Muhlenberg Haupt, of German origin was sent by the President to Nicaragua to find a canal and he came back and he said, "You know Panama is a better deal. Pay off the French," and so he's the godfather who planted the seed for the Panama Canal, got to be on the committee that designed it. Problem of the Panama Canal is going to be—Suez was not a cement. Now, the problem is going to be cement. Cement from the Lehigh Valley. That's where Muhlenberg College is. The German Lutherans are there. So he comes back, they decide to do it in Panama. He's always in a grade with federal government and the Army. He goes to Lehigh to the Lehigh Smith Company and they invent waterproof cement. Now we can build the Panama Canal and without waterproof cement you couldn't have built any of the dams of America. And then he goes on—he wrote twelve books, lots of inventions. Created the Engineering Department of the University of Pennsylvania. The profession of engineering, built the first building of Professional Engineers in America. And of course, he's connected with Harvard and it was old boys who ran America back then. So he died in my house in 1937 and the lady who bought the house had the

elevator removed. It was Otis' first rope pulled elevator which took him from the first level to the second level.

AW:

[Laughter] Wow.

JO:

Everywhere I go. Now my daughter gave me an Apple cell phone and I—she said, “You can ask Siri anything you want,” and I said, “Siri, what’s the meaning of the number three?” and it said, “Three is the Sanskrit symbol for God. It’s pronounced Ohm.” So I live in ohm, ohm, ohm.

[laughter] Damn and that’s why I’m there and there’s the card.

AW:

Thank you.

JO:

Be sure you can read it.

AW:

Yes.

JO:

Do you need two?

AW:

Yeah. [card shuffling] This is great.

JO:

Do you need two?

AW:

No, one is fine.

JO:

Okay.

AW:

Yeah, I’ll transcribe it. I’ve got another appointment.

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JO:

I know. You see how I do these loops?

AW:

Yeah, I love it.

JO:

I learned that Buckminster Fuller.

AW:

And that's why I wanted to get a phone. Let's see, does this have the cell?

JO:

No.

AW:

It doesn't. Okay.

JO:

But wait a minute, we're going to do reach in another pocket. And I have my wife's phone and I haven't memorized, with confidence, the last four digits of her cell because I decided years ago. You have a good memory, but let Dorothy remember numbers and don't load your brain. So I intentionally, you ready?

AW:

Yes.

JO:

Write my cell phone and then it's legible to you.

AW:

Yes.

JO:

[REDACTED]

AW:

Got it.

JO:

And write the website. You can't reach me through the—that's a closed loop; plant based nutrition. You should read it, but it's—you won't ever get me there. You can find my address there and you can get me if you research, but it's not worth it. Here is my email [REDACTED], that's [REDACTED] and every night at seven I'll be at home almost always and I will return any call and I do have a recorder.

AW:

Great.

JO:

I'm big on—and you can text. I'm big on email and text, but I don't do Facebook or any of those things and I'm—I was the best in computers. I taught thousands of people to use them and then I'm now the worst. I don't like the computer because it's just a monster there and it sucks away my time.

AW:

I agree with that. My time is getting sucked away all the time.

JO:

Everything is waves. Everything is loops. Everything is connected and now I'm into the spirit world. I've been murdered three times, I've seen—

AW:

What? [laughs] Tell me about that.

JO:

I've been murdered three times. I've been out the world in the outer space. So when my wife died last August, I was able to get her ready. Over ten years of sickness, like Mrs. Haley took care of Evetts. I was able to help her and I helped her into the spirit world. Two people have died in my arms, one in the state capital of Pennsylvania. I can deal with blood, vomit, shit, and give less rights. I was—I visited the murder site of the guy who was killed by Lyndon Johnson's hit team in Alice, Texas. I now am reporting to you people that the Mexican who did the ballot trick came out in the open three weeks ago and I read it either on the Internet or the *Wall Street Journal*, but they didn't even report it on FOX News. So we now have a live guy in South Texas, who is Latino, who has confessed to committing the illegal act for Lyndon Johnson. That took the election away from Coke Stevenson, and I've been told you have a few of his documents.

AW:

Well Coke's, yeah we have his old collections.

JO:

And I went—my aunt was at Penney's and I was in this extended family in Alice, Texas and I see the blood on the sidewalk and the bullet holes, where Lyndon had the guy killed, the editor, because he was a Coke guy. And I knew at that time, May of 1947, Lyndon will kill you. And later I met him at WT and he bought my body from James P. Cornett, who wouldn't let me use the word arson. Lyndon gave him money, all the boys who have two testicles are in the Army if they're not a football player. So my body was sold by West Texas State to the Army in September 1953 and people say, "Aren't you worried about your—" They know everything, my chipped tooth, my heart. The Army owns me. So several times in my life I've been called in. I get a call, a guy who says, "I was with the CIA, but I retired," and he's just in my office in Syracuse or an FBI guy is in my office at Salt Lake City. I got a call at the beginning of a Middle East Thing saying, "Would you like to come back in?" and I say, "Well I'm a Captain Reserve, I resigned to protest against the Vietnam War." They say, "Well you get a free physical." So I went up to [inaudible] [1:38:30.8] and took a free physical and went came to the memorization numbers, the math. I refused to answer a lot of the questions. I thought, you know, I'm an old guy. I don't know. So and then they said, "Oh you scored the highest." [AW laughter] Either they cheated, but the government knows where I am at every minute and over the year's state department says, "We're bringing a guy from Russia. We'd like—could you put him up?" So for six months I have a Russian. So because the spirits do these things and I've been in so many extended families I'm always at the edge of what's going to happen next and the Marlin family and the Lenape Delaware are always at that edge. And my Marlin's followed to that and if Marlin falls—my mother's father JP Marlin's father rawhide was an Indian Scout and he spoke Delaware and he did Comanche. And so he could go into the Comanche and come back because he's part Indian, part Spanish, always lived on the frontier. So our people are one family that just always went to the frontier and that's in me. And Jack T. Hughes, Margaret Mead they're all just cool. Now after American University field staff, when we invented—we took the computer and the President of IBM said, "We'll do anything you want. Westinghouse said you got fifteen million dollars." So we could throw away money. The government said, "We wouldn't touch you," but Al Shankar in New York said, "We'll work with you." So we had 1,250,000 people and twelve scholars' coast to coast. The school district picked a first grade teacher, a second, third, and we brought them all to Palo Alto, put them up in motels and apartments for a year. They had the Stanford experience paid for by Westinghouse. They wrote the objectives. So we published fifteen thousand teaching and learning objectives for the standard curriculum. And we demonstrated just one example in West Virginia ignorant people, no teeth, snuff eaters, inbreeds. We took a ninth grade class of Algebra, and we did computer supported instruction in which the student and the teacher as team pick from a list of objectives and decide what to learn. And then the teacher supports the student and then we score back in Palo Alto because IBM rigged up all the towers and we're getting this date in. It's on Marxin's course and we have two IBM 360s and two zerox machines and Watt's lines. So they could call in from West Virginia and say we just transmitted. We demonstrated that in less than thirty days we could take the bottom subculture

and teach them Algebra to the plus 95 percentile on the Algebra test, standardized test, in less than thirty days. The average teacher could only get half of them above 50 percent in the hundred and eighty days of school. Teachers didn't like that. Albert Shankar did like it and he continued to support it. The Catholics liked it, so I'm in on the objectives movement, which I saw yesterday, what we did in the sixties with—headed by—spending Westinghouse money and IBM money. Headed by the guy who had sixteen grand, graduated from Princeton, at eighteen had the PhD. Started the educational testing services, founded at Dr. John Flannigan. Started the Army Psychology Branch. Started the Air Force Psychology Branch. Had us at American Institution Research. Had an office in Lagos and Bangkok and we did studies for corporations military around the world. We did the studies like you can look at a dot and tell a guy's IQ. That's Pittsburg or when you're at a high altitude, the air pressure changes the eye and you need the dials on the airplane different and different colored lights because they can't see. So computer supported instruction, and then IBM supported—Patrick Supe's computer based instruction in trailer houses with black kids. They never got past fifth grade and we did—anyway it was a miracle. So we were shut down by—we spent the fifteen million, nobody would give us anymore. Westinghouse had nuclear problems. America wasn't ready for it. So I watched our—the second, the first was education. That was the sixties into the seventies. I'm on at Syracuse, but I could get paid and go to Bermuda and write for them. The next contract was American Medical Association. We designed the in service training for the American Medical Association. They adopted project plan, planned learning at accordance with needs. Whatever the student is ready for that's what we do. Project plan, plan learning, five thousand objectives, fifteen thousand objectives. So we went form schools coast to coast to American Medical Association. We helped design it to educate some testing service. We did the—all the IQ tests and all the—and then we did the test that makes the doctor the doctor and we invented the loop. If the doctor, he erases—if he chooses A, he erases it and it says go to three, if he erases it. So if he kills the patient he can't be a doctor, but if he can redeem himself in three moves. So I learned to develop simulations. Everything's a simulation. Everything's a game and everything is a loop. So we developed those tests and then I put all of that into community college instruction, which unions didn't like because it's too militaristic, but business and everybody liked it because it produces competent students. So I'm able to take each of these concepts that I learned and transmit them. So they're in Asia. They're in Singapore.

AW:

Speaking of Singapore, spell the name of.

JO:

My friend or of Lee Kuan Yew?

AW:

Lee Quan, is it Li?

JO:

No, L-e-e. Next word, K-u-a-n Y-e-w.

AW:

And the other fella?

JO:

And my friend is Tan, T-a-n, capital T-i-o-n-g, Tiong, Liat, L-i-a-t

AW:

Great, I just want to get these down for the people when they transcribe.

JO:

You can imagine that my doctoral students spun out around the world.

AW:

Yeah.

JO:

So Charles Caren when to work for UNESCO and then Bank of Asia and he designed the curriculum for Australia, New Zealand. Not Australia, New Guinea, Mongolia. Kim Soo Chow did Korea and then became internationally famous. I helped him co-author. He's still alive and he sent two hundred dollars to—for my wife's funeral and his children are now Americans and then they visit me with their children. So it's a small world. Everything is connected. And my finale is I am not this body. I am spirit soul. There never was time when I did not exist. There never will be a time. I'm as old as God. God created me. God knows everything. I have limited memories. It's up to God whether I have a life, not a life, another life, but the one simplest definition of me is I am an electromagnetic frequency.

AW:

Cool, that's a good place to end this.

JO:

Period.

AW:

Thank you so much. It's been a great morning.

JO:

For me it's good and at eighty-four I've been triggered to bring out memories that I thought I couldn't.

AW:

Um-hm.

JO:

Why I can do them is just magic. It's God. It's the spirits because I've said names that I didn't use for a long time and got spellings right. But I am humble and grateful for all the blessings I got. And I woke up one morning at five and the Pocono's and I didn't know why it up, I turned on the TV that I didn't put it on is—and it said, "Orwell Roberts will be here in an hour. He's ninety-three." So I realized why I was awoken, why the TV was on that channel, and I sat there, made coffee, and Orwell Roberts came on and he said, "I don't have a lot longer to live, but I want you to know this, God is always sending showers of blessings, but you've got to wake up. You got to listen and you got to reach up and grab them." And I said, "Thank you Orwell." When I was a boy delivering papers on Fifth Street in Plainview. There was a tent that said Orwell Roberts Student Missionary Revival and I thought, "I'm not going there." Then he's back the next year. Then a tornado hits and flattens it and he doesn't come back to retrieve the trailer and it disintegrates and I always thought, "I don't like Orwell Roberts." He ran and let the tent fall on his other people. No broken arms or legs and you can verify that in the newspapers, but then I—he built the college and the med school and I thought, "I like him." And then when I heard him that day tell about the blessings in life, I fell in love with him. Jesus said, "You will look but not see. You'll hear but not listen," and that's us. It's there, and God is getting every vision you need and every vision you want to see, but you've really got to open your eyes and try. So tell your grandkids anything is possible.

AW:

Good, I'll see them this afternoon actually.

JO:

Yeah, I know they're beautiful.

AW:

Yeah, they are.

JO:

Is there anything else I can do?

AW:

No this is it. Thanks.

JO:

I hope this doesn't get you fired or double retired.

AW:

[Laughs] Oh no, no. Although, I could use getting retired. I'm ready for it. Thanks again.

JO:

I'll tell you that it's a wonderful stage of life, but that's all it is.

AW:

Yeah.

JO:

You'll never quit working.

AW:

No, I know that. I don't have any plans to quit.

JO:

And now can you imagine the time I have.

AW:

Um-hm.

JO:

To go to an archeological site.

AW:

Yeah.

JO:

Or—and I don't know if you're keeping up on the Mississippi Valley and Alabama, the mounds they're finding.

AW:

Just a little bit. I've read a bit about it. Yeah.

JO:

Jesus, you have to keep up with it.

AW:

Yeah, it's amazing.

JO:

Every magazine that comes in I think and God knows everything. I don't know anything, but when I need something it seems the phone rings and poof. Carlos—I end it with don't believe anything I said. I think it was what Ronald Reagan, he said, "Verify, verify, verify." And that's what I say to students and people I meet.

AW:

Good, well thanks again.

JO:

Thank you.

End of Recording

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