

**Oral History Interview of
Mike Torres**

**Interviewed by: Daniel Sanchez
January 24, 2012
Lubbock, Texas**

**Part of the:
*Hispanic Interview Series***

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Interview Series Background:

The Hispanic Oral History Project documents the diverse perspectives of the Hispanic people of Lubbock and the South Plains. These interviews and accompanying manuscript materials cover a myriad of topics including; early Lubbock, discrimination, politics, education, music, art, cultural celebrations, the May 11th 1970 tornado, commerce, and sport.

Transcript Overview:

This interview features Mike Torres as he discusses his life growing up in Lubbock Texas. In this interview, Mike describes the discrimination he faced while living in Lubbock and attending school. Mike also explains his job as a police officer at the University Medical Center.

Length of Interview: 01:56:57

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Keywords

Discrimination, Lubbock, Texas, Police

Mike Torres (MT):

This is going to be strange after running in that truck for several hours and conversing casually back and forth, and now it's going to be for a recording is—[laughter]

Daniel Sanchez (DS):

Yeah. My name is Daniel Sanchez. Today's date is January 24, 2012, and I'm here with Mike Torres at the Southwest Collection in Lubbock, Texas on the campus of Texas Tech University. And we are conducting an oral history with him over his life. It's part of our oral history program. Mike, first of all, thank you for sitting down with us.

MT:

Sure. Just happy to be here and, you know, do this with you.

DS:

Okay. Next thing for the record, please state your complete legal name.

MT:

My legal name is Miguel Torres, Jr. And that's the way Uncle Sam carried me, because the way they put me down on my—not my birth certificate, but my baptismal certificate. And my dad's name was Miguel Torres also. But they carried me that way and then the military accepted a birth certificate as, you know—or a baptismal certificate—as a birth certificate. And so I went down on record as Miguel Torres, Jr. And then later, after I got out of the military, I looked at my real birth certificate and it said Mike Torres, Jr on it. [Laughter] So it's been an unusual situation with the names here.

DS:

And speaking of your birth certificate, what was the—your birthdate?

MT:

9/30/48. Yeah. A good birthday. I knew three people here in Lubbock that have the same birthday.

DS:

Where were you born?

MT:

I was born in Memphis. But you're not going to believe this, but Memphis, Texas. Not Tennessee.

DS:

Okay.

MT:

Yeah. And it was—it was during that time when parents were up here working in the fields and stuff. And they would make the usual, you know, migrant trail and go in through here, or going up north at the beginning of the year and going up to Idaho or Colorado. Some of those places. And then come back. And cap it off here in west Texas. Areas like this where they would stick around and work with the cotton and stuff a little bit. And so they were in the area of Memphis, Texas when I was born and then we went back to Odem, Texas, which is right outside of Corpus. And that—that was where, you know, all my family on both sides came from. Was in that area right around Odem, Texas.

DS:

Let's talk about that family. State your parents' names. Start with your mother. Her name and where she was born.

MT:

Okay. My mother's name was Zaguina Este [?] 0:03:06.7] Gonzales. And her middle name was Este Valis [?]. So it was Zaguina Valis Gonzales. She was one of six girls born to Antonia Este Valis [?], who later became Gonzales. And then her father was—we call him el Chano [?]. He's got a very unusual first name that I've never seen except on him. But he was from that area also. Este Chano Gonzales [?]. And then on my dad's side he came from—his dad's name was Juan Torres. And he was also born in that same area. Everybody was usually born in La Rosita, Texas, which is non-existed anymore. It was a little town that cropped up—put together by two brothers, and it's in between Odem and the Corpus Christi Bay. In that area. Matter of fact, that little town was made to where it would touch Corpus Christi Bay, because they expected to do a lot of cattle shifting through there when the brothers made it. Then they had a real bad cholera epidemic in the thirties, and so, you know, it wiped out the town. So he came—his dad, Juan Torres—came from there and his mother was Candelaria Nuñez Torres. I mean, Nuñez—yeah—Torres. And she came from a little town somewhere around close to the border with Mexico. That was one of them little towns that whenever the railroad changed course, you know, or it rained a lot or didn't rain or some of the river went around. One month she was in Mexico, another month she was in the US. So that's where she came from. Her dad was—he was a very famous man in that area around Odem. Between Odem and Corpus Christi. He owned a lot of land there and he was a plantation owner there. He was Don Jose Luis Moreno. And that was my grandmother's dad. And he had a big plantation. You know, he had a lot of money with that, but the carpetbaggers hit here during the—World War II. They scared them all, and they got his land cheap. And today we know why. When you drive by there and see all them oil wells. [laughter] Yeah. That's what happened to him.

DS:

You know, you talked about you family so long. Were there a lot—do you have brothers and sisters?

MT:

I have six sisters, and there's five of us boys in the family. We were all raised together except for one sister who was raised by my grandmother. Then she stayed as a teenager and lived in Corpus. In Odem and Corpus, but she ultimately stayed there in Corpus, and been there all her life. She's—I'm next to the oldest. She's the oldest.

DS:

Yeah.

MT:

Yeah.

DS:

In fact, I was going to ask you where you fell in that. Next to the oldest. Okay. What was it like growing up in Odem and also being a part of the migrant trail?

MT:

There was—I remember when I was little that, you know, my dad also there for a time he was a trucker and he used to take people—you know, he had a truck. He'd load it up with people at a certain, you know, time and bring them up north to all the field work and everything. They would live in labor camps, places like that. And then, you know, when on their way back they would finish up around this area and then go straight back to Odem. They call all this area, you know, when they would take off they would say, "____ west." [0:07:09.1] You know, they went to the west. That's what they called all this area. So finally one time they—they quit doing that. He tried to work there in Odem, and it wasn't working out so he decided—and then about that time his dad, Juan and Candelaria Torres, his parents moved over here to Shallowater. And then one of his brothers—two of his brothers and their families—moved over here also. So he decided it was time for us to move over here. So that was in winter of 1955. And we all came to Lubbock. We moved into a—the area known as—you know, the Barrio Guadalupe. The original barrio here. And was right behind the Catholic Church. The only church in the area at that time. It was about a block behind it. There was—also next to Guadalupe Elementary School. And we moved into a one room house. And it had one room and then a little room next to it that served as the kitchen and a bathtub and everything else. You put a big tub in there. You know, bathe in there. And then that was it. And then just another closet on the other side. So the bathroom was outside. It was in an adjoining house over there that had like an apartment in. And that was right

there in the heart of—in the Barrio Guadalupe. Which—the original Mexican-American barrio. So I grew up there for a few years and then—

DS:

What do you remember about that?

MT:

Hm?

DS:

What do you remember about the barrio?

MT:

It was anything and everything you wanted. I mean, the barrio had—we had—down the street, you know, you had bootleggers. And at night you would sit around there and you could hear the music coming from these houses and see their cars pull up. Some of the men would get out and go inside and party and whatever. Or they'd pick up cords of beer and stuff or pull up to one of the drive-up windows. They were like from where we were living my neighbor was a bootlegger, but she only did that on weekends. [Laughter] And most of them had drive-through's where you pull into their yard next to the house like you were going to see somebody and somebody would either holler at you from a window or they'd go outside and meet you at the driver's side and ask you, you know, what you wanted. Then you'd drive out the back out the alley. So it was her and then two houses down from her across the street was another famous bootlegger that was there for the longest time. Even after—when I was going to high school and we would—we wanted to get some party fluid we'd go over there before we went to the drive in and parties or anything we'd stop by there and pick up some cords the same way. On the other side it was the same thing and then you had a barrio grocery store right across. The lady that owned that grocery store, *La Tiendita*, the Donna Huerta [?] [0:10:17.8]—and her little store [coughs]—also she owned the house we lived in and the apartment house next to it which were like two single rooms and two families lived there. So she owned those. And then, like I said, the Catholic Church was down the street. The police would come by there all the time. And then, you know, on Sundays sometimes they would set up driver's license checks there. Right there in front of the church. And so if you were—and I remember because my dad would call them all kinds of nice words and everything. You know, and I said, "Well, what's wrong with them checking?" I didn't know that we were the only ones being checked, you know. And so they would check us. They did that for many, many years until one of the priests there—they got him pretty angry about what they were doing, so he went out there in the street in full robe and vestments and everything when he heard they were doing that. Boy, he let them know, you know, about justice and human rights and stuff and discrimination. And they packed up the stuff and left. And then he wrote some letters to the city, city council, and so that ended that.

DM:

Hm.

MT:

Yeah. And so it was that. We had groups of kids that hung around there. There was a place at the corner across the street and two houses down from where we lived. It's still there today. A matter of fact, I wish they would turn it into a—some kind of historical relic or or something it was known as El Cinco. And it started off as a little store also, and then gradually became other businesses. But that's where all of the kids, you know, in the neighborhood gathered. Families would go by there to buy some groceries and stuff. But also it was—it was very important, because, you know, teenagers—everybody went there from the barrio. Everybody knew where El Cinco was and what it was. And you hung around there. Then if anybody strange came through the neighborhood you knew it right away because the word went out real quickly. And, you know, sometimes you would challenge them and tell them, "Hey, you don't have any business." Or, "What do you want?" And stuff like that. You know how. So, you know, they had their group and I was good friends with the leader of the group and he was right across the street. He lived behind El Cinco. And so from there we went on to—my dad was working for—doing different jobs, and he started a band. One of the first, you know, Hispanic bands in the area. And that was right as we went into '56. Him and two brother in laws of his that had just come in, they started a band. They called it *Los Boleros* [?] [0:13:11.4]. And then he played the drums, and they had accordion, twelve string guitar. They did real good. They started getting business and everything. Playing around here and outside of town and small towns. Even New Mexico. They did that then he changed jobs and also we moved from the barrio and we went over to—once we left there we went over to—what government projects there was at that time was called Hub Homes.

DS:

Um-hm.

MT:

They were over there in front of Mackenzie Park and Sanders Elementary. So we moved over there and it was apartment 305. We were—there was—there was probably close to a hundred—maybe a little over—apartments there. And so they were cinderblock apartments. We never had anything that nice. You had a real bathroom inside and two or three bedrooms and, you know, kitchen and living room and that. But all concrete. And then we were the only—we were the second Hispanic family in the whole project. So you can imagine what a time I had going to school going there at Sanders. And—you know, it's because there was gangs of, you know, white guys that roamed those areas and there was—there was two there—main ones—in Hub Homes. And of course we moved there and then later on one of my cousin's families moved there. And so then later on another cousin. And then so there were three of us families, you

know, that were—that belonged to the same group that were there. And we—we stayed there for a few years then we moved to east Lubbock. But while we were at Hub Homes we had a lot of problems, you know, with fights with these white gangs and stuff. And you'd go outside to play or something and here they'd come. You'd go across to Mackenzie Park and they'd be roaming through there and they, you know, meet up with you and stuff. So we started, you know, getting our own group together after—you only get jumped so many times and then you're going to do something about it. So we did the same thing, and we formed our own group and then it got so bad that our parents—one night when they jumped us—they got into it and they chased them and my dad got—I think he was cut on the forehead or they hit him with something. My uncle was also cut real bad across the forehead and so was one of my cousins. The gang, you know, that fight was real bad that night. And of course, like I said, we were like only three or four families—Hispanic families—in the whole Hub Homes there. So we had a lot of problems with them like that. They would come around the house and, you know, hit on the windows. Throw stuff at it when my parents were gone and we were all scared inside and everything, and then you call the police or tell somebody that if you could reach them to call the police, because sometimes you didn't have phones, so you called—you know, try to get to a neighbor who did. And police would take them an hour to get there and stuff, but they wouldn't do anything to them. It was the same families that lived there. And there was two of those guys that were in those gangs—white gangs—that later become Lubbock police officers, and I met them one time at a _____ [0:16:58.4] when I was working as a police officer. And we started talking about where we were from, and boy they were shocked. And I was shocked too. But it was two brothers. The Stallings brothers. And we started talking and, you know, found out. We got along pretty good. You know, as adults. Yeah, so—but there was a lot of fights there between Anglos and Hispanics. And most of those went to Sanders Elementary School there. And there was more Hispanics came in that the whites started moving out, and so things started changing. We moved to east Lubbock. Lived over there about—oh, probably two years. On East Main. Where East Main meets—used to be Martin Elementary. Martin Elementary wasn't built yet, so it was actually over at right there where Martin Elementary is today. And we lived there a couple of years. My parents—grandparents had moved into town. They lived across the street from us also. That's probably the reason we moved over there. And then I had another—two more cousins and their families that lived in the area. And then finally we got—you know, we weren't too happy with the living conditions there, so then we came back to the projects and Hub Homes. We stayed there, oh, until, you know, I graduated from high school. And, you know, it was the same old—you know—problems there Hub Homes. I've said that things started changing a little bit because it started getting more Hispanics in. So there wasn't as many fights with, you know, Anglo gangs or anything like that. But you still had a few, but not as many as you used to. And then you started having problems with other—you know, issues with other Hispanic families there. But it was that way until I joined the service. I almost dropped out of high school one time when my dad got real sick and he caught gangrene on one of his legs. And he was asking for assistance from the state and the city, and for us to be able to maintain our daily lives. They

wouldn't give it to him so, you know, he got pretty upset and everything. And then I decided, Well, I needed to quit school then and help provide for the family. But then he finally—my mother finally talked me out of it, and so I went on to finish high school and went to Lubbock High. But I went to elementary there at Guadalupe and then Sanders. And then from Sanders I went to Carroll Thompson Junior High which was over here at 13th and Avenue T. And Carroll Thompson had a pretty good mix of Anglos and Hispanics, but there was also a lot of discrimination—a lot of fights between those two groups there. There were no blacks that I can recall in the whole school. And we even had issues on the buses. One time we were—because sometime—we would have to walk all the way from Hub Homes to Carroll Thompson, which was a little over two miles.

DS:

That's what I was about to say.

MT:

Only way you could keep from doing that on really cold days and stuff was to catch a Citibus there in from of Hub Homes on 4th Street. And catch a Citibus there. Well, every time we get into a Citibus the Anglos—Anglo kids—from east Lubbock and the area of what used to be called Cherry Point, there were fairly new houses—pretty new houses there at—used to be Quirt Avenue—it's now Martin Luther King and 4th Street. And those Anglo families, their kids would ride the bus also to Carroll Thompson, because Alderson hadn't been built yet. Alderson Junior High. So then by the time the bus reached Hub Homes it was about half full with nothing but Anglo kids. And then they would sit down in the seats and put—sit down one per seat and then put their books off on the side so you couldn't sit there and only leave the backseat open for us. And so there was like eight of us Hispanics that got picked up there at Hub Homes. And then of course they went through the barrio and all that then a little bit Arnett Benson. Picked up a few more, but hardly any. But we were the biggest group it picked up. Hispanic. Like I said, it was six to eight of us, and so we—sometimes we would have to stand up while, you know, those Anglo kids had their books like that next to them so we—and you'd ask them, you know, "Hey," you know. "Let me sit down." They'd say no. But not in very nice words. And so finally one time we decided, Well, this is enough of this. So the bus driver wouldn't do anything so we said, "Well, we need to do something." So what happened—we got together a plan and then we—as soon as we got around to Carroll Thompson we executed that plan. There was a little riot on the bus that day and people got—I mean, physically, we threw people off the bus. The Anglo kids. We already had all this set up and how it was going to go down and what we were going to do. I was one of the ones holding the back door open. The rest of the Hispanic kids were grabbing the other kids and, you know, beating them or fighting with them and then pushing them back until we threw them out the door. Let them know what it feels like. [Laughter] And the bus driver got mad. He got out and he started trying to control us at that point. It was a little late, but he started trying to control us. And he couldn't do it. So there were like three or four Anglo kids laying

down on the ground or along the fence at Carroll Thompson. They belonged with—you know, over at Lubbock High. And so the bus would drop us off there and then it'd go onto Lubbock High. But these kids were running alongside the bus, because he took off and left them and we were all laughing at them and everything. And the kids would hang around at this place across the street from Carroll Thompson and they saw everything going on, so all those kids came running out and they were all laughing at those kids that, you know, we dropped off the bus. But that took care of that situation. From then on we could sit anywhere we wanted to. They weren't happy about it but we would get on the bus and we'd just say, "Hey, move over. I need to sit down." And they would move over. But it was the only way you could handle things. And then I went—from there I went to Lubbock High.

DS:

What years were those that you were at Lubbock High?

MT:

In Lubbock High? I was there in '64. Started the fall of '64, graduated in '67. And Lubbock High at that time there was only like 5 percent Hispanic. There was like four black kids in the whole school. And so we had a little bit of the same situation, you know, that you had over at Carroll Thompson. But Carroll Thompson was—was a little bit better because, like I said, you had these groups that would hang around by race, you know, at these little restaurants across from Carroll Thompson. You walk in there and everybody had their place. The whites were on the right side, the browns were on the left side. And then the browns sat by barrios or wherever, you know, group part of the city they came from. And so you had the barrios is they had the biggest group. They were the first ones over there close to the jukebox. And then they took up about two rows of tables and then we were next because we had—there was a lot of people that lived in our area, including the Flats, which was next to Hub Homes. And part of the barrio over there at Avenue H. And so we would sit on the next set of tables and then you had other groups of kids from other areas, but the white kids would take all of the right side. But you had, you know, racial scrimmages there too at that school. I mean the bloodiest one was one time when they'd been having this—these ongoing fights between white kids and Hispanic kids, and then finally the Hispanics again said, "Well, you know, we've got to do something. They keep picking on us and they keep doing this." So everybody agreed and they took some bottles in their pockets into Carroll Thompson. And most of the groups were there on the first floor and so that's where their homeroom lockers were. They put bottles inside the lockers and then at the first break when everybody came down—and usually the majority of the kids were going to gyms, you know. And so that was a big break and so another fight broke out. Well, then here come the bottles out and bottles start flying all the way—all over Carroll Thompson. I mean, it was—teachers came out and they were dodging bottles and stuff and I mean—but it's the same situation. They wouldn't do anything about, you know, the racial things that were going on. And they knew it. They saw it. And so when the Hispanic kids has had enough then, you know, they resort to, you

know, retaliating on the other ones. That's how those situations came about. And after that things smoothed out again and they put more teachers in the hall and they started reprimanding kids alike and everything. And so we went on for the rest of the time there, and it worked out real good. So Lubbock High was a little bit different also but I had one time there we had a situation where I was jumped by four Anglo kids by the gym. And so—you know—but first one of them wanted to fight me, so I fought him and had him down so they pulled me up. Anyway, three other white kids jumped in so then, you know, I got expelled. [Laughter] And the first kid I was fighting with did too. And so Hispanic kids from the barrio that knew me and everything, we were in some classes together, they found out about it and so for the next two or three days there was Hispanic kids jumping on the white kids like that. And finally, you know, when I got back they called us all in again and of course they blamed it all on us, you know. The same situation. But that went on and on. And so I think that my eyes were opened very young, you know, when you see those kind of things. You know, about discrimination and stuff like that. When I was at Lubbock High I had some Anglo friends and they would tell me—because they knew I needed a part-time job bad. You know, we were very poor. And so they would say, “Hi, Mike. I work at United over here on 4th Street.” Or, “I work over here at this other store. We need a sacker. Come on by and apply.” I'd go and apply and they said, “No, we don't have any open.” Grown people were telling me. But I wasn't Anglo. So, you know, the only jobs that we could get—even in high school—was restaurant worker. And I worked at a couple of restaurants, and one was here at Texas Tech at the UC center over at—worked as a busboy there. Me and two of my cousins. And then another one was at a restaurant on 50th. First one of its kind to come up like that. It was called the Chalet Restaurant. 50th and Avenue Q. Owned by the Bedlocks [?] [0:29:16] And a pretty well off family. And it was fancy. Nothing but Chalet steaks and all that. And that opened my eyes, too, to, you know, money. When I worked there, because they had this big open grill there in the front and it had their own black chef there cooking the steaks and everything, so you could walk up there and see the way he was doing your steak and ask him or tell him whatever. And then, you know, after hours they would shut all that down and they'd have a private room in the back where they could rent it and party. And, you know, Lubbock wasn't wet. They didn't even have clubs at that time. You know, no drinks like that served or anything. The only place you could get booze was outside by the strip. But in there, you know, the people that owned the club allowed it. And it was private parties for the ones who had money. And they would go in there. [Whistles] Some of the stuff they did you don't—I had never seen before. You know, people act like that and stuff. And you didn't see that in the barrio or other places like that. But the rich got together like that. Man, I've never seen so many liquor bottles coming out. Things like that. I had never seen—that was the first, you might say, floor show I saw in there when the ladies get up on the tables and start dancing like that. Because all of us were—I think we had one black that was a busboy. The rest of us, it was me and Julian Orta [?] [0:30:55.0], Charlie Reyna and I think there was one more. There were like four of us and all of us went to Lubbock High. Then that was an eye opener for me. They would have a band sometimes up there playing for

them and everything. Parties would go on until three, four, five o'clock in the morning. But Lubbock wasn't supposed to have that. [Laughs]

DS:
Right.

MT:
So, you know.

DS:
It was always in denial so. [laughter]

MT:
Yeah. So—but Lubbock had places like that. It wasn't just in the barrio like we thought, you know. It was other places like that around here. But yeah. But I made up my mind when I was going through Lubbock High that, you know, the war was starting right—it started going full blast about a year before I graduated. And a couple of my friends from Hub Homes had joined, and mostly everybody joined the Marine Corps, you know, first and then the Army. And so I had like two or three friends that were already in the service, so I decided, Well, you know, I want to finish school and I want to go to college, but I wouldn't get any help from anybody. You know, the counselors would tell you, "Well, you know, do you—first of all, what do you think? Do you want to go to college?" Or something like that. And then you have to show them or tell them you have some money to pay for it or something and then they try to discourage you if you didn't, because most of us were poor and they knew it. They would tell you to join the military or, you know, look for some assistance. But, you know, they wouldn't encourage you to go that route, you know. And so I recognize that right away and I said, You know what? I don't need this. I'll go join the Air Force. And I said hopefully I won't have to go to Vietnam and I can train in something in the Air Force. I said, but first I've got pass their test. So you know—and I was the only one—I thought I was the only one in the neighborhood that, you know, joined the Air Force except for one other friend. And he lived in another part of Hub Homes. I didn't see him that much. But later I found out when I was in the Air Force that he had joined. His name was Ramon Gabor [?] [0:33:14.0]. He was the only one I knew of in the whole area that—everybody else had gone to the, you know, the military—to the Marine Corps and then the Army. I lost, you know, oh, about three or four friends over there in Vietnam. And one of them that—he was a big hero. His parents—my parents sent me the newspaper clipping when I was overseas but he got his—the Congressional Medal of Honor. And his parents got it, you know, because he was killed over there saving—he saved—they don't know how many because he was a medic and he was running around. They were under an ambush. You can read about him. Jose or Joe _____, [0:34:02.9] Jr. And all the stuff he did. And I mean, he was a hero. He was a real big hero. It was funny that—because we used to hang around together over there for protection—Hub Homes.

And one day when he came along—they had just moved into Hub Homes on the far end of it. And so we looked over there. We'd sit around somebody's house, you know, next to the streets. Somewhere'd we watch everybody go in and all this and that. And we looked over at the Baptist Church at 4th and Avenue D and kids would go play in the playground after hours. And so we saw this one kid running in a suit. He had a black hat on, black suit and a tie. We said, "What's going on?" And then we saw all these other kids chasing him. The poor kid finally made a stand and he got in the playground and it was fenced off so he couldn't get out. And he started fighting with them guys. And they were whipping him pretty bad, so me and two of my cousins ran over there and right away we started pulling those guys off of him and helping him. Well, he got up and dusted off and everything and picked up his glasses and everything, and put his hat back on, dusted it off. We looked at him and said, "He dresses like an old man, but he's our age." Said, "Hey, man. What's your name?" So we started talking to him. Said, "Where are you from?" "Oh," he says, "We come from such and such part of town." He says—and I said, "Well, what's with the suit?" And all this stuff. He said, "Oh, my parents take me to church Sundays, and Wednesdays, and sometimes on Saturday." He said, "And I have to dress up." We said, "Well, okay." [Laughs] And we realized right away that he wasn't used to this lifestyle. Street lifestyle or anything. And, you know, those guys, I think they broke his nose because it looked like it was off center a little bit and he was bloodied up a little bit and everything. But he made it all right. So he became, you know, one of the kids in the Hub Homes area. And then when the military started taking people and stuff I think he—he dropped out of school right before he graduated, and he joined the Army. And then his first year of Vietnam he did all right. He came back to see us, and another friend of mine, Joe Chavez, told me—and he lived a couple of houses—doors down from where we did—so he did pretty good, but he came back real crazy and everything. And then another one from the other side, Jerry, lived on the other part of Hub Homes, and he got shot through the back of the head and came out over here or something. He was—he was a little, you know, disturbed too after all that. But Joe got killed over there. We lost another one named Little Joe Moreno, also. He'd been there thirty days when he got it. So I mean, we lost a lot of friends from over there, you know, during that war. So I decided—I didn't want to go finish school, try to go to college and all that and then go get killed over there for something. Because I didn't really believe in what we were doing. Going over there and dying for some other people that we didn't even know or anything. So I said, "Well, no. I'm going to join the Air Force." And—but it was hard to get into the Air Force because a lot of other guys had the same idea. But I took the tests and everything and I passed them. They gave you four different tests in different areas and stuff, and I passed them so I had a choice. And I chose the general field and went into that. And I was supposed to go in for computer programming, and when I got there in basic they told me that it was all full, so then I had to make a choice real quick and I didn't want to go be a fireman or photographer—all these things in the general field. So I said, "Well, you know, I like the Air Police out here," and stuff. I said, "I want to be like them." And plus, I can do that when I get out. And I had to make up my mind right then and there during that class. And I mean, schools were filling up quickly, because there were so many people joining the Air

Force, you know? And they would shut down sometimes. Wouldn't let anybody join. And then they'd open it back up for a while. And my draft number was coming up. And the recruiter had told me—he said, “Your draft number will come up around first of May.” And so this was in February not too long at all. I said—I made up my mind. I said, “I want to join the Air Force.” So went into that and went into basic training. Went to a technical school in San Antonio to be a police officer. That was eight weeks. To be in the Air Police. And then got through with that and got assignments. And I was assigned to Okinawa. I didn't even know where Okinawa was at. [Laughs] You know? And they said, “You're going for eighteen months.” I said, “Eighteen months? Golly.” A year and a half. So I said, “Well.” You know, and then they said, “Well, it's close to Vietnam and it's close to China. It's close to Russia. You're over in this area of the Pacific.” And blah, blah, blah. So I said, “Okay.” So then I found out why they needed so many police officers there was because that's where all the B-52's were that were flying and bomb Vietnam and all these other places. And you know it's where all the missiles were to protect this country from, you know, incoming missiles from Russia and China and, you know, all those places. That island was strategically located for all of that. And believe me, it was loaded down with every kind of weapon you can think of. And so they needed a lot of police officers—security people to guard all those weapons systems, munitions and stuff. And that's what I did over there. But—and I made up my mind that, you know, when I was going to come back that I was going to start taking courses and everything, and that's what I did. You know? And I got back out and started, you know, trying to find work out here. But the first job I had was getting out here with—UPS was just starting here in Lubbock. And I was one of the first UPS drivers they had. But the trainer I had was from Chicago. And you could tell he didn't want to be here. And this was the first time he'd ever had to work with Hispanics. And he wasn't white, but he was—he didn't—and he didn't like us speaking Spanish and all this other stuff. But anyway, that was too much like the military for me. I mean, he liked yelling at you and they wanted you to run in and out of the truck. They wanted to spit shine your shoes and all that. I said, I could have stayed in the military and got all that. I said, “Nope.” And so, you know, besides that I enjoyed my career with the Air Force. I would've stayed in it, and retired from it, except that they told me—they said—when I got out—I got out at Little Rock Air Force Base. That's where I spent my last two years after I came back from overseas. And they told me that—sure enough, when I got promoted—which I made sergeant. And that was pretty good for your first tour in the Air Force. First four years. To be able to make sergeant. So they wanted to keep me pretty bad, but I told them—I said, “Well,” I said, “What's my chances of going to Vietnam?” I said, “Going overseas again to Vietnam?” And I said, “I just got through doing a year and a half over in that same region.” They said, “Well, your chances are about 90 percent.” [Laughs] They said that you would have to go. And I said—they said, “You know pretty much why. Because your AFSC [Air Force Specialty Code].” That's your job category. They said, “Y'all are needed all the time over there.” You know, protecting bases, protecting equipment and all that. So I said, “Okay.” I said, “Well, I'd rather not.” So I declined that offer and came back home. But Arkansas over at my last duty station was nice. I learned a lot about the people there. It was different—completely

different—from out here and all this and that. I made a lot of friends there that I still, you know, communicate with and visit sometimes that are around here. I don't know if you know Jesse Garza who was a principal here and stuff in Lubbock and all that. He's from—he was stationed there at the same time I was. We got to be good friends over there. He was from—he was originally from Fort Stockton. He retired here recently also. He was in our state employees' organization with all the retiree.

DS:

Oh, cool.

MT:

Yeah. And [coughs]—and then Ramon Gabor, I met him over there at Little Rock. And I didn't—when I saw him over there and I was shocked. I said, "Ramon?" He said, "Mike? That you?" I said, "What are you doing in Arkansas?" You know, that kind of stuff. And yeah, he had his wife and two kids over there. He'd been overseas also, and then he got stationed over there. But you know I had a good time in the Air Force. And then finally when I got out and I started working I figured UPS ought to be pretty good. But they were too much like the military. And like I said, they were just starting here, so they were real rough on the first people, because they wanted you to learn as soon as you could so that the trainers could go back to Chicago and Philadelphia—places like that where they were from. And so I told them—I said, "I don't need all that." So they tried to talk me into staying—the boss did. And what's funny is that the center supervisor—is what they call those areas where I was and everything where they ship everything out—and me and him got to be good friends. Later on we played golf together and everything. And I saw him—I've seen him, you know, oh about every five, six years I run across him somewhere. And he kept telling, "Mike, you should have stayed with UPS. Look at where they are now." And stuff. I was like, "Yeah." But, you know, that was behind me and I started—and I went to work in a warehouse over here where another friend of mine was working. And I worked there for about a little over a year and then I went from there—that was a nuts and bolts place and all that. Shipping and receiving. I did—you know—I was supervising that area and then—and a warehouse managers sometime. But then after that I decided, you know, I want a career. I want something. So I went—the same time I was already going to Tech taking night courses. And so I started working. I applied at the South Plains Electric Co-op. Or Rural Electrification. And so I got a job there as a meter reader. And stayed in there reading meters about six months. I didn't like getting chased by dogs all the time. And so I went from that—and they paid real good money. I'm telling you, we were making some top wages working the electric co-op. And then so from there I decided, Well, I'll do something else within the same company. And so I started learning underground electrical installations and stuff. So I started doing that, and then finally I got the point where, you know, I was doing pretty good and they gave me my own crew. So then I was a crew chief for underground installations. We installed a bunch of lines around here, including the first electricity to the lower part of Lake Ransom Canyon. Where you go off the top

like that? Yeah. We wired all that area. I wired up about half on the top—on the east side of it. Yeah. And it's funny how we did that. We didn't have all the fancy equipment they have today. So that was in '74? Yeah, about '73 and '74. And we had a man—put a man on a trencher and they got one of these big pull trucks with a big wench on it. They attached that to the trencher. And then they lower him down the side of those little hills they got there in the canyon where it goes out. And then they lowered him. And the guy was scared. He was—name was Sputter—Sputter [?] [0:47:10.0] Thompson. Was my supervisor for underground. So they used him and that's how they brought the lines off the top of the cap rock into the canyon. We did that on the north side by the east gate, and then we did it on the south side where all the big, big fancy houses are at. Where the dam finishes, you know, on the other side? Right in there in the first little culvert. We brought the primary lines from up on top that came in from Slaton, that area. Brought them down the side the same way. With him riding that trencher. [Laughter] And being held with that cable from the big truck. And once we got that the primary end—you know, you go from the primary and run it all the way around to the end over by Buffalo. And we started bringing it around then you do taps off of that into these little areas where all them houses were. Boy, it was a job. But you know, I did that for a couple of years and then I decided—I still had that yearning for law enforcement. So somebody told me about Texas Tech here hiring police officers, so I applied. And they called me in. They looked at everything and Captain Sailors [?] [0:48:35.3] at that time with UPD, he looked at everything and my qualification and he said, "Well, we'd like to have you come and work for us but we don't have any openings right now." He said, "The opening we had, we just got somebody from our department that was working here who was driving the wrecker." He said, "We promoted them into police officer." He said, "But if you want to come to work for us I'd like to get you in here and you drive the wrecker." And he said, "It won't be but two or three months and then somebody will quit and then you'll interview and we'll probably move you up." And I said, "Well, you know," I asked him. I said, "How sure are you on that point?" And so he said, "Well, let me put it this way." He said, "I'm pretty sure. With your qualifications, your experience and everything," he says. "And you know you're already going to school here and everything. I'm pretty sure we can get you in." Said, "Okay." So sure enough I stayed. Driving the wrecker around here at Tech for two and a half months. And then—

DS:

So you were one of the most hated for a while? [Laughter]

MT:

Yeah, I was one of the most hated ones. And I mean, you pull up to places—like used to be DA, and I don't know what it is now. Over here by Chitwood-Weymouth?

DS:

Um-hm.

MT:

And you pull up to that parking lot. Boy, you had to wear a helmet because the students up there in those high rises would throw bottles of stuff down at you when you were fixing to tow a car or something.

DS:

Wow.

MT:

Yeah. And so that happened. And then I helped them do a bunch of stuff with the police department even when I was on wrecker. You know, being the chief—the captain in charge of investigations at that time was Richard Hamilton, and me and him got to be good friends and he would ask me stuff, you know, because of my law enforcement experience. I'd help him out on some stuff. And then I do some stuff for him and everything. So the opening came around, you know, two months later. And Captain Sailors called me back in there and he says, "Well, we've got an opening." He said, "And I'd like for you to come to work for us over here as a police officer or something." And anyway, I told him that I would think it over. So I went back and Hamilton had already told me, he said, "I'd like to talk to you when you get through with that interview, but please don't commit to anything right now before I talk to you." I said, "Okay." So I went back and talked to Hamilton and he took me in his office and said, "Look, I'm starting a new division from Tech police." He said, "It's over at the medical school. Eventually we'll have a hospital. We'll have all that area to patrol and take care of. The emergency room and everything," he said. "That's in the planning for all that. I'd like for you to come to work for me." He said, "I want you to be one of my first supervisors." And so, you know, that was hard to turn down. And then—and I already knew what the job entailed over here on campus. But that one seemed like it was a challenge, and especially with the ER and everything. So I said, "Well, let me think about it." So the next day—you know, went home and talked it over with my wife. And the next day I went in and talked to him and I said, "You know what? I have decided to go ahead and go with your offer." And he was real happy and Captain Sailors was disappointed because I didn't join his group. But he was a real fine man. You know, Captain Sailors. But you could tell he was disappointed and he was looking forward to training me and everything and sending me through their group. So I started with the Health Science Center Police, which was Med School Police at that time. It was a division of TTU Police. [Shuffling]

DS:

[Whispering] We've got plenty.

MT:

Okay.

DS:

I knew we were getting close. About three minutes.

MT:

Oh okay. But you know and then I went to work there for them and I continue going to school. At that time we had the law enforcement education program, which was called LEAP. And they would pay for all your books and your school and everything if you were in law enforcement. And then the VA would pay me for going to school, you know. So I was getting my education free and getting paid for going to school. So I continued going to Tech. And then when I finished up, you know, most of the courses—night courses—here at Tech I started going to Wayland. And that's where I finished up and got my bachelor's degree. But I'd come back to Tech one more time for that geology course that I was telling you about.

DS:

Um-hm.

MT:

I needed one more science like that with a lab. So I had to come back and finish up with that. But I got my BA degree and all that. But I had a—I had a good career over at the Health Sciences Center, because you know we started off with seven officers and a secretary. And then later we got a dispatcher and then later we started getting more officers. And then the second or third year I was there we got a contract with UMC where—you know—to do their security work. So then our department doubled in size. We went to fourteen officers. But that ER was really, you know, taking a lot of our time. It required special training and everything. So we started having some growing pains there. But we did that. We had contracts with UMC to—later on they wanted their own security, so we trained their security people and everything and supervised and responded to all their big emergencies and everything. And so we got a contract drawn up with them to do that. Train their officers, you know, supervise them, and then respond to their big emergencies. And then we had another contract with them to handle the ER. So we had two contracts with UMC. And I kept, you know, moving up the promotion line. And there was a few problems associated with that also, because we were still tied into UPD—university police over here. And then they had promotional exams that they would give and it was the same, you know, exam because it was either a promotion to come back and work on campus or to work—to be over at the Health Sciences Center. So each time I was moving up in rank I had to go take a test. Well, you know, as it happened there was some problems there too with the first test that I took, because they didn't expect me to score that high. And I scored over all the officers that were taking it. But again none of them had a degree, you know, and I did. And little did they know—and I realized when I was taking the test—that the tests here were taken from tests from Wayland. You know, to do the courses that Wayland had to offer. It's where they got a lot of the—they put together the promotional exams here. So to me—plus that I have that—almost

completed my degree there and it was the same test questions that Wayland used. And so I felt like I had a little advantage there. But at the same time none of the rest of them were going to school or anything and, boy, they raised a stink one time because they figured—I mean, I think I beat—the closest one to me was, like, ten points. But it's like I told them, I said, "You know, I'm used to taking these tests in the Air Force." And the Air Force gave me a lot of tests for promotions and stuff. And then I said, "And I made the highest rank possible there. And now I'm having to take tests here for promotion." And for some reason I guess they didn't expect me to be one of the top ones. But anyway, that happened one time. Then—that was for corporal—the next time another promotional test came up for sergeant we were still under university police as a division so—and the same thing happened. But this time I know I had the top score again, but that day when I went to go take the test I remember—I wasn't studying for it because I knew more or less what those tests were based on the books that Wayland was putting on their law enforcement program. And so what happened was I tested and I know I was on top, but it came out that according to the person who gave that test that time that I was second. And I was two points under the other person. Well—which, to me, I could care less because the person they were going to promote was going to be a supervisor on the campus side and then the other one—if there came an opening over on our side for a supervisor that would probably be me, because the promotion from that test was good for six months. And so I talked to the chief, BG Daniels at that time, and he assured me that—he says, "I'm pretty sure. Y'all are growing over there." He said, "You're growing too fast." He said, "We're going to have a sergeant over there within six months, and you will,"—he said—"I mean, I can't think of anybody else. You have the most experience and you and Dick,"—who was Richard Hamilton—he said, "Y'all have been put in that department together. Y'all have been running it and everything. So." And sure enough, about four or five months later, the position came open. But I got promoted over there and then I went to lieutenant and then captain and then right before—after twenty-two years of being there they decided someone here on this side, who was in charge of the university police department at that time, decided that he wanted control over not only campus here, but he also wanted all the medical school. Because we'd already set up departments in El Paso. We had a department there. A security department there. And then we had a security department in Amarillo, and we'd just started one in Odessa. And so we had, you know, control over all those campuses like that for law enforcement and security purposes. And so—and there was a lot of criticism. Especially—you know, there's a lot of animosity between the campus side and the medical school side. And because we had a lot more action over in the ER, you know. And campus officers were always going over there because they wanted to get into it and working with us. And we didn't mind the help, because we had some hairy situations come up there.

DS:

Let me stop there and then we'll pick up on that.

MT:
Okay.

DS:
So I can switch out the tapes. Do you need to take a—[pause in recording]

MT:
Yeah.

DS:
It's kind of what I wanted to ask you a little bit right there when you started talking about. This is tape two of my interview with Mike Torres. Mike, we were talking about the medical school. Let's talk about some of the challenges y'all faced over there for unusual situations. You know, one, starting a new entity, and then making it grow.

MT:
We—there's a lot of challenges, simply because no one had ever seen a police department at a medical school. Now they're pretty common around the state. They're usually called HSC police, you know. And they have them at Parkland, several other places around the state. UT HSC and all these other places. But back then we were the first ones—some of the first ones—to do that. And so it was hard getting people to understand. "Yes, I'm a security officer, but I'm also a police officer." You know? And especially when you patrol the grounds out there. You made stops and everything. And Indiana at that time was a big issue for us, because it was on our side and we worked it but our primary area of jurisdiction was the building itself and UMC and the ER. So, you know, and you had to get these young officers that—you know, "Yeah, I want to go over here. Yeah, I want to do this and this in ER where all the crazies come in. All of the stabbings, shootings, and all this and that." And they want to get involved in all that. Get their adrenaline going. And then, "Yeah, I want to work real police traffic. I want to work radar," and all that. Well, the only place you could do that was actually on Indiana, so they get into trouble because they go do it before they took care of the building over here—security in the building. And so that was an issue I thought was pretty funny. But a lot of the same officers that we had over there—for example, when—in 1997—in September of '97—when the chief over here on campus, Jay Parchman and Chancellor Montford decided that, you know, and they got things worked out and everything that he was going to be over all the campuses. Well, you know, they just—they called my boss in one day, and at that time in September it was about a week from my birthday which was September the thirtieth. And then he called me in that day and I could tell by his voice that something was real, real wrong. And I expected it because we'd already had somebody—a strange officer that went to work for us. And I won't go into the details on what I call "strange" because I already knew there was something in the works. Okay? And I told my boss that. He kept saying, "No, no." And I said, "Yes, there is." And then I would give examples

why. But anyway, but that situation—we got laid off. Supposedly. And they said they couldn't use two chiefs. Once we merged they couldn't use two chiefs. And the chief over here refused to accept me as a major, which was a promotion I got about six months before, you know, they did this. And he—even when the merge occurred and he was briefing our people once the takeover happened. And he told me that he didn't recognize me as a major. I was still a captain. I had a letter at home where I got my promotion and everything. It was posted. Signed by all the officers in the department and everything. But a lot of our officers there that we had that I trained as rookies and everything, they're the ones running UPD right now. Yeah. The assistant chief, Kenny Evans. He started off in our place and I trained him. And this stuff—he had worked for some sheriff's office for about a year before he came to work for us. So I had to re-acclimate him to everything that—on this side of law enforcement, you know? It's not like the counties and all that. So then working there at the medical school was a totally, totally different issue because, you know, it was unlike the campus. And we always told them that. And I don't think they quite ever understood that, because you had to have a lot of domestics in the hospital. You know, ex-husband, you know, coming in to see his son or daughter who'd been hurt or something or having surgery, and here sits his ex-wife with her new young boyfriend or something like that. And then there you go. You've got a big one going on. Things like that. We caught people coming in with guns trying to finish off their—you know—their girlfriend who worked there or their wife who worked there was running around with somebody else, they suspected. So we caught one of them one time. He pulled a pistol on somebody right there at the entrance to UMC. And luckily when he went to pull the slide on that semi-auto weapon the bullet jammed. Turned sideways and click, click, click. Wouldn't shoot. And she was right there with her new acquaintance walking out the building. Or he would have shot her right there in front of UMC. And our officer, you know, disarmed him right there because he pulled up as he pulled his gun. And so we had that situation. We had a situation one time where a mentally disturbed person was out there—same thing—in front of UMC. And he was walking around in a blanket. Snow and ice on the ground and everything. Just a blanket on. And he was a pretty stout, you know, black man. And then the security guard who was an ex-marine and all that went up to him and—UMC security guard—and I watched because I was running up there and the man was standing like this. And then he just swung all of the sudden. Later we found out he used to box. But hit that security guard. Punched him on the jaw. Knocked him on the ground. So we had to jump him, and I was the first one there. And then Benny, this other officer with me. And that man right there, you know, when I went to grab him and slam him like this on the wall to stun him and then bring him down, because I didn't want to hurt him, you know, like that. And then my officer whom I told how we were going to handle that situation, he did the opposite and the man was stuck here next to me when I was trying to push him away. And he reached over and grabbed my gun. And, I mean, he started coming out with that and the security guard, who was over here getting up from the ground looked over here—he said, "He's got your gun! He's got your gun!" And I looked over there and sure enough his hand was on the gun and he was coming up, so I reached down there—and the security guard at the same time—and I put my hand on it. And then

I had to come up and forearm him to knock him back and get him to release that. But that was a real close one. It was five o'clock. Everybody was getting off work. Imagine if he had got that pistol in his hand. I mean, we had a situation like that. We had—you know, one of the—we had a case where I worked on that involved an ER doctor. And there was—there were like two or three like this. And that doctor was supposedly an agent for the Cuban communist party. And so I worked with the FBI and, you know, I helped on that investigation and we found out and got things arranged and got things set up. And the FBI later—like two or three years later—here in Lubbock, they finally completed their case and arrested her and, you know, sent her to federal prison and everything. But that was one case. The other one was the kidnapping we had one time. A baby was taken from UMC. Just so happened the chief was gone that week. He was on vacation somewhere in Hawaii or some other place, so I was in charge. Boy, you don't know how much pressure can come upon you in a situation like that. But that was at 9:15 in the morning on that date and I remember I was going across the UMC—across that causeway that we call it. It was a glass causeways. And when I got the call by the dispatcher. And I mean things just started going—happening—boom, boom, boom—right, real quick. Luckily, though, I had some good officers. I had some good supervisors. And I had a good administration that I worked with over at the Health Sciences Center. And I'm okay. I've been in all that group there—Dr. Mitemeyer and them. And I had established good communications, good rapport and everything, with the Lubbock Police Department. The chief over there—the detectives—everybody knew me because I worked a lot of cases with them. And so they would do anything I asked them for me. And so when that went down, you know, I immediately called—had the dispatcher call LPD. And we shut down all UMC area. Everything from the museum west—like at 4th Street, this way _____. [1:09:52.6] And I was calling in assistance from Lubbock PD, from campus, everybody. And I was telling them on the radio, you know, where to set up. I mean, we shut everything down and you didn't leave that campus there—I mean that area unless we looked everywhere in your car and also opened your trunk on your vehicle and everything. And then our officers did an internal search. I mean, I told them, I said, "Check every, every—every one of you take a maintenance man with you so they have the keys to all the maintenance rooms and everything. They can tell you where the interstitials are and everything." So we went through the whole building. I even had grounds people called up over here. We had them checking shrubs around the building, just because sometimes they would stash bicycles, everything in those shrubs, and you couldn't see them when you were walking up. I said, maybe they could have drugged up the baby and stashed them there to come back and get them later. You know, but I set all that up. Got a supervisor together. Sat with him and got a communication supervisor set up to go twenty-four hours with two dispatchers, and one specifically to do nothing but communicate with our law enforcement agencies to handle, you know, federal and state and local. Planned all that. The supervisor who I had that was a real good public speaker and everything, he worked for the sheriff's office also. I had him supervise them and also put the shifts on, you know, twenty-four hour emergency standby and everything. And I doubled our shift personnel. And he set everything up for me to work. You know, we were set to go for as

long as it took. You know, we were set to go for seventy-two hours, you know, with maximum security, maximum people. LPD, the chief called me from over there and he said, "Mike," he said. He says, "This is Bridgers [1:11:46.4] over here at the PD." I said, "Yes, sir." Because we knew each other real good and I'd worked with his brother at United and everything. And so he said, "I'm going to send you four police units." He said, "You set them out wherever you want them to go over the city." He said, "Where do you want them to meet you?" I said, "At the loading dock." So twelve PD units pulled up and I sat over there—and I stood over there. I briefed them on what areas of the city I wanted checked and everything. And then they got going. And then the FBI came in and they sat down with me, and I told them—I said, "You know, we've got two people in the office—witness—possible witnesses we're going to interview, and we've got some more we need to talk to and stuff. Can y'all help?" He said, "Oh we'd be happy to." So FBI went in there and we sat them up some offices in our office, and they started helping us with the interviews and we got information fast. Like that. Just pulling it out quick. By noon—this happened at 9:15. By twelve o'clock I had all three TV stations and we had interviews, and I put my sergeant in charge that was the one I told you did real good with public speaking and everything and he had all the information I had because I was giving it to him. We got an approval from the administration to get all that information to be able to put it out. We put it out by twelve o'clock. That was fast. With everything that was going on. We put it all out and we were getting calls and calls and calls. So we had the dispatcher—one that was going to handle that, the other one just everything else that was going on. So everything was working perfect. The FBI told me, he said, "Mike, we can have a composite artist here for you in the morning. We're going to fly him out of Dallas. We'll have him here by eight o'clock." I said, "Okay. Great." So we had everything set—going. And then, you know, we started going over the interviews and—you know—confessions, everything. I mean, not confessions, but interviews. And we got everything set up. We had it going great. And then I go out every now and then and do an interview with the media, but at six o'clock news we were hoping to get a break at that time. When most of the people watch the news. Sure enough, about seven o'clock that evening Sheriff ____ [1:14:12.4] got the call that the truck we were looking for belonged to a family out there, you know, between Slaton and I think it was Lorenzo. Somewhere out there. Way out there off Acuff Road and 400. Back up in that area some. And they called the sheriff, told him. The sheriff called me and he said, "Hey, Torres. Me and chief deputy are on our way out here. We're going to handle this call. We're going to find out, you know, such and such." It was election time so Sunny wanted a person to go out there and do it. So—reelection time—and so sure enough—and he kept calling his office. Office would call us as to what was going on. And they picked up a suspect—two suspects. And the lady that was—we thought was the one who committed the crime and everything and brought her in and they picked up the baby also. So he pulled up into the UMC ER. That place was covered with cameras. I mean, people—news media people. And we was just sitting back watching the sheriff get out with the baby, and his wife—he brought her along. You know, good reelection—campaign stuff. [Laughter] You know, talking to all the media and everything. And, you know, they did all that and then we went up and took the

baby to the mother in the hospital. All of us was all law enforcement people and everything—and the media and everything. And they did interviews with that young lady and gave her the baby and everything. And finally one of the news media people—and I can't think of his name. He worked—he was working for K—CBS, Channel 13—and he said, “Mike.” He said, “I know you’ve been at this all day long since this morning.” He said, “But all this activity going on and everything nobody knows who did all the background work and everything. I want to have an interview with you.” So sure enough he had a lengthy interview with me and my detective Trevino, who helped me on that also. And, you know, me and Trevino interviewed with him and everything. It was something else. But it didn't end there, because that evening, once they brought the people into the sheriff's office then I had to go down there and talk to them and interview them about what had happened. Hit them with the facts and everything and get statements from them. That lady cooperated real good. Her name was—and I can say this because she's already been—she was convicted and she's served her time and everything. She's supposedly got back out and everything. Teresita Flores. She was from Lorenzo, and she explained why she had done the kidnapping and how well she prepared for it. I mean, she laminated her own ID card and everything. Got—from one of our linen baskets got a uniform to wear and everything. And she practiced the run and everything a couple of times before she actually did the kidnapping. I don't even—went off perfect except two ladies saw her going out the building and noticed that she was exiting with what seemed to be like a baby, and she was going out the back door over at UMC. And said, “Why wouldn't she be going out the front door?” They said she kept looking around and those were our two witnesses. Those were the ones that helped us solve it. Yeah. It was amazing. Worked on that one, and then the latest one that we had was the—this one right here. Timothy Cole's story.

DS:

Oh yeah.

MT:

Yeah. He—we had—at the same time that, you know, other agencies—Lubbock PD and campus PD were working on—they called him the “Tech Rapist” at the time. And then we had a sexual assault occur over—a lady was one of the nurses there, and she was picked up at the parking lot and taken over there by the landfill and then, you know, the chief called me right after that and then the next morning when she went into them. And I worked with her—worked with her and did—even did a composite with her and everything. Got all the information and everything. And so I was pretty sure, you know. And this one, you know, it went in with the Timothy Cole story because this happened the same time. It was a black male suspect. And it happened around Tech campus. See? And so here we go—I was having to work with campus a little bit, and then the DA's office—the prosecutor at that time who was working with all this was David Hess. And so when I got this case—I got this one going and everything, and then I put out a composite for the

media and everything. And one that I drew—I used to do a lot of composites also, and the composite drawings—and this is the one that I did.

DS:

Hm.

MT:

Yeah. But this was all over the media for a long time. But anyway, the guy who wrote the book got it all wrong. He put me working under Parchman, which was the chief detective over here, and I never worked for him. It's why I got laid off. [Laughter] He didn't want me working for him and I didn't want to work for him. And then he had me doing—the only thing—they got credit for the case that I solved on that one, because LPD called me later, about two days after the picture went out on TV. And they called me and they said—you know, most of these officers with LPD knew me, because they would come to the ER and drop off somebody or ask us to help them with a violent patient or something that they had brought in or arrested. And so we were always there, so we all knew everybody. So they called me one day. "Hey, Mike." Said—it was like four o'clock in the afternoon. Said, "Hey, Mike. This is so-and-so with the LPD. I just caught—we just caught an old boy out here in Mackenzie Park and he was trying to rape this black female. He's a black male. Come to find out he said he's a parolee and he's staying over at Eagle's Wing." He said, "And he looks like the guy in the picture that you drew." He said, "He looks a lot like him." He says, "You want to come over and talk to him?" I said, "Yeah, I sure do. I'll be there." So come to find out that that guy had been arrested, been to prison two or three times, and he had sexual assaults in his background. And during the interview, when I was interviewing him at Lubbock PD when they brought him in he still had scratches here where the young lady scratched him on the face when he was trying to sexually assault her. And then he was a well, well-seasoned, you know, criminal. He had been around the block several times. So I knew who I was dealing with. And so I used different techniques, you know, to—you use different techniques like that to talk to people like that because—I mean, what are you going to do to him? Send him to prison? They can tell you all about it. They've already been there. The first thing they tell you is, "I've been there and done it. Now what're you going to do to me?" That's the first thing they tell you. And so, you know, you have to use different tactics with them. And so I played along, played along and everything. And he told me everything that matched with what the victim in that rape that happened over at our place—she was taken from our place—he told me everything I wanted to know. I mean, there was three major things in that case—that she told me that he had told her while he was doing the sexual assault, and that she noticed on him. On his shoes and stuff. And all of that—all of that came out perfect. And so he matched the composite and we had enough, so then I went to the DA's office. And this is where me and that assistant DA started having issues, because he had been calling our office wanting the paperwork. You know, because they were already working on Timothy, see? So they wanted to find out—and from the sources he was getting, which wasn't me and it wasn't LPD, but the

source he was getting it from. He was being told that we had the wrong man. You know, and of course I already knew why—I knew we had the right man. You know? I mean, how else could this guy make up the same stories and tell me the same things he told her, this young lady, when he was—you know—raping her? How could he do that? You know, so I already knew. And he looked just like the composite. And then he was caught trying to do the same thing to another young lady. So the DA's office _____ assistant [1:23:51.6] at that time. And I know I'm being recorded, but you know it doesn't matter because there's some stuff in this book also that—a lot of facts—and this case, there's still, you know, litigation that could come out of it. But I'm only mentioning the facts, you know, as to what happened. And you know we had lengthy discussions with the DA's office. They didn't like some of the things we did as far as we took too long with reports. Well, we had a reputation that our reports had never bounced back. You know, we did good report writing. My boss wouldn't let a report out of there that was bad. And then there was some other things, you know, that he wasn't too happy about that—you know, but I knew we had the right man. So I just told him, I said, "Well, let's just go ahead and have a lineup." That's the ultimate thing right there. And so I knew that they had Timothy Cole at that time as a suspect, but I knew that he hadn't done it. The man we had was the one who did that sexual assault. So they put Timothy Cole and they put our suspect—who was still in jail—put them up in the lineup. And we all met for the lineup and our victim went over there and two other ladies—Tech students. You know, one was flown in from Dallas. Another one I think was here locally. And oh my gosh, I wish they would have videotaped their reactions. In the lineup room where these victims—these ladies—were at when they saw these guys come in. Two of them picked our man. Not Timothy Cole. But, you know, like I said, there was a lot of exchanges between law enforcement going on there. And finally we come up that the first victim—well, the one that I had worked on—she stuck by her guns and said it was him. And I mean, it took her [snaps] twenty seconds to pick him out in the lineup. I was there. And I mean, you could tell by her reaction and everything that was him. You know, the way she was shaking and reacting and everything. And the other one—one of the other ladies in there just started shaking and crying and went out of there screaming. And her parents, you know, were there and they said, "Leave her alone. We don't want to go through any of this. Blah, blah, blah." So they took her back to Dallas or wherever. But—I mean, it was a very emotional, you know, case.

DS:
Um-hm.

MT:
And there was a lot, a lot of law enforcement agencies involved. And there was more than that one Timothy Cole case going on at the same time. And, you know, and we got our man. I know we did, because he pled, went to prison. No telling where he's at now. But this other situation with Timothy Cole and all that? I mean, this all happened at the same time. But, you know, I'm not aware of any details, anything else on that except that I know the DA's office was pretty

strong on us—me—because there was so many things going on at that time and they weren't sure who they had and everything and vice versa. But that was one, one big one. And then, you know, we got that one taken care of and everything. And then we had—I also worked on the Unabomber case. I had a lot of training in, you know, bombs and bomb call threats. Taking and, you know, just how to do searches. Everything. I had a lot of training in that, so—and people knew it. The ones that knew me and stuff from other law enforcement agencies because I was always going to schools with them and everything. And I had, you know, the certificates and everything to prove it. So I got a call one time—this was during the time that they—do you remember the Unabomber?

DS:

Um-hm.

MT:

I called about the Unabomber. And the FBI wired me something, and then we wired them back, and then they—we set up a phone call. And then we set up a meeting later on. But because what was happening was they figured the Unabomber might be targeting researchers because we'd had that ALF—Animal Liberation Front hit over at the Health Science Center where they did all that damage and everything. And I had been working on that case also and so I'd been working a lot of the police departments in Florida State, New Mexico State, uh, Michigan State, you know, Arizona—University of Arizona, and UC Davis, and you know, a bunch of other investigators that I'd been working with. I worked on that case for about six, seven years. And I'm convinced, you know, we got the right people on that one too. But the court wasn't convinced of that. And like they told me when we went to go file the charges and all that said that, "Mike, you know this organization we're going up against, this international organization, they have a lot of money." And said, "And Lubbock County doesn't have that kind of money." And this was Judge Brett Underwood that told me. He says, "Mike," he says—he wasn't a judge at that time. But he told me—he said, "Mike, you have a hell of a lot of circumstantial evidence to prove this certain group—this certain people involved in it." He said, "But I wish you had some real hardcore evidence." He said, "That would—physical evidence that would tie them in. I mean, I can tell from all this physical evidence," he said, "which direction this is going and everything. But we need, you know, that physical evidence." He said, "If it's from such a wealthy group that we're going up against we may try—we might try to prosecute this." What was that _____ [1:30:09.7] over there? But he says—and so they knew me from—because I worked with so many police departments. I even went around doing, you know, speaking for Texas Law Enforcement Intelligence Units Association. It was TLEIUA. And they got me several speaking engagements at UT Arlington, in Killeen, and San Antonio, because I had so much information on this investigation and I'd learned so much about the ALF and their associates. And I had, you know, tons of information—videos and everything—on that case. And so—and I trained, you know, a lot of police officers from Dallas PD wanted to hire me at one time to fly me over there and have

me do a presentation every time their rookie school was going through, because I was showing them how the—what the connection was between what you consider to be regular crimes out here and which was intelligence runs by some of these terrorist groups. Because the ALF was the number one terrorist group—I don't know if they still are—for a long time in the US. And so they wanted me to teach their rookies going through rookie school at that time. And so it was Sergeant—I think his first name was Ray, but his last name was Torres also. And he was one of the supervisors over there, and he had contacted me regarding that. I forget why we never got hooked up on that one—and I did some of that same training here for Lubbock PD at—I think we did one or two sessions during their rookie class. And that—and then handling ER situations. Because in ER you dealt with a lot of mental patients, you know? That was—UMC had that, you know, MHMR rooms—seclusion rooms up there. Which, incidentally, we had—you know, we had a hostage situation up there one time. Yep. And then we had one over at Health Sciences Center. A man was holding two doctors down there in the psychiatry area with a big old knife. And talked him out of that one. But I had a lot of training in hostage and terrorist negotiations by the FBI. Spent about forty, eighty hours, you know, going through that training with them. They told me when I went through that—they said, “Within thirteen days after you go through this training the first one is that somebody in this classroom will be doing negotiations with a hostage taker.” And we said that happened [Laughter] right here.

DS:

[crosstalk] Next level [01:33:00].

MT:

Yeah. It happened in psychiatry. And luckily, you know, we just—I did everything like they tell you to do it and everything and it worked out fine. You know, but I had that situation. Unabomber, like I said, I was in. We called, got together on that one, and then I did a lot of background on some of these researchers. Because we had—we had one working at Texas Tech—and I'm not going to say which campus, but it wasn't here in the city—that, you know, was a person of interest. And FBI knew it, so we were all, you know, working on this thing together. And I did a lot of background checks on people like that and did a lot of investigations on them. And it came about because the bomb that these three university research professor in Tennessee that was killed, you know, shot and killed at four o'clock in the morning one time, and then they thought that [coughs] it was by a bomb, and so they figured it could be the Unabomber. He's targeting again, you know, research. But he had moved out of the area of California, Oregon, and all up along the west coast where he was doing most of that. Every now and then he'd do one over here, but—and they said it could be. It's a long shot. So I helped them on that part also. But we finally determined that it probably wasn't going to be the researcher. The researchers that he was targeting, you know, it just so happened that I think one or two of them were involved with research. And I mean, that was one that I worked on with the FBI also. And like I said, the ALF. That case. That went on for so long. And I worked with people in the

University of Michigan and over there until finally, you know, we got somebody prosecuted. First one was a lady out of Oregon, then Maryland, New York, and prosecutions started coming in and we started, you know, hammering—chipping away at the ALF. So. But nobody knew anything about animal rights groups at that time.

DS:

Um-hm.

MT:

So I had to train myself. I started with a detective over at Arizona State, because they had burned their research facility down. And then he told me about the ones at UC, and UCLA and UC Davis. And then—so I worked with—contacted them, and then I started doing that until—at one point I was getting calls from New Mexico and Florida State, and they said, “Well, we understand that you’ve done a lot of work on this, and blah, blah, blah.” And so they said, “This is what we have. This is what’s going on.” And I think that with the information that I gave them and some of the other investigators like me that we prevented ALF break-ins in Arizona—in Florida and in New Mexico. Because the ALF was already doing surveillance runs. And that’s—and they do surveillance, they do intel, like they did for us over here. And we narrowed it down—it was sixty days before they hit. They did their dry run over here at the Health Sciences Center. But a lot of stuff like that. There was several cases that I worked on. That’s why I enjoyed it and I loved that job. And, you know, I was really—I think I was good at it. And we had some good, good people. And it’s evident because those are the leaders of the university police department today. You know, that’s who’s running UPD. And two of the big, big bosses over there were from the medical school. And so, you know, I think we did good. But it’s just—you know, political issues, problems that come up. And people don’t get along and this and that. But after we left—it’s pretty sad, because when we gave up the ER contract—I mean, we didn’t give it up, but I mean, when UPD took over and then they gave up the ER contract—that was one of the first contracts they gave up. And then the supervising, you know, UMC security. And you know I mean I think it was like two years after that, that a situation happened in ER with those nurses where they got sexually assaulted by a convict in there. Remember that?

DS:

Right.

MT:

Right. See, when we were in charge of all that, you know, we had policy in place that would have prevented that. Because any time anybody was brought in from any one of the prison units they had to be searched with one of our officers present and the TDCJ guards doing the searching and our officer present to make sure that it was done correctly. That situation would have never happened. And things like that that—you know. I mean, you feel bad because what if

I'd have been allowed these ladies wouldn't be going through that for the rest of their life? You know? Or that nightmare that they had and everything and whatever else happened. But I went on from there after our big layoff. And I'd always wanted to work with, you know, stick with TRS with Tech until I was about—until I'd been in about twenty-five years, and then I was going to go work for TDCJ. One of their areas around here, just because of the ERS retirement, which was a lot better than TRS at that time. They've still got a lot—a little bit more advantages to it than TRS. And so I was always—what I was going to do—and I even planned on this for retirement, because I bought five years on the military time when way when I was young—when I first started with Tech. I've been working for Tech, I think, like seven or eight years and I bought five years. And it was real cheap at that time. Today? Shoot, you pay big bucks to buy five years of military time for retirement. So I was lining up everything and I knew that when I hit twenty-five with Tech that I was going to go ahead and I'd go work for TDCJ three years so that everything would roll over into their retirement, and I could retire through TRS—I mean ERS—and get all the other, you know, extra benefits. And along with being able to take up to three best years' salary and roll it over to another account—retirement account and all that. So, you know, I knew what I wanted. And so they just cut me off about [laughter] three years. So I still went ahead and did it, and I went and worked for, you know, the parole division over at TDCJ parole here in Lubbock. And I worked for them for three years and, you know, at that one point I went and filed for my retirement—state retirement. Okay, that was three years with parole and that was twenty-two with Tech, so that was twenty-five. And then I had five years' military, so that was thirty. And then, all during this time I've been working with the state I hardly ever took any sick leave, so I had two years' worth of sick leave. So that gave me thirty-two years to retire at age fifty-three, which I did. And I retired the first time at age of fifty-three with thirty-two years' credit with the state through TRS—ERS. And then I settled down for a couple of years and worked for some attorneys here in town. Sam ____ [1:41:09.2] and Kevin Glasheen at that time. Doing investigations for them. It was good income when I worked, but it wasn't always steady. And so finally the wife and I came to an agreement that, you know, I said, "Well, Health Science Center said they would hire me back. It was nothing against me or anything that I did." So, you know, it was just involved in other situations. So they said they were proud of what I did and everything and I could go back to work for them. So I saw an opening in the safety department over there in 2003. And I knew a lot of the people there in the safety department already anyway, so I went ahead and applied. And you know, I got on a couple of days later. It was no problem. And I worked there for eight years and I would have probably, you know, done more time except politics being what they are, you know, I didn't get promoted. And they had a unit supervisor position come up and, again, you know it's so many things involved in this and I can't put my finger on any of it, but I'd been there already twenty—twenty-six years. At that facility. I was one of the first people, you know, who worked there in that facility. And I watched it come up and everything. And you knew it like the back of my hand and everything. And you know I was doing a fantastic job. I set up report—you know, good reporting procedures for them and everything for incident reports and all that. And I had all my files and everything set up. I

was doing training at other—in El Paso, Amarillo, and all over the place for them. So I thought I was the best qualifier for the unit supervisor job. Well, they changed the entire promotion procedure when my time came to get promoted. First time they ever used the interview board process, supposedly. And they never used it before. It was just the director or the HR person and whoever, you know, checked your qualifications and all that and your work record and all that. But this time they went with an interview board. When it came my turn to be—you know, to be considered for the position of supervisor. So. And of course they had an applicant in mind that came from the city. She had her master's and all this and that. And she talked real nice to them and everything. So they decided to go with her. Never worked at the Health Science Center before and, you know—well, we won't talk about her job record. But, you know, it wasn't as good as mine. [Laughs] So, you know, those things happened again. But that's what happened with that situation. And then I worked there—I told Victor Means, the supervisor there, that I would give him two more years to train the—my new supervisor, and then get her acclimated to the surroundings and everything and our way of doing things. And I did that. I'm good with my word. I did that, and then finally got—you know I decided to file for retirement. So I did that in 2009. In August. And got eight years' worth of credit and everything. And again I had a lot of, you know, time built up and everything that helped me out on that. So this time I retired through TRS. So now I have ERS retirement, TRS retirement, and they only use this to change our state retirement system. [Laughter] Because not a lot of people follow that. But you know, hey, it's there, it's fair, and it works out if you—

DS:

Hey, if the governor can get two checks.

MT:

Yeah. So. You know, and then I went ahead and filed with social security, and I just started receiving that last year during the summer. No, toward the end of summer. You know, so—and then I put away in another retirement account for my kids, and later on after we depart and things like that. The lord has been good to me and everything and what I do nowadays is I do a lot of work at church and, you know, maintenance man. Help them out with computer problems. It's what I've been doing for about two weeks now. They finally called me before I came down. They said, "Hey, guess what? It's ____." [1:46:02.8] Said, "Okay." So I was going to go back and check on the system. Make sure it is working like I want it to. But—and then, you know, I teach religious education to the kids over there. The high schoolers. And then also do a little part-time DJ-ing sometimes. And do about six, seven gigs a year. But I enjoy that. I mean, that's really relaxing and something that's enjoyable that I like to do and everything. So I work for the—do a lot of work for the Texas Tech Employees Union. And I was one of their executive board members for ten years. I resigned the end of last year, but they asked me to come back and help them out until they have an election and get another board member for this region. So I'm still doing that. And, you know, helping them out with that. I'm involved with RITA, you know,

which—Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance. And Austin Immigration Rights Coalition. And you know LULAC locally. Ciudad locally. And, you know, Tejano Democrats and several organizations like that. One of the things that I forgot to mention that I'm doing—I'm still doing an investigation on something that involves, you know, where we came from, our background. Because my grandfather used to tell us a lot that he was Indian and he remembered his dad telling him, and his dad being—you know, looking—you know, he was dark-complected. He thought he was Hispanic and everything, but he said that he never worked for a living. All they did was live out there in the shrubs here in the forest and stuff that was around Corpus Christi Bay. And we all laughed at him and stuff, but we also—I started noticing that we were—we had—we're some very, very tall people. You know, I was six foot before I started shrinking, and my son is six four, six five. My uncles were six one. My grandfather was about six one, six two. And then Juan Torres. And then, you know, I started—I had a family reunion a couple of years—three years ago that I did, and saw some new cousins that I'd only heard about. Never met them or anything. Yeah, I've got some cousins that are six four, six five. [Laughter] So my dad had told me that their father was also about six five. And so I said—and then I started checking about which Native Americans there were, and I talked to this one guy from LULAC, and he said, "Mike." He said—because he had feathers and all that across there. He said, "Martinez, Native American," and all that. I started talking to him, and he's one of the big shots with a lot of the civil rights movement and stuff and with Native American research and all that. He told me—he says, "How do you think that we—why do you think we look like Native Americans?" He said, "We speak Spanish and they have the Mexican culture and all that, but we started off as Native American." Then he explained to me—he said, you know, that, "The Native Americans that used to be around Texas," he said. "They had to pretend they were Hispanic. They already knew Spanish anyway from all the Mexicans that lived in the area." And so he said, "They moved close to a lot of these towns, but they still had their own communities. Their own tribe, their own group." And he said, "But they lived off the land. Hunting, and fishing, and stuff like that." So, you know, I said, "Maybe there is something to the story my grandfather has been saying." So I started doing an investigation. Sure enough. I've talked to some of my cousins who I had very seldom had contact with. Their grandfathers told them the same story. One of them even took him to a point where my grandfather had told me that he used to live. And when he was being raised they lived in these huts. He said they slept in the ground. They dug out holes and put grass in there when it was cold and slept in the ground. And he said all they ate was fish and things like that. Oysters and stuff they pulled out of Corpus Christi Bay and the Nueces River right there where it hits the salt water. So I started doing some more checking into it, reading as many books as I could. Sure enough, there was a camp—the last Karankawa Indian camps. Those were ones that welcomed Columbus and all them and fought with Jean Lafitte and all them in New Orleans—in that area. Because that's where they started, was around Beaumont, Galveston area. Houston. And they started, you know, coming around this way. They went all the way into Mexico. But—and everything I saw said they were six to seven foot tall. You know? And I've done a lot of studies about what they ate, where they lived. And then, you know, how they

thought they had eradicated them in 1860. And I read all that. Because Texas policies and law enforcement and everybody set out to get rid of the Indians at that time, right after they became a state. They said, "Well, that's enough of these people." So they started doing that. So a lot of them, instead of fighting with them, they started banding together, going and living around towns, but close to the coast. You know, and Odem is not that far from the coast. And so this settlement where my grandfather says he was born and raised until he was about five or seven years old, he said, was in that area two miles away from Odem. Going toward the ocean. Toward the Gulf of Mexico. And doing some more checking and everything, and sure enough this one man—famous trapper that roamed all that area of Texas—he's actually—he put out a map where he showed where the last Karankawa tribes were at. And the names of the groups and everything. And so one of them—there was ten of them left. One of them is right there where my grandfather says he lived. And he says that they think they killed them, he said, in 1860. He says they wiped out the Indians. He said, "But they didn't. No, and I used to trap and barter and exchange furs and all, all around the coastline and all through there." And he said, "I knew all the tribes. I stopped by there and trade with them and stuff." So he drew the maps, and there it is. About a mile and three quarter—a mile and a half—two miles from Odem. Just where my grandfather had told me. And then one of the cousins told me that his dad took him—or his grandfather, when he was about five years old. And he's about sixty-seven, sixty-eight. And he said that his grandfather took him out there one time and had him drive through the country back in there. And he told him—he got him out of the car and said, "Son, this is where we were raised. This is where we lived. Me and so-and-so family, and so-and-so, and so-and-so." And so I started thinking about all that. They had brothers, sisters, cousins, first cousins, second cousins, you know, other people like that, living all together like that. Half of the Indians were Native American. It's all what they were. And the Karankawas, you know, we have all the features. The real tall people in our family and stuff. Yeah, so all that. And I'm still not through because—and I've googled it—that area and everything. I found out who owns the property and everything. And I've seen a clearing on the Google Maps where it looks like—that area stays clear. Nothing grows there for some reason. And it would be a nice little camp area. So I said—and I'm going to try to do in February when I go for a meeting in Austin.

DS:

For the RITA meeting?

MT:

I'm going to go down to Corpus, because it's got to be cold enough because in that area there're still thirty foot trees that—shrubs and everything. I mean, there's areas—I've been doing there and looking around, and there are areas where you can't get through there unless you have a machete.

DS:

Wow.

MT:

You know? And so I figured it out and I said, "Well." And now they started populating it, but on the outskirts of that area. But it's still a lot of jungle area left in there. And it's in between the coast, you know, the Corpus Christi Bay and Odem, and in that area right there. But, you know, I'm going to try to go this February and see if I can talk to the landowner, because I know exactly where this spot is at—about a—looks like it's about half a mile behind their property—and see if they'll let me go through their property and go back there and look around and stuff. Take some pictures. Because there's an old cemetery close to the—it's real old. It's from early 1800s. And it's a small cemetery. And my grandpa used to say that they had to walk by that cemetery when they were going to town. That cemetery is right in line with that land I was telling you about. It's amazing, man. All this stuff coming together.

DS:

Yeah.

MT:

So I'm retired. And you know, try to take it easy. But I get on too many projects sometimes.

DS:

Oh I know. [MT Laughs] Yeah, in fact you mentioned you had to go somewhere else today?

MT:

Yeah, I was going to go check on the—but I've got until five. But I was going to check on the computer system?

DS:

Oh okay.

MT:

Yeah, because she called me and told me—she said, "Well, my—it looks like my internet is off?" And I said, "You know what? [claps] After all those changes I made last night in the program and stuff, I forgot to reboot." So when she turned it on this morning she noticed that her system was up and everything. So that may be—now I've got to check and make sure, because I switched it or—that thing is flashing there.

DS:

Okay.

MT:

May be out of film. I mean, out of tape?

DS:

Yeah, it's coming up on it.

MT:

Oh.

End of Recording



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