Interview with

LEE YOUNG Texas Ranger, Retired

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Project: Texas Rangers

Interview Conducted at Lee Young's Home McKinney, Texas Friday—October 17, 2008

Interviewed By: Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray Longview, Texas

Present at Interview: Lee Young, Mary Young, Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray



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LEE YOUNG

TEXAS RANGER, RETIRED

NANCY RAY: My name is Nancy Ray and I am visiting with Lee Young of McKinney, Texas.

And the purpose of this interview is to discuss Ranger Young's career as a Texas Ranger. Ranger

Young, do I have your permission to record this interview?

LEE YOUNG: Yes, you do.

NANCY RAY: And Ranger Young, do you understand that this video will belong to the Texas

Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, Texas?

LEE YOUNG: Yes ma'am, I do.

NANCY RAY: And Ranger Young, do I have your permission to present copies of this video to

various historical organizations such as museums, libraries, schools, and once transcribed, to

place on the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum's website?

LEE YOUNG: Yes, you do.

NANCY RAY: OK, let's start with what is your full name?

LEE YOUNG: Full name is Lee, LEE, Roy, ROY, Young, Jr.

NANCY RAY: OK. And you currently live near McKinney.

LEE YOUNG: Yes. Actually, the little town I live in is named New Hope.

NANCY RAY: OK. And when and where were you born?

LEE YOUNG: I was born in Del Rio, Texas, January 8th, 1947.

NANCY RAY: And did you go to school there or did you... is that where you grew up?

LEE YOUNG: Well, well actually I grew up in Brackettville which is about 30 miles east of

Del Rio. And uh I attended school there until I was, what a sophomore in high school? And then

I moved to Del Rio and finished high school there in Del Rio. But I was raised by my

grandparents there in Brackettville.

NANCY RAY: OK. And did you have any favorite subjects in school?

LEE YOUNG: Uh, I liked science, science and things pertaining to like uh I guess like

electronics and things of that nature.

NANCY RAY: What about sports?

LEE YOUNG: Uh, probably the only sport that I had a, any, the most interest in is gonna be

baseball... had a lot of interest in baseball so I did play some baseball.

NANCY RAY: OK, all right... anything about your time, your schooling, high school or grade

school that stands out in your mind? We had one person say he skipped the second grade. Is

there anything that stands out in your mind?

LEE YOUNG: Uh, I can't think of anything right off.

NANCY RAY: OK. You got through it, huh?

LEE YOUNG: Other than the uh, well my first few years in school, I guess my first eight years

of school, I attended an all Black school. And then when I was promoted to the Ninth Grade,

that's when I went to school that was integrated. And I attended high school, well my Ninth and

Tenth grade which was there at that school that was integrated in Brackettville. And when I

transferred to Del Rio, I finished my last two years of high school there in Del Rio.

NANCY RAY: OK, your last two years, was that a segregated school or integrated school?

LEE YOUNG: All... that was integrated.

NANCY RAY: Integrated, very good. OK.

LEE YOUNG: Yes ma'am.

NANCY RAY: So how did that go for you? Was that easy or hard?

3

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LEE YOUNG: Well, it wasn't uh, it wasn't hard I don't think. I didn't have any more problems than I'd had at any other school. It was just that the classes were a lot larger. St. Vincent's, my Eighth Grade graduating class only had uh let's see, four students, three girls and myself, I was the only boy.

NANCY RAY: Good odds for you.

LEE YOUNG: Yeah, it was. (laughter) And you know that, that was probably kind of normal for most of my classes for those first few years... they were basically just real small classes until I got to say in about the Ninth or Tenth grade and the classes became a lot more larger then.

NANCY RAY: OK. Well, tell me about your family. When did you marry, Mary is your wife's name.

LEE YOUNG: We got married in 1976, April 24th.

NANCY RAY: Good job! He keeps looking at you for...

LEE YOUNG: I was just looking to get some confirmation there.

NANCY RAY: That's right you did, you did a good job. (laughter) OK, what about kids?

LEE YOUNG: We've got two kids. We've got a son, uh his name's Anthony Lee Young and he's 29. And we've got a daughter, our only daughter, and she's 22.

NANCY RAY: OK, and any grandkids or...

LEE YOUNG: No grandkids... uh they're both still single. They both live and work in McKinney and uh they've both already moved out of the house so it's just the wife and I here nowadays.

NANCY RAY: Good, OK. Well when you finished high school, what did you do after that?

LEE YOUNG: Well, after high school, I finished high school in 1966 and I enlisted in the Navy and I was in the Navy from '66 to 1970. And uh I uh worked as an electrician, I did electrical

repair and uh was stationed aboard a ship named the USS Samuel Gomphers. Uh on the ship,

was... actually it was a new ship because they, they flew us from San Diego, California, up to

Bremerton, Washington, actually to Seattle. And then from Seattle we rode a bus from Seattle to

Bremerton, Washington, where the ship was being built in the shipyards, up there in Bremerton,

Washington. So we, we went aboard ship. The ship was still in dry docks and uh construction of

the ship hadn't yet been completed. And so I became a part of that original crew of that ship and

in the Navy, that's a pretty big distinction you know to be a part of the original crew of a ship

because then you become what they call a plank owner. And because nowadays ships don't have

planks on them anymore but that's based on the old days of the ships when they were built out of

wood and uh the decks would be built out of planks, wooden planks. And uh so supposedly when

the ship was decommissioned and sailors that served aboard the ship as a plank owner, when the

ship was being dismantled, they would then issue that sailor a plank from that ship's deck. And

so I became a plank owner on the Samuel Gomphers. And uh nowadays that just means a little

plaque that they give you that you can hang on the wall.

NANCY RAY: Well is that ship, has it been decommissioned?

LEE YOUNG: It's been decommissioned and they took it out off the East Coast back uh I

guess in the mid-'90s and I guess use it for target practice. And so it's at the bottom of the ocean

now.

NANCY RAY: So how long were you in the Navy?

LEE YOUNG: Four years.

NANCY RAY: OK. And you were based out of Washington?

LEE YOUNG: I was based out of San Diego, California.

5

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NANCY RAY: All right. Anything stand out in your mind other than that about your military career? Did you go to Vietnam or anything?

LEE YOUNG: Well, the closest I got to Vietnam was like 90 miles away on ship. Because my ship did basically uh all well types of repair work for other ships in the Naval fleet so the closest we got to Vietnam was maybe like 80 or 90 miles away from Vietnam. Uh but one thing that stands out, I think I was talking to someone the other day, it might have been my wife. I might have mentioned uh that one time my ship had a stowaway on it. And uh like how that happened, my ship was leaving the shipyards in Bremerton, Washington, and going down to our home port in San Diego, California. And it was a large ship... it had a crew of like a thousand men, uh maybe a couple hundred officers or something like that. Anyway, they decided since the ship had all kinds of room, a sailor could bring his family aboard and the family could sail with... you know the rest of the ship's crew. And so there were a lot of wives and kids that they berthed in the ship's staterooms. And uh but one sailor, he brought his girlfriend aboard and uh when the ship left pier or left port, uh he just took her down to the... this sailor worked in the photo lab and he hid her out in the darkroom there on ship. And we're out at sea maybe a couple of days already now and then one of the ship's master at arms, that's like the ship police, and uh he gets to noticing that this sailor would leave the mess hall everyday and he would be carrying some food in his hands. And he was walking back, back to the photo lab where he worked at. So one this master at arms followed him and come down into the photo lab and there he was sitting with this young lady and she was eating the food. And he said well who's she? Well she's not supposed to be down here, she's supposed to be up in the stateroom, the stateroom area onboard ship. Well come to find out, well she was his girlfriend that he hid on the ship so she could sail down to San Diego with him. And uh also it happens that he was married so when the ship

arrived at the pier in San Diego, well waiting on the pier for him and her were two agents from

the FBI. Because you know that's a federal, I will say offense to uh to be a stowaway aboard a

naval ship.

NANCY RAY: What happened to the seaman?

LEE YOUNG: Well, uh I think he got a dishonorable discharge from the Navy as a result of

that... is what happened to him.

NANCY RAY: Now, were you two married while you were in the Navy?

MARY YOUNG: No, ma'am.

NANCY RAY: Later, OK. Well you had an interesting, an interesting time then.

LEE YOUNG: Um hmm, yes ma'am.

NANCY RAY: OK, anything else about your career in the Navy before we move on.

LEE YOUNG: Well, I guess one thing that stands out... I crossed the International Date Line a

couple of times. You know when you're going one direction you lose a day, come back the other

direction you gain a day. So uh that happened a couple of times. I experienced uh two typhoons,

and of course on the uh, on the East Coast they call them hurricanes. On the West Coast they call

them typhoons. And the first time I experienced that my ship was actually in port. And the word

comes out that there's going to be a typhoon coming in so we're gonna untie from the pier and

sail out to sea. Uh, just to ride out the storm. And I think... well why are we going to leave land

to go out to sea where the storm's at? Uh, it finally, it dawned upon me as the ship remained tied

up to the pier, when the storm come in, well that could damage the pier and the ship. So we went

to sea and went out into the storm and I saw the largest waves of water I've seen in my life and

we rode it out, rode it out kind of like a cork in a bathtub, I think.

NANCY RAY: Coming from Del Rio that's probably quite a bit different.

7

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LEE YOUNG: Yeah, oh yeah. Because prior to that, the largest body of water I had ever seen

was Lake Amistad. And uh, so, yeah, that was quite a bit of water.

NANCY RAY: I would say so. Well, that, that reminds me. I wanted to ask you, you said you

were raised by your grandparents.

LEE YOUNG: Yes ma'am.

NANCY RAY: Tell us your grandparents' names.

LEE YOUNG: My grandmother's name was Ceriella Ward

NANCY RAY: How do you spell Ceriella?

LEE YOUNG: CERIELLA Ward, WARD. And my grandfather was Hispanic, his name was

Reynaldo Aguilar, that's AGUILAR. And uh but those were the two people that raised me.

NANCY RAY: OK. Well, while we're talking about your grandparents, why don't you tell us a

little bit about your heritage or your ancestry.

LEE YOUNG: Um hmm. Well, I'm a descendent of the Black Seminoles who originally lived

in the Florida territory prior to the uh, well prior to even the first Seminole war. There were three

Seminole wars. And uh the best that I can, I've done a fair amount of uh research on my family

and the best I can find out, a part of my family did participate or take part in two or three of these

wars. And uh after, or during the time of the third Seminole war, that's when a lot of our people

were uh, well some were captured and forced to be relocated to the Indian Territory in

Oklahoma. And uh this was the 1840s when they came over there. And uh the uh, apparently the

Seminole had fought and resisted being moved to the Indian Territory for so long, uh a part of

their land was taken over by the Creek Indians. And the Creek Indians and the Seminoles kind of

have a, kind of have a cousin-type relationship. And so they tried to place the Seminoles under

the Creek authority, well under their nation. And uh that didn't work out because the Creeks, at

8

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that time, had a uh their thinking in regards to their Black brothers and sisters, they still wanted to treat them as being slaves whereas the Seminoles, they treated the Black men and women as being their equals. And in fact, they were even a part of some of their families because they had intermarried. And so uh that caused a lot of conflict say between the Creeks and the Seminoles so a large say portion of the Seminoles decided to leave the Indian Territory and move down and live in well Northern Mexico. So they got permission from the Mexican government to come into Mexico and they settled in well Northern-Mexico. And uh that was, well my descendents or my people and her people also that... that moved down there. I think it was about 1844 is when they crossed the border there at Eagle Pass, crossed the Rio Grande there. And they originally, were just south of Eagle Pass there for a while, a short period of time, but this was 1844. And Texas, this was prior to the Civil War, so Texas was still a slave state then. And there was a few slave uh say catching parties that would cross the Rio Grande and go down to where these people were living and try to capture what they could and bring them back to place them in slavery. And so they decided this was too close, still too close to Texas because it was still within say less than a day's ride of the border. So they moved from there and settled down near Sabinas, Mexico, which is more than just a day or two ride from the border. And uh that made them, well settled in a place that was lot more safer and comfortable there. And uh to this day, we still have people that live down there.

NANCY RAY: Well, did you want to say anything about your parents, I didn't ask about their names. Is that something you want to talk about?

LEE YOUNG: Yes. Well, my mother uh, well my mother she uh, well her name was Abby Ward originally, prior to being married. And uh she was the uh the daughter of my grandmother that raised me. And uh she grew up around Brackettville, her and her family. And from her

family, the only member I still got living is her sister. Uh which is my Aunt Rosetta and she lives

in South Carolina. Uh well years ago, she married a guy, a man that was in the Air Force and uh

that's where his home is at originally, down at... I think he came from Alabama originally and so

that's why they settled over there, once he retired out of the Air Force. And uh but, she's

probably the oldest living member of my say mother's side of the family that, oh that's still

living. My father is still alive, well his name is Lee Roy Young and he lives in Del Rio. And he's

in his, I think he's 88? I think he's 88, yeah. But he still lives in Del Rio and uh his, I can't

remember his last... his wife, she passed away, what, ten... about ten or twelve years ago?

MARY YOUNG: Twelve years ago, yeah.

NANCY RAY: Well, I think I didn't ask you. What is Mary's full name?

LEE YOUNG: Mary Sanchez.

NANCY RAY: SANCHEZ?

LEE YOUNG: Yes ma'am.

NANCY RAY: OK. All right, is there anything... after you were in the Navy, what did you do

then?

LEE YOUNG: Well, after I got out of the Navy in 19, what '70? I came back, I returned to Del

Rio and uh then in 1971 is when I started college. I started, I attended college at a junior college

in Uvalde, Southwest Texas Junior College. And attended my first two years of college there and

uh received my AA degree from there and then from there, I went off to Sam Houston State

University in Huntsville and attended there I guess about a year. And about that time, I kind of

had an urge to join the DPS to go to work so I made my, made my application to join the

Department of Public Safety and uh... oh when was it, 1973, is when I was hired on by the DPS.

10

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NANCY RAY: What prompted you want to do that? Was there anything that contributed to

that?

LEE YOUNG: Well, uh oh I had an interest in law enforcement there for several years. In fact

at one time, uh just before I started college, uh attended junior college I think it was, I had made

an application to join the Border Patrol. And uh there you first, you know, you sign up, you take

a written examination, you make a high enough score on that and they call you for an interview

or the oral board. And uh I took the test and I waited and waited and waited and waited... of

course I guess that's kind of like the government. They move real slow. And uh finally got word

that I was to report to San Antonio over there for my interview to join the Border Patrol. But

there in the meantime, I started going to college, attending college. And I thought well I don't

want to quit college, I'm just starting now. So I, oh I passed that up, I gave that up, that

opportunity there. But I still had the desire to get in some aspect of say law enforcement. And

uh... oh I knew some troopers there in Del Rio. Uh in fact I had a friend that I went to high

school with that had already joined the Department of Public Safety.

NANCY RAY: What was his name?

LEE YOUNG: Bill Haines. And uh so from that I kind of thought a lot about the Department of

Public Safety, about being a trooper so that's why I kind of had that desire to go to work there.

NANCY RAY: So tell us, what did you have to do to become a trooper?

LEE YOUNG: Well, uh first, well I went down and I applied and the agility test, the written

test, and uh all the things we went through there.

NANCY RAY: The agility test, what is that?

LEE YOUNG: Uh, well that's just, they're checking your, you know, your... if you can lift say

objects. I think they were called *unknown word*, this thing that looked like a spare tire out of the

11

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back of a trunk of a car. See if you can do that. I guess that's checking your arms and back and legs, your strength there and whatnot, things of that nature. And uh seems like there were some other tests we had in there too also. And then uh I finally got word that I was going to attend the Academy there in Austin. Back in those days, the Academy was eighteen weeks of training and uh and, in fact I think it's a bit different today than what it was back then even though they do attend for a longer period of time nowadays. But back then, for instance, they had what they were called, like these midnight raids or whatever. They'd come in at one or two o'clock in the morning, they'd wake everybody up and say get down to the classroom right now. So you get down to the classroom, sit down, rubbing your eyes and trying to wake up and they say OK, get out a sheet of paper. We're going to give you a spelling test.

NANCY RAY: At one o'clock in the morning?

LEE YOUNG: At one o'clock in the morning! One o'clock in the morning and they might just be like five or ten words on this spelling test but if you missed just one, you just flunked the whole test. And they're gonna keep you even longer after that. Uh but that was kind of I think designed uh because if you're working as a trooper, and uh... as my wife can probably attest to there, there were many times oh we'd be awakened in the middle of the night. The phone would ring and say Trooper, you got a wreck out on so-and-so highway, uh you got maybe one injured, maybe one killed whatever... well they need you out there right now. So you get dressed, run and jump in your patrol car, you drive out there. And you drive, and you try to wake up and you arrive at the scene and you'll still be maybe partially asleep but you still have to function there.

NANCY RAY: And you said thank you for that spelling test.

LEE YOUNG: Yeah, exactly. (laughter) Exactly, yeah. And I think that is what is was all about. To see you know how you were gonna respond in that type situation there.

NANCY RAY: What else about the school stands out in your mind?

minute fight was done, well you were pretty, you're well worn out.

LEE YOUNG: Boxing. Yeah. You were required to box three fights. Uh each fight was three rounds uh, at three minutes per round. But the thing that was interesting about that, uh the only time they had the clock running was when you was punching. When you went to clenching or whatever, you're just dancing around the ring, they would stop the clock. So actually a three-minute fight or round was actually a lot more than three minutes. And so by the time the three-

NANCY RAY: I guess so.

LEE YOUNG: And uh... of course nowadays, the recruits they have boxing headgear because they're have been a couple of deaths during recruit school.

NANCY RAY: But you didn't... your class didn't?

LEE YOUNG: But we didn't have headgear, we just boxed. No just stood...

NANCY RAY: Did you have gloves?

LEE YOUNG: Stood there toe-to-toe with gloves and uh and if you weren't... if they felt, if the instructor felt that you weren't say being aggressive enough, uh they stopped the clock. So you were there, you trying to give it your best but the clock's not running anymore.

NANCY RAY: Not clicking on three minutes.

LEE YOUNG: Oh yeah, that's right. And uh but one thing that did stand out in my mind, my class had the second female to be hired by the Department of Public Safety. She was in my class, Carolyn Riffe.

NANCY RAY: Richey?

LEE YOUNG: No, Riffe, RIFFE. Carolyn Riffe. And so come boxing, everyone kind of stands and looks around, well who's Carolyn gonna box, you know? I know I'm gonna box another guy

or two or three other men but who's she gonna box? She boxed the instructor. And uh I think he

was sadistic because he didn't cut her no slack at all. None at all. And uh so...

NANCY RAY: Did she make the uh, did she make the school? Did she finish?

LEE YOUNG: Yeah, she finished. She made the school. I don't think she worked too long after

that in the Department. I'm not sure what happened to her after that. But uh yes, she did make

the school. In fact, my school started with 107 recruits and we graduated 73. So uh, there... I

remember the first week or two you'd go to bed at night and there'd be some guy laying in the

bunk next to you. You'd get up in the morning... that bunk would be empty because he'd already

left in the middle of the night. He'd pack his bag and just leave quietly.

NANCY RAY: Oh, he left on his... they'd leave on their own?

LEE YOUNG: Yep. Some would leave on their own. Some would leave in the middle of the

night.

NANCY RAY: Um mmm. Well do you remember who were your monitors?

LEE YOUNG: My monitors? One that stands out in my mind in fact was George King. I don't

know if you ever heard of George King but he was one time, well he was a major. I guess he was

chief of traffic law enforcement.

NANCY RAY: KING?

LEE YOUNG: Yes, uh huh. George King. Uh he passed away, what about three years ago?

Mary YOUNG: Yeah.

LEE YOUNG: And I went to his funeral but George King stands out in my mind. George King

and he was uh our... well my school had three monitors. George King...

NANCY RAY: And two more.

14

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LEE YOUNG: And two more. One was named Strotman, I can't remember his first name, he

came from Driver's License. And uh another sergeant from License and Weight.

NANCY RAY: That's OK. They'll probably come to you.

LEE YOUNG: Oh you can tell I'm getting old, I can't remember the names. But anyway,

George King was the one that was the most fearful by say fellow recruits because he was the

toughest, hardest. Come time when we graduated, that day when we graduated, he was the only

who had tears in his eyes. So you know he was hard and tough but he had a heart.

NANCY RAY: Well, when you think back to George King, what did he teach you that probably

was an important part of your career?

LEE YOUNG: An important part was that uh, when you're out there on the road, when you're

out there doing your job, you're in charge and uh you don't let anyone tell you otherwise. And

you don't back down from what you're doing. And that's the way he was. He would always

drive hard, drive hard, drive hard, drive hard and uh until you got your job all accomplished. And

uh that's one thing that stood on my mind about him. And like I said, he was the hardest and the

toughest, but uh I think he was the one that had the biggest heart too.

NANCY RAY: And the biggest impact evidently.

LEE YOUNG: Yeah, the biggest impact.

NANCY RAY: Yeah. Well, what about the others who were in the class with you. Any names

that you, were there any that later went to the Rangers with you?

LEE YOUNG: I was the only one that went to the Rangers. Uh there was a lot that went into

Narcotics, uh lots stayed in Highway Patrol uh... the one that probably went the highest in the

Department, say rank wise, was Burton Christian. And he was an assistant chief and I think

15

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Burton retired... early this year I think he retired. Probably one of the last ones out of our say

school to retire.

NANCY RAY: OK. Was there anything else about your school, the DPS school that you went

to that you want to talk about? Or anybody who was in the school?

LEE YOUNG: Anybody in the school... well one instructor kind of stands in mind was uh Jim

Shaw. Of course at that time I think he probably worked at the Academy for several years and he

was interesting and he was probably pretty say funny or comical there most of the time.

NANCY RAY: What did he do?

LEE YOUNG: You know he always had something, some joke to say or he was always cutting

up about something. And uh in fact I didn't see it but they said that one time he was up at in front

of the classroom, he was writing something on the board.... He was kind of, had a bit of a

stomach on him and uh apparently that one morning he kind of sucked his gut in, next thing I

know his pants just fall down. (laughter)

NANCY RAY: That would stick with you.

LEE YOUNG: Yeah. But uh you know, I think he kind of he stands in my mind. Him... and we

had uh my say PT instructor, there for the physical training, uh he was probably in pretty good

shape. Probably better shape than most men and uh because there about halfway through my

school, he was out someplace on a weekend on a Saturday and I think he was up in a tree cutting

some limbs and he fell and broke an arm. So uh of course that made us happy because now he's

only got one good arm. But he would run with us every morning and keep up with everyone else

with just one good arm and then when that cast was removed from that arm that was broken, he

was then out with the rest of us on the gym floor every morning. He'd be doing one-arm pushups

until he got his arm strength back.

16

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NANCY RAY: I've heard that the physical training is pretty hard.

LEE YOUNG: It was. It was pretty hard. Uh you know if they felt that you weren't say giving it 110 percent, they just let you stay in there a little bit longer. A little bit longer until they felt that you were giving it 110 percent.

NANCY RAY: OK, so when you finished your school, what year was that?

LEE YOUNG: I finished uh school and I started say September of 1973 and we graduated the first of February 1974.

NANCY RAY: OK. And what was your first duty station?

LEE YOUNG: My first uh station I was assigned to the State Capitol. I worked at the State Capitol. At this time, let's see the governor was Dolph Briscoe then. So I got to meet Dolph Briscoe and his wife and his daughter and uh, but I worked there out of the State Capitol where we were assigned with security of the Capitol complex and the governor and his family. And I worked there from '74 and then in fact while I was working there, I went back to college there at UT in Austin and I finished my degree there at UT in Austin.

NANCY RAY: And your degree is in what?

LEE YOUNG: It's in, well Sociology with specialization in Criminology. But I finished my degree there at UT in Austin and once I finished my degree there, then I uh made application to join the Highway Patrol. And uh then I transferred from the State Capitol and was on the Highway Patrol at Bryan.

NANCY RAY: OK, let me ask. OK you went to the DPS school but you did not go into the Highway Patrol, you went to the Capitol Security?

LEE YOUNG: At the time, that, at the time that was a part of the Highway Patrol. Because we still wore our Highway Patrol patch but we were a detachment from the Highway Patrol.

NANCY RAY: And then later on you had to make application to get into the Highway Patrol?

LEE YOUNG: No, no, just an application to transfer.

NANCY RAY: To transfer, OK. Well let's talk about your responsibilities at the Capitol. Tell

us some of the things you did.

LEE YOUNG: Well, there our responsibility like I said uh was primarily to maintain the

security of the Capitol and not just the Capitol building itself, but all the other say state buildings

that surround the State Capitol. And I can't remember the exact number but that was several

other buildings. And uh we worked in conjunction with what they called the State Board of

Control which was a law enforcement part or part of the State Board of Control. And we uh there

was only, well from the Department of Public Safety, well there was a sergeant there and, well

he was our first-line supervisor. And there was what, I think three or four say troopers that

worked there. We worked there in different shifts. And uh, well there was always a trooper there

24 hours a day. And uh but we had security there of the complex. Uh, anytime the governor or

his family was there in the building, we had security of them. And uh if there was any say

incidents of crime there in, there around the Capitol grounds, well we investigated that... wrecks,

accidents, any types of assaults, things of that nature.

NANCY RAY: Did you travel with the governor and his family?

LEE YOUNG: Well, no. The officer that traveled with him, well that was actually a different

part of the detachment that worked out of the governor's mansion. See, there was one part of our

detachment that worked out of the State Capitol where we had a sergeant and the troopers. And

another detachment worked out of the mansion where they had another sergeant and troopers

there. And they were the ones that actually traveled with the governor. And uh the only time we

would actually uh say travel with the governor was if we worked, if we had duty of meeting him

18

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at the airport and then transporting to or from the airport, back to the mansion or back to the Capitol.

NANCY RAY: And so what year did you leave the Capitol?

LEE YOUNG: Uh in '75.

NANCY RAY: And that's when you went to Bryan?

LEE YOUNG: That's when I went to Bryan, yes ma'am.

NANCY RAY: All right, tell us about Bryan.

LEE YOUNG: Well, I was stationed there at Bryan. Uh back then it was a small station then. It was, uh of course that was my first experience to work on the Highway Patrol was that. Of course that is what I originally wanted to do so that's why I made the request to transfer back, over there to the Highway Patrol. And I worked there at Bryan from, in fact, well that's where I got married, uh in '76 when I was stationed there at Bryan. And uh I was stationed there from '76 to '77.

NANCY RAY: Who was your... did you have a captain there or a sergeant?

LEE YOUNG: Well, I had a sergeant there. Uh, do you want to hear about him?

NANCY RAY: Sure, if you want to tell me. If he had a big impact on you, I do, yeah.

LEE YOUNG: Well, it wasn't an impact in that way. (laughter) But I guess I can mention his name. His name was Gary Farguson.

NANCY RAY: How do you, what was the last name?

LEE YOUNG: FARGUSON.

NANCY RAY: Farguson, OK.

LEE YOUNG: Well, he was my sergeant there and he was big, big man and uh a take-charge type of a sergeant. And uh so he... sometime he was kind of rough on some of the troopers over

there and uh probably some needed to be rough with too also. And uh but anyway years later on,

well not too many years later on, after I transferred from Bryan and was working over at, I might

have been at Del Rio then, well Farguson leaves the Department. And uh he's now an instructor

over at A&M College there at College Station. And uh I think he left there and I'm not sure what

he was doing during this particular period of time. But anyway, there started to be a whole series

of bank robberies over in East Texas and southern part of Oklahoma... where a man would go in

a bank, he'd be wearing some type of disguise. He might have on a mustache or fake beard, wig,

a hat, a coat, an overcoat and it wasn't really cold. And he'd rob these banks, leave the bank and

next thing we know, he's out, he'd peel off a layer of clothes because he had another layer of

clothes under that. He'd take off his wigs, his hat, mustache, his beard, and he'd be gone. And

that went on for quite a period of time until the FBI and some other officers got it figured out just

who was doing these bank robberies. It was my ex-sergeant, uh that turned to bank robber. And

he, he robbed quite a number of banks until he got caught doing it.

NANCY RAY: Did he do time?

LEE YOUNG: He did time in the federal prison. And uh that was his impact on me but it was a

negative impact.

NANCY RAY: It was, sure was.

LEE YOUNG: And uh because I'm thinking, he went the other direction and uh...

NANCY RAY: Well, at Bryan, did you have a partner?

LEE YOUNG: I had a partner at one time. Had a partner uh named Tommy Webb. I'm not sure

what happened to Tommy, he left the Department years later. And had another partner was, let's

see, Joe Hamilton. And Joe Hamilton became a captain in Highway Patrol before he retired. He's

retired now.

20

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NANCY RAY: So when you started though, you were... one of them was the lead and you

learned from that person?

LEE YOUNG: Yes, well actually my first partner up on the Highway Patrol was a trooper

named George Garrett. And he was an old-time trooper, I mean he'd been on Highway Patrol

about 27, 28 years, and that's all he'd ever worked was Highway Patrol. And uh he was a pretty

colorful trooper.

NANCY RAY: What did you learn from him?

LEE YOUNG: I learned from him, uh I learned a lot of things to do and things not to do from

him.

NANCY RAY: Such as?

LEE YOUNG: Uh, George was, George was pretty interesting. He was uh, he wasn't your

typical trooper you see. You expect troopers to be, you know, fairly shapely and look pretty nice

in a uniform but George was just the opposite. George was pretty much overweight. Uh his wife

would have to, any time he got a new uniform shirt she'd always kept the old ones because she

would use parts from the old ones to put a patch in here so his new shirt would fit him. And uh

there at one occasion I can remember uh, well George would always go into town. Well, back in

these days, when the state didn't issue us new cars with the uh, with sirens and PAs, public

announcement systems, George actually built his own from a kit. So he had his only siren,

electronic siren, and PA system. And sometimes he'd be in downtown Bryan, he'd reach over

and turn up the volume on that outside speaker, kick it up, and he'd say anything into the

microphone. I mean from cursing on. It didn't matter. And uh it's kind of, it's a bit interesting

that uh when the state did start issuing those, that type of equipment in other cars, one of the first

troopers that got his own PA in his patrol car there in Bryan, he's downtown and he's gonna pull

21

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what we call a "George Garrett." He's gonna talk to someone on the sidewalk, he's driving down the street. Well, he winds up getting a complaint over that and uh so we kind of impressed on him you know, you can't get away with what George does you know, because George has been this way forever and that's how people expected him to act. That's how he acted. And George

could get away with it.

NANCY RAY: Well, when you were on patrol there in Bryan, your responsibility was to enforce traffic. Did anything really big or interesting happen? Or what kind of laws or things were you doing? Wrecks?

LEE YOUNG: Well, enforced all the, of course the big thing was speeding. And worked a lot of wrecks over there. That's where I investigated my first fatality accident was there at Bryan. And I will always remember that.

NANCY RAY: Well, tell us how, how to you handle something like that?

LEE YOUNG: Well, uh the, probably the first time is the most time that, you know, uh the time that is most unique I guess there in my mind about it. That first time I saw a person, in fact it was a female that was killed in this particular wreck. And uh you know, of course that was the first time I saw something of that nature so that, of course that had an impact on me going through that. But then from that point on, it's just a part of the job and I saw a whole lot after that and some a whole lot worse than that. And some even involving children. And, but that big effect from the impact of that first accident is long, is long gone, is long diminished.

NANCY RAY: Well, would part of your responsibility be to go to that person's family? Was that something that you did as a patrolman?

LEE YOUNG: Well, yes, we did that sometimes depending on where the person was from or they lived. If they had local family there in that area, a trooper, or the trooper that was

investigating the accident would go by and make contact with that person's next of kin. But if the uh, if the person came from another area, and uh... in fact one time I had an accident I worked where I had to get in contact with someone in Hawaii to notify the next of kin. And uh, but so normally those types of situations there, you will call someone else that works in that area and uh then they'll in turn they'll go by and make contact with that person's family to deliver that message to them.

NANCY RAY: OK, you're there at A&M, just full of kids. What were some of the things you had to deal with?

LEE YOUNG: Uh, well the typical, you know, I guess the young college kids and sometimes they think they're invincible, they're invulnerable, and you know they could do anything and they're gonna live forever. And that nothing's gonna hurt them and so first you have to contend with that in some situations. And uh but uh, I think by far I didn't have a whole lot of say problems there with the students that stand out in my mind of anything you know... that was really weird and all.

NANCY RAY: OK. Well you mentioned uh you had to work with, you know things happened to children too. And I've heard other Rangers talk about how hard that is. How do you deal with something like that?

LEE YOUNG: Well, the first thought that goes through your mind if you see a little kid that's been injured or even killed, you see, you look at their little bodies and the first thought that goes through your mind is your kids. And I'm thinking well I've got a little kid at home, maybe a little bit older, or smaller or larger than this kid. And uh that's the first thought that goes through your mind but you uh first have to get that association between your kid and this kid uh, you have to get that taken care of. And uh you know, because I think if you go around and uh you try to

equate every kid with your own family or anything of that nature with your own family, then I

think that's where a person can have problems. And so you have to get over and get past that

right away I think.

NANCY RAY: Is there anything else at Bryan that stands out in your mind?

LEE YOUNG: In Bryan, Bryan...

NANCY RAY: You're married now but no kids, right?

LEE YOUNG: No kids yet.

NANCY RAY: OK, so where did you go after Bryan?

LEE YOUNG: Well, we transferred from Bryan in 1977 and we just had to get back down to

the border uh you know. We both come from the border area so I transferred to Eagle Pass. And

I worked Highway Patrol in Eagle Pass uh from 1977 to 1980. In fact when I moved to Eagle

Pass, uh, well it was just myself and another trooper that worked that county. And uh he and I,

we worked together for a while. His name was David Wharton. And David also came from Del

Rio so, so David was close to home. And he and I, we worked together for less than a year and

David transferred out of Eagle Pass and transferred to New Braunfels where his future wife, I

don't think they'd gotten married yet. Anyway, his future wife was attending college there at San

Marcos. And uh then a year, probably not more than a year or so after that, well he leaves the

Department and goes to work for U.S. Customs. And, but he was my partner there for a while

then, like I said, then when he transferred to New Braunfels, then I worked alone. And I worked

just a one-man station there in Maverick County, or Eagle Pass, for close to a year really before I

got my second partner there. And uh that was kind of interesting, or unique, there... in working a

station all by myself and uh... because there uh I was actually, or literally, on call all the time.

NANCY RAY: That's what I was about to ask you.

24

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LEE YOUNG: I was on call all the time. There, if I worked you know my eight, ten-hour night

or day shift, I'd come home, I'm in bed asleep and I get a call on a wreck or something, I'm the

one that's expected to respond to it. And uh I even responded to wrecks on my days off. I

worked on my days off. I went to work when I was sick with the flu. And uh I was home sick

and uh, but I get a call and there's a wreck out some uh, twenty, thirty miles from town, and they

expect the Highway Patrol to show up to investigate it so I'd respond to that. And uh of course

back in those days, uh, we didn't get things like overtime pay. Uh we just got what they called

comp pay or that compensatory time and uh if you worked four hours overtime, you got four

hours of comp time that you have to use within a year. If you didn't use it within that year, then

you would lose it. And often you're working a one-man station well there probably wasn't a

whole lot of time you could take off anyway. (laughter) So we just wound up losing whole lot of

comp time. And uh, but uh...

NANCY RAY: Well, what were some of the differences between working in Eagle Pass versus

working in Bryan?

LEE YOUNG: Oh, a whole lot of difference.

NANCY RAY: Let's talk about those. Yeah.

LEE YOUNG: The difference between day and night.

NANCY RAY: That's what I would think.

LEE YOUNG: Uh, well there in Bryan, I had a DPS station, a DPS radio station that I could uh

talk to for... get my traffic or checking out on a violator, I can tell them where I'm at, things of

that nature. I run all my checks and traffic through this station. At Eagle Pass, I didn't have that.

At Eagle Pass, my nearest radio station was Del Rio and back then, we had what was called high-

band radio. Not high-band radio but low-band radio, low band. Uh and I couldn't talk to Del Rio

25

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unless I went to a... I had one good spot there in town where I could get some elevation. Uh where, it's where they had a water tank or the water tower at. I'd climb up there, or drive up there, and I'd get with this elevation and from there I could talk to Del Rio. And normally when I was working a fatal say traffic accident and they want you to call in as soon as you can to give them the information on this accident that was involved, and working. So I'd drive up there to the top of this hill and I would call Del Rio and talk to them. And once I drove back down this hill, I couldn't talk to them anymore. I could hear the station but they couldn't hear me. And so that's one thing I had to contend with there and so all my, say, well radio traffic there in Eagle Pass was run through the local, say the police department there. I'd run my traffic through them. And uh, well there was a time or two I can remember uh I couldn't talk to Del Rio for instance, but on this low-band radio, I'd get skip and I'd talk to Kerrville. From Eagle Pass I could talk to Kerrville. Uh there sometimes we could talk to South America. We heard people on our say radio frequency and they'd be talking in Spanish. Well, I speak Spanish. So being the trooper, the typical trooper, typical Highway Patrolman, you know, you're gonna do something crazy so I'd pick up the microphone and start talking to them in Spanish. (laughter) But we'd get the skip and from way down in South America, it'd be coming in. But uh that was one of the things about being on the low band which was 42.9 and 42.740 until we went to uh, to what they call is highband frequency which is, which is like 155 megahertz.

NANCY RAY: Now is this when you became interested in amateur radios?

LEE YOUNG: Well, actually I was interested in radio before that. When I first got my uh say license was when I was stationed at Bryan. And uh that's where I first started out being a ham was there. I probably drove my wife crazy uh because I, we stayed in a little duplex outside of College Station. I, I bought a ladder, climbed up on the roof of this duplex. I strung me a long-

wire antenna from one end of the roof to the other. Dropped the wire down through a window of

our, the say spare bedroom of the house we lived in, it only had two bedrooms. And that's where

I set my station up in there. And uh back then I operated nothing but CW, just Morse code. And

I'd be in there day and night sometimes, just going away tap tap tap... just tapping away at that

key.

NANCY RAY: And who did you talk to, anybody?

LEE YOUNG: That's when I talked to people all over the country or the world, uh huh. In fact,

back then I had one good friend that I talked to there. Well I say good friend, it was a good friend

on the radio. Oh I never met this person personally uh we just talked on the radio. But he was

over around Little Rock, Arkansas, and of course he was an older or experienced ham radio

operator. And why I liked talking with him, I'm saying talking but it's all being done in code,

with the key. But why I like talking to him because he was a real skilled code operator. And uh

so he helped me learn a lot of things about code. And so for years, I worked nothing but strictly

with code on the radio. And in fact just using the microphone was basically useless to me. I

didn't needed a microphone because all I needed was a key.

NANCY RAY: How fast were you?

LEE YOUNG: I got up to over about 25 words a minute. And in fact to get, to get the expert

class license, you have do like 20 words a minute back then. I think, well nowadays, they've

done away with the code part of ham radio. But back then, you had to do 20 words a minute.

NANCY RAY: OK, I tell you what, we're gonna, in just a minute we're gonna come back.

We're gonna switch discs and we're gonna start talking about your career as a Ranger. But

before we do that, is there anything else you want to talk about about Eagle Pass?

27

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LEE YOUNG: About Eagle Pass, well you, you say something there was my comparison of

Eagle Pass and Bryan, I hadn't been in Eagle Pass very long, stationed there very long. (changed

video discs)

LEE YOUNG: Something that's a bit humorous there...

NANCY RAY: We're back. Something a bit humorous? OK.

LEE YOUNG: Something a bit humorous about Eagle Pass. I don't know if you're familiar

with Eagle Pass but you probably need to visit there sometime. Uh you know...

NANCY RAY: OK. I'll put it on my list.

LEE YOUNG: It's a pretty unique place and uh, in fact I remember years ago when I was

stationed out there. The sheriff there, his name was Tom Bowles, BOWLES. And uh there one,

one Sunday I was working out east of Eagle Pass and uh stopped a man from, I think he was

from around New Orleans, Louisiana. And uh of course back in those days when we stopped a

person that didn't have a Texas driver's license, we performed what's called an "instan-er." We

bring them into town, uh if you could find a justice of the peace you could take them before the

justice of the peace...

NANCY RAY: Now what did you call this, an "instan-er?"

LEE YOUNG: Instantr, INSTANTR.

NANCY RAY: OK.

LEE YOUNG: Uh, and we'd bring them before the justice of the peace or not. We'd bring them

in and they, according to the schedule that was set by the justice of the peace, we would, we'd

place a bond on them. Say your bond's gonna be, your bond is \$35 so I need \$35 cash from you.

And you place that in an envelope and there inside the jail was the boxes for the various JPs that

worked that county. We'd slide an envelope into the JP's box. Well this one day I brought this

28

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man in and I was gonna do that with him and uh it so happened the sheriff was in his office. And he, he gets to talking with the sheriff and he finds out the sheriff's name. Like I said the sheriff's name is Tom Bowles. And uh of course Eagle Pass, it's predominately all Hispanic, mostly. And uh he's talking with the sheriff and he'd been there doing some hunting is what this man had been doing. And the sheriff's kind of sitting back in his chair and he's got his hat pushed back on his head, boots up on the desk. And this man he asked, he said well sheriff, well tell me now sheriff, well tell me, how you got to be elected sheriff in this town with all these Mexicans? And the sheriff kind of hits his hat, punches it back up a little bit further on his head and he said (with a Spanish accent), "I don't know, I guess I just got lucky." (laughter) The man wasn't thinking that since the sheriff's last name was Bowles that he wasn't Hispanic. The sheriff was Hispanic which is typical around Eagle Pass.

NANCY RAY: Funny about the things that you remember as the years go by. When you left Eagle Pass, is that when you went to the Rangers?

LEE YOUNG: No, I left Eagle Pass in 19 say '77... transferred to the Highway Patrol in Del Rio. Oh now I'm in my hometown and uh of course Eagle Pass, it's OK, but Del Rio working out of there was a lot better. And so we moved there and uh we bought a home there and everything and I guess my wife probably thought we were gonna live there the rest of my career, is probably what she thought. (snickering) But uh that lasted from 1980 until 1988 and that's when I went in the Rangers in 1988. Actually uh, I started trying to get into the Rangers probably a couple of years, three years prior to that. And uh of course getting entry into the Rangers, it's not that easy, it's fairly difficult. And so it took me three years. I competed in the promotion process three times and oh until I, oh I guess I got it right and then I was successful in getting into the Rangers in 1988.

NANCY RAY: Now during this three-year time period, what are you... are you taking tests or

what are you doing?

LEE YOUNG: Well, tests would come up say yearly and so I took a total of three tests. And uh

the first year I didn't do very good at all. Second year I did a lot better. And in fact I made the

oral board but I didn't do that great on the oral board. And uh so I just continued to study for uh

an entire period of those three years, I just studied every chance I had I was studying. And so uh

the third time that I competed, that's when I made it.

NANCY RAY: Who was on your interview board? Do you remember them?

LEE YOUNG: My interview board, uh,

NANCY RAY: If you don't, that's OK.

LEE YOUNG: I'm trying to remember the Rangers that were on my interview board. Uh I

think Maurice Cook was on my interview board.

NANCY RAY: OK.

LEE YOUNG: It was either him or Lefty.

NANCY RAY: Lefty Block?

LEE YOUNG: Yeah, uh huh, one of the two were on my interview board and uh... David

Dunaway stands out in my mind. He was on my interview board. He was a Ranger out of Fort

Worth.

NANCY RAY: Did they ask you anything that left an impression on you or what do you

remember about going by the interview board?

LEE YOUNG: Uh, the thing I remember about the interview board is uh, it was a pretty tense

type situation and uh, I remember going in there and uh, but the questions and stuff that

transpired during that period of time, is, is probably a memory lapse. (laughter)

30

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NANCY RAY: That might be a good memory lapse.

LEE YOUNG: Yeah, uh huh.

NANCY RAY: Well where did you go, where was your first duty station?

LEE YOUNG: My first, well stationed as a Ranger, I was stationed in Garland.

NANCY RAY: Who was your captain?

LEE YOUNG: My first captain was James Wright. Captain Wright was my first captain. And uh, oh David Byrnes was my sergeant. Back then uh they still called them sergeants and went later on to, that the first line supervisor uh went from being a sergeant to being a lieutenant. But uh I worked for Captain Wright and David Byrnes there uh 1988 and I worked there in Garland from '88 til '94. And then in '94, is when they made a new Ranger station up here in McKinney, or here in Collin County, and of course I was there in Garland and I heard about they were gonna be stationing a Ranger here in McKinney. So I went to Captain... by this time well Captain Wright was retired and my new captain was Captain Byrnes. I went to Byrnes and said well I'd be interested in transferring up to McKinney. I'd already done some work up here, because back during that time we worked say Collin County, or McKinney, out of either Dallas County, the Rangers comes from down around Dallas up here to Collin County and work. Or uh Don Anderson, would work it out of Hunt County, he'd come from Greenville over here to McKinney and work. And uh so I asked to transfer up here and so I came up here... well he said, Byrnes told me first you need to go up there and talk to Sheriff Box, because you need to find an office up there. Back then in '94, well DPS didn't have an office building up here. So I came up here and I went to the sheriff's office, visited with Terry Box, and he's still the sheriff here. And I said hey Sheriff, I think they're gonna be stationing a Ranger up here in McKinney and I think it's gonna be me. And I need an office, have you got some space for me? He said yeah, sure, I'd

be glad to have a Ranger in here. So he took me back to what is called their uh DCID section and

uh he found me a spot back there, and office back there where I had a desk and everything there.

So I worked out of the sheriff's office here in McKinney from '94 until what, 2000 and.... about

2000.

MARY YOUNG: Yeah.

LEE YOUNG: And that's when they built an office building here, the DPS building here in

McKinney. And I moved from the sheriff's office to the DPS building here in McKinney and

worked there until I retired. But uh, back years ago, there was a lot more Rangers with the....

stationed and worked out of sheriff's office. You don't find that many, I think probably one of

the last ones that... well there in Greenville, in Hunt County, the Ranger still works out of the

sheriff's office. He's got an office in the sheriff's office and that's probably one of the few

remaining ones in the state.

NANCY RAY: Well, let's back up to Garland. You have skipped a whole lot. Let's back up to

Garland, what was your first case? Do you remember that?

LEE YOUNG: My first case in Garland?

NANCY RAY: First case as a Ranger.

LEE YOUNG: One... OK, one of my first cases as a Ranger there in Garland, involved, was

involving a DPS employee as a matter of fact, one of the Driver's License clerks. Uh, someone

from Driver's License comes to the office there one day and I hadn't been there very long. And

uh they got with Captain Wright oh and Sergeant Byrnes and said they needed some help

because they thought they had someone back in the Driver's License office doing some stealing.

And uh they said uh that a man had come into the office there in, oh in previous weeks, to get his

driver's license renewed and he wrote a check. Handed the check to the clerk, got his copy and

32

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everything, and leaves... leaves his checkbook there too. And uh they thought this clerk was

using his checkbook and writing checks. And sure enough she was. I got involved in working

that investigation and they wound up firing her oh and prosecuting her over check forgery. What

she did, she took the gentleman's checkbook and was writing checks. And she'd write checks

and at the end of her day, she'd, say she'd be working and she'd write a check for a licensee

renewal or something, put that in with her money and receipts and then take out cash. And uh so

she did that for over a period of time until she got caught. And that was probably one of the first

cases that I worked there in Garland was that one there.

NANCY RAY: How did you, how did you figure out or convince them it was her or... you said

you did some investigation.

LEE YOUNG: Well, it wasn't really too involved, the investigation there. Because the

gentleman, he came in, well I interviewed him. Uh got the information as to the clerk that he uh

say transacted his business with. And uh so that pretty well say narrowed it down to who she was

at the time. And so that gave me an idea as to who say might have been say taking his

checkbook. And uh just checking some more accounting and the records form that point on. And

you know to determine as to who she was and uh then the things that she was doing there and the

checks that she actually wrote there during that period of time.

NANCY RAY: Well, what are some other cases you worked on in Garland?

LEE YOUNG: Other cases I worked in Garland... uh

NANCY RAY: What types of cases did you have?

LEE YOUNG: Well, there was one uh that I worked, probably a little bit after that. We worked

a fellow that was involved in uh quite a bit of say forgery and maybe even some identify theft.

Uh we got to working him, myself and Ranger Akin, he was there at the time, Lane Akin. And

33

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uh what this man was doing, he would, say he would travel to other states. Uh he had fake birth certificates, he obtained. I don't know, he had three or four driver's licenses say from other states. And uh he had like various accounts, bank accounts, oh and credit cards under different names that he would use. And he would just buy stuff with that and write and uh, in fact we found where he had uh, I think it was three mini-storage buildings there in Garland that were crammed full... I mean they were large, like probably twice the size of my living room here, just crammed full of new merchandise, that he had purchased in writing these... this check kiting, the stuff he was carrying on at the time. And uh so I thought that was interesting there and uh, that one there. And I worked another case where uh, one that was kind of similar to that, where a young fellow, apparently he was having some problems with his wife and so he was gonna leave. And before he decides to leave, he uh assumes the identity of a dead person. There one day he's reading the obituaries in a newspaper from Dallas and he sees where a young man had been killed in a traffic accident. Well that's about my age, so he said, he decided he's gonna assume this dead person's identity. So I, he then goes about carrying that out. He gets on the telephone because at the time he was living down in Kaufman County. He calls Dallas County pretending to be some official from another county, and uh to get some information about this dead person's date of birth and information, what not. So by using that information, he was then successful in obtaining a copy of the dead person's birth certificate. And uh by using that, he uh then was successful in getting a new driver's license, issued in the dead person's name. Even though he was quite a bit taller, his hair color was different, and eyes, his eye color was different, he still got a new driver's license under this person's name. So by doing that, then he goes down to a bank there in Mesquite and opens up a checking account. Puts in \$500 or whatever it was and he has another bank account somewhere else. Back in those days, the banks couldn't keep track of these checks going between Bank A to Bank B, back and forth, back and forth. So he would write one check on this bank over here and deposit in this bank and back and forth there. And he did that for like several weeks or months there and just wracked up thousands and thousands of dollars there. He went as far as to... he met this young lady so he's now got a girlfriend. He and the girlfriend go on a ski trip up to Colorado. And he writes checks, pays for all this trip up there and back, doesn't have any money at all. And how we uh, and how we come to catch him, a trooper down, a trooper working in Kaufman County stops the guy for speeding one day. And it so happens he knew something about the accident where the real person was killed. He's looking at this driver's license and he's thinking, I think he's dead! (laughter) So he gets back to the office. Well he takes this guy into town. Gets back to the office and he calls the Ranger office and so I respond down there. I go down there and I do some investigating on this and found out

NANCY RAY: Well, you were in the headquarters there for your company, is that right, in Garland?

that this person has taken over the dead person's identity and uh he was an entirely different

person. And uh, so that person wound up serving some time in prison over that.

LEE YOUNG: Yes ma'am. The headquarters for Company B.

NANCY RAY: Company B. And did you, what were the main kinds of cases? Did you work any narcotics cases?

LEE YOUNG: We didn't work that, uh get involved that much say working those type cases involving narcotics because there, there was a section of the Department that did that type work, the narcotics work. Sometimes we may assist them in doing arrests and things of that nature or assist say with surveillance, but uh, most of the cases we worked were involved in say robberies, kidnappings, thefts, murders, bank robberies, uh... Worked one bank robbery there I'll tell you

about there in Kaufman County, in the town of Forney where a guy goes into a small bank, probably only two or three banks there at the time anyway. He goes in one of the banks. Well he parks his truck in the parking lot. Gets out and walks into the bank. Not wearing a disguise or nothing, just wearing a little old, small Nylon-type jacket and he's got a hand in the pocket. He walks up to the teller and hands her a note instructing her to uh place all her money in this Nylon bag he hands her. And he's standing there like this, with his hand in the pocket. And so of course she's scared, she's pretty frightened, so she puts all the money that she's got there in her till there in the bag pretty quickly. And he picks up his bag and he walks, then calmly turns around and walks back out of the bank. Some people there outside of the bank, or coming in out of the bank, well they recognized, they knew he was. So uh I get a call from the chief down there in Forney telling me that they've had a bank robbery and they want me to come down there and assist with the investigation. So I drive down to Forney and arrived down there. The chief said I think we know who he is. I think we know where he lives. He lives in this trailer park back over here. I said well, if we know where he is, then do we think he's in there now? He said, yeah, he's in there right now. His truck is parked outside this mobile home there. I said, well there's no big hurry, just position some officers around the residence and make sure he doesn't leave and we'll get someone sent down to the courthouse and we'll get the warrant to uh, to uh, we'll get the warrant to arrest him. And so we do that. About thirty minutes to an hour or so, we get the warrant and we knock on the door and finally get him woken up and he comes to the door. And he's all half asleep and groggy. Come to find out, once he gets back in his home there, he consumed maybe half a bottle of gin and uh so he's back in his bedroom, he's sleeping. And uh he acts all like he doesn't know what we're there for or whatever and then he thinks... I thought you guys were here to arrest me over that fight I had with my wife last night, no well Sunday

because this was like a Monday. And he said, uh because my wife and I well like we had a fight

Sunday and I thought ya'll come here to, you know, arrest me over that. Someone tells him no,

we're here to arrest you for robbing that bank in downtown Forney. He said rob a bank!

Anyway, we get him in jail there in Forney and uh the following day, that Tuesday morning, uh

oh I get a call from the chief down there and he's laughing. He said Ranger you won't believe

what's happening down here now. I said no, tell me. He said remember that guy we put in jail for

robbing the bank yesterday? I said yeah. Well, what's he doing now? Well he said, he's over

there in the jail now, he's over in the county jail. He's going around bragging to everybody. And

he tells them he went to that bank yesterday. He robbed that bank by just using a loaded finger.

(laughter)

NANCY RAY: Well, does he get tried on armed robbery or not?

LEE YOUNG: Yes ma'am, armed robbery.

NANCY RAY: Did he really?

LEE YOUNG: Uh huh, all he did was place his hand in that jacket pocket and just stick his

finger out. He said I robbed that bank with a loaded finger.

NANCY RAY: He's just as much in jail as... (laughter)

LEE YOUNG: Uh huh.

NANCY RAY: Well you know that kind of brings up a question because you had to have seen

just a lot of really horrible things and bad cases and things... How did you deal with the bad stuff

in your mind and in your personal life?

LEE YOUNG: Well, that you know, I guess over a period of time you become I guess just

desensitized to stuff of that nature. And uh of course it still, you know you still are say bothered

or stirred by it but uh probably not as much as a person that hasn't experienced something of that

37

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nature before. I remember I worked one case up in Fannin County which is north of here. Back

when I was working as Ranger I worked two counties, I worked Collin County and Fannin

County. And over there in the little town of Honey Grove, out in east Fannin County, uh we were

working a case over there with the Honey Grove Police Department involving the sexual assault

of a small child. And the child was uh actually sexually assaulted by her grandfather and as we

uh, worked on this, got more information about it, we found out from the mother of the child...

she had been sexually assaulted by her father when she was a child. And uh I'm thinking, you

know, I could just go over there and wrap my hands around that woman's neck and choke the

hell out of her because she knew what her father was like. Why would she permit her young

daughter to be around her father alone? And uh, but... you know you see things like that and you

wonder what's going through a person's mind when they do something of that nature. And uh,

oh a grandfather abusing his own granddaughter...

NANCY RAY: It's unimaginable.

LEE YOUNG: Years later he did the same thing to his own daughter. And uh, there's the

daughter permitting her own child to be in uh, oh the situation where it could happen to her child

now.

NANCY RAY: Were you able to convict, get that man convicted?

LEE YOUNG: Yeah, yeah he was convicted for I don't know how many times. Oh he'd been

there before, so he wasn't no novice by no means. And uh, but I think, you know, cases of that

type where someone does something like or like you were looking there in the book earlier and I

told you something about the murder of the lady that lived over in Mesquite back at one time.

She was a, she worked for Dr. Pepper, she was an executive for Dr. Pepper. And uh she was

abducted one night there oh outside a store in a parking lot there in Garland by a uh a brother and

a sister and the sister's boyfriend, so there were three of them. There were three suspects

involved in that. But what they were doing, they were driving around over east Dallas and

Garland, that area there, and they were just, just looking for victims that they could say ambush

and rob. And uh so there one night they found this woman, she was coming out of a store. She'd

gone in the store late there at night just to buy a get well card uh... I think it was a friend, I think

it was for a friend that was in the hospital. And she was gonna take this get well card to this

friend in, still in the hospital. And so she comes out of the store and she's accosted by, oh by one

of the suspects, and then at gunpoint taken into their vehicle and then they go east on I-30 into

Rockwall County and then go south out of Rockwall where she's killed. Well she was actually

strangled to death is how she was killed. And uh why she was killed is because prior to that, they

had robbed like numerous people but they had not been involved in any unknown word murders.

Because this lady, she was a, she was the type lady, well she was ex-Navy herself, ex-military,

and she was the type woman, person, wouldn't take crap off of nobody. And so she resisted and

she fought this guy. And so that's why he strangled her and killed her because she resisted. And

then when we're conducting his interview later on after we get him arrested, uh he kind of like

makes a joke about him strangling her and her having a bowel movement there in her clothes. He

makes a joke about that and uh... but you know people like that and things of that nature, you

know you don't forget them and as far as I know, he's still in prison.

NANCY RAY: Good for him.

LEE YOUNG: And I hope he stays there. I hope he stays there for the rest of his life.

NANCY RAY: Well, how did you, how did you find him? How did you get it connected to

him?

LEE YOUNG: Well how we got connected to those three, the brother and sister and him, uh we worked on that and worked and worked and worked and worked and worked. We chased, got all kinds of leads. And uh of course there would be the reward from Crimestoppers which was just a few dollars so uh we increased that. We had that increased and uh then one day, lo and behold, we get a call from a man over in east Dallas. He was actually a fence and he gave us enough say information that we knew he was talking about uh... he had some facts about this incident. So we increased the reward even more uh, made sure that this person, we didn't know who he was, uh would become aware in this increase in the reward and asked for him to contact us again. And he did and then we got more information from him as to the identity of these people who immediately, the following morning, early the next morning, had gone by his home, the home of this fence, and tried to sell some of the uh, the property that they got from this woman. Her briefcase and you know things of that nature that we knew were missing that no one else knew except for the fence. And uh so that's how we found the brother and sister and the other guy. And uh, and actually the one that did the killing was the son of a retired say officer from the Dallas Police Department. But all three got life.

NANCY RAY: Got life. Well, let's back up a little bit. I wanted to ask you, when you pinned on that badge, that Ranger badge, can you describe the feeling that you had?

LEE YOUNG: Oh, that was like a euphoria, more than anything I guess. You know you kind of like the old saying you're walking on Cloud 9. That's kind of how I felt there in uh, once that badge was pinned up here and uh, you know that was the culmination of a lot of desire and ambition to have that. And uh, I think it's uh I think probably most Rangers, a lot of Rangers, you know, they feel that that's an honor and I felt it was an honor to uh wear that Ranger badge. And uh, so it, it's a pretty special day to me.

NANCY RAY: Well, in addition to that being a special day, you had the added distinction of

becoming the first African-American...

LEE YOUNG: Yes.

NANCY RAY: Can you tell us a little bit about that?

LEE YOUNG: Well, to, to me personally, of course I remember back during then when I was

making Ranger and there was a lot of news media people around and uh, and uh, in fact I gave

just numbers of interviews. And there one time they wanted me on, I can't remember what

program it was, one of those early morning TV shows that come on, those news-type shows that

come on. And they wanted me to be on one of those. But at the time I didn't want to actually do

that so I kind of backed out of doing that. But I did do like a whole lot of say other interviews.

And uh, but uh, the thing that I tried to tell people back then and uh and I still say today, and I

still feel a hundred percent, is that it wasn't my desire or plan to be the first anything. Uh I tell

people, of course I'm speaking from my heart when I say that that's a job that I looked at and

that I wanted. And that I never thought about the fact that I was gonna be the first there, and uh

because I just looked at it you know a bunch of Rangers, of being Rangers and being other

officers, of the state and I wanted to be one of them. Because I liked the job that they did and uh

that's what I inspired to do. And so I didn't think about being the first until...

NANCY RAY: Until you were?

LEE YOUNG: Oh, until I was and it came out and I thought, well I guess I am the first. Still to

me, the big deal was actually making Ranger and pinning that badge on my chest and uh not the

fact that I was first of anything.

NANCY RAY: Well how were you accepted by the other Rangers and I guess anyone?

41

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LEE YOUNG: Uh I was accepted, I think, from day one by the Rangers. I never had a problem

with any of the Rangers and I think there might have been some apprehensions there at first and

uh, in as to how me, or maybe well even another person would be accepted by the Rangers. But I

think due to the fact that uh all Rangers entered the Rangers through the same process, and I

didn't skip that process. And uh you know I had to serve my time on the road like everyone else.

And uh had to go through the trials and tribulations there of being a trooper and being a Highway

Patrolman. And then competing in the promotion process, taking the test and then scoring high

enough on the test to appear before the oral board, and then being approved or accepted by that

oral board. And uh so I never had no problem say from Rangers in, from the time that I first went

into the Rangers. The only problem I had was maybe from some of the people that I was working

around or working with. For instance there one time I went to a gentleman's home to contact him

to get a statement from him involving, I can't remember what kind of case it was. But uh from

the time I arrived there at his home, uh I couldn't tend to my business first because he was so

excited about just seeing a Texas Ranger he had to call out his three or four grandkids that were

staying there with him. The grandkids come out and I had to stand up with the grandkids so he

could take, take photographs of me standing with the grandkids. (laughter) Because it wasn't the

fact that I was uh a Black Ranger or this or that or whatever, the fact was he had a Ranger in his

home and he wanted his kids to meet a Ranger and to be, to have the opportunity to be

photographed with a Ranger.

NANCY RAY: I bet they still have the picture too.

LEE YOUNG: Um hmm. I bet they do. Yeah.

NANCY RAY: Well, if you go through and do everything the same, it's... you're a Texas

Ranger no matter what.

LEE YOUNG: Oh yeah, I think so. I agree.

NANCY RAY: And that's quite an honor so it's an honor that you were a Texas Ranger and an

honor that you got to be the first of African-American descent. So, what can you think of that

you've done that might help future, not just... future Rangers, it doesn't matter what race?

LEE YOUNG: Well, I think that uh that what I've done, like from day one as being a Ranger. I

always went out and did the best job that I could possible do. Because you always keep the

thought in the back of your mind, like what I'm doing here today, the job that I'm performing

here today, uh is gonna have an effect on the people that come behind me. And uh I think if I do

a good job and they do a good job and they see that I've done a good job and they can do a good

job also, that'll just continue that cycle. And so that, there will always be Rangers out there doing

a great job because they know or they've got the thought in the back of their mind that what

they're doing today is going to have an effect on the people that are gonna take their place one

day. And uh so uh I think that's why the Rangers are held in such say high regards because uh,

because Rangers always try to do the right thing in the right way.

NANCY RAY: There's a lot of respect involved, surely is.

LEE YOUNG: Um hmm.

NANCY RAY: And that's not given, that's earned.

LEE YOUNG: Um hmm, that's true.

NANCY RAY: Well let's talk a little bit about, you mentioned forensic hypnosis earlier.

LEE YOUNG: Yes ma'am.

NANCY RAY: I'd like to know a little bit about that.

LEE YOUNG: Well, that's something that the Department of Public Safety started or

developed some interest in back in I think the mid-70s, the mid-70s. And that was a, oh a

43

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response of say, oh some other cases throughout the country. One in particular was out in the

state of California, back in the early '70s with a busload of kids. They were kidnapped, the kids

and the bus driver, they were kidnapped by some suspects and then taken out into the country

where these suspects had already taken a backhoe or a front-end loader and excavated a hole

large enough for them to place this bus into. So they drove the bus down into the hole and

covered it up with the kids and the bus driver inside the bus. And they go back into town and I

guess they start making their ransom demands. And uh in the meantime, I think two or three of

the older boys, because there were some small kids on the school bus. Two or three of the older

boys and the school bus driver, they managed to dig themselves out of this grave. And so they

come out of the grave or this hole, make their way into town or they get some assistance made.

And so they decided in conducting this investigation, say let's try to hypnotize the bus driver

because the bus driver says that he can recall a car pulling out in front of them and this car is

what forces the bus to stop. He said I looked at the license plate. I made note of the license plate,

but I can't remember what it said now. So they hypnotized the bus driver and they recovered

enough information from him under hypnosis to uh to identify the license plate from the vehicle

which led them to the arrest of three subjects who then wound up being convicted for this

kidnapping. And uh so they thought hey, maybe that hypnosis stuff works. And so a lot of

departments around the country started developing an interest in it and so did the Department of

Public Safety. And that's when they started our program in it. And uh and uh, I think from the

very beginning, Rangers were involved in it as being hypnotists. And uh they'd send us off to

school uh to be trained to be hypnotists.

NANCY RAY: So where did you go to school?

LEE YOUNG: Actually, went to school at the DPS Academy. Uh and actually the school was

kind of a two-phase school. We had the basic training uh which was two weeks of training and

then we come back just in a short period of time for the more advanced training which was

another week of training. And uh so actually the officers in the Department of Public Safety,

probably three received more training in the use of hypnosis than most officers or people would

have received. And it's used uh well only with suspects, excuse me. It's used only with witnesses

and victims to an incident. It's not used with a suspect because it's not any truth-gathering type

say process because the person that's under hypnosis can lie just like the person can lie normally.

But it's used as a means to get a person say relaxed and uh because when you relax and actually,

we're doing most of the communications with that person's subconscious mind. And the

subconscious mind can go back and it retains information uh that our conscious mind you

know... that's kind of like there's the blockage or a breakdown in what's in the subconscious

mind getting over to the conscious mind. And uh so by using hypnosis, it forms some kind of

connection there. So what's in that subconscious mind, what has been say witnessed or

experienced, say previously that is now repressed, for like whatever reason, maybe due to the

trauma of the situation. The person has repressed that information and so you'll be able to go in

and then pull that information out.

NANCY RAY: So once you went to some training, have you gotten to use that?

LEE YOUNG: Yes. Uh huh.

NANCY RAY: Can you describe...

LEE YOUNG: I'll describe one case in particular that I used it where I think it was a case over

in Hunt County. Uh where a man and his wife were, well they were separated. And one day she

calls him up and says, why don't you come over to the house once you get off work this evening

45

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and uh I'll cook dinner. I want to talk to you. So he's probably thinking oh maybe she's gonna make up with me so we can get back together again. So he goes over, once he gets off work he goes by his wife's, they're living separately. And uh he sits down and she cooks him a nice meal. He eats and uh watches TV a while and later that night well they go to bed. There in the middle of the night she gets up, shoots him in the head at least twice with a .25 automatic. She tried to kill him. Well the man survives. He's a bit handicapped, he's a bit incapacitated but he's still got his normal functions there, things are working properly there. Uh he walks a little slower. So uh they wanted me to come over to hypnotize him because they were trying to determine the approximate time when he was shot because they knew what time it was that she, his wife, does eventually call the sheriff's office to report her shooting her husband. But in the meantime, she had first called her daughter, uh and the daughter finally talks her into calling... said Mom, you need to call. You need to call and report this. So finally she does call. So they were trying to determine as to what time, the time to be determined that the man was shot. They knew that there was a clock there on the nightstand, a digital clock on the nightstand. And uh they knew the man said I saw the clock but I can't remember what time it was. And uh so I hypnotized him. I take him back to the situation. He's awakened by a loud noise, a loud bang. His dentures are shot uh, shot from his mouth. He's bleeding. He's moving around there on the bed, he can feel himself moving around on the bed. And uh he sees he's then uh looking towards the bathroom and he sees her in the bathroom. She's sitting on the commode with her head down after shooting him. And uh he's there on the bed and finally I get him over where he's looking at the clock on the nightstand. And uh I work him through the process there. I'm slowly, real slow, you know you don't try to rush them. It's a slow process. And finally I ask him to just tell me what does he see on this clock? He said it's a digital clock. I said well tell me the numbers you see on the clock.

He said it says 10:30. So immediately after he was shot he was moving around there on the bed,

he sees her sitting on the commode, and he looks at the clock. So he was shot probably around,

just before 10:30, around 10:30. And she called the sheriff's office well passed that time and so

he come close to just dying there on the bed. And uh so you know that was one situation there

where it was used. And uh where it helped the investigators uh say develop a lot more, say a

better timeline as to what happened in that incident there by using that.

NANCY RAY: Just another tool, isn't it?

LEE YOUNG: Yeah, it's another tool that's used by investigators and it's a tool that, a tool

that can't, should not be used in all cases. It's not, not a, it's not to be used as an excuse for

conducting say more or further investigation. And once you obtain this information by the use of

hypnosis, it has to be gone, you have to go out and get that information say verified or

corroborated say by other means to prove up this information that you have received through the

use of hypnosis.

NANCY RAY: Well, with all the cases you had, did you ever have any that were not solved

that just really stick out and that you wish you could solve.

LEE YOUNG: Oh yes, yeah. I had some that were not solved. Some murders I worked on that

wasn't solved and uh and uh they're not solved to this day as far as I know. And uh there was

one interesting case I worked on, I guess one of the last big cases before I retired where a police

officer was shot and killed. And uh we developed a suspect, pretty good suspect, had some good

evidence, some good physical evidence. Uh weapon that uh, shell cases from the crime scene

that matched back to shell cases in a weapon in the suspect's residence. Anyway, to kind of

make a long story short, took him to trial in state court and he was found not guilty. And uh

which I thought was just a travesty of justice there. And uh so uh I was fortunate in that I picked

47

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up that case and I still didn't give up with it. I knew I couldn't get it prosecuted again for that

same crime in state court because he'd already been tried and found not guilty. So I contacted the

U.S. Attorney and uh take the case to him, my whole file up to him. And I finally got to sit down

with him and we sit down and I explained the case to him and he said well there's not much we

can go with unless there's some federal violation. And we start going through here and there,

picking this, picking that out. Happens at the time of the incident, the time that the officer was

shot and killed, our suspect was under a protective order uh where he was accused of firing some

shots at his ex-wife's home. And so there was a protective order against him uh which meant he

wasn't supposed to handle firearms, wasn't supposed to handle any type of ammunition, and it

had already been proven in state court that he was handling firearms and ammunition during that

period of time. So we took him to court, to trial in federal court and tried him on eight counts of

federal firearm violations and he was convicted under all eight, no he was convicted under all

seven counts. And he's still serving time in federal prison over that. And uh, in fact he might

have got more time in federal prison for that then he would have got in state court for murder.

NANCY RAY: The moral of that story is don't mess with a Texas Ranger.

LEE YOUNG: Yeah, uh huh, yeah. If we can't get you one way, we'll get you another.

NANCY RAY: You're not giving up, you're gonna be persistent.

LEE YOUNG: Yeah, uh huh.

NANCY RAY: Well, what year did you retire?

LEE YOUNG: I retired in '03, 2003.

NANCY RAY: OK, and what do you do since you've retired?

LEE YOUNG: Well since I retired, for the first year or so I didn't do anything. I just kind of

kicked around and I did a little traveling. Oh I'm a big motorcycle-riding enthusiast and so uh in

48

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2003, that was the hundredth anniversary for Harley-Davidson. They'd been manufacturing from

1903 to 2003 so that was big year for people that ride Harleys or motorcycle enthusiasts. So I

rode up to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from McKinney to Milwaukee. Well my wife and I, we both

rode. So I attended the hundredth anniversary up there and had a wonderful time, had a great

time. But anyway, I come back after that and uh, during the meantime, I'd been thinking about

doing something else. Going to some other work but I was thinking oh, I don't know what I'll

do. I didn't want to really get back into another job where I've got the obligation of you know

being on call, here and there, doing this, kind of say marching to the beat of a boss. And at that

time, I'd done some work with Joaquin Jackson. And uh well he's got his own private

investigating agency out there in Alpine. And he'd come over here and doing some work over

here. And I helped him over here, uh make a few contacts, get some reports and stuff. And uh

well we were talking there before he went back, he left. He said Lee, what you ought to do is

start your own, your own company, your own investigation agency. And so when he left I kind

of kept that thought in my mind and uh so I went and started my own investigating agency. And

I'm going on almost four years now doing that.

NANCY RAY: You can pick your own cases then.

LEE YOUNG: I pick my own cases and I've got three or four people working for me and uh it

has been working out great.

NANCY RAY: Well, I know you're also active with Kiwanis and volunteering and so there is

life after a full career.

LEE YOUNG: Oh, there's a lot of life after the Department of Public Safety.

49

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NANCY RAY: But I want to ask you. We're about to finish and I want to ask you if uh you

know someone watches this video and you would like to leave something you know for that

person uh, your legacy. What would that be? What would you like people to remember you for?

LEE YOUNG: I think mostly, like of course over the years, I've given a lot of talks at schools

and I would tell the kids you know, dream big and uh because one day if you work towards it,

your dreams may come true. And I said uh you know if you've got the ambition and the will and

desire for something, uh don't let anything or no one tell you otherwise. And because uh that was

kind of my situation there you know. Oh I had dreams of being a Ranger and doing something

and of course that was really all I wanted to do, was to be a Ranger.

NANCY RAY: And you did.

LEE YOUNG: And I, oh I didn't want to uh say aspire to anything beyond that. Because I felt

and I knew that a Ranger was the one out there doing the job uh that Rangers are supposed to be

doing. And uh that's kind of what I wanted to do and I like to, oh I've always tried to tell kids to

you know dream big and work towards their goals in life because as long as you stay on a steady

course, working toward what you hope to accomplish in life, those dreams can come true.

NANCY RAY: Well, I'd say you make a very good role model. And I want to thank you for

you for your service to the state and thank you for your time today.

LEE YOUNG: Thank you very much.

NANCY RAY: All right....

50

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