HISTORICAL MEMORIAL CENTER

Pennsylvania State Police

Oral History Interview of:

Sergeant Pete Buchan

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INTERVIEWER:

This is Amy Baldanari [ph] interviewing Sergeant Pete Buchan on November 16, 2004. Tape one. Tell me a little bit about your background.

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, I was born in Latrobe September 11, 1936. I was the ninth child. I have four older brothers and four older sisters. My father was a blacksmith and worked at the Latrobe Steel Company. He had also worked in the coalmines as a blacksmith, prior to that. And my mother was a housewife. I lived in Latrobe, attended Latrobe schools, and I graduated Latrobe High School in 1954.

INTERVIEWER:

How about a little bit about your professional background, your civilian employment.

MR. BUCHAN:

When I graduated high school in 1954, I enlisted in the United States Air Force in -- July 13 of 1954, and I spent four years in the Air Force. Part of the time was in the United States, Massachusetts, New Jersey, then I went to Europe, and I was in Paris for several years and it was in Paris that I took a competitive examination for the United States Air Force Academy. I passed. I was selected. I was sent back to the Naval Academy Prep School at Bainbridge, Maryland, being that the Air Force Academy was new and did not have a prep school of its own. I stayed there from October to February, at which time I resigned. And when I was doing an exit interview, they wanted to know why I resigned, and I said I wanted to go back to Pennsylvania and become a Pennsylvania State Trooper. So, from there, I left and went to Bowling Air Force Base. Again, the base commander, a major general, tried to get me to stay in the service. I was due out in two weeks in April, and again, I declined. And I came back home, and I got a job at a place called Pittsburgh Aluminum Alloys, and I was an

aluminum extrusion press operator, and I -- while at that job, I went to the State Police barracks in Greensburg to apply for the State Police. The first person I encountered was a Sergeant Schnobble [ph]. I'll never forget the name, or the man. He was quite raspy and gruff and wanted to know how many teeth I had in my mouth. And -- but he did give me an application, which I submitted. The reason that I wanted the State Police goes way back to when I was a really -- when I was a young child. I actually used to travel with my father on Saturdays and Sundays. We used to go on trips or go to see our uncle. And one day, I was in the car, and we seen a ghost car, which was the old State Police white car with the black hood. And my dad says, "There goes my chicha [ph]." Well, "chicha" in the Cervo Croatian [ph] language is uncle. And I asked my mother. I says, "How could that be his uncle?" She says, "Well, your father had many dealings with the State Police. They have taken many guns off him during strikes. So," she says, "he calls them all uncle," which is chicha. And they came to the house a couple times when my oldest brother, John, was involved in motor vehicle accidents to get his statements, et cetera, and I was in awe when I seen these big men in these gray uniforms. And I was kind of excited about it. I really wanted to be a member of the Pennsylvania State Police. Once I signed the papers, I went back and worked, and I heard in June, I got my first notice that -- to take the test. I took the test. I heard in August that -- of 1958 that I had passed the test, and I would be notified shortly of where to report. They expected to take a class in the week of October the 27th of 1958. One hundred and sixty-some people took the test. I came in 37th, and I had to report to 21st and Herr Street, Troop A-1 headquarters in Harrisburg. I reported that morning. My sister and her husband took me down, and we stayed at a motel overnight, and they had my car. So I took the car and drove to 21st and Herr and went in for my physical examination and my oral interviews, and there was a gentleman in a white shirt and a tie. I had no idea who he was. And when I found out I passed my physical and I had my review before a board of three

officers, and for the love of me, I can't remember their names, I learned that I had passed. This gentleman in the white shirt and tie told me I passed and that I would have to get on the school bus. And I explained my predicament. I said, "I've got my sister and her husband at a motel down the road." He got a little bit angry with me, and he says, "All right. You get down there and you pick them up and you get back here, and you'll follow the school bus out to the State Police Academy in Hershey or State Police Training School it was called then. And it was on Cocoa Avenue. It was the old training center. So, I did exactly what he said, without, still, knowing who he was. And I found out, of course, when I got to the training center, his name was Sergeant John I. Grosnick [ph]. So, we got to the training center. My sister and her husband, they left, and I walked into the training center with the rest of the recruits. And a sergeant yelled at us as soon as we come in, "Drop your bags and stand up against the wall." With that, the gentleman behind me looked up and says, "I'm not about to do this again." He said, "I had enough of this in the Marine Corps," and he turned around and walked out the door. The rest of us lined up against the wall, and then they took us in and fed us some lunch. Then, after that, we went through the supply and got our uniforms, which were khaki pants and light blue shirts with the State Police patch on them, which was the cadet uniform, and a tie, and your black shoes and socks. And we were assigned our bunks or our rooms. And I was put in a day room, which is on the second floor of the training center. And all the classrooms and the offices were on the first floor. So, from then, that's when we started our State Police training. That consisted of getting up at 6:00 in the morning, falling out at 6:15 for calisthenics. At 6:30, we went to the stables to clean up after the horses and to dress up the stalls and brush down the horses and clean. And at 7:00, we were back into the cafeteria, or dining room, I should say, in this case, to eat our breakfast. And at 7:30, we went up, changed our clothes, and were in the classroom at 8:00. We attended a class until 12:00 noon. Lunch was at 12:00 sharp. Finished at 12:30. We were back in class at 1:00. And we

attended a class until 5:00. And at 5:00, we had our supper. And at 6:00, we had a class again until 8:00. It was either boxing, jujitsu in the gym. And then, 8:00 to 10:00 was your study time. 10:00 was lights out. You got to go home every other week, if your grades were good. And you got to go out Wednesday evening from 6:00 until, I believe, 8:00 to get your laundry done at the various laundromats. The subjects that we were taught was criminal law. we were taught the vehicle code, Pennsylvania geography, everything pertaining to what the State Police would do in regards to search and seizure and anything to help you become a trooper and know the various laws and conduct, what is expected of us as far as our conduct, how to conduct ourselves. It was interesting. It was lengthy. It -- we also took care of the horses. We rode them and learned how to ride them approximately -- I believe we were out there three days a week. We cleaned them. We groomed them. We rode them. First, we rode them with the saddles. Then, we rode them without the saddles. We rode them backwards. And it was all a matter of training us to be the State Troopers that they wanted us to be. They also had motorcycles. We had dogs, German Shepherds. We had a donkey.

INTERVIEWER:

What was the donkey for?

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, he was there a long time, and they used him when they did the rodeo shows. And there was a crew that -- they used him. And we had a horse by the name of Dan. They also used him. But I can remember that quite vividly. It was interesting. When we left the Academy to go home, we got out after an inspection at 12:00 noon on a Saturday, and we had to be back by midnight on Sunday night. Now, if you had an inspection, you had to pass the inspection, which means everything had to be spic and span and clean. And when the corporal or sergeants came around and inspected it, if they found some dirt, then you had to reclean, and then they'd wait a half an hour or 45 minutes before they came back. And that

happened several times to us where we got stuck. We had a cadet there named Delouise [ph]. When he came in to inspect one day, he said, “Oh, here comes those chicken shit corporals,” and well, that cost us about three hours, and we never got out of the Academy until 3:00 that afternoon. And then I had a three-hour drive to get home, and then a very short weekend to get back.

INTERVIEWER:

Speaking of your other classmates, how many were there and did any others drop out? Do you have any stories about them?

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, the classmates -- the total number of classmates, when we got to the Academy, was 62 with that one gentleman that left. After he had left, it was about three or four days later, a -- we picked up another classmate who had had an appendicitis attack while he was at the previous class, so they brought him in to join us. And he became our 63rd member of our class. The class done pretty well. It was interesting. It was a good group of men. And believe it or not, 63 of us graduated the Academy. The uniforms, we were issued our regular uniforms while at the Academy, which considered -- consisted of britches and puttees and high-top shoes, a blouse -- two blouses, a Sam Brown belt, campaign hat, a barracks hat, and the shirts and everything that comprises the uniform, and your weapon. That was all issued to you. You needed the weapon, because you were taught to shoot and -- on the range. We did that several times a week. So, you had the whole uniform, and when you graduated, that’s what you wore, your uniform. And you left the day you graduated for your assignment, depending where they sent you. October 28, ’58 is when I enlisted and started the training center. I graduated, I believe it was April 23 of 1959, and I headed for a Plymouth Meeting station on the Turnpike, which is right near Norristown, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia.

INTERVIEWER:

So, looking back on the Academy, what was the toughest part for you? What was your favorite part? You know, what was your best subjects and things like that?

MR. BUCHAN:

I enjoyed all the subjects, I truly did. I had criminal law and the vehicle code, motor vehicle code, as they called it at the time. And the geography, I loved the geography. I was good at it. I got to know where all our stations were, all the main highways. They taught you where all the rivers were. I don't know that they get into the geography so much today as we did back then, but they did back then, because they wanted you to know this state like the back of your hand. I enjoyed the classes. I scored quite well. I was near the top of the class when I came out, and I just missed being the valedictorian, primarily because there was myself and another man picked to give the graduating speech, and what had happened was we both gave a speech. And we went back in the next day to give the speech again, I decided to give a different speech than I did the original one. He gave the same one, and of course, when you give the same one over, you get a little better at it, and so I came in second on that, and the gentleman ended up giving the class (inaudible). But...

INTERVIEWER:

Do you remember who he was?

MR. BUCHAN:

His name was Baker, and after he graduated, he lasted, I think, two months on the job and was fired.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you remember anything more about the -- your ceremony, your graduation ceremony?

MR. BUCHAN:

The ceremony was held down at the -- I believe it was the Hershey YMCA where they have the auditorium. That's where it was held. My mother, my brother, and her friend came down. And it was a nice affair. They got to tour the Academy and walk around. And there wasn't much else we could do. What we did is we went out to dinner with them, and then they left, and you jumped in your car and you headed for the station that you were being assigned to, because you didn't have too awfully much time to get there.

INTERVIEWER:

The Call of Honor recital, can you tell me about that?

MR. BUCHAN:

The...

INTERVIEWER:

Call of Honor recital...

MR. BUCHAN:

Everybody had to know the...

INTERVIEWER:

...ceremony.

MR. BUCHAN:

Everybody had to know the Call of Honor. It was taught to every State Policeman, and most of them know it, to this day. I still remember it. And the beginning of it is, "I am a Pennsylvania State Policeman, a soldier of the law." And that is now, I understand, going to be on the State Police logo for the 100th anniversary.

INTERVIEWER:

So, why don't we start out, then, to talk about your career with the Pennsylvania State Police, where you started? Talk a little bit about your probationary period and your coach and your first assignment.

MR. BUCHAN:

I went to Plymouth Meeting on the Turnpike, and our patrol section was from the Downingtown Interchange to the Delaware River Bridge, and the northeast extension had just been built, and we patrolled from the Turnpike -- the main turnpike, north to Allentown, Pennsylvania. That was our total patrol area. My roommate was -- I called him Sam Fiorani [ph], but it was Vincent Fiorani, and we became very close friends over the years. The sergeant of the station was Sergeant Calvin

Richwine [ph], nickname Gabby. The corporal on station was Corporal Dave Martin. These are the gentlemen that were going to mold me along with the coach that I was assigned to, and his name was Frank Tessatore [ph]. I rode with Frank Tessatore for only two weeks, and after two weeks, I was cut loose on my own, and then I did all the patrol on my own for the period of time that I stayed at Plymouth Meeting. I stayed there. I palled around with Fiorani quite a bit. And when I left in December of ’59, I went -- was transferred to the Everett station of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

INTERVIEWER:

Before we talk about that, you mentioned a roommate. Where did you live when you were in Plymouth Meeting? Did you live in the barracks, or did you have an apartment?

MR. BUCHAN:

All troopers that went into the State Police at the time that I went in were required to live in the barracks, and you lived there for two years. You could not be married, and you had to stay single for two years. And prior to getting married, you had to ask permission to get married, submitting a letter through channels to the Commissioner, and subsequently, after they did an investigation on your wife-to-be and checked her background and her family’s background, then you received permission to get married. And once you got married, then

you had to submit to them where you got married, the time and the date, et cetera, and of course, where you were going to live.

INTERVIEWER:

So, tell me -- before we move forward, again, tell me a little bit about what it was like living in the barracks.

MR. BUCHAN:

The barracks life was very interesting. It was good, because you lived with the people that you worked with. You got to learn an awful lot. You talked naturally. You talked more about the job and more about the work you did. You was able to discuss different violations with different people, different troopers, so you actually had an advantage, more so, I think, than some of them do today, because you really got into it with the other guys as far as what you were doing, because you were all actually doing the same thing. And you had a comradery that was -- it was just -- you had a close relationship with the men.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Good. So, when you left Plymouth Meeting, you moved on to...

MR. BUCHAN:

From there, I went on to Everett, and again, I met the new sergeant at Everett. He was a little different. He was rough, and he was gruff. And his name was Sergeant Andy Houdika [ph]. And he was -- he had a vocabulary that -- you know, being we're on tape here, I don't think I want to use his vocabulary, but it caught your attention, and it caught you moving. And of course, you got a new roommate, naturally. There's two men to a room. And we stayed at that barracks. And we patrolled from Fort Littleton on the Pennsylvania Turnpike to the west side of the Allegheny Mountain Tunnel. And at that time, we had -- there was Sideling Hill, Rays Hill, and Allegheny Mountain Tunnel were the three tunnels that we had in our patrol zone. We couldn't go off the Turnpike to eat. We had to eat at the Turnpike

restaurants, which was usually Midway [ph] or the Howard Johnson Restaurants, at that time. They have all, since then, changed to different ones. We had east patrols, a west patrol. We had roving patrols. The cars we had, at the time, were gray, and they were Plymouths, '59 Plymouths when I came out. And most of them on the Turnpike were marked. There were a few unmarked ones. And they had, like, a bubble-gum-machine top, which is your red light on the top of them. We -- those are the cars that we drove, and like I said, we had to stay on the Turnpike to eat our meals. So, while I was at Everett, of course, I finally finished my two years, and I submitted my request to get married. And I got my answer back and got my permission to get married, and I married Mary Margaret Gephardt [ph], and she was from Youngstown, Pennsylvania. And we moved into an apartment in the little town of Everett for a total of $35 a month. That's what we paid in rent. And I stayed in Everett, and we patrolled Everett. And I've got to say something about the time. Back then, you only had one day off a week and two nights, which would be the night before, and then you had the one night during the week off. So, you had two nights off and a day off. And you worked as many hours as you can work. I can remember the sergeant calling the house when I was late for work one morning. My wife answered, and he growled at her where -- asked her where I was. And she says, "Sleeping." "You get up and you do -- get him over here to work. He's late." Well, I was supposed to work the 8:00 to 4:00 shift. I got there, it was about 8:20, and he was quite nice. He grabbed my keys, and he says, "Hey, kid." I says, "Yes, Sergeant." He says, "We'll see you at 8:00 tonight, then, won't we?" I says, "Yes, sir." So, for that 20 minutes of late, I got about three hours and 40 minutes of extra work that I did. We had no overtime. If we messed up, he put you on fatigue duty. We scrubbed. We waxed the halls. We washed our cars. We did a variety of things back then. The uniforms that we wore were the britches and the boots. We all -- most of the men purchased riding boots that looked better than the puttees. And we put elastic -- black elastic strings in them, so they were easier to pull on and

off. We all had bootjacks, which is the thing that you run your heel into and pull your foot up out of so you can get your foot out of this big, long boot. We had summer britches for the summer. They were lightweight wool. The shirts were wool, but the winter were heavier than the summer. They had black epaulettes, and the old gray and black State Police patch was on the shoulder. But those are the uniforms we wore. And then, I can't remember. I believe it was probably after I left the Turnpike or right prior to that we went in -- no, it was probably right after I left the Turnpike that we went into long summer pants, but we still wore the winter britches and boots. Campaign hats. We had an overcoat that -- when it got real cold. This thing must have weighed 40 pounds and was extremely, extremely heavy. And it was hard getting in and out of the car wearing that. It was just that bulky and that big. Nothing like the uniforms that they wear today at all. And so, from Everett, in April of 1963, I requested a transfer, and they sent me to Troop B in Washington, Pennsylvania. And it took me about two or three months just to find a place for me to move my family. I had -- my oldest daughter was born then in Everett, and so I had my wife and my daughter. And finally, I had to end up buying a mobile home and moved it out into a cow pasture at in Route 18, south of Washington, Pennsylvania. And I finally got my family there after three months, but until I did, I stayed in the barracks down there and came home on my days off -- or my day off, I should say, which was only one day a week. It was interesting. It was a little different setting. The men, I noticed, weren't quite as close as our Turnpike group was. The Turnpike group, for some reason, we seemed a little closer, because going back to the Turnpike, we were a bunch of young men and a lot of them newly married, and we didn't have any money. And back then, we used to get together whenever two or three of us or four of us were off at one night, and someone would bring the chips and someone the pretzels and someone the pop and someone the beer, and we'd get together at each other's houses, or apartments, I should say. So we had that kind of a comradery going that it was just a little different when I walked

in the -- Washington was just -- it was just different. It -- the closeness wasn't there. I didn't feel that close.

INTERVIEWER:

Stepping back to Everett, your wife had told me a story earlier about Trooper Monville [ph] and when you got married, and I think that would be a nice little story to tell.

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, Joe Monville, he was a class after me. We...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. BUCHAN:

...got to be quite good friends. In fact, most of the guys were. And we were coming down the Turnpike the day after we had gotten married, and over the loudspeaker, we hear there's wedding bells ringing up -- this whole gang of ours, and here it was Joe Monville. Joe was a good friend, and I knew Joe for a number of years. And he got to be a sergeant in this job, and he passed away about two years ago. But I'm glad you brought that up. It was interesting, but getting back down to Washington, Pennsylvania, I got there in '63, and I worked patrol and traffic, and we patrolled 19 North and all of Washington County. And it was interesting work. I liked doing the county work. It was a little different than the Turnpike. On the Turnpike, we kept daily logs, et cetera, and so forth. And we did the same there. And all the reports back then, we had to do on our own time. We had to -- if we finished our shift, you had to sit down, even on the Turnpike. And if it took you two hours to do an accident report, which were usually five or six pages long, well, that's what it took, but you couldn't go until you had all your reports turned in. So, it was kind of the same with Washington, so really, a lot of our hours were spent at the barracks doing reports after we pulled our shift. We didn't do -- we didn't have triplicate reports where you can print them out on the road and throw

them in a basket and just go home. That just didn't happen. So, after being on patrol in Washington, Pennsylvania for -- oh, about -- from '63 April until, I think, the winter of '65, I had requested from a lieutenant there, his name was Howard Janes [ph], to go onto the crime unit. Well, if you looked at the criminal investigation unit back in those days, it was comprised of detectives and sergeants. There were very few troopers. Back in Washington, Leo Holmesik [ph] was one of the first troopers to be selected to work crime, then came Jim Patt [ph]. And then subsequently, I came along.

INTERVIEWER:

Why were you interested in transferring to the crime unit?

MR. BUCHAN:

I wanted to be able to get out there and solve crimes and to get into the -- involved in the crimes that are occurring in the county, the burglaries and the thefts, and I thought it would be interesting and I would enjoy it. And Lieutenant Janes gave me my opportunity, and I did enjoy it. And I thought I did do a good job for him. Back then, we could not get into our home troop for ten years. That's why I had gone to Troop B instead of Troop A in Greensburg. Well, while I was there, they reduced it from ten years to six years. well, once you made a move, you had to stay at that station for, like, three years before they'd move you again, so once I got to Washington, I was kind of stuck, so it was -- I had about nine years on the job before I was able to even apply. But while I was at Washington, I got involved with Detective Sergeant Jap Augustine, Jasper

Augustine [ph], and he got me involved in some vice work, assisting him in his crew doing vice work and vice investigation, so I learned a little bit about vice, gambling mostly is what we dealt with, prostitution and gambling. And I got involved with that a little bit, and it was quite interesting, so when I had put in for a transfer to go to Troop A in Greensburg, I came into Greensburg in December of 1966. And oddly enough -- I've got to back up,

because in Washington, I was working the evening shift on crime and got a call that they had a warrant out for a wanted murderer from the State of Ohio and they suspected that he was bartending at a bar in Burgettstown, Pennsylvania. So, I got a hold of a patrol of -- out of Carnegie, and they sent Troop Emmett Malcahee [ph] down to meet me in Burgettstown, so I met Malcahee, and we met with the assistant chief who was working that night there. And I asked the chief if he ever goes in this bar. And he says, "I go in there every night." I said, "Well, would you go in there and determine if this gentleman is working in there, and number two, if the owner keeps a gun under the bar?" And he says he would. He went in, and we waited for a while, and he came back out, and he says, "The gun is not there anymore. The owner moved it, and yes, the gentleman you're after is working behind the bar." So, I'm -- Malcahee and I entered the bar, identified ourselves, placed him under arrest. As we placed him under arrest, he went jumping for where the gun was, but it wasn't there. Subsequently, we handcuffed him. He wanted to go up to his room to get a coat, so we took him handcuffed, behind his back, up to his room. I said, "Where is your coat?" He says, "In the closet." Opened up the closet, there was the murder weapon laying right at the foot of the closet. So, I confiscated the murder weapon. And this is right about the time of the very important Supreme Court case Mapp v. Ohio that dealt with search and seizure. So, to make a long story short, I did end up going to Ohio to testify in regards to this arrest. Subsequently, this gentleman was convicted of murder and sentenced 25 years to life. Now, I'm coming back to Greensburg, and by the time I hit the barracks at Greensburg, First Sergeant Jack Burke [ph] was at the foot of the stairs. "Oh," he says, "just the man that we're waiting for." And he took me in to see a lieutenant by the name of Jim Barger. And he said to Jim Barger. He says, "Your man's here." And just about that, Barger says, "Come on in and sit down." And he said, "I have a detail that runs into Pittsburgh that does vice work." He said, "I'd like to put you on that detail. He says, "We'll give you a car, and that's all you'll do is you'll run to

Pittsburgh, and you'll take care of vice matters, and you'll work for Corporal Carroll [ph]. I'll give you a little time to think about it." And I says, "Okay." And I went to get up to leave, and he says, "Well?" I says, "Well, what, sir?" He says, "You had enough time to think about it." So, without even consulting my wife or anybody else, I says, "Yes, I'll take it." And I never did go in uniform. I went into plain clothes, and we did vice work in Pittsburgh. And that lasted for approximately about a year until they did some switching and the troops in Pittsburgh then became a member of the Troop B station or Washington -- yeah, Washington Troop. So, I come back to the Greensburg unit. I worked crime. I did some vice work at Greensburg. And then, in 1968, as I was about to build my house, I got a call that -- to go to Butler to meet with a lieutenant from Harrisburg. So, I drove up to butler, and I met with a lieutenant Wellandorf [ph], who was from Harrisburg. And he advised me that they were interested in having me doing some undercover work, that he would get back to me, and he would be in contact with me very shortly as to where this would be and get me down to Harrisburg to get a car and the necessary items that I would need. Well, I says, "All right, but," I said, "my captain wants to know what this meeting is about." And the captain, at that time, was Lyle Young [ph]. And he said, "Well, you tell the captain that you're not at liberty to divulge what our conversation was about, because it's top secret, and if -- anything that he wants to know, he's to contact Commissioner

McKetta [ph]. So, as a result, the next morning, I got called into the captain's office, and when I told the captain I wasn't at liberty to tell him, he banished me to the records and identifications, Andy

Baughtlach [ph], who kept the intelligence files, and I was filing cards for the next four days until I finally heard from the gentlemen from Harrisburg, and they got me out of Greensburg by the skin on my neck. And I was assigned to undercover work. They gave me a complete dossier of everybody that was involved in legal gambling in the City of Altoona.

INTERVIEWER:

Stop for a second right here and tell us a little bit about what your family situation was at this point, because you were getting ready to go off on an extended -- for an extended time to Altoona. Tell us about your wife and children.

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, this was the kind of the situation. We lived -- I lived in a mobile home that I had moved up from Washington, below my parent's house, and I was getting ready to build -- sell that -- sell the mobile home and build a house. I had two children then. Dan was born in Washington while we were there, so I had Daniel, and I had Mary Paige, who is the oldest one. And they were going to start the house in April. We got rid of the mobile home, and my wife had to stay with her parents until we were ready. And -- but we were still in the mobile home for, oh, the first few months that I was in -- back and forth to Altoona. Well, when I had gone to Harrisburg and met with Lieutenant Wellandorf and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and got everything that I needed. They gave me an old Rambler to drive. It bounced along. I got along with it, but he couldn't give me any instructions for communicating with him, other than I did have the phone number. But he just said he'd be in touch. Well, I used to call my wife from Altoona every evening and talk to her. I stayed at a little motel. And then, he would call her, and then she would tell him where I was at and so forth. It was kind of -- actually, she was kind of a go-between, because he was -- hasn't heard where I was, and finally, it got to the point, after several weeks, he finally told her. He says, "Look, will you have him call me? And tell him to get out of that city somewhere and call me where nobody knows he's calling me." So, that's basically what I did do. And then, from that point on, my wife didn't have too much contact with him. I started to call him regularly. Well, I moved out of the motel, and I found a place in a house on a back street, a third-story mid-room, a real

old couple owned, and I rented that from them. And I was trying to figure out how I was going to do my job. And I subsequently went to the taxi company. A gentleman by the name of

Martino [ph] owned it. And I told him I'd like to have a job. And he never asked to see my driver's license or anything. "Yeah." He says, "You've got to work 12 hours a day," and that was it. And then, the next thing you know, I was running a cab from 6:00 in the morning until 6:00 at night, 12 hours a day.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you get paid for that?

MR. BUCHAN:

Yes, I did get paid for -- they paid me. And those checks I had to forward to Harrisburg. I had fake everything, so that was (inaudible) of compromising my identification. But everything that I earned went to Harrisburg. And no, I did not get to keep any of that. But as a fact, driving the cab all over the City of Altoona wasn't too bad, because the avenues run one way, and the streets ran the other. It was 7th Street, 8th Street, 7th Street run north and south and 7th Avenue run east and west. So you couldn't get too confused. So, it was kind of easy to learn the city. And I was there about -- oh, about five months. But driving the cab, I probably drove it for maybe a month, month and a half, enabled me to get to know all the gamblers, most of the gambling houses. I ended up with just about everyone but the main man that we really wanted, and I even got up and went to church with him at 6:00 in the morning. I used to see him at mass. He would stop at the newsstand and get his newspaper, but the man would never get involved with any of the illegal activity. But I did get to know each and every one of them. I -- they took me into their trust. I used to hang out -- they had -- the 7th Avenue News was owned by a gambler, and I was playing a pinball machine in there one day, and a black gentleman came in, and he says, "Hey, boy." He says, "Come over here," he says, "to this with me a minute." So I walked over to a phone, and he says, "Dial

this number here for me." And I got the phone number, and I dialed the phone number. Now, I'm trying to remember this number that I'm dialing, because it's very important that I do this. And then, he shoved a sheet in front of my face with about 200 numbers on it. He said, "Read these numbers to the guy at the other end, and then give me the phone back." Well, I read the numbers off to the guy. Thankfully, I don't know how I did it, I did remember the phone number, and I was able to get that phone number to Harrisburg. The whole object of the investigation there was not only to get the numbers writers and the illegal activity, but it was to get the banks, get the place where the numbers are going to where all the money is gathered. That was the important thing. Well, when it did come time to finally close in and close this investigation out, we -- one of the sergeants from Hollidaysburg was called in and excused from his duties, and we met in his basement of his home, which is outside of Hollidaysburg. And we typed up all our warrants and everything. On the day of the raid and the arrests, I was standing at the corner of the newsstand when the State Police came swooping in and arrested everybody. The big bank where the numbers -- the bank where they -- where all the money went to, the numbers that I actually called was directly across the street from the newsstand. We got that. We got just about everybody that we could. The last three weeks I was there, they had sent me another man to help out, and everything got pretty well accomplished. We did a pretty good job there. And from there, I left, and I went to Erie, Pennsylvania.

INTERVIEWER:

Back up a little bit, though. Tell a little bit about the old folks that you were living with. Did they ever...

MR. BUCHAN:

Oh, the old folks...

INTERVIEWER:

...find out your true identity?

MR. BUCHAN:

Yeah, they had a fake identity. They had no idea who I was and...

INTERVIEWER:

What was your name?

MR. BUCHAN:

Peter Lewis Cornick [ph] was my name. The name that I used, I'll never forget the name that I used, it -- but that's the name that I used, and that's who they knew my by. I always tried to stay with the same first name, so I wouldn't get caught up. But as a result, these old people -- I could see they were a little afraid of me, yet I paid them regularly, and of course, I turned that in. One day, the old lady says to me, "Do you paint?" I says, "Yeah, I can paint." She says, "Would you like to get a week's free rent if you paint my kitchen?" So, I ended up painting the lady's kitchen. Of course, I let Harrisburg know about that, so Harrisburg didn't have to worry about paying that week's bill. And after we did the raids and when the hearings started to come up, I went back to Altoona for the hearings, and I walked into the hearing room, and all these people were sitting there. There was only one guy that had any kind of inkling of who I was, and it was a guy that run -- I can't think of the name of the -- it was a newsstand, but it was on the other end of town. And what had happened is I had bet a number with him, and I forgot about it. And the number hit, and I went in there, and it was a matter of him sticking 600 bucks or 500 bucks in his pocket or giving it to me, and he was a little greedy, so he figured, "I'll keep my mouth shut. I'll keep the 500 bucks." And that's what he did, and the rest of them had no idea who it was until I showed up at the hearings. I then stopped back to see the folks that I rented the room from and finally did tell them who I was. You could see the relief come over their face. They were probably in their early 70s, both of them. They were very nice people and treated me very nice. That was one

of the things about doing vice work and undercover work. I did enjoy it. I went up to Erie. Erie was a -- that was quite a different place. You were watched closely if you were a stranger. They did nothing with strangers up there. They followed you. And I had a -- I rented a little bedroom in a house. Went into town, and I was followed all over the -- all over Erie. I have to -- I -- I'd have to pull in the Sears parking lot and walk around the store and then go out and get in my car and leave, and they'd still pick me up and follow me. Well, they did that after a while and seeing where I went and so forth, and finally, they left me alone. I was able to get a few places, but not very many. Subsequently, I finally came back. I called Harrisburg. I said, "I about had enough." I done it for nine, ten, almost eleven months. Our house was built by then, and my father was looking out after it, the best he could. And finally, I did came back -- I came back home, and then I worked true vice for a while in Greensburg. But getting back to doing the vice work, I liked it. It was interesting. I had done it in Washington just a little bit just to give me a taste. I done it for Lieutenant Barger in Greensburg. Apparently, the fact that I did do a good job for them is what got Harrisburg interested in me, and it really began a relationship that was going to go on in my career even more.

INTERVIEWER:

Looking back on your career, you know, from, say about where are right now, 1968, '69 backward, who were the influential people that you worked with? You mentioned some of them, but you know, the top few.

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, I worked with Detective Sergeant Jasper Augustine in Washington, Pennsylvania and Detective Pete

Lasifko [ph]. He -- these were guys that gave me some helping hands and hints along the way. There was another trooper that I had worked with down there, Jim Patt, Bob

Doogan [ph]. And then, when I came to Greensburg and Barger, Lieutenant Barger, I got to work with Lieutenant Barger, and the guys that we worked with in Greensburg that were doing the gambling work, Warren Sibatoni [ph] and there was a few other guys and Frank Carroll, "Skippy" Carroll. That -- you continuously learned. Well, while I was in Greensburg, Roy Tittler, Lieutenant Roy Tittler used to bring a crew out of headquarters, BCI. He used to bring them out, and we'd do the McKeesport Pittsburgh area, and they would pull me out of Greensburg, and I would go with them. They would stay in motels, and we would go in, and we'd conduct raids on these gambling establishments then. So, Harrisburg pretty much knew I was out here and willing to do the work. As a result, I used to go into the Academy for training sessions with these people, and I learned a lot of it down there. They used to bring people that were authorities on gambling and gambling activities and techniques, gambling devices, et cetera, and so forth. So, I was schooled pretty well at the Academy. That would be the new Academy, not the one that I attended at that time. So, it was quite interesting.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you want to take a break? Do you want to take a break and then...

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, back in Greensburg, you know, intermittently, between running to the Academy and helping the BCI people out, I was involved with the vice unit in Greensburg, and subsequently, I was able to -- the captain appointed me to run it, as a trooper, in January of 1970. And you've got to understand that we use old police cars. We use cars that anybody would recognize as a police car, and we were trying to figure out a way around this. Occasionally, we were permitted to rent a car, and that was rather expensive, and they didn't like to eat up that kind -- we didn't have that kind of money. So, I had a trooper by the name of Johnny

Myer [ph], Lee Wells [ph]. We had all worked together at Pittsburgh and everywhere else, and they says, “Hey, we’ll fix it up. Can I have a couple cars at night to take home?” I says, “Yeah.” Well, Johnny Myer took a car, Lee Wells took a car. When they came back the next day, those two cars were two-toned. Here, they had taken these two regular old police cars, and they had painted the roof on them and made them a two-toned car. It -- if the car was green, it had a light green top, and if it was dark blue, it had a white top. And...

INTERVIEWER:

What kind of cars were they?

MR. BUCHAN:

Plymouths. They were Plymouths. And the quartermaster or the supply people, they were going bananas over the fact that we had painted these cars. Well, we dwelled into the regulations, and I come up with the fact that it says right here, and I pointed it out to them people and the captain, “It says right here that you can do anything to a police car to increase its value as long as you don’t do anything to decrease the value.” I says, “Making that car two-toned actually increased the value.” And with that, we made our case. and subsequently -- in all of this, what really evolved later on was the simple fact that the -- someone was going to realize down the line that we needed true undercover vehicles, off-brand vehicles, to do the work that we had to do in gambling and then in the future, narcotics. I was one of the first people to be trained in narcotics in 1969 out of Greensburg, myself and a corporal by the name of John Tavalonus [ph]. The two of us were sent to Hershey with the groups from other troops to be trained in narcotics. That was one of the first schools that I attended. Since then, the narcotics thing was starting to become quite prevalent then. And so I actually, although I was geared more towards gambling, eventually, it was going to get into narcotics, and I kind of knew that. So, in 1970, when I was running the vice unit, in May of 1970, they

came out in the spring of that year with the CIS program, criminal investigation specialist program. There was a specialist one, specialist two, specialist three, and specialist four. I had put my letter in for a specialist one, which would've paid me, like, corporal pay. And I submitted my letter for that, and I also had taken the promotion test. And Captain -- I believe it was Captain Stanley Cramer [ph] was captain at that time, and he called me into the office. And he said, "Do you really want this CIS one?" I says, "Well, yeah." You know. "I'd like to have it. Everybody likes to have a little bit more money." He said, "Well, wouldn't you want to think about it?" He says, "You know," he says, "the promotions are coming out soon." And back then, at that particular time, the promotion for corporal was only troop-wide, not statewide. So, I got to thinking about it, and this man did everything that he could to convince me not to be a CSI, without telling me anything about the promotion. He never did tell me about the promotion. But he just kept telling me, "You don't want to do this." And finally, after he said, "You don't want to do this." I said, "Okay, Captain." He took my CSI letter and he ripped it up in little pieces and threw it in the wastebasket.

INTERVIEWER:

So, you couldn't be a CSI and then get promoted to corporal?

MR. BUCHAN:

No, if I took the CSI, I would bypass. The corporal...

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. BUCHAN:

...would be gone. You couldn't be -- you know. Subsequently, the next two days -- it was two days later, the corporal list came out, and I was number one. Therefore, I was promoted in May of 1970 to corporal. I took over the -- I had already run the troop vice unit, so I stayed right with that vice unit and ran it. And we continue to do the (inaudible) work in

New Kensington and Greensburg, Latrobe. And it was during then that we made one of the largest raids in Latrobe. And...

INTERVIEWER:

Talk about that a little bit, because you were from Latrobe.

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, we had enough information on the gambling activities that were taking place in certain establishments in Latrobe that we did some follow-up on it, and there were some connections with Johnstown. And without going into a lot of great detail, probably a lot of it I can't remember, but there were several locations. I had warrants for, I think, something like 10 or 12 locations in Latrobe. I sent Carl Metz to one, which was above a place called Latrobe Restaurant. It was a restaurant, but there was an apartment above it that doesn't exist any longer. And when he got on the radio and called me and we couldn't believe what we had tackled, but we come up with over $50,000 in cash that came from another location along with all the bet slips and the (inaudible) betting and gambling paraphernalia. So it became one of the largest. And the other one I -- that I was involved in in Latrobe, I wasn't actually involved in it. I had a part to play in it, although I was the principle -- Lieutenant Barger was the lieutenant then, at the time, and it was -- consisted of this big, old barn out on Crabtree Road, right -- on the Latrobe Crabtree Road that stored hundreds of gambling devices, one-armed bandits, electronic poker machines, and electronic pinball machines that were all ruled illegal in the state. And Lieutenant Barger had the men secure a search warrant. And they seized all those machines, well over $100,000 worth of machines. And that was when I -- shortly after I had first came up from Washington. And now, this one that we hit in Latrobe was relatively big. The next one we hit that was relatively big was a place called the 10th Street Pool Hall in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. And we hit that with the firemen axes got into the doors, and it was a big barbooth [ph] dice games going, and they

had these big barbooth tables. And in fact, I still have pieces of the green that came off these tables. The gentleman that was with me, Detective Al Faut [ph] was with me, although it was my raid. And John

Schaffer [ph], who later became the commissioner, who is now deceased, he swung a heavy sledge, and he smashed most of the tables up. But it was also a big raid, and we did well in, you know, getting the gambling in that city. So it -- those are some of the vice stories that we got involved in. And so I continued to stay and do the vice in Greensburg, and I attended -- still attended various schools. I went to three-day narcotics seminars in Pittsburgh conducted by Drug Enforcement Administration. And I tried to work with them and establish a rapport with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the FBI office in Greensburg, and still do, you know, your vice work, try to share a little bit of the intelligence, if we could. So, that was the bulk of the vice work. And then, I stayed on that until July 1971. I got another call to meet somebody from Harrisburg. And that took place on July the 13th of 1971. I just won't forget that date. It's just a good date. And I was ordered to go to the State Office Building in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to meet with Lieutenant Roy Tittler. And I think that I can get into that. I'll get into that on a -- right before we take a break.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

[Tape 2]

INTERVIEWER:

This is the interview with Sergeant Pete Buchan, November 16, 2004, tape number two. Let's start off with 1970, '71.

MR. BUCHAN:

1971. this was the -- I got a call from Harrisburg where I was to meet Lieutenant Roy Tittler at the State Office Building in Pittsburgh on July 13, 1971. So, I went down to the

State Office Building with kind of an open mind and went up to the designated room where I was to meet him, and I met Lieutenant Tittler. I've known him for some time by then. He introduced me to two gentlemen. One was Inspector Stephen Joyce [ph] of the Pittsburgh Police Department, and the other one was Sergeant Chester Howard [ph] of the Pittsburgh Police Department, Narcotic Bureau. Joyce was Howard's boss. And the other person there was Trooper Russell

Clannagan [ph]. So, Lieutenant Tittler told me that we're going to organize the Western Narcotics Strike Force, similar to the one that Corporal Ron Pro [ph] had organized down east some six, seven months prior that they worked in Philadelphia with. Were quite successful. And he says he brought Clannagan out as one of your people that work for you. He says, "You're going to need another black, and then you can pick two more guys." "Well," I says, "I don't know who else I could pick." And Russ said, "Well," he knew a gentleman by the name of Trooper Oliver, Ed Oliver [ph]. I said, "Well, we'll go for it." So, Lieutenant says he'd take care of getting Oliver, asked me who I wanted, and I told him I wanted Trooper Jim Patt out of Washington and Trooper Rich Heller [ph] out of Indiana. So, that was the beginning of the Western Narcotics Strike Force, as we were called then. And the set up was, basically, that the Pittsburgh Police Department would furnish us the informants for the heroin dealers. Our guys, primarily Clannagan and Oliver, would buy the drug. And I would pay the informant. And this is basically the way that this was set up. And we got to work on that. Again, the cars seemed to be a problem, because we were using police cars again, and I didn't have anybody to paint them this time. So, our men that would -- you know, we just had to do it mostly on foot or stay away from it. And then, finally, we got some permission to rent some cars. Sergeant Bob Doogan that run the gambling vice detail out of Washington was to look in on me every now and then and kind of, more or less, supervise. He was a sergeant. I was only a corporal at that particular time. So, we worked out of a motel room in

Monroeville, and we'd go into Pittsburgh, pretty much, every day. Ed and Russ did a pretty good job. We worked the City of Pittsburgh, and we'd get about 44, 45 heroin dealers. And we did a pretty decent job on them. And all that heroin was brought back and given to me. I had to take it all to the lab. I had to store it. I signed all the criminal complaints against these people, and I was the one that basically testified, because we were protecting, at that time, the undercover men and not presenting him before the courts so everybody and their brother can see who he was. So, they were pretty well protected, and it worked, at that period of time. We then moved on up to the Edinboro Erie area, and we did some work up there. And oh, it was some three or four months later, and we came back down into Pittsburgh and started to work with Sergeant Howard again with the informants and started to get into the heroin dealers again. And lo and behold, we haven't been to court on the first batch, and we got the same people around the second time. So, again, we picked up another 30, 40 on this go-around. Meanwhile, the State Police that organized the gambling strike forces, which was called Region Strike Forces, and the eight regions in the state, and they were working in gambling, but they also were starting to run into narcotics. So, the following year, in July, at the time I made sergeant, they -- we dissolved the Western Narcotics Strike Force and merged it into the Region Five Strike Force, in which I took command of that. And Corporal Rettigan [ph] worked for me, and I had the largest strike force in the state. I had, counting myself and Rettigan, 18 men. And now, we were renting cars. And then Harrisburg decided to start buying us the different brand automobiles. And...

INTERVIEWER:

Where was your office, at that time? Where...

MR. BUCHAN:

The office...

INTERVIEWER:

...did you (inaudible)?

MR. BUCHAN:

...at that time was at the -- I ran the office out of motel rooms and then the Greensburg barracks. We used an office in the Greensburg barracks on the second floor. And subsequently came the Bureau of Drug Control. The Governor's Office had a Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, and they had a gentleman that was in charge of that. Therefore, the Bureau of Drug Control for the state came under him. And he wanted the two units, the State Police and the Bureau of Drug Control, to merge into one building where one hand would know what the other hand is doing. And subsequently, that's what happened. We ended up at the Armbruce [ph] Professional Center, which is out on Armbruce Road, south of Greensburg. But there were problems, because any time you get two organizations that don't want to cooperate, they won't cooperate. And if they do, they do it because they want to. The Bureau of Drug Control did a lot of drugstore work. We didn't do any. We did mostly undercover work. They did some undercover work, so it really wasn't conducive of me running my people with their people, because I had my people partnered up, and they were doing a pretty good job themselves, as it were -- as it was. When I had the Western Narcotics Strike Force, and I had Trooper Patt up in State College. We bought over a pound of cocaine up there. Trooper Heller was doing a tremendous job buying pounds of marijuana and stuff in and around Indiana. So, we really were making some good headway. And then, when we merged, we still had the same fellows plus the additional fellows that gave us a total of 18 people running the unit. The Bureau of Drug Control moved in. We had jointly meetings to try to give each other the information from both units. Yeah. Did it do any good? Maybe. I was never totally sold to the fact that it was going to work, because I always -- the skeptical State Police feeling that they weren't telling us everything that we should know. And as a result, we didn't tell them everything that we thought they should know. So, it was a win/no-

win situation, but we did get along. And we stayed out there up until the time that I left the narcotic unit. Some of the outstanding things that occurred or some of the things that did occur, we did a number of drug arrests. We'd -- we made well over 1,000 drug arrests throughout the western and southwestern Pennsylvania area. I thought we did a good job, but I was always the person that said we could've do better -- we could've done better. We had a situation at the Snack Shack up in -- oh, up in Evansburg at (inaudible) where Trooper Job [ph], Trooper Gregg [ph], and Trooper Maddis [ph] when into a bar of motorcyclists, and as a result, one was hit with a baseball bat, another one was hit with a cue stick, and Maddis was shot in the stomach with a shotgun. I had just went on vacation, got a call, and headed down to Lee Hospital in Johnstown where a doctor told me Maddis had about a 90 -- or about a 5-percent chance of pulling through. They must have had an awfully good surgeon, because I prayed a lot, and Maddis did pull through, and he did recover. Job and Gregg, although badly hurt with the head injuries, they also recovered. Job is still on the job today. Brian has retired. Maddis has retired. I know Job still has to sleep, I think, in a partial sitting up position, because he just can't lay flat. These were really, really good men. They really did a good job for me, and they're to be commended what they did. The people that were involved in the shooting, I think we arrested a total of 15. I think Sergeant Tom Triteko [ph] and the criminal investigators out of Evansburg had their -- did their investigation on that, and as a result, we got some sentences up to 15 years on those people. So, it was a bad situation. It's the worst one that had happened to me, as far as being in charge of a group of men anywhere. But the men in the strike force, they did a real good job for me. The cars that we used, you know, Pontiacs, GTs, Mustangs, you name it, the variety of car that's out on the highway today is the variety of car that we drove. And even supervisors, we didn't -- I kept one old Plymouth and that -- I generally drove that, myself or the corporal. And we also had vans that we used for surveillance. But we had better equipment later than we did earlier, you

know. Sometimes we had to make due with what we had, and other times, they actually gave us the equipment. Now, the money and -- most of the big money and the show money, the $25,000, the $50,000 that we had to have, that usually came in by Harrisburg -- from Harrisburg, generally the day we got it -- or the day we needed it, and it went back to Harrisburg the day after we -- as long as we made sure that we still had it. And we did some pound cocaine deals that came out -- came through Pittsburgh Airport, and we worked with the DEA on a few of those and did well. And then, the DEA got a hold of me, supervisor, and wanted to know if I was interested in attending their ten-week training school. Now, the ten-week training school was at the 14th and I Street in the heart of Washington, DC. So, he submitted my name, and I applied through the State Police for it, and they approved it, and I got selected to go ahead down. And I went down in April of 1974 through June 20 of 1974, for ten whole weeks. I would get home on the weekends to see my family. My wife took care of the kids, and I was down there going to school. And it was, more or less, like the -- I guess they were trying to be like the FBI's 11-week training school that they have down there. But it was a good school. They really taught a lot. I am the only member of the Pennsylvania State Police who have ever attended that school. No one else has ever attended it. I got my graduation diploma upstairs. I'm proud of the fact that I went there. Major William Grooms [ph] came down to my graduation, and -- in June. In fact, I had my family down in Washington, DC for that whole week right prior to graduating. I was with people from all over the world. I was with two Iranians. That -- of course, the (inaudible) was in power then. One was a major, and the other one was a captain in the Iranian National Police. I was with a couple guys from Thailand, from -- I think one was from -- a couple from Cambodia. One was Singapore. And then, of course, from Montana, Las Vegas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia. There -- it was a fine mixture of guys. It was about 36 of us. And we really enjoyed each other and had an enjoyable time with the Drug Enforcement Administration teaching us. So,

you got to know some of the guys and the way they operated from the other states, and you learned a lot, really, from being associated with them and just to cross information that you gave each other meant a lot. You know. We did well. One of the highlights was Greg Morris [ph]. He happened to show up at 14th and I. I guess "Mission Impossible" was doing a show, and they needed some info, and they sent Greg Morris. And Greg Morris was one of the stars of the TV series "Mission Impossible". He is now deceased. I have a picture of Greg Morris standing in the center of a group of us guys that attended, so kind of a highlight. The other highlight of training was the airports. They -- we did the Washington National, which is Reagan National now, and Dulles. We did both those airports, and we did it on the concept of trying to follow somebody that comes into the plane with a load of dope and take them through an airport. Let me tell you something. It's probably the most difficult thing that anybody would ever want to do. And one of the things that they taught you down there, and it actually occurred after I came back, was the fact that if you were following somebody or you're picking up a tail on somebody and they leave, whether you're partner's with you or whether he is not, you just take off and you go. You know. You don't worry about your partner. You know. You stay on this guy's tail. Well, everybody thought this would never happen. Well, I was out in Pittsburgh, and we were picking up a coke deal. The guy's coming in with a couple pounds of coke. We were going to make the purchase with the DEA at a motel in Monroeville. And I was with the supervisor, Ed

Shide [ph] out of the Pittsburgh DEA office, and what happened was the -- we lost track of the guy in the terminal, and the other guys picked him up. And when Ed Shide and I stepped out to where the cars were, they were all gone. And so there wasn't a soul. And Ed says, "Oh, my God." He says, "What are we going to do?" I says, "Give me a dime." He says, "We've got a predicament, and you want a dime." I says, "Give me a dime." He gave me a dime. I dialed to Carnegie barracks, got a hold of their night patrol, told them to pick us

up at the airport. The night patrol came in an unmarked car. We bailed into the back seat. And Mike Honkus [ph] was the driver. I'll never forget it. He took us down the parkway at about 100 mile an hour. We know we passed everybody somewhere along the line, but it was just blips as we went by. We ended up back at the motel prior to everybody getting there. Ed Shide was totally relieved he didn't have an explanation to make to his superiors, and the deal did go through, and we did make the arrest. So, it was a situation that occurred. That -- and I stayed with the narcotics unit up until it was time for a change, for me to get out of there and maybe somebody new to take over. And I had a gentleman working for me that got promoted to corporal a while back, and his name was -- or like in '78. His name was Lyle Zapinka [ph]. And Newt Robbins [ph] was my captain, Major Andy -- or Russ Anderson [ph] was my major. And I had made a comment that I was getting burned, and I was getting tired, and Anderson didn't let me forget that. And he said, "Maybe it's time for a change." And I actually had to agree with him. So, what I did was Captain Robbins came out and we had a -- we met in Bedford and had lunch together, and he says, "You've got to stay until you pick somebody." He says, "You've got to pick your successor." So, I says, "Okay." And -- which was a tribute to me. I really appreciate that they liked my judgment. So, I says, "All right." So, on the way back, I knew Lyle Zapinka had now made sergeant. And I says, "You know what? The guy worked the detail for a lot of time. He understands the detail. He knows all the men." And although they didn't like him that much, I thought maybe that he might be the supervisor to run it. So, I called Lyle up. He was at Carnegie. I says, "Are you interested or would you be interested?" He says, "Absolutely." So, I made the recommendation, and they brought Lyle in. And I went back to Greensburg, and I -- it was 1980 now when I went back to Greensburg. Captain Swisstock [ph] was the CO.

INTERVIEWER:

Before we move out of the ‘70s and the narcotics detail, why don’t you talk a little bit about some of the -- you talked a little bit about the cars, but you didn’t really talk about the uniforms and what the guys wore? We obviously know they weren’t in uniform. I don’t know if you want to talk a little bit about that part of it and maybe, like, the lifestyle of some of the people who work for you and how it was for you and your family and them and their families and so on and so forth.

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, about the young men that worked for me in narcotics is what you’re asking about. Their lifestyle is what they looked like, what they dressed like, what their -- there was no uniform. They blended into any crowd anywhere. They were “Mr. Anybody”, bearded, mustache, long hair, ponytail. You name it, they had it. In a dark night, yes, they can scare somebody. I can remember when my back went out in ’74 or ’75 and I was laying on the couch at home that I heard this Christmas carol singing, and I -- mom opened the door. There was -- the whole detail, practically, with the exception of a few men, standing out there singing Christmas carols, and it looked like a bunch of hippies running around with a bottle of Wild Turkey in their hand and came in, gave me the bottle of Wild Turkey and sit down in the house and had coffee. And that was the kind of men that they were, and that’s the way that they dressed, and the -- they would -- yes, they would scare you. I did have occasion where informants, who knew where I was from, would show up at my front door. That has happened, as it has happened with, maybe, the men that worked for me. Now, these men tried to fit in with whatever environment that they were working in, and this is the way they worked. And not only did they fit in in that regard, they had to lose the police lingo. They had to go with the lingo that was on the street. They had to know the street lingo. They had to know, pretty much, everything. A lot of these guys, the majority of them, all received narcotics training. We all had seminars. We tried to have a meeting once a week where we

can air whatever was going on, and where one could actually teach another that, “Hey, this is what we needed.” When we picked up -- a new person was handpicked. I used to enjoy this part of it, because I used to get the word off my guys who was good and who wasn’t good, and trust me. The people or -- and the troopers out in the field know who’s good and know who isn’t. And when I walk into a captain’s office, and this has happened to me more than not, I’d get the, “Get out. You’re after something, and I don’t want to give it up.” And I used to say, “Well, his name is this.” And he’d say, “You can’t have him. He’s no good. You don’t want him.” I’ll say -- and the more he’d say that, the more I’d say, “Oh, yeah, I do,” because I knew him trying to tell me that this guy was no good, that he had to be one of his better people. And this worked for me for a lot of times. They gave me that leeway to pick my own people. This is one thing I really enjoyed about it, and I did pick my own people. And I picked good people, for the most part. Did I make a couple mistakes in picking them? Sure. Sure. I think everybody does. I’ve picked a couple bad ones. You know. You get rid of them and pick them up again, and get rid of them again. But that does happen. I had proposed, right after the start of the strike force, that these guys only do three years and then go back to the troop and do a year in uniform and then come back. And that was kind of shot down, and the reason they shot it down was the training of the new personnel, the time it takes to get another person street-oriented and accustomed to what we did, how we worked, and how we covered each other. They were right, in that respect, but yet, I still think they were wrong. I still think that a lot of our guys would’ve fared better had they -- because, you see, the whole concept was you can’t forget who you are, as a state -- you’re a State Policeman. You can’t forget who you are. And when they get so involved in this work, sometimes that’s what happened. I can remember, you know, there were some incidents where one of my troopers purchased an automatic weapon, and they were driving into the City of Pittsburgh, and he was playing around with the weapon, and the other partner was driving the car, and right

before they hit the Squirrel Hill Tunnel, the gun goes off. Okay. And the trooper says, “Oh.” He screams, “I’m hit. I’m hit. I’m hit. I’m hit.” And just as he said, “I’m hit,” he entered the Squirrel Hill Tunnel and said, “Oh, my God. Everything turned black. I’m dying. I’m dying. I’m dying. I’m dying.” And the other trooper says, “No, you’re not dying. We’re in the tunnel,” and they come out the other end. He had shot himself in the big toe. I ended up down in Pittsburgh while he’s laying in the emergency room when I got there. And that’s what he did. He shot his -- shot himself on the big toe. I can remember a gentleman that worked for me, cleaning his guns in the basement of his house, shot his little finger off, called his wife, and says, “Get me a towel.” She got him a towel. He wrapped the finger up in the towel, wrapped his hand in the towel, drove himself to the hospital, and the doctor sewed his finger back on. But -- and he has since then departed, but these are the things that happen to people. And you know, I -- and I don’t like all these guys. These guys, whether they like me or not, I don’t know, and it’s probably immaterial now, but these were good people. They were, for the most part, very good people. And if they weren’t, I probably wouldn’t have had them, and maybe they wouldn’t have had me. They would’ve done, you know, worse than that. But that was the strike force. That’s what it was made to. It was made up of these men that were willing to do a hard job, because it was not an easy job. Narcotics is tough, I think, for everybody and for anybody. And you know, it -- while we’re on it, it’s a situation where this thing doesn’t just grab the poor people or the guy on the street. The rich, the middle class. It doesn’t matter who you are. Narcotics affects -- affected everybody, and I think most of these men realized this, and I know I realized it. So, that was primarily the narcotics -- I loved it. I enjoyed doing the work, but I know it had an affect on me. It had an effect on my family, my wife, and my children. I know it affected them. I didn’t spend an awful lot of time with my kids when they were growing up, and that -- maybe that’s my fault. You know. But I also loved the State Police. It was an organization that I always wanted to be a part of. So, that was the narcotics

end of it. and then, 1980, when it was time for me to leave, I reported to Captain Swisstock at the Greensburg barracks, and we sat and we talked for a couple hours, and I told him why I left, and that I kind of burnt out. I think I hadn't been the root. And he said, "You know," he said, "I'll tell you what I want you to do." He said, "I want you to come into troop headquarters for a month and Greensburg, get your uniforms squared away, what you need." And the uniforms then, of course, back in the early '60s, we did away with the britches and the boots, and we went to long pants and so forth. The patches had changed. The shirts had changed. You know. I got my uniforms all upgraded. I got my -- made sure I had stripes on and my service bars on. He said, "Take a month" and he says, "and bounce around in the report room and correct some reports, and check with Sergeant Stauffer [ph] and the traffic sergeant, and see how he makes out the schedule." He says, "Go out to the substations and see how they operate the stations." But he says, "Make yourself at home, and go out and see anything and everything that you want to learn, want to see." He says, "And that's yours. You've got a month to do that. And then after that, we'll worry about it." Well, at -- back at that time, in 1980, we had, like, probably eight, ten sergeants running around Greensburg. I mean, that's how many sergeants there were. Those are sergeants at substations and so forth. Well, I took over in the traffic office, correcting reports and doing odds and ends and taking care of various details. At the time, we had Roaring Rock detail, and we had a few other details. But I usually worked with Sergeant Stauffer on and took care of those. And we had troop drills once a month, and I got involved in those. But being back in uniform, hey, I kind of liked it. You know. We still had the horse blanket for a coat, but we finally shed that after a year or two, and went into a lighter weight winter jacket, winter coat. And of course, we still had the campaign hats. And I can remember one instance, I still had the fur hat that I originally was issued. In fact, I have it upstairs. I still do own it. And it was brown. And I was standing in inspection, and the captain took one look at that hat, and he says, "Where did you

get that hat?" I said, "That's my issue hat from the time I came on the job." He said, "Well, burn it and go get a new one." Well, I didn't burn it, but I did go get a new one, and I asked the quartermaster if I can keep it. He says, "Go ahead and keep it." I still have it. But it's an interesting story, because it was -- the fur on it is actually brown. So -- but it is an actual leather hat, not a vinyl hat. And in fact, I showed it to my wife here the other day. But I stayed in Greensburg, and it -- I supervised out on the road. We worked nights. We worked midnights. Usually a sergeant worked a 4:00 to 12:00 in charge of the shift. And a sergeant worked also at midnight to 8:00, because we had enough sergeants at that time. And we also did that. So, we investigated the accidents if a corporal had them, and the corporal investigated the troopers. So, there was a lot to do for a sergeant on duty. And of course, now we're into, you know, 40-hour workweeks and so forth. And you did timesheets, and you did all the administration stuff that went along with running the organization. And eventually, the sergeants started to leave, retire. Some of them hit retirement age, and they left. And all of the sudden, sergeants were starting to dwindle down. In '84, Captain Swisstock sent me up to Somerset as the station commander for thee months. It was a temporary assignment, because one of the lieutenants was going to the FBI academy, and he wanted that sergeant to come in and fill in that seat and asked me if I'd go up to Somerset, and I said, "Certainly." So, I went up to Somerset, and we -- I -- it was good. It was interesting. I got to learn the operations of running a station. It was a good station. Good men. Good people. Got to know the area. Got to know the guys. But in three months, I knew I -- you know, I was coming back, so I made no changes, because there's no point. It's not my station to make changes on at that particular time. But I did enjoy the work. It was good, and I enjoyed it, so I came back after that three-month period. And then it was, oh, about eight months later, in 1985 -- in fact, the beginning, nearer, around January some time, February, that Captain Swisstock -- there was a vacancy. A sergeant retired from the crime at the end of the year,

December, and everybody was taking their bet that I would be assigned to the crime unit as a crime supervisor, being that most of my experience lied in the vice crime field. And I was also a crimes code instructor. I instructed the -- at the Academy in undercover technique and covert and overt operations. So, I did a lot of instructing, so they figure -- and I had a lot of crime experience behind me that I would automatically -- they were taking bets that I'd automatically end up as the new crime supervisor. Well, the captain called me in his office, and he said to me. He says, "You know." He says, "I have Sergeant Holmesik over in Kiskey Valley [ph], and I want to bring him in as the crime sergeant. And I," -- he says, "And I want to send Pete Admunsky [ph] from Somerset to Kiskey, and I want to send you up to Somerset to run the Somerset station." He says, "How's that sound to you?" I says, "Sounds terrific." And it did. I -- it didn't bother me whether I went to crime or whether I went -- but Somerset, I really enjoyed it, and I went up there on a permanent assignment this time. And then, everything went well for me at Somerset. I -- they had a good station. And then, let's see, that was 1985. We had a -- in August the 13th, we had a cloud burst over a little town called Glencoe [ph]. It sat down in the valley of the highest mountains up there. This little stream that I could normally step across turned into a river of unbelievable proportions and washed away 10 of 17 homes that were in that little valley. It left seven standing. We lost two people, a woman and a guy. And they drowned in the swollen river. Somebody tied an old man in a tree that we had to send the firemen out to the tree to get this old man untied out of the -- it -- they saved his life, whoever did it. And the Amish people come to help clean out the area. Some lady that -- her house was up -- high and dry made apple dumplings for everybody. Governor Thornberry [ph] even came out and toured the area. But it was really a total devastation. The captain at the time was Captain Fiorani, my old roommate from the Turnpike. He flew in on a helicopter, and the only way they could land is land -- the most dangerous way is coming straight down where you can't see where he's landing. And we

took some people out. So, we were able to work with a guy by -- a sheriff by the name of Guy Davis [ph]. And there's a story that goes along with him that comes along later. But we did well by the people up there, at least that I felt, and I felt good about it. But it was a long 24- or 28-hour day that we put in. At the end of that particular month, my son had been working in West Virginia for my brother in a cable company when a line snapped, and he was thrown about 18 feet to the concrete with a severe head injury. Well, they called, and my trooper that knows every back road and back woods in Somerset County got me down the Maryland to the hospital that my son was at. And they got him on a State Police helicopter, strapped him down, and flew him down to Baltimore to the shock and trauma unit. And my -- one of my corporals made arrangements for my wife and I to fly down to Baltimore on a private plane, owned by a company up there. So, they flew my wife and I down there, and the Maryland State Police picked us up and took us into the hospital and stayed with us until the doctors talked to us. He had a closed head injury. He was severely injured. And he was there about five days before he finally, yeah, came around. And they decided to let him go. Then when he came back home, it wasn't too long after that, I asked to come back just to be here at my home. So, as a result, they made a switch, and I ended up as the crime sergeant, and they sent somebody else up to Somerset. And I stayed as a crime sergeant for six months, and then I returned up to Somerset to do the work. Thinking back, and going back to my vice, I did forget one. We had a particular police chief in a particular location that was involved with a numbers outfit, and we brought a guy in from Harrisburg from the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. And we sent him in the office like he was a big wheel from the numbers racket, and we had him wired. And this chief just laid it all out in the open about how he wasn't getting his share of money. So, we subsequently got that chief arrested and relieved him of his duties. As with Sherriff Davis, Guy Davis, he was, of course, a sheriff in a county at that -- Somerset County is also the warden of the jail, so some things were going on in the jail. The

Justice Department got wind of it, and they wanted him arrested. And again, they came to me and says, “You’re good friends with the sheriff?” I says, “Yeah, he’s -- anything I want, he’ll give me.” So, I called the sheriff up and told him, “I’d like to meet you at the jail at 6:00 in the morning.” And when he left his house, he got as far as the alley when they snatched him up and brought him up to the barracks and subsequently arrested the poor guy. But -- I shouldn’t say poor guy. I mean, he deserved to be arrested, but that was the end of him being the sheriff. But he did right by the people in the flood, and it was just a different twist that people had with things. And he was the sheriff up there for quite some time. But it goes to show you that you don’t know some of these side things of -- that these people are involved in. When you know the person, maybe, out in the open, you don’t know what’s behind it. So -- but I went back and forth to Somerset probably about three or four times, but I ended up at Somerset. I got transferred back to Greensburg to traffic. I stayed there a while, and I ended up being reassigned back to Somerset as the result of a grievance. And I went back up to Somerset. And I had one of my men sue me for the violation of his First Amendment rights. I ended up going to Federal Court for that. They settled that case after about three weeks. Captain Fiorani and I were the ones that were being sued. They let Major Hankinson [ph] off the hook. But then what happened is while I was doing that, we had a sergeant in Greensburg by the name of Corkrin [ph] that was -- had a court case. He was kind of suspended off the job, and he had won his court case, so -- which means they had to reinstate him. And as a result of it, they had to promote him to lieutenant, because he was high on the list, and they had bypassed him. So, the captain, at that time, chose to send him on up to Somerset as the station commander, so when I got out of court, I had a station commander to work with. That was 1988 when that happened, in May of ’88. So, I stayed there with him. Corkrin used to pick me up, and I used to ride to work with him. So, it was not a big deal. And when he didn’t, I drove my own car. But -- and it got to be a little bit of a

burden after that. And then, 1989, I had been having bouts of angina and ended up in the hospital. I ended up in the hospital, oh, once -- two times prior to May of 1989 for these angina attacks, ended up there for coronary care once, the telemetry monitoring unit once for a week, and then finally, in this particular May, I had an angina attack, and it -- oh, it put me in the hospital for about a week. Well, when I got out, my wife says, "That's it. You're done." You know. "You've got better than 30 years. You're almost 31 years. I'd rather have a live husband than a dead trooper. And we come home from the hospital, and I called the office -- troop office manager, Greensburg Mary Kirth [ph], and she said that -- I told her I would like to retire, and I made it effective July 5 of 1989. So that's basically what I did. I retired on July 5 of '89. The state had just got a new contract, and the state was fighting it, but I said I was going to retire anyhow, because I was only about four or five percent difference. And as a result, the troopers won, and I got the contract award with my retirement anyhow. And that's when I left the State Police. I don't know if -- I might've missed something there, but I covered it pretty much, and rather fast, I know.

INTERVIEWER:

Pretty fast. Can you think back on everything that you told me and think of the most significant thing that has happened to you, the most humorous thing that has happened?

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, oh, probably one of the most humorous things that ever happened was when we were chasing a couple characters we suspected of burglary around the countryside between Greensburg and Crabtree and I had Lieutenant Jones in the car. I wanted to stop a car, and he pulled the car broadside, and he ran around the front of the car, and he disappeared. I couldn't figure out where he went. Subsequently, he came crawling up out of this culvert, and he only had one shoe. So, we used to -- he lost his shoe. We used to kid him about that, and -- that he lost his shoe, and we used to razz him quite a bit about it. One

of the things -- there were many humorous things that probably occurred, I guess. Humorous to me, at the time, chasing a guy on the north side of Pittsburgh. He jumped over a fence, and I, like a dummy, gun in hand, jumped over the fence right behind him without realizing it was a 20-foot drop, subsequently caught him at the bottom of that hill, and I remember his name, to this day, because he eventually jumped bail and went down to Jamaica and nobody's ever seen him since. But there were a lot of incidents. We had a house of prostitution in Washington that we sent the one guy in, and we told him we'd be right outside to just lift the window blind or whatever, and the girl kind of took off her clothes and said, "Well, come on. Get your clothes off." So, he took off his clothes, and nobody's coming and nobody's coming, and so he didn't know what to do, so he grabbed a chair and threw it out the window. All he had in his hand was a badge. But there were...

INTERVIEWER:

You told me earlier about some well-known people that you pulled over on the Turnpike. I'm thinking of one in particular.

MR. BUCHAN:

Oh, well, I -- my early years of the Turnpike, I stopped Wilt the Stilt Chamberlain. I'll never forget it. He had a sports car. I can't remember the make of it, to this day. I just can't think of it. But it had no front seat. He had the front seat taken out totally and had it recarpeted, and he was sitting in the back seat, because his legs were so long. And I asked him for the driver's license and his registration, and he reached in the glove box, and he got out two balls of paper and he handed them to me. I said, "What's this?" And he said, "That's my driver's license and my registration." And I unballed them and looked them up, looked at them, and sure they were. I said, "Why do you have these all balled up like this?" He says, "I can find them easier that way." He says -- I -- instead of looking. So, he threw them back into the glove box, and I let him go. He was extremely nice. He was speeding and -- not that fast,

75 miles an hour. At the time, the Turnpike was 65, and we very seldom arrested anybody unless they were going over 80. And so I let him go. It -- he wasn't the only one I stopped. I stopped Tony Cubeck [ph] when they were playing the World Series against the Pittsburgh Pirates on the way back to New York to play the set of series games there, and I stopped him for speeding. Again, a warning, 77 miles an hour or something like that. And he gave me his driver's license and registration, and I said, "I'm just going to write you up a warning." I wrote up the warning, and I gave him the warning. He says, "Just a minute." And he opened his trunk, and he got a box out with a baseball on it. And he says, "Here's a signed Yankee baseball." My son has that today. It's -- that was -- you know, that's 1960. That's 44 years ago. My God how time flies. But Tony Cubeck. Xavier Cugar [ph], (inaudible). Stopped them. I stopped some of their parties -- well, actually, I stopped some of their girls is what happened. And then, they ended up pulling up and stopping. That's how I met them. But no, I met a few people along the way. Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicholas, Dick Gregory. We had to provide protection for him when he was at St. Vincent's. But you kind of keep a -- I don't know, a neutralized type of thing, you know. It's -- there were strikes. I worked strikes. Coal strikes. We did undercover investigation, the coal strikes, Eddie Singer and I. There were a lot of different things that we got into and that we did. But we tried to do whatever was required to do the best job that we possibly can. I know I talk fast and a lot about my career with the State Police, but it was a good career, and it was one I truly loved and enjoyed. The cars, they were different. The old cars that we drove on the Turnpike, there was no air conditioning in those days. We didn't have that. You know, that luxury didn't come until later on. So, in reality, we lived through the hard times to the better times. And now, they're into an age of technology that is so much different from what we had, because we had a radio that was barely -- that -- you know, that decent. When I was stationed at Plymouth Meeting, we used to sit up at Allentown with the type of radio and pick up New York City's police calls and

listen to them. We used to go up there just to listen to their police calls. Back then, they never stopped, and that was back in 1959. So -- but the technology on radios and everything else has come a lot further today than it's been. Today, they have computers in the cars and, you know, everything's there, and rightfully so. It should be. You know. But I enjoyed the -- those years and sure, there were a lot of humorous events along the way. Some of them I can remember, some you can't. it's just that so many things happen sometimes and -- like drinking in the bar with the guys from the gambling vice detail and the guys from the narcotics getting together and somebody has a little can of tear gas and one little puff, what it does, it empties a bar. I mean, it really empties a bar. It did. You know. And -- but all in all, it was a -- I don't know how I can get this whole career on just a few tapes, but maybe it's because I talk fast and tried to cover a lot of territory. Like I say, the uniforms changed over the years to lighter-weight shirts to stuff like that. And the...

INTERVIEWER:

Why don't we just wrap it up? Overall bests and overall worsts. Why don't you do overall worsts and then overall bests about all of your years, the 31 years, in the State Police? What pops into your mind?

MR. BUCHAN:

The tops is that I completed, and I was able to do, my childhood dream, and that was to become a Pennsylvania State Trooper. I was that. And I only hope that I was able to contribute something to society and something to the residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for those years that I put in. I don't look back and say, "This guy did this to me or that guy did that to me," because, you see, you have that in any job that you go to. And bitterness will really hurt you. I like my job. I actually like the people I work with, good and bad, because you learn from both. And I recommend that any youngster, any young person, that this is a good job for them if it's truly, truly what they want to be. It was truly what I

wanted to do. I enjoyed every bit of it. I got the opportunity to do just about everything in the Pennsylvania State Police that I wanted to do. I was never a garage inspector, but I never wanted to be a garage inspector. So, I can't complain about the assignments that I had or the people that I worked with. I liked it. That was the good. The bad. The bad was probably in the early years when you worked six days a week and had very little time off to spend with your young wife. That would probably be the worst of it. There was days that I went for three days and didn't see my wife, because we worked different shifts and -- you know. But that wasn't really bad. It was just a part of those times. So, no, the Pennsylvania State Police will always stand out in my mind as a class organization. I think it's one of the finest, if not the finest, in this country. I think we have a lot of good people there now, a lot of good people leading it, and that's about it. I really enjoyed it, and I liked it, and I'm glad that I had the opportunity to make this tape. I truly am. Thank you.

[Tape 3]

INTERVIEWER:

...Sergeant Pete Buchan, retired. Tape number three. During the course of our last interview, I'm sure you had a lot of time to think about other aspects of your career. Is there anything that you've recalled since that you wish to address?

MR. BUCHAN:

Oh, my heavens, there are. There's an awful lot of things that came to mind after we finished taping the last interview. And what comes to mind is I forgot to mention that prior to entering the Pennsylvania State Police, I had two brothers who were municipal police officers here in the borough of Latrobe. My brother, Mike, had joined the police department in Latrobe in 1953, and my brother, George, he joined the same department in 1957, so they were both in the department when I enlisted in the Pennsylvania State Police in 1958. Mike stayed with the department, he and George both, for a period of time, and then, George left

and went to O'Galley [ph], Florida and Mike followed him about four months later. O'Galley is now a place called Melbourne. And they policed for a while. Mike stayed about 18 years. George did about 14. But I had failed to mention that. It was a significant thing, and I don't know how I had passed it up.

INTERVIEWER:

Let's go back, also, to when you were in the Academy. You had mentioned earlier John Grosnick. Can you tell us what happened to him and maybe some of the other instructors that you had during that period?

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, I can remember John Grosnick because of the run-in I had with him at 21st and Herr. He was a sergeant at that time, but during his career and my career, he had gone up to deputy commissioner and the rank of lieutenant colonel. Some of the other instructors I had was John Thompson [ph], who instructed us in criminal law. John went on to become a major and the director of training at the Academy. There was a Sergeant

Dean [ph], who taught traffic. Corporal Lambert [ph] I remember on the motorcycles. Charlie Gesford [ph] was our firearms instructor. I think, at the time we were there, Charlie was a trooper or had just made corporal. I think Charles Gesford retired as a sergeant. Bill Hanning [ph] was a sergeant. I used to rent a garage from him when I was at the Academy, and he went on to become a captain. There was Sergeant Rono [ph], Sergeant Christine [ph]. They went on to become captains. Kerr, Wayne Kerr [ph] also went on to become a captain. So, quite a few of them that instructed us at the Academy went on and went up in rank in the Pennsylvania State Police.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, good. The other thing I wanted to touch on was your first involvement with vice. You never really stated how you came to be involved in vice gambling and narcotic investigations in the first place, so why don't you take us back to that time in the '60s?

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, I didn't start to do vice or narcotics work until -- actually vice and prostitution until 1965 when I was doing criminal investigations in Troop B Washington. Detective Sergeant Jasper Augustine, we known as "Jap", used to use me on various raids they had on gambling machines and gambling places and houses of prostitution, so I kind of got a little taste of it so that when I did transfer, eventually, to Greensburg, that's how I ended up working for Lieutenant Barger and the vice unit, first the Pittsburgh vice unit and then, of course, the vice unit in Greensburg.

INTERVIEWER:

What's -- you mentioned to me earlier about, in addition to the gambling and prostitution, the cockfights, which is something you don't hear a lot about these days, but...

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, back in Washington, we used to go on these cockfight raids. A lot of people aren't familiar with cockfights, and what they are is they're really a rooster, a chicken, and they have these stainless steel spurs that they strap onto the legs of these chickens and -- roosters, really, and they put them in a pen, and they fight to the death of one of them. And that's how they determine the winner. And they are -- it's a very heavy betting situation, and a lot of money flows, depending on what rooster you're betting on, or what cock you're getting on.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Well, why don't we talk a little bit more, then, about Lieutenant Barger and when you went to work with him and what happened in 1967?

MR. BUCHAN:

Lieutenant Barger, I worked for him in the Pittsburgh vice unit and then in the Greensburg vice unit. I secured some information from a confidential informant and furnished it to Lieutenant Barger. Lieutenant Barger and I were the only ones that knew where the source of information -- where it came from, who furnished that information. As a result, a search warrant was secured for an old barn situated on the Latrobe Crabtree Road. In this barn, we seized over 100 and some gambling devices: one-armed bandits, electronic pinball, electronic gambling devices. They were -- those were seized and confiscated. It turned out to be one of the largest raids of that kind in the history of western Pennsylvania and possibly the state. To this day, I know where the information came from. Of course, Lieutenant Barger had moved on and eventually became commissioner of the State Police, but he and I were the only ones that knew where the information was and where it came from.

INTERVIEWER:

In 1969, you had some experience with the Pagan Motorcycle Gang. Do you want to tell me about that?

MR. BUCHAN:

In 1969, with the assistance of the North Huntingdon Township Police Department and the ATF and the Drug Enforcement Administration, we raided a trailer and a home in North Huntingdon Township that belonged to the Pagan Motorcycle Gang. As a result of that raid, we seized numerous illegal weapons, drugs, and drug paraphernalia, and as a result of that, of the 30 that we arrested, we convicted a great majority of those. Now, people have got to understand, when you start talking about motorcycle gangs, and especially the Pagans, that they had a farm down in South Moreland [ph] Township in the southern part of Westmoreland County. They used to come out here every year. So, we were rather conscious of the fact that they were here and they were around, so we always kept an eye out

for them. We always tried to pick up the intelligence information and furnish it to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation in Harrisburg, because there was several troopers over there that were following these gangs, particularly these motorcycle gangs, in the Philadelphia and the Pittsburgh area.

INTERVIEWER:

Good. We were talking the other day about the organized crime book, which you worked on in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s. Why don’t you talk a little bit about that?

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, when I was assigned to troop vice in Greensburg, when I arrived there and kind of got my feet wet, Detective Triteko [ph] used to do a book on organized crime in our particular troop area. As a result, I kind of inherited this detail, and then every year, you had to go up and update it. and what you did is you added and subtracted those that no longer were around, added people that were different and involved in organized crime, whether it be gambling, prostitution, drugs, whatever, stolen cars, whatever, whoever was big in that operation, you compiled this for the entire troop area, and it was submitted to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation in Harrisburg. They, then, submitted it to the Attorney General, and a book was published then and basically called “Organized Crime in Pennsylvania”. And it basically gave you all the names of everybody in the families of the various mafia organizations listed throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

INTERVIEWER:

Do these books still exist?

MR. BUCHAN:

I think there’s a few copies around that -- I don’t know where you’d find one, but I think there’s a few people that have a copy of -- they’re not compiled anymore. There was

also intelligence files that we kept on everybody for -- about everything. Those are no longer in existence. They were ordered destroyed in the early ‘70s, and they were.

INTERVIEWER:

Why don’t you tell us a little bit more about your children? You mentioned a couple of children in the last interview, but you have one more, I think.

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, I believe I mentioned my first two, but I didn’t mention the person that is doing this interview. I failed to mention Amy, but Amy was born in January of 1970, here in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. My oldest, Mary Paige, was born in Bedford County, and my son, Daniel, was born in Washington County. So, I got three counties involved, and I told my wife, “There’s 64 counties left,” but she didn’t want to hear of it, so that brings you up to date on my children. And the funny thing about the first two, I was working a six-day week, and of course, it switched to a five-day week when Amy was born. But it was funny that on -- each of their births came on my day off.

INTERVIEWER:

Tell me the story of Dr. Brandise [ph].

MR. BUCHAN:

Dr. Brandise -- and from 1969 through ’74, I got involved in doing kind of public relations and narcotic speeches to try to inform the schools, colleges, civic groups, whatever, about the drug problem and to try to inform these people of what we encounter and what we -- what they need to know to combat the drug situation that was starting to exist. It was during these speeches and these forums that we were having at these various schools that I met this Dr. Brandise. His name was Robert Brandise is the name that he went by. I met him through the District Attorney’s Office and Chief County Detective, Don Hackney [ph], and we were doing a program at the Derry High School, and then, subsequently, another program at

Ligonier. Well, I got to know Dr. Brandise, and he was quite friendly, so I invited him over to the house one evening, and my wife had made a large pot of vegetable soup. Now, when she made a pot of vegetable soup, this would last us several days. Well, Dr. Brandise and his wife showed up, made themselves extremely comfortable at the house, held my little baby daughter, ate all my soup, and when they left, my wife said to me, "You know," she says, "there's really something funny about these people." She says, "I can't put my finger on it, but," she says, "there's something wrong." She said, "You ought to look into it a little further." Well, I really didn't do much about it for the next several days, and she kept bugging me about it, so I started to do some checking. And I decided to stop by their residence where they were living, which was up in Laughlintown, just east of Ligonier. And when I walked in the house, I noticed it was rented pre-furnished, so I didn't see too much of anything in the place. They had a big dog, a St. Bernard, I believe it was. And it -- they were really nervous when I had stopped by. So, I visited for a short while, and then I left. And then, I got a hold of Don Hackney, and the resident agent of the FBI in Greensburg was a man by the name of Cy Laffey [ph]. So, I got a hold of Cy and discussed it with him. He said, "Well, we need a little bit more to go on." Well, we started to check around to find out where they had come from, if we had any information on the name that he was using. Apparently, when he started to give these drug seminars and talks, nobody had gone and checked the man's resume. And as a result of checking what he submitted, references, et cetera, and so forth, this party just didn't exist. Well, this threw up a few red flags, and through some phone records and phone information, we were able to determine, or I should say Cy was able to determine, that the man was a fugitive. So, one night, I got a call while I was eating supper at home, and Cy says, "Pete," he says, "here's the name of the man, and he is wanted by the FBI." And he says, "How about meeting me and let's go pick him up." We headed for Ligonier, and we got a call that he wasn't there, that he was at McKeesport at a rehab center. The center in

McKeesport was the old Vo-Tech, and they were using it for drug rehab back in 1970. Well, we proceeded there, and we arrested him, Cy Laffey and I, and threw the cuffs on him. And he made the remark. He says, "I know who fingered me." He says, "It had to be you, Pete." He says, "It had to be you." And said nothing further to him. It turns out that, in this period of time that I knew him, he gave me a book to read called "The Great Conspiracy", and it was about the Chicago Seven and the Democratic National Convention when they had all that trouble. So, that kind of helped us a little bit with the knowledge that we had. And when it came down to -- Cy says he was actually one of the group of "The Weathermen", known as "The Weathermen". And he was wanted for the White Slavery Act and for blowing up a radio tower somewhere out in Arizona or the New Mexico area. So, it was kind of an end to an interesting story.

INTERVIEWER:

Whatever happened to Cy Laffey?

MR. BUCHAN:

Cy Laffey (inaudible) as the agent in charge in Greensburg until a friend of his, Daniel Dunn [ph], was named commissioner of the State Police, and Dan chose Cy Laffey to become the deputy commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police. Dan died in office, so Cy Laffey then became the acting commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, and Cy also died in office.

INTERVIEWER:

In the early '70s, in early 1970, you had a story that you told about an airplane in the New Florence area.

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, I was doing vice work after the incident with Dr. Brandise, which occurred in the -- oh, the spring of -- the winter and spring of 1970. Well, in the summer of '70, I got a call

from a gentleman about an airplane landing in a field near his home. I went up and looked around, spotted the plane. I got a hold of Sergeant Triteko, who was doing a lot of major crime investigations. I told him what I had. I had an airplane that was parked up there. We didn't know anything too much about it. And from what I can get from the informant, supposedly, a gentleman living in a trailer park nearby had something to do with it. We particularly didn't know what. From looking in the windows and so forth, all the seats had been taken out of this plane, and it was a twin-engine Beechcraft Queen Air. It's a nice size plane. And everything was stripped inside, so we figured somebody was running drugs with this or a lot of marijuana. So, we decided to watch it, and in talking to Sergeant Triteko here recently, he blamed me for getting him pneumonia, because we laid in a wheat field several nights, watching this thing in the chilly evenings, and as a result, we really didn't get anything at that time waiting for the plane to leave or somebody to come by it. Subsequently, we did leave the area and left information with the informant who lived nearby to call us if they would see this plane. Well, they called us that the plane had taken off, so our next move was, "Well, call us when you see it come back." Well, they did. The plane was -- had come back, and Sergeant Triteko and I both raced up to the scene. And by the time we got to the plane, it -- there was no one around it. So, as a result of the information we had and some other data I had from the confidential informant, we secured a search warrant for the plane. I opened the plane with a screen door key from my house, and when we entered it, we found big, rubber bladder tanks, five-gallon gas cans that we figured that this plane was flying drugs, and it was coming in non-stop from out of the country, all the way out to New Florence, and it was carrying a load. So, I swept up what I could off the floor, and I got between a half a pound and a pound of marijuana. With this, we seized the aircraft. I had a pilot brought up from Latrobe Airport, and we seized the plane, flew it down to Latrobe Airport to Latrobe aviation hangar and secured it there. I went over to the trailer park and notified the gentleman that

was supposedly seen around the plane and asked him if it was their plane. He says, “Well, it’s not my plane. I’m not a pilot. It belongs to an organization that I’m a part of.” And the organization was the Area Nations, a white supremacy group. They had property down in Brazil and South America, and apparently, this plane would fly down and fly back with loads of marijuana. Well, what had happened, we didn’t have anybody to prosecute. We prosecuted the plane. So, in other words, we seized it and filed the papers with Westmoreland County Court. A hearing was held before the judge. An attorney showed up representing the Area Nations, along with this gentleman from the trailer park. And as a result of the marijuana and everything that we took out of it and what we had known, the plane was turned over to the district attorney to be turned over to the -- to be put up for sale, with the monies to go to the attorney general to fight the drug problem. The plane was subsequently sold. Bruno Ferrari [ph], a large contractor in the area, had purchased the plane and totally had it refurbished and had used it for quite a while before he sold it to someone else. So, we did get the plane. That was probably the first airplane seizure that ever occurred in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. So, this, again, is another first. And these were some of the things that, I don’t know, you put behind you as you move on, and I kind of forgot about it.

INTERVIEWER:

Tell us about the police chief in Jeannette.

MR. BUCHAN:

During these operations during this vice, we had arrested a numbers man in Jeannette a number of times, and finally got him to -- he got so upset with the fact that we arrested him constantly, he made the remark that he had been paying the chief of police off in Jeannette, and he still ends up getting arrested. So, we decided to bring an undercover man, a man by the name of Al Pastone [ph]. He was really a good undercover man. He was from

down east. Al, himself, was from the Philadelphia area. And we brought him in to act as this man that we arrested, his name was Abraham, to act as his contact from the Mon Valley, or Monessen [ph]. And they went in and visited the chief, and of course, we had -- Al was wearing a wire, and we recorded all the conversation, and the chief wanted more money. And as a result of the information we secured off the chief and the fact that he was getting pay-offs and he wanted more of the -- more of a cut of the money, we were able to affect an arrest of the chief, and we did, in fact, arrest him. And he was tried and convicted. Naturally, he lost his job as chief of police. His name was Renaldi [ph].

INTERVIEWER:

And then, in 1970, there was also a sports betting operation in Latrobe, PA?

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, I was doing a lot of investigations of vice in the area, which I was born. I was familiar with this area, and I knew that we had a lot going on, and through some informants, came up with some information. As a result of surveillance conducted by a number of the people that I worked with and worked for me, we secure search warrants for about eight or nine places in the borough of Latrobe at that time. And as a result of them, one of them was an apartment above the Latrobe Restaurant. And in fact, Carl Metz, Trooper Carl Metz, who was assisting on a raid, I assigned him to that apartment. And what he hit, not only did he find sports bets, but we found -- he kept calling. He says, “You’re not going to believe this, but we came up with $55,000 in cash,” which was one of the largest hauls at that time in western Pennsylvania in cash and sports betting slips. So, it was an interesting job, doing vice. I enjoyed it. I can remember hitting gambling games. One took place out in Youngstown, Pennsylvania in a little house across the stream. And we use a tool, similar to what the firemen use that the -- we can really snap a door open pretty quick. And we hit this one place, and as soon as we popped that door, I went diving in across the table, and I took

all the money and all the cards right with me, right to the floor. And a lot of these guys were from Latrobe and knew me. And this one guy, he just couldn't stop laughing. He says, "You looked like Batman coming through that door." And he never let me forget hit when I used to see him on the streets of Latrobe. And back then, gaming -- the establishing gambling house, that was the big -- that was a misdemeanor, but the gamers, or the guys that played cards and were involved in the game, they only -- their fine was, like, $3. Then, we hit another one in -- right outside the borough of Latrobe in a place called Cooperstown. And the guy that they had that was supposed to be watching for the cops, well, when we hit the door, the whole door fell on top of him, and we ran in over top of him and didn't realize that he was under the door when we grabbed everything off the table and got the money and arrested everybody. And that -- there were several others. We did the 10th Street pool hall in New Kensington. I don't know that I talked about it before, but that was where they had a barbooth game going on and John Schaffer, Trooper John Schaffer was with me on that raid. And we got everybody involved in that. And John and I and a bunch of members smashed up the barbooth tables, which were big -- like big pool tables is what they looked like. And it's funny just to mention John, but John went on to become the commissioner of the State Police, and he was a trooper that was with me then. But, we also hit a place in New Kensington, and to show you how dumb people were at that time and the things that they did, but we had a numbers operation that was in, like, a little newsstand. And we got in and we got the guy, and people kept coming in while we were there, wanting to place a bet. So, this guy says to me, "I really can't believe this." I said, "Well, I'll show you something that you really can't believe." And I took a sign and I made a sign, "State Police inside. Stay out." And I put it right on the door. And about a dozen people came in with that sign up, and I took number bets off of them to show him that, you know, you can do almost anything and these people, they don't pay attention in the gambling operation. But it was an interesting field. It really was.

INTERVIEWER:

You touched a little bit on something that I'd like you to talk about a little bit more when you mentioned the gentleman that you knew who saw you flying through the room like Batman. What was it like in your town with all the people that you know, and some of them who must have -- had been involved in illegal activity at some points in their lives? Your popularity in the town, or just what was it like being a citizen in the town when they also knew that you were a State Policeman?

MR. BUCHAN:

I had no problem, really. I used to take my wife and my kids out to dinner. Nobody really approached me. I arrested a number of ladies up -- that lived up on a hill up behind our church. I was walking into the corner store one day with my son, and a lady wound down her window and says, "Hey, you son of a bitch." And as a result, my son turns to me and he says, "Dad, why is that lady calling you names?" Well, I had arrested her a number of times for a numbers operation. But for the most part, most of the people that I arrested for gaming charges or gambling in this town did continue to talk to me and -- when they passed me on the street. We weren't what you call great friends. They knew where I was, and they respected what I did, but I never, ever had a problem in that regard.

INTERVIEWER:

Except for people calling you to try to get out of tickets?

MR. BUCHAN:

I had a few of those. Actually, most of those were relatives, and they got, "I'm sorry. There's not a thing I can do to help you. You know who I am, and you know what I do." And as a result, they paid the fines.

INTERVIEWER:

All right. Let's go back to the late '60s and early to mid-'70s, and tell me a little bit more about the PR work that you did around the area.

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, I did some drug speeches and narcotic seminars, civic groups, a lions club, a variety of schools, grade schools, high schools, colleges. I continued to do that up until 1974. At that time, the governor had a Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, and he felt it would be better if they handled giving the public relations talks, et cetera, and so forth. I also taught at the Academy, Southwestern Academy, Northwestern Academy at Meadville, Allegheny County Police Academy. But I taught various police groups and State Police groups and municipal police groups on undercover investigations, undercover techniques, overt and covert operations. And I continued to do that all the way through 1980. I attended a number of schools throughout my career from the time that I entered the State Police on through my narcotic group, earning some 31 certificates and diplomas in a variety of different things. And I'm not going to try to go into each and every one of them. In addition, I accumulated 42 college credits also doing this. But I enjoyed the teaching aspect, also, because I felt that you were giving a lot of people something -- an edge, at least a little edge that they could do their job, maybe, a little better.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Let's talk a little bit about your years in Somerset. You have some interesting stories from that time period regarding the sheriff in Somerset.

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, I was assigned as the station commander in Somerset. My first trip up there was, like, 1984. When I left narcotics in 1980 and went to Greensburg as a traffic sergeant, I went to Somerset first in 1984 and then -- temporarily, and then I was assigned back there in 1985 on a more permanent basis. And 1987, in working with the attorney general, the deputy

attorney general, who had come out, they had a problem, and they were doing an investigation on the Somerset County Sheriff. His name was Guy Davis, and they wanted me to get him out of the house at 6:00 in the morning. Well, Guy was usually up out of the house at 6:00 in the morning, and if I would've asked him, he would've walked to the barracks, because he actually was a good friend of mine. He -- we got along well. We worked well together. So, when I called Guy and told him I wanted to meet him at the jail at 6:30 in the morning, he said, "No problem." Well, as soon as he walked out of the house, they arrested him. He was arrested on a variety of charges, mostly dealing with deviant sexual intercourse and sex crimes that took place in the county jail. He was subsequently convicted and sentenced. And so, that was the demise of that particular sheriff. And then, in 1988 -- excuse me. Well, the station commander at Somerset, I happened to stop in to pick up some mail at the troop headquarters when I got a call down here that they had a shooting at Somerset, and they needed me to get up there right away. And someone had sought -- had shot Trooper David Marker's [ph] wife, Maryanne, so myself and Lieutenant Hackenberg [ph], in two different cars, proceeded to Somerset. I think we made the 35 miles in about 25 minutes. But we got there. They had taken Maryanne down to the Johnstown Hospital, and Trooper Heinzer [ph] had stopped the actor that did this. And how this came about, a gentleman by the name of Gary Robbins, who was mid-50s, had came to her door on the Garrett Shortcut Road [ph], which is an isolated area of Somerset somewhat. It's about five miles out of town, and knocked on her door. Well, Maryanne didn't open the storm door. She just opened the main door, and the storm door wasn't locked. And through the screen, he was asking her for directions, and then he pulled open the storm door, and when he pulled open the storm door, she started to slam the main door, the heavy door. And he stuck his hand in the door with the gun, he fired, and he shot Maryanne in the face. He got her in the left cheek area. And then, he ran and jumped in his car and took off. Maryanne was able to get on the telephone, call

the Somerset station. Well, she got the civilian dispatcher, Kirk Challis [ph], who got all bent out of shape and just fell to piece. Kirk couldn't do anything and kept running back the hall saying that Maryanne -- "Mrs. Marker got shot. Mrs. Marker got shot." And Warren Clark [ph], Trooper Clark, who happened to be there, picked up the phone and called Mrs. Marker's house. And Maryanne answered. And Clark was able to get a complete description of the car, the man, the whole works, off of Maryanne on the phone, even though she was shot. Quite brave of Maryanne. She was a -- kind of a fantastic lady. So, as a result, Trooper Heinzer was the last car down, and so some of the cars had apparently passed, because they hadn't had the description yet. And he spotted the car getting on 219, a four-lane highway, as he was getting off. So, he just made the loop and came in behind the car and pulled him over. And when he approached the car, a gunshot went off. Trooper Heinzer felt hit in the leg and exchanged fire. He fired three shots. And when he walked up to the car, here the gentleman had shot himself, put the gun in his mouth, and shot. The bullet went through his head, ricocheted off the back window, came out of the car, and struck Heinzer bluntly on the upper left thigh, which ended up in him getting nothing more than a real large bruise. The bullet did not penetrate. We got to the scene, and Corporal John McGarvey [ph] was my crime corporal. And we got the helicopter in. We headed for this guy's home in Pittsburgh and then in Murrysville. We did some searching. We contacted some of the other troops. We got some information from Troop B in Washington, Troop D in Butler, several counties out in Ohio that were interested in Robbins. And he was suspected as being involved in several killings and definitely two other abductions in which the women were left alive. So, we figured there was maybe four or five that he was certainly involved in. Dave Marker was a trooper, a criminal investigator for me at Somerset. Dave worked part time as a bus driver, and he was down in Virginia, so it took us a while to get Dave back. We got him back that same day and got him over to the hospital with his wife. His wife survived it quite well, a couple bullet

fragments in her cheek area. And they did very well. And some time after that, Colonel Ron Sharpe [ph], the commissioner, gave citations to Trooper Warren Clark and Trooper Heinzer. And Mrs. Marker got a citation, as well. But the -- these were the things that unexpectedly happened. And that's what took place at that particular time.

INTERVIEWER:

So, let's talk a little bit about what you did after the State Police, after you retired in 1989.

MR. BUCHAN:

Well, I retired in July of -- on July 5, 1989, and basically, I decided, "I'm not going to do anything for a while." My wife was working yet, and -- at the doctor's office not too far from the house. And I just kicked around and took care of some things around the house. And then, the borough of Latrobe called and wanted to know if I can do some part-time code enforcement work for them, which I agreed to do, on a part-time basis, 20 hours a week, so to speak. In about that time, or shortly before that, I had sent out, oh, three or four resumes, looking for something to do. And I came home one night, and my youngest daughter, Amy, said, "Mr. Chambers [ph] called from Chuta

Corporation [ph] and wants you to call him back," and gave me a phone number if I can call him back before 5:00, 5:30. Well, I called back, and the name of the company was Machuta Corporation [ph], and he wanted to know if I can come in and talk to him and the president of the company. They were a, excuse me, heavy highway construction outfit, and they were looking for someone to do some safety work for them. So, I agreed to go in and meet with them on a Saturday morning. So, I drove in, and as a result of that meeting and interview, I was hired as their safety representative for the Beaver County Expressway, the Amos K. Hutchinson Expressway, which is here in Greensburg. We built seven miles of that. So, I worked for Machuta Corporation doing safety work, safety rep work, and safety

manager's work with all the OSHA regulations. And I stayed with them until 1998 when I had a heart attack and decided that I better take it easy for a while. But I also worked in the interim, when they didn't have work for me, for P.J. Dick and Trumbull Corporation [ph] out of Pittsburgh, a large construction company. And we did 581 down in Carlisle, Mechanicsburg area. I built the Carbondale -- I was on the Carbondale Expressway in Scranton. And I also did the building aspect, the P.J. Dick aspect of it at the West Penn Hospital, Allegheny General Hospital, and the major hospitals in the Pittsburgh area for them, Blue Cross and Blue Shield. So, I had it pretty full. And then, of course, I had my own hobbies. I did some woodcarving. And then, in 2002, I got involved in making quilts. So I started to do some sewing, and I had a bunch of State Police patches that I put together on a quilt, and I made a number of other quilts for my children and my grandchildren. And as a result, I've probably made about a dozen now. And they're going to be in show starting February 27 at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art here in Greensburg. It's an all-men's quilt show of men quilters in the United States. And I'm just very happy to be a part of that. I will still retain the ownership of my State Police quilt with the State Police patches on it. the career with the State Police was an interesting one, but it's something that I think a lot of people got to remember that what I learned and what I was taught in the Pennsylvania State Police goes far in what you accomplish with it, because I don't think there's a job out there that a State Policeman can't do with the background that he has. It was just very, very interesting.