

HISTORICAL MEMORIAL CENTER

Pennsylvania State Police

Oral History Interview of:

Thomas Hanus

December 2, 2004

&

December 10, 2004

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. This is the Pennsylvania State Police Oral Histories Project. My name is Shelly Becker and I am here with Mr. Thomas Hanus, a retired State Policeman. Today's date is December 2, 2004 and we're here at the Pennsylvania State Police Academy in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Mr. Hanus, do I have your verbal consent to record this interview with you today and any interviews that would follow...

MR. HANUS:

Absolutely.

INTERVIEWER:

...in the future?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Wonderful. Thanks so much for being here. We really appreciate your participation in our project.

MR. HANUS:

It's my pleasure and thanks for asking.

INTERVIEWER:

Wonderful. Okay. Mr. Hanus, you were born in October of 1932...

MR. HANUS:

Correct.

INTERVIEWER:

...in Plymouth, Pennsylvania.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Can you give us a little bit of background about your -- what was it like growing up in Plymouth and how did that influence how you became to be a State Policeman?

MR. HANUS:

Well, Plymouth is a small borough of about 13,000 people located across the river from Wilkes-Barre in a coal region and as a result, you got to know pretty much most of the people and I got to know Charlie Stansky (ph) and Ray Cranack (ph) and one more State Policeman. Oh, Joseph Brazina (ph) and heard a lot about the State Police, so I made it a point to contact them and visit their homes, talk to them about the job and what they thought of it after they'd been in for a while. And they all were

very favorable, you know, high on the job. They liked it and as a result then I made it a point to push further and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Matter of fact, I was in the Naval Reserve at the time, the Kennedy meetings and I was being bypassed for the draft, military draft because I was in the Reserves and I wanted to get into the State Police and I was told that if you're in that position, the State Police may not accept you because they don't want you to come into the Academy and then leave to go on -- the Navy. So I voluntarily reclassified myself from 1D to 1A so that the Draft Board would call me, at which time I took the letter up to the Naval Reserve and then they just activated me immediately.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. These three men that you mentioned...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...that influenced you to want to go into the State Police...

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

...now did you know them from when you were a small child or when did you meet these gentlemen?

MR. HANUS:

No. I met them more or less when I was in high school...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...and I was more of a friend of Charlie Stansky's sister who was in school when I was and Joe Brazina, I -- after school we worked at the same Leslie Fay Fashions for Women and then Ray Cranack went to the same church I did.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And so that's how I got to know them.

INTERVIEWER:

And just in general, you respected their values and enjoyed spending time with them and therefore were interested in the career that they were following?

MR. HANUS:

Absolutely.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And what kind of a reputation did you feel like the State Police had overall?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, very high.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

As one person once mentioned, the attitude up in Northeastern Pennsylvania of the mothers was first I want my son to be Pope and if he can't be Pope, I want him to be a State Policeman. So that's -- it was highly thought of.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Along those same lines, would you say that your mother and father were very proud of you then when...

MR. HANUS:

Oh, absolutely. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. They were very happy that I selected to go in the State Police.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

They were just hoping at the time that I would make it. That I would be accepted.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. And before you went into the State Police, you were in the military, so can you tell us a little bit about that? What branch and where did you go?

MR. HANUS:

I was activated in the Navy Reserve and I was onboard a small flat-bottom boat called a Mine Hunter and would go up and down the coast looking for old mines that the Germans had laid out there. And when we would locate them, then we had sharpshooters aboard that would shoot the mines and make them -- blow them up so that American ships traveling the same route would not run into them. And that was a two-year stint doing that. Or if an airplane from the Navy Airbase went down, we'd go out to look for it because we had sophisticated sonar gear onboard...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and so that's what we did. And one time in particular, we were sent down to Coco Beach, Florida in -- it was -- sat off the shore and -- to watch, and all of a sudden we saw this flame go up and this object start off at the ground and then it just blew up.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And we said what is that all about, and the response was oh, some goofy German is trying to send a rocket up into the sky and they were referring to Werner Von Braun and that was the beginning of the space program and that was...

INTERVIEWER:

Wow.

MR. HANUS:

...Cape Kennedy right there or Cape Canaveral at that time.

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

So what kinds of things were you able to draw from your service in the Navy that you felt like you could apply once you began working for the State Police?

MR. HANUS:

Well, when you're a seaman onboard ship, you're basically a nothing, a worker, and so you don't do -- you do not have a high ego. And so when you come into the State Police and you're into the Academy or basically the Training Center at the time, you learn to go with the flow so to speak and just accept what you're being told and do it that way and not try to fight the system.

INTERVIEWER:

That helped you as you began training as a cadet?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Can you describe the application process? So you got out of the Navy and you immediately applied for the State Police?

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Can you describe that experience?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. The next thing was I was contacted by the State Policeman from the Wyoming Barracks who stated he needed to interview me. He came down to the house, interviewed me and then had me take him down to where I was formally employed and he talked to my former boss and another person I worked with in -- about me and got the opinions and then went on from there. He submitted his report and then I was accepted and told to come to the State Police Training Center, and at that time that was the very first written test that you had to take to get in the State Police. And so -- passed it, did okay on the State Police test and was accepted.

INTERVIEWER:

And that was in 1956. Is that...

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

...right?

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. April of '56 is when I came on board.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So what kinds of things did he ask in your interview?

Was there anything unusual or anything that stood out for you?

MR. HANUS:

Not that I can recall at this time.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

No.

INTERVIEWER:

Just a typical interview. Right.

MR. HANUS:

But an interesting thing tying into the Navy, onboard ship you can get sea stores. Cigarettes were eight cents a pack.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

We used to buy 25 cartons at a time for \$20, so you basically chain-smoke cigarettes and drank coffee and so when I came down to the Academy or the Training Center and they ran a --

one day they ran us around this track and the next day, we had to play leapfrog over 74 backs and 74 guys coming over your back, pushing you into the gravel track. Well, I came into the restroom and I had an open pack of cigarettes and asked who wants these. I handed them to them. Never had a cigarette since then. Just -- I couldn't take it. If I'd have kept smoking, I would have never made it through the Academy. My mind was made up. It's either the cigarettes or the job, so...

INTERVIEWER:

Right. So was that first day of training very difficult for you because you -- physically because you'd been smoking? Is that...

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Correct. That was exactly right.

INTERVIEWER:

So what other kinds of training did you go through, other than running and leapfrog?

MR. HANUS:

Well, with...

INTERVIEWER:

What other...

MR. HANUS:

...the class...

INTERVIEWER:

...kinds of training...

MR. HANUS:

In the classroom settings of -- Vehicle Code and Crimes Code,
First Aid...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...revolver training; all of that.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Had you ever -- in your military service, you'd fired a
weapon before. Is that correct?

MR. HANUS:

No. As a matter...

INTERVIEWER:

No?

MR. HANUS:

...of fact, I did not and the first time was actually down here at the training school.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...where was the training school at that time?

MR. HANUS:

Down on Coco Avenue. If you go down about maybe less than a quarter of a mile, the road bends to the right.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

At that point, the school was on the left-hand side. It was a huge two-story white -- it looked like a mansion-type building.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

There's still a picture of it in the State Police book and that's where we trained.

INTERVIEWER:

And you lived there, as well. Correct?

MR. HANUS:

And you lived right there.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And what -- did you have a roommate? How was...

MR. HANUS:

Oh, I had...

INTERVIEWER:

...it living there?

MR. HANUS:

There were -- in -- the room that I was in was a large room and I believe...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...there were like three or four other roommates in there with me.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you get to know them very well then?

MR. HANUS:

Yes, you did.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And as a matter of fact, the one fellow from Philadelphia was very reluctant to take a shower.

INTERVIEWER:

Wow.

MR. HANUS:

So when the guys learned about this, they -- one night they just went and grabbed him, drug him into the shower, threw him in the shower, clothing and everything and thought that'd be a lesson to him. It was for a while, but then he went back to his old ways and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...had to drag him back into the shower again.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

So that was an interesting point.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. What other types of things did you do while you were training? You took care of the horses, I would assume.

MR. HANUS:

Oh, yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. And as a matter of fact, there were times when you -- a horse might step on your foot and some guy once punched the horse, you know, after he stepped on his foot and the instructor says no, no, no. We can replace you with a ten-cent stamp, but we can't replace that horse with a ten-cent stamp.

INTERVIEWER:

Was that the first time you'd had contact with a horse...

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

...(inaudible)?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Never been with a horse before that...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and that was very -- and you learned to ride.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And of course you learned to appreciate the animal and what the animal could do for you. It was interesting. I enjoyed that.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Did you ever get involved in the rodeo at all?

MR. HANUS:

No, I did not. I wasn't good enough to ride in the rodeo. Some of my classmates were and they rode in the rodeo for years, but I wasn't and so -- matter of fact, when I was graduating from the school, I was asked if I would want to return -- do I -- in the rodeo and I said yes and no. You know, it didn't matter to me one way or the other.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But we had some students that were very good. They could ride a motorcycle standing on their -- you know, upside down standing on the seat with their hands. That kind of trick riding. They were good. But I was a novice.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. What do you think you excelled the most at during the training or what felt the most comfortable to you and did you get an idea of where you wanted to take your career at that point?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. I was hoping to be stationed -- I used to say Tionesta which is up in the woods up in Northwestern Pennsylvania because I came from Plymouth. It was a coal-mining town and it was an urban setting so to speak and I wanted to go out into the woods and work in the rural area. And they -- I didn't get all the way out there but pretty much because I was sent to Montoursville and eventually up to Mansfield.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So in the training school, what was your say favorite subject or something that you felt you really excelled in?

MR. HANUS:

Probably revolver training.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, okay. Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. That was -- enjoyed that.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Was there any type of -- some kind of a gun club or a group of men that got together and really, you know, practiced firing a lot and that kind of thing that you were involved in?

MR. HANUS:

No, because in the training school, you were in the classroom from morning until night and even after the evening meal, you know, you were brought back for another evening class. So your day was pretty well filled...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...so you just wanted to get through the day so to speak and not add anything extra onto it.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Right. Can you describe a typical day? What time would you get up in the morning and what would you do from then on out?

MR. HANUS:

I believe we were up at around 6:00 in the morning and would go out for a morning run in the Hershey area and come back and have breakfast and then go to the classroom and -- go to the classroom for the morning session and then have lunch and then go back in again for the afternoon, and one of those sessions every day was revolver training and there was also running...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and gymnastics. It was usually in the evening after supper where you would -- taught you how to box, taught you how to wrestle and some judo. It built confidence in you that if you were ever out there and you run into people that you could handle yourself. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. Getting back to actually getting into the training school...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...what types of physical or mental requirements did they have in order for you to get in?

MR. HANUS:

I don't recall any special requirements at that time except that you weren't overweight, for one...

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

...and that was basically it.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Okay. Now let's say that for instance you didn't clean your horse properly or take care of your duties for the day or you were tardy getting up in the morning or something like that. What kinds of disciplinary measures were taken while you were training?

MR. HANUS:

To be honest with you, I cannot recall anyone being late for class or...

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, wow.

MR. HANUS:

...you know anything of that nature. Everyone wanted to be a State Policeman. Everyone felt that you were selected. You were here for the training and you did your very best, and the training was not easy because one of my classmates was a Marine and he said he went through the Marine basic training and it was easier than this that we were given.

INTERVIEWER:

Wow.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So did you know though of any consequences if -- I mean not that it ever happened to you, but did the instructors let you know if you don't do this, this will happen?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. Well, you...

INTERVIEWER:

I mean...

MR. HANUS:

...were afraid of being kicked out is basically...

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, okay.

MR. HANUS:

...what you were afraid of. That you would be left go, especially that remark, you know, we can replace you with a ten-cent stamp...

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

...but we can't replace that horse with a ten-cent stamp.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Okay. Overall then while you were in the training school, I -- did you feel that it was very difficult or did you get through it fairly easily?

MR. HANUS:

No. I felt that it was pretty difficult.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

And what was the most difficult part for you?

MR. HANUS:

I don't know if there was any one segment that was exceptionally difficult. Added together, you know, it was all difficult...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...because you had Vehicle Code training and Crimes Code and then the running and then the revolver training. So it was all tied in together.

INTERVIEWER:

And overall again it made you feel very well prepared to go out into the field and become a trooper?

MR. HANUS:

Absolutely.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. I think that was -- the main thought behind the training was to take people that came from all walks of life, put them together and teach them to work with other people and build confidence in themselves. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. Can you describe the graduation; the ceremony and everything surrounding the end of your training at the training school?

MR. HANUS:

I can't recall much about the graduation ceremony...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...although I believe it was -- oh, wait. I'm certain it was held up here at the Hershey Community Center right up here on the corner or downtown on the corner and I'm certain that's where it was held and that our family and friends were invited to come for the ceremony.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

It was a nice ceremony. Very nice.

INTERVIEWER:

And your mother and father and siblings attended?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. And my girlfriend at the time. She came down with my parents.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Now at the graduation ceremony, did you need to repeat the Call of Honor?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. That was -- seemed to be always something that was brought up at the beginning of a meeting or whatever have you.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. It was almost constant.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you feel like you could still do that?

MR. HANUS:

Partially maybe.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. If you want to give it a try, we would love to...

MR. HANUS:

I'd rather not...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...because I don't want to...

INTERVIEWER:

No.

MR. HANUS:

...embarrass myself.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, no. Don't worry about it. That's okay. So after you graduated...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...tell us what happened after that. Where did you go? Where were you stationed?

MR. HANUS:

Well, I believe it was September the 9th that I graduated and I was sent to -- then it was Troop D, Montoursville and I walked in. I was only there for two minutes to meet the captain and he said you're going to Mansfield, and so back in the car and drove up to Mansfield Station, which was up on the northern tier. And that

was only an eight or nine-man station at the time, so that's where I was sent and I spent several years up there.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And what did you start out doing while you were there?

MR. HANUS:

Patrol. Trooper on the road and at that time, you didn't do criminal investigations. We -- each station had a crime investigator who -- if a crime occurred, he would be dispatched to take care of it. So our job was mainly traffic direction and traffic patrol and basically that was it.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So a typical day for you then would be you would report to the office or would you actually live there?

MR. HANUS:

No. I lived there.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

The married men could live in their homes...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and would come into work, but I was single so I had a room right there. A typical day was from 8:00 in the morning until 11:00 at night...

INTERVIEWER:

Wow.

MR. HANUS:

...and you either were on the road for eight hours or you were inside on the desk and then you would flop -- flip-flop and go out on the road or come back in for the desk, whatever. But you'd put in a full day. As a matter of fact, I recall between Christmas and New Year's that first year, I worked steadily from 8:00 in the morning until 11:00 at night, slept on station, back out again in the morning, 8:00 until 11:00 and that went on for five days between Christmas and New Year's.

INTERVIEWER:

Wow. Why is that? Because it was so busy...

MR. HANUS:

Yes. And we...

INTERVIEWER:

...with the holidays?

MR. HANUS:

...of course you didn't have enough personnel at the time...

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

...and it was just the attitude of the department that that's the way it should be. And that went on until a new Commissioner came. His name was Purdy and he instituted more of a eight-hour day. But that was actually only for headquarters people because they had enough people. But out at the station, you didn't work an eight-hour day. You worked more hours than that.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

When you would go out on patrol, how far-reaching was that?

How far would you go and what was the...

MR. HANUS:

Well, you controlled...

INTERVIEWER:

...(inaudible)?

MR. HANUS:

...the entire county, and at that time two men would normally go out and one would take the northern half of the county and the other would take the southern half of the county, and basically that was it and you just -- your whole -- that whole half of the county was yours. If there was an accident or investigation, you took care of it. You were dispatched, and that's how that worked.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And then when you put your shift in out there then -- as I said, then you would come in and go on the desk for another eight hours until eleven o'clock at night. And then you'd sleep with the phone. They'd shut the doors and you would take the phone to bed and...

INTERVIEWER:

Wow. So you would go out on patrol by yourself?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Not with anyone else?

MR. HANUS:

Well, the first -- about the first two weeks, they assigned you to a trooper that was stationed there and he took you all over the county, introduced you to different people and so you'd become acclimated with the whole county.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

And what kind of car were you driving when you would do that?

MR. HANUS:

Well, I can't remember the one at that time. The one I do remember, it was a Plymouth patrol car and that's pretty much -- they changed every couple years. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And while you were on patrol, what kind of technology was at your disposal within the car and (inaudible)?

MR. HANUS:

Basically just the radio.

INTERVIEWER:

The two-way...

MR. HANUS:

That...

INTERVIEWER:

...radio?

MR. HANUS:

Two-way radio. Radar was not in effect at the time...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and so your job was to actually chase after a speeder and get behind him and then clock him for three-tenths of a mile and then pull him over. And in a county like Tioga where there's all -- there was not a four-lane highway up there, so everything was two lanes and so it was risky at times chasing a motorist and then pulling him over. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Was there ever a time when you needed to call for backup and have someone else come...

MR. HANUS:

There was no backup.

INTERVIEWER:

No backup?

MR. HANUS:

Uh-uh. The -- as I said, the other person was on patrol was at the southern end of the county and you were...

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

To get from the southeastern corner of the county to the northwestern corner of the county took 45 minutes, so forget a backup, you know.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. Can you describe any kinds of situations that you remember that either were especially dangerous or especially funny or interesting...

MR. HANUS:

Oh, yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

...while you were on patrol?

MR. HANUS:

When I was on patrol near the New York border on Route 15, this one car that I had known that the person had been trouble in the past and I followed him and he went up a dirt road and it had rained before that and the road was very muddy and he went down this hill. And I followed him down and then he made a turn at the bottom and I tried to make that turn and it -- when we make the turn, there was a wooden bridge there. So he went --

made it across the bridge. I went sliding sideways and the left side of my vehicle dropped over the side of the bridge. So there I was hanging like this and I was on the low part...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and so some motorist came by and I waved to him and he saw my predicament, so he went to his house and got another neighbor and they brought two tractors, farm tractors up and one hooked onto the front and one hooked onto the back. And so as the fellow in the back was pulling me out of there, the one on the front kept tension so that I didn't drop into the creek and...

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

...so then I get back to the station. That was on a Sunday and the car was a real mess with mud and so I had to hose it off so the sergeant wouldn't see it. But in a small community like that, they -- everybody knew everything and the sergeant came into work on Monday and said I see the car is a little dirty and that was as much as he said. But he knew what was going -- that something had happened.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But I -- oh, and when I got -- that's right. When I left there and started there, I looked -- I passed the sign that says -- it was at the inside New York State at the New York/Pennsylvania border.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

And I thought oh, that's all needed was to have an accident -- a new trooper have an accident in New York State. I -- where -- I shouldn't have been up there.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Were you a little bit then embarrassed by that perhaps?

MR. HANUS:

Very much so.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

Very much so. Yes. And apprehensive because you didn't know what action the sergeant was going to take if he found out about it, see.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But that sergeant was Knowles, K-n-o-w-l-e-s. He was a great guy and very understanding and so I'm assuming that he found out somehow and -- but that's the way he handled it. He was very good about it.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

And speaking of the other people that you worked with, who did you work with most closely there and how did they influence your...

MR. HANUS:

Well...

INTERVIEWER:

...(inaudible)?

MR. HANUS:

...once you went -- I went through that two-week training with a trooper by the name of Vince Holly (ph) and we kind of remained very close. If I had a question to ask, I would go to Vince and he was very good and all of the men on station treated you as a brother. Nobody tried to hurt you and we all got along very well and you could go to anyone for that matter and ask questions and they would help you.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

There was no cut-throat...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So you said you would be on patrol for eight hours and then you would be at the desk for another eight. What did you do after that? Can you describe that?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. It was the same as a police communications operator where you answered the phone and back then you logged in every call. Whoever it was from, the time, the date and the name of the person who called in and what was the nature of

their call. And so you had your daily log and that was pretty much it.

INTERVIEWER:

Just answering the phones.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. Answering the phone -- that part was good if you had it the second half of your day because if you had an investigation during the day and you had to make up a report, then you could squeeze in making up your report while you were on the desk.

INTERVIEWER:

And you said that you would also take the phone to bed with you. Is that...

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

...right?

MR. HANUS:

Being single, I slept with the phone every night. So even if another married man was -- see whoever was scheduled to be

on desk for that second half of the tour, it was his job to stay with the phone. But since I was single and sleeping there anyway, I would take the phone for them and let them go home and -- with their family. So that's how that worked.

INTERVIEWER:

Were you the only one that was sleeping there or were there other people as well?

MR. HANUS:

No. I was pretty much the only single guy. The other two young guys, they were also married and -- but I was the only single one, so I took the phone for everybody that -- and it was no bother to me because I'm sleeping there anyhow.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

The only problem is on -- when there was bad weather, the phone would ring all night long and, you know, you hardly got any sleep.

INTERVIEWER:

So if the phone did ring and someone was in distress...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...how would you handle it?

MR. HANUS:

Well, you'd call then the two men that were on duty for the second half of the day. You would call them on the phone at their homes and they would come to the station, get the car and away they would go and they would handle the complaint.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

That's how that worked.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So you didn't necessarily have to...

MR. HANUS:

To leave?

INTERVIEWER:

...leave?

MR. HANUS:

No.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

No. The man who stayed there with the phone basically stayed there then and the other two guys would go out.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So I suppose after living there for a while, you were pretty maybe eager to get married and move out or how did that work?

MR. HANUS:

I -- yeah. It became a little tight. As I said, the only thing you knew was the station, the car and the local restaurant where you ate all your meals.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

That was pretty much it.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So how long did you have to do patrol before you were able to start to do a little bit of crime investigating?

MR. HANUS:

I didn't do any crime investigating until I was transferred down to Montoursville headquarters and there I went on patrol and then after a period of time, I requested to be -- go into the crime office if there was an opening and when an opening came up, I was

selected and I -- then I went into the crime office and then that's when I did crime work.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

There were a few sporadic investigations before that that you would get on the road, but mostly the crime investigator did that.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. So if you saw something suspicious or found something, you would report that to him and he would go out?

MR. HANUS:

Well, you'd report it...

INTERVIEWER:

(Inaudible)

MR. HANUS:

...the office communications person. But then you would normally take care of it until someone else came out and took over. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So the reports that you had to write were strictly for your patrol. Who you pulled over, that kind of thing?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. And accident reports and...

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So what year did you get married?

MR. HANUS:

I got married in '58.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

May 3 of '58.

INTERVIEWER:

So that was right around when you were transferring to Montoursville? Is that...

MR. HANUS:

No. I transferred to Montoursville two years later, in...

INTERVIEWER:

Oh. Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...'60.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

The point was at that time, you could not get married for two years after you became a State Policeman and so I matter of fact got married a month after my two years were satisfied and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

And was that the same girl that you had been dating when you graduated?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. I -- matter of fact, I dated her before -- while I was in the Naval Reserve and then I went two years active duty and dated her and came back and went in the State Police, and then she waited another two years until I got that two-year segment. So really didn't get married for about over four years from the time I met her.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And I figured that if anybody's willing to wait for me that long, she must be okay.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. And how was that dating her when you -- you were working 16-hour days.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

You know, even most weekends you were working or...

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. And we only got one day off a week and so what would happen, the day before your day off, you'd work the 7:00 to 3:00 shift. Then you'd have a day off and then you would come back to work at 3:00 to 11:00, so you had like 48 hours there that you were off.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And she lived in Wilkes-Barre and I was stationed in Mansfield, so my day off then I would drive to my home in Plymouth and we

would go out for -- and then I would drive back to Mansfield and go back to work.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So really just once a week about.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

That's -- oh, that was it. Once a week is all. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. And once you got married, did you -- you immediately moved out of the station...

MR. HANUS:

Yes. We had purchased...

INTERVIEWER:

...and moved in a (inaudible).

MR. HANUS:

...a mobile home...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...and it was parked in the court up on top of the hill outside of Mansfield, and so that's where we moved into. Actually bought the home before we were really married. It was like just a week or two beforehand...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and then we moved in after we were married. There was -- and that's how that worked.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Do you feel that getting married affected your job in any way? I mean, did you subsequently work less hours and spend more time at home or was it really the same?

MR. HANUS:

The same.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

It was the same. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. And my wife was a registered nurse and so I would be at work at the -- on -- patrolling. She would drive to Wellsboro to the hospital and work and then come home and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...so there were times when we didn't see much of each other, especially like for Christmas. Like a holiday.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

You know, she's working. I'm working and...

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

Different shift, so you're passing each other on the road, so to speak.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. What was your salary at that time?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, I cannot recall, but it wasn't much.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

It wasn't much, you know. You didn't join for the salary, that's for sure.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And the benefits? You had benefits though?

MR. HANUS:

I'm not sure what the benefits were.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. HANUS:

I'm not sure what the benefits were.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

I'm not even -- I don't know really what benefits there were at that time.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. But as far as perks with the job, you mentioned that you would eat at the same restaurant almost for every meal or every day.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

How did they treat you there? Did they...

MR. HANUS:

Well...

INTERVIEWER:

...give you...

MR. HANUS:

...they treated you very...

INTERVIEWER:

...free coffee or...

MR. HANUS:

They treated you very well because they knew you and you were in their -- well, probably for two meals because if you worked the dayshift, you were in there for breakfast and then again before you went off patrol.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And so they got to know you rather well.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

I stopped and had -- and on occasion, you'd stop for coffee during the day. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And were there any other perks that came with the job? Like say traveling the turnpike...

MR. HANUS:

Being...

INTERVIEWER:

...(inaudible).

MR. HANUS:

...stationed up there, I didn't travel the pike...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...so I don't know what the perks were there. We heard that a State Policeman could travel the turnpike without paying...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...but that was just -- I heard that...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...and whether it was true or not, I'm not sure. But it didn't occur to me because I never used the turnpike.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. And...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...the local farmers and townspeople, did they give you anything or did they...

MR. HANUS:

No. But they treated you -- they really treated you great. As a matter of fact, that first year when it came time for Thanksgiving, we went home to Wilkes-Barre for Thanksgiving and we came back and where court was there was a general store. And my wife went over to the general store and right away, they asked her well, where was Tom for the big meeting and she said what big meeting. Well, she said every year the local farmers all get together here for a meeting because they -- we then go out and hunt together. And they all would post their lands so that no one else could come in there and hunt except the local people, and being that we lived there, we were given that opportunity. But I didn't hunt anyway. But I could have hunted with them and that was pretty much it.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Did you have any kind of yearly or biyearly training that you went through during those first few years?

MR. HANUS:

Not that I can recall.

INTERVIEWER:

No?

MR. HANUS:

Uh-uh.

INTERVIEWER:

No other...

MR. HANUS:

Well, you...

INTERVIEWER:

...weapons training...

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. The weapons...

INTERVIEWER:

...or anything...

MR. HANUS:

We had to qualify -- it was like every six months, you had to go down to the Troop Headquarters and then you'd go out on the range and you had to qualify on the range.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. And that was either once or twice a year back at that time.

INTERVIEWER:

And that was something that you really enjoyed?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. Yeah. That was -- it was fun to get away from the road for a day and go down and do that.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. But beside that, there wasn't really any other follow-up patrol training or...

MR. HANUS:

No.

INTERVIEWER:

...anything like that that you did?

MR. HANUS:

No.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Uh-uh.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. So in 1960 then you transferred to Montoursville and can you describe that transfer experience, working with new people and in a new place?

MR. HANUS:

It was all very good again, although they were -- meeting new troopers and working with new troopers, there -- everyone was very helpful...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and no one was out to get you, so to speak. So you didn't have -- there was no competition. It was all cooperation and we all worked together rather well. Yes. And we get -- we moved to Montoursville and moved the motor -- the mobile home to another trailer court down there and moved in there and then I went to work in Montoursville and my wife went to work at the Williamsport Hospital and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...the next thing, then children start coming along.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you have to request that transfer or was that just something that they wanted you to do?

MR. HANUS:

The one from Mansfield to Montoursville I did not request, but they needed an extra man down in Montoursville and the sergeant bounced it off of me. He says they need somebody to transfer to Montoursville and I said well, if they do I -- I said I'm willing to go because it would be closer for me to go to Wilkes-Barre and Plymouth from Montoursville than it was from Mansfield. And he said well, if that's what you want then you will go, and so I did and I was happy.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But it was not a transfer for disciplinary reasons or anything like that. It's just that they wanted a man and I was probably the most successful and the best and I was the junior man on the station, so to speak. So...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...I would be the one selected to go.

INTERVIEWER:

So within those four years that you were at Mansfield, nobody else new came on after you or were there new troopers coming up there every year?

MR. HANUS:

Uh-uh.

INTERVIEWER:

No?

MR. HANUS:

No. No. I was the last one to go up there for quite a while and I don't believe another one came until I returned up there as a corporal. But before that, I was -- I don't recall anybody else after me.

INTERVIEWER:

Interesting. Why -- did you request to go to Mansfield or why did they place you there? Just because that was near your home or...

MR. HANUS:

Mansfield? The first...

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. The...

MR. HANUS:

...station?

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

No. I said -- I walked into the Montoursville Headquarters and met the captain for five minutes.

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

Then he says you're on -- you're going to Mansfield and I...

INTERVIEWER:

And you're not really sure why?

MR. HANUS:

No. It was just that he had -- and he said the other trooper was going to Lock Haven...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and another one I think went up to Emporium.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

So he just had to disperse the men that came out of the training school into various stations and he just selected me to go to Mansfield and I don't know why and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...you didn't ask.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. So how many people were in the -- how many people did you graduate with from the Training Center?

MR. HANUS:

I believe there were 75.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, okay.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And there were three or four that went up to Montoursville (inaudible)?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, okay.

MR. HANUS:

Correct. Um-hum. As I say, one went to Lock Haven, one to Mansfield and one went over to Coudersport. I believe that was it.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Were those people that you kept contact with...

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Yes. As...

INTERVIEWER:

...(inaudible)?

MR. HANUS:

...a matter of fact, the one gentleman -- we rode back and forth to the Training Center from Wilkes-Barre because he lived up there, too. And...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...we got to be close friends. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And while you -- after you were married...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...in your free time, would you do anything with other State Troopers?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. As a matter of fact, it almost became cliquish that that's what you did. You -- when you went out at night -- I don't recall ever going out with anyone else that wasn't a trooper.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. We would -- we'd have parties and the people we invited were the other troopers and their wives and that's how it worked. That's how it was. We were all very close that way.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And what kinds of things would you do? Just have parties or would you...

MR. HANUS:

Just little parties at someone's home in the evening or in the summertime, cookouts.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, okay.

MR. HANUS:

And that's how we all stayed together and worked together.

Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And would the wives do anything separately from the troopers or...

MR. HANUS:

Not that I can recall.

INTERVIEWER:

No?

MR. HANUS:

I mean except working or maybe going shopping together.

That...

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

...was pretty much it. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Once you got to Montoursville, how did your duties change at that point and were you promoted?

MR. HANUS:

Well, at that point I was on patrol for like two years...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and then I requested to go into the crime office if that occurred.

An opening did occur and I was selected to go into the crime office, so I worked crime for several years before I was promoted to corporal.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. And what year were you promoted?

MR. HANUS:

Excuse me. June of '65, I was promoted to corporal. At that point, I was sent right back up to Mansfield as assistant station commander and I was there from June until December, at which time the -- I was transferred down to Milton. And when I went up to Mansfield as a corporal, the captain did call me in and tell me now don't move your house. Don't move anything because you're only going to be there for about six months and then you're going to Milton. I knew ahead of time. He was good enough to do that.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And so that's how that happened. Then I went -- I was transferred to Milton and I was assistant station commander there until I passed the test for sergeant and then I accepted the position out at Troop A Greensburg for sergeant and was transferred out there. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Well, let's stick with Montoursville for a bit.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

You did crime work for about -- a few years...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...before you became a corporal.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

And just kind of talk a little bit about that coming off of patrol and then going into crime. Did you feel prepared for that or was there extra training you felt like you needed or got?

MR. HANUS:

No. Didn't get any extra training. The training was basically -- because you were on the road, you investigated accidents and you prepared accident reports, and so...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Then you went into the crime office and you did criminal investigation and there was a crime sergeant who was in charge of the office. And so he would assign you to an investigation and when you would come in, you would talk to him about it and you would submit your report to him. He would go over the report and correct it, tell you where you needed to go, what you needed to do. So he gave you guidance and it worked out, and there were other senior crime investigators in that office who you could also go to. They did not feel threatened by you being there. They felt that they should be helping you and they did.

INTERVIEWER:

How many crime people were in your office? How many did you have?

MR. HANUS:

About four or five. About five.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. What types of investigations did you go on?

MR. HANUS:

Mainly burglary investigations, house break-ins. But then again, it was -- we -- the two young guys, myself and this other young fellow -- there were card games going on down at Mount Carmel and they -- the older fellows couldn't seem to break them because they knew who they were, so they sent the other fellow and myself down. But you worked all day Friday and you come home and got something to eat and a nap, and then you drove from Mansfield -- or Montoursville all the way down to Mount Carmel and then tried to get into a card game. And for -- we seemed to get in pretty easily and two of us would play and then when it was over with, we would leave and then drive back home. And then on Monday, the sergeant asked us how we did and we said we did very well. As a matter of fact, we won. And he -- what? You won? You're not supposed to win. You're supposed to lose so they bring you back. Now -- they like us. They called us back, so we're going back. So then the next time when we went back, I was wired and so the sergeant and the other men were out in cars and they could hear what was going on and then at a given time, they broke in and knocked off the

card game. They were big card games. People would come in from New York to the card games. They were rather large...

INTERVIEWER:

Wow.

MR. HANUS:

...card games. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Did they -- did the State Police give you money to spend at these card games or did you use your own money?

MR. HANUS:

If we used our own, we were reimbursed if we lost. But don't forget, we won.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

So we didn't need their money. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Wow.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

And how did that feel to be undercover? Were you...

MR. HANUS:

It was nice. It...

INTERVIEWER:

...happy or...

MR. HANUS:

...was fun. I enjoyed it. I enjoyed it tremendously. Yes. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

And after you had revealed that you were State Troopers in this card game...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...what was the reaction of the people in the room?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, well, they wanted to grab the money and leave, but, you know, the first thing we would do is put our hands on the table and shout "State Police. This is a raid. Don't anyone touch a thing."

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And they would go along with that because...

INTERVIEWER:

So they didn't have weapons that they...

MR. HANUS:

No. Uh-uh.

INTERVIEWER:

...began to draw and...

MR. HANUS:

If they did, they did not try to draw them or anything. Yeah. It was a great experience. I enjoyed it.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. Was there any gang activity involved in this or organized...

MR. HANUS:

No. Not that I...

INTERVIEWER:

...crime...

MR. HANUS:

...know of.

INTERVIEWER:

...or anything like that?

MR. HANUS:

Not that I know of. I think it was just a couple of individuals from the -- that area that organized this card game and then the word got out and so quite a few people would come to play on Friday nights and -- or Saturday nights and that was it.

INTERVIEWER:

Was it in somebody's home?

MR. HANUS:

No. It was in a -- more like a cigar store, cigarette...

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. HANUS:

You know, that's where it was held. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

What types -- how did you disguise yourself when you went in there? Did you wear something that you thought...

MR. HANUS:

Just dressed...

INTERVIEWER:

...another...

MR. HANUS:

...like the...

INTERVIEWER:

Normal clothing?

MR. HANUS:

...average person would in that town. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Interesting.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. And just acted...

INTERVIEWER:

Did you...

MR. HANUS:

...normal and walked past -- they always had a guy standing outside by the door and we just casually walked by him and asked is the game on yet. No, he said. Not for a while. So we said okay, and we'd go across the street to the bar so he could see us and then we'd come back in time for the game and they left us in. Nobody thought we were anything but regular card players, you know.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Did you do any undercover work after that?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Yes. We had a series of break-ins and we learned that this brazier factory was going to get -- be broken into because they were after the vending machines that were in there. So we hid out in the -- inside the factory. I was in the ladies room and one of the other guys was in another restroom and so we heard them break in and saw them walk down the hallway area -- aisle to the machines. And so we snuck in through the machines and got

behind them and then once -- at a given moment, we identified ourselves and told them to stop and they were under arrest and we took them into custody. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Did they give you any trouble?

MR. HANUS:

No. Uh-uh.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. HANUS:

Uh-uh.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you ever have a time when you were apprehending somebody and they were resisting arrest or that you needed to chase someone down or anything like that?

MR. HANUS:

On one occasion, we were out on surveillance at night, another trooper and myself and we were over at the boat docks because the captain had a boat and it was over there and it was -- word was out that these boats were being broken into and they were stealing the radios and different items from the boats. So we made it a point to stop there on our patrol and while we were

over there, we got a call and told that there was an armed robbery at a service station in Williamsport. And so we quickly drove over that way and there were two ways we could've gone, so we selected the one way and as we were going on up, the other trooper was a brand new trainee that I was breaking in and we come flying past and we saw the car off to the side. And we told him just keep going and we kept going up around the corner so they couldn't see us and then backtracked and come back and did the same thing. Passed them again and then U-turned and then came back. And as -- at that point, I jumped in the backseat with a shotgun and the other trooper drove and so we - - and we pulled up alongside of them. Here this is where the road opened up to four-lane. We pulled up alongside of them and he yelled over to them through the open window to pull over. But they looked over at him and they ignored him and the passenger reached down at the floor and you knew right then that, you know, there was a weapon there, so they were reaching for the weapon. And at that -- they didn't know I was in the backseat and at that point, I rolled down the back window and stuck the shotgun out and of course the shotgun was about this close from the driver's head and we yelled pull over. When I

yelled pull over and he turned to look and he's looking down the barrel of a shotgun that was the first time that I ever saw a black man turn white and so he immediately pulled over. And they were from Rochester, New York. They had been down to Florida and they were on their way back and decided to hit a gas station to get some money and we just lucked out and found them, caught them, pulled them over and they were tried. And I remember at the trial there was a black woman, a jurist on the jury panel and right away I said to myself we're going to lose this one. And here they were found guilty and so afterwards we asked one of the jurors or -- or asked her what the story was and here she said when they went back -- as soon as they got into the jury room, she said I don't know about you guys, but those boys are as guilty as sin. And that -- when she come out with that, all -- the vote was guilty and we -- it was a quick decision. Yes. And it was through her that it didn't prolong and we thought it -- we thought they were going to be found not guilty because it was a black woman with -- and they were black defendants. That wasn't the case at all.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Interesting. And this was during the time when, you know, civil rights were quite an issue.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And I'm sure that in your mind, that was playing into it.

MR. HANUS:

Yes, it was.

INTERVIEWER:

I mean...

MR. HANUS:

And -- but everything went smoothly. And as a matter of fact, you used to see on -- you know, you'd apprehend somebody and have them stand up with their hands against the wall and all that kind of stuff. Well, we were too scared for that. When we pulled them over and they got out of the -- we made them get out of the car and lay down, face-down, spread eagle on the ground in the gravel and we stood behind them, and so we had full command over any move that they would make. And the only thing I can remember until this day was saying please, God, don't let them

move, you know, because I had -- we each had a shotgun and I didn't want to have to use it. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. Was that the first time that you'd ever drawn your weapon on somebody?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Um-hum. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

How did that feel to have that kind of control over somebody like that?

MR. HANUS:

Well, it felt scary and you didn't want to have to pull that trigger and you were afraid that -- because there was -- just between here and where that wall is was the woods and we thought if they got antsy and decided to jump up and run for those woods, you know, what am I going to do and I hope I don't have to pull the trigger and so we didn't. And because the crime occurred in the City of Williamsport, our office called the city and they sent a car up there with a couple of men in and they were taken into custody and we went from there.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. So you didn't put them into your car. You just held them there...

MR. HANUS:

Held them there.

INTERVIEWER:

...at that time until the backup came?

MR. HANUS:

Right. Um-hum. Which was the city police...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...because it happened in the city.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And then they did the investigation from there?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

And we got a nice write-up in the paper, you know, an editorial in the paper.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

We had -- and at that time, we used to have -- we each had a bedroom assigned to us and then they had a weekly inspection where the captain would come by and you'd be standing in your room and he would look the room over to see that everything was spic and span. And, you know, I'm saying to myself, you know, here's where he -- we get congratulated for doing a good job. No way. He never said a word. The captain never gave us an accomplishment that we had done a decent job. The newspaper did and the editorials did and we had all kind of other feedback, but not from the captain, you know. The...

INTERVIEWER:

Why...

MR. HANUS:

That taught me a lesson.

INTERVIEWER:

Why do you think...

MR. HANUS:

I don't know why, but...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...it just taught me that if you're ever in command, you want to treat your subordinates correctly because they'll remember it and I still remember.

INTERVIEWER:

So you were offended that he didn't say anything.

MR. HANUS:

Right. You know, all he had to say was he was -- he practically bumped me getting through the door to go into my room to look at the room, and all he had to say was nice job, you know, and that -- I would've lifted right off the floor if he'd have said that. But he didn't and so be it. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Did that affect your relationship with him in the future?

MR. HANUS:

No. No. I just -- you know, you're a trooper. He's a captain. You just...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

We did what we were told to do. But so be it. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. Okay. Well, that's where we're going to stop for right now. We're going to...

MR. HANUS:

Okay.

INTERVIEWER:

...(inaudible).

MR. HANUS:

Thank you.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. This is the Pennsylvania State Police Oral Histories Project. My name is Shelly Becker. I'm here with Retired Lieutenant Thomas Hanus and we're at the Pennsylvania State Police Academy in Hershey. This is tape two in our series and today is December 2, 2004. When we left off, we were talking a little bit about the investigations that you did while you were at Montoursville in the early '60s. But I'd like to backtrack just a little bit and go back to when you were in -- still at Mansfield.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Can you talk a little bit about the people that you worked with there? Who was your captain? Who were the people that you worked with and what was your relationship with them?

MR. HANUS:

The captain was actually stationed in Montoursville. His name was John Grey (ph), but the sergeant in charge of the Mansfield Station was Russell Knowles and then the corporal at the time was Mower, Bill Mower. And then there were the troopers for the street, road and also crime -- we also had a crime trooper who did all the criminal investigations. His name was Jack Williams. The fellow that broke me in was Holly and that's pretty much it, except for the other fellows that were stationed with me; Lamar Green, a guy by the name of -- okay. I said Jack Williams, Bill Mower -- I'm having a hard time getting their names now.

INTERVIEWER:

That's okay. And your relationship with them, was there anyone in particular that you can talk about that...

MR. HANUS:

Well, you always -- the -- like Jack Williams, the crime man, and then Bill Holly -- or I mean Holly, they -- the only -- men were always there to help you. No one was there to try to give you trouble and so you could go to anyone that happened to be

working that particular day and you had a problem, you'd present it to them and they would help you out and tell you where to go and what to do. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

The person commanding the substation was Sergeant...

MR. HANUS:

Russell Knowles.

INTERVIEWER:

...Russell Knowles? Okay. And then how much contact did you have with the captain down in Montoursville?

MR. HANUS:

Very little. As a trooper, you had very little and the only contact you had with him is when you would go down for periodic troop drills, so to speak.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. HANUS:

That's when all the stations would send men into Montoursville and you would line up and you would march and then you'd have a meeting and -- for instance, stats (ph) like going to the meetings when the new Commissioner, Purdy, came aboard and then he met us all there at that Troop Headquarters and spoke to

all of us and I remember at that time he said the attitude of the State Police before this was that the job comes first and your family comes second. Well, he said that's not the way it should be. He said your family comes first and the job comes second because without your family, you don't need this job. And everybody acknowledged that. That was a different attitude altogether from that point on and we all liked that.

INTERVIEWER:

So you liked that change in attitude? Is that...

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

...what you felt with...

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

...that attitude?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Yes, because he's now saying your family comes first and the job comes second, whereas before that, we were drummed into our heads that the job comes first and your family comes second. So this is a different attitude and you felt better about it.

INTERVIEWER:

But did you see that in a change in policy or was that just something that was a spoken...

MR. HANUS:

No. It seemed...

INTERVIEWER:

...kind of idea?

MR. HANUS:

...slowly from that point on, things did...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...change. Don't forget he was the Commissioner down in Harrisburg and the captain of course was at your troop and of then course the captain could do things the way he wanted to do them. But things slowly changed from that point on. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Can you give any examples of things that you saw that changed from...

MR. HANUS:

Well, I would guess to say that working like 15, 16 hours a day kind of got reduced down to eight or ten maybe and that type of change came into play and that was pretty much it. Oh, the

attitude -- I remember the first time when my wife got pregnant and I couldn't go home until my day off came, which was several days later. But when my second child came along and I mentioned it to the corporal who was on desk and this was at night and he says drop what you're doing. He says leave. He said we'll let him continue to patrol on his own and you go home with your wife and that's -- down to the hospital, which is in Wilkes-Barre and I'm going from Montoursville. He said you go over there with your wife. That's where you're needed. You're not needed here. We can handle this on our own. And again, see that attitude change filtered on down to the corporal and...

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. And that was just within one year because your first child was born in 1960...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...and your second in 1961.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh. So -- yeah. You really did see a change then.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Good. So while you were in Montoursville, was there anyone -- or even over your whole entire career with the State Police was there anyone that you knew that was killed in the line of duty?

MR. HANUS:

Yes, and this was -- when I first came on the job, that one gentleman from Plymouth. His name was Charles Stansky.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

He was stationed down at Carlisle...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and I -- the word is that he was chasing someone for some reason...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and that person made it across the railroad tracks and Charlie didn't. He ran into the side of a train and got killed and that was

shortly after I came on because I remember coming -- being assigned to the Farm Show and coming down and stopping over to see him when he was in the hospital at the time.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. You...

MR. HANUS:

And then he...

INTERVIEWER:

...knew him personally?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

How did you feel at that time? Did it make you question your position or your career?

MR. HANUS:

No, not really. No. I just felt that, you know, what happened -- what was to be was to be and that it had no bearing on me, you know, and what I was going to do.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Obviously I felt sorry for the guy, but it didn't change my attitude towards the job any more than that.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. But you always knew that there was that risk involved...

MR. HANUS:

Oh, absolutely.

INTERVIEWER:

...when you were on...

MR. HANUS:

Absolutely.

INTERVIEWER:

...(inaudible)? Um-hum. And your families would -- took on that risk as well, I would...

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

...assume then.

MR. HANUS:

Absolutely.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Did you ever have any kind of a conversation with your family about that, about the risk that was involved in your position?

MR. HANUS:

I don't think so.

INTERVIEWER:

No?

MR. HANUS:

I really don't think so. I may have and if I did, it just slips my mind now...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...you know after all these years.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Well, after you left Montoursville -- what year was that again?

MR. HANUS:

Well, what happened where -- is in '65, I was promoted to corporal...

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

...and then I was sent back up to Mansfield as a corporal.

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

And the captain told me at the time do not move your family or anything...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...because you're only going to be up there for six months, which was true. I stayed there until the end of the year and then I was transferred down to Milton because they transferred a corporal that was down there out of there and then put me in his place. So I was down in Milton at that time. That would be December of '65.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

When you went back up to Mansfield, did -- was it like a homecoming or were -- did you feel welcomed? Did anyone recognize you?

MR. HANUS:

Well, one incident that I can recall was the -- it was in autumn and the football team was playing on a Saturday and at that time,

this -- the college did not have a stadium of their own, so they would march -- the band would march and the people down to town and make a turn and go on down to this park, the large park in Mansfield. And so I went on up to direct traffic -- help them direct traffic for the crowd and the band, and at that time was out in the middle of the street and two different businessmen from town -- not together, but on separate occasions walked out, shook my hand and said it's nice to see you're back and just made me feel really good.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But again I think that -- a lot has to be with being in a small area with small -- good small people, you know.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. Did you feel that same sense of community in Montoursville or was it different?

MR. HANUS:

It was a little different, but not that much.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

It was -- as you were there for a little while, then you got to know people. They got to know you and the camaraderie-ship grew and it was pretty much the same.

INTERVIEWER:

But that same sense of respect for the State Police and -- for what you stood for?

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. That was there also in Montoursville as in Mansfield.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And in Milton?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah, because Milton is just another small town...

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

...and you got to know the people down there and they got to know you.

INTERVIEWER:

So after six months, you transferred to Milton.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

You were still corporal at the time.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Is that correct? And what were your duties then at Milton?

MR. HANUS:

The assistant station commander -- every station had a sergeant and a corporal.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And when the sergeant was off duty, then the corporal was in charge.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

And that's pretty much what it was and so when he would leave, then I was in charge and then I was there until '68 when I was promoted to sergeant and accepted out at Greensburg, Troop A.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

And when I went out there then I was assigned by the captain to the Ebensburg Station as a station commander.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Oh, no. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Back up. That's the wrong time. When I was at -- when -- I went out to Greensburg as a sergeant in the patrol section and also an M-40 instructor. Now you ask what is an M-40 instructor. Back then many departments hired policemen, put them on without any type of formal training whatsoever. So the State Police had this program whereas in various areas, you would have instructors who would then go out to see the chiefs of police and solicit to find out who -- did they hire anybody that was not trained. And then we would set up a class usually in a local school and then these people -- these men would come to that class and we would teach them the basics and the Vehicle Code and the Crimes Code for the job so that they would have a better knowledge of what police work was all about. And so I was a M-40 instructor, in addition to being a patrol supervisor.

INTERVIEWER:

You mentioned at Milton, you were in charge. What exactly does that mean being in charge? What were your duties?

MR. HANUS:

Well, your duties were to assign the patrols and then when the men would come in off patrols with their reports, you would check over their reports and assist them. If they were out on the road and they ran into a problem then you would go out and give them an assist. That was pretty much it.

INTERVIEWER:

Was that a basic eight-hour-a-day job then?

MR. HANUS:

No. It was more than that. It was more than that especially since I lived away from the station. I put in many more hours than eight hour a day. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. But definitely a big change from the investigative work that you were doing.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

That was mainly all office work.

MR. HANUS:

A good part of it.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. Did you enjoy that?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. Throughout the career wherever I was, whatever I was stationed to, I enjoyed every bit of it. There were changes, but they were all positive changes...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and I enjoyed every bit of it. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Including being an instructor, of course?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. That way I got to meet a lot of the municipal police that I wouldn't have met otherwise and it was just nice. When you'd go out on patrol out on the road and you'd see them out there,

they'd waive to you. You'd wave back. It -- you got to know a lot of people that you wouldn't have known otherwise. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. Prior to that intimate contact with the municipal police when you were in Greensburg, prior to that...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...what kind of a relationship did you have with the municipal police say in Montoursville or in Milton?

MR. HANUS:

You were there to assist them whenever they needed it, but you weren't -- you didn't get involved that much with their work or their with yours, unless they called you and asked you for help.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. What specific subjects did you teach when you were in Greensburg?

MR. HANUS:

Well, basically the Vehicle Code...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...the Crimes Code and they were pretty much the two codes that we taught.

INTERVIEWER:

That you specifically taught or your colleagues taught or...

MR. HANUS:

That I...

INTERVIEWER:

...everybody?

MR. HANUS:

...taught. No. That I taught...

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, that you...

MR. HANUS:

...as an M-40 instructor.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

So there were other classes that were offered, but those were just the ones that you taught?

MR. HANUS:

No, no. There were no other classes offered.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. HANUS:

It was the M-40 course for municipal police. It was -- M-40
standed (sic) for Municipal 40-hour course.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And so that was it. We taught them Vehicle Code and Crimes
Code and I didn't have any other colleagues that were doing this.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. HANUS:

I was the only one in the -- Greensburg...

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, wow.

MR. HANUS:

...that was doing this thing.

INTERVIEWER:

Wow.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

So the classes were -- would come in for 40 hours...

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. They came in like for...

INTERVIEWER:

...and then...

MR. HANUS:

...two hours a night...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...and maybe twice a week or once a week. It all depended.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And you'd put in 40 hours and that was their training.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. And then directly after they -- did they graduate or...

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. We -- they were given a certificate...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...that they performed the 40-hour course and they were -- then they on their way to go back and -- well, they still were working every day at their job. This was just additional training that they never had before...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...that we were giving them.

INTERVIEWER:

And then a new class would immediately come in after they were finished?

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Were these students selected specifically from their police departments because they were especially bright or did they just pay...

MR. HANUS:

No. There was -- basically every new hiree, every new policeman that was hired by their department their chief sent them to our class...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...because they had no formal training of any kind before that,
see.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. How large were the classes?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, not very large. Some -- you know, it might be 12, 15. It all depended. Some classes were larger than others. All depended on how many policemen were hired in the interim and didn't have the training and so they would be assigned to the M-40 class.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And did they come from all over or just...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...that immediate area?

MR. HANUS:

No. They'd come from other -- no. Pretty much that area.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. HANUS:

They might come from beyond the realm of that station, but they were pretty much from that area.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Had any of them had a discussion with you about joining the State Police or were they...

MR. HANUS:

No. I don't recall any of them getting into that discussion. No. I do not recall any of them bringing that up.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So can you describe what you would do when you weren't teaching?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. I was a patrol supervisor...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and I had a -- in charge of about eight men in my platoon.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

And then when they would go out on patrol, then I would also be there and I would go out and supervise them if they needed any type of assistance.

INTERVIEWER:

And what kind of a situation would they need assistance? Can you give an example?

MR. HANUS:

Well, if there was -- if they were doing an accident investigation...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...or another criminal investigation, well, then we'd go and meet them and give them a hand and help them out. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. And then you had your office duties, as well?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. We would correct the reports that they -- when they did the investigation, they'd submit the reports and then we had to correct those reports and then move on from there.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Now what did you have to do when you were promoted to corporal and then promoted to sergeant? Can you talk about that process? The promotion process.

MR. HANUS:

Well, yes. You took -- there were tests that were given and you took the tests and then you come out in rank order and then you were -- when -- you were put on the list and you -- when you got to a certain point where -- on the list, then you got promoted.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Do you feel that you were able to move up fairly quickly?

MR. HANUS:

I think so. Yeah. I think I moved up rather quickly. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Now over the -- in addition to this -- over this whole process, the department was also giving tests because it wanted to select men to go out to Northwestern University Traffic Institute. And I was taking those tests every time they were given, whether it was every year or every two years and I was doing rather well on the tests, but I wasn't being selected. There were others ahead

of me being selected maybe because of seniority or whatever the reason. But when I was out at Greensburg in '72, March of '72, the department decided to open up four regional training centers; one up in northeast and southeast, one up in northwest and one down in the southwest, which was Greensburg. And then I guess since I was an M-40 instructor, I was selected to transfer over to Bureau of Training and Education and I was then an instructor for that regional training center. That was a different concept altogether. There the men moved in. We rented a -- St. Joseph's Seminary, which is outside of Greensburg, and they had rooms there for these men -- policemen to stay. So they would come and move in and sleep there all week and then go home for the weekend. And they had nuns there who would prepare the meals, so they would be fed. The big meal was on a -- at noon and so we would teach them in the morning and go for lunch and then have another class in the afternoon. And then after so many weeks, then they would graduate and they would get a certificate that they achieved this. And they got -- the same as if they went down here to the Academy, which was also putting on the courses.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

So while I was there, when I went there in March, then I was informed that I had been selected to go to Northwestern. You know, those -- all those tests that I was taking finally paid off. They probably said we better send this guy because if we don't, he's going to be back here again next year to take another test. So let's send him, get him out of our hair. And so I was selected to go to Northwestern and in September of that year, '72, that's when we went out and we had to put our house -- we put our house up for sale. Our whole family moved out there with me, where in other municipal police -- municipal policemen, they knew they were coming right back to their station, so they didn't have to do any of that. We were specifically told that we were going to come into Department Headquarters or the Academy and that forget about returning to your troop back in Greensburg or whatever. That was not going to happen. So as a result, put the house up for sale, moved the family out there. We rented a two-bedroom apartment and stayed there for nine months while I went to school and -- until the following June when we graduated. That was a class where there were 100 students from all over the United States went there, from all these different police departments. The Los Angeles PD, all the cities,

you know, I mean Baltimore, Philadelphia; they all sent men out there and we all commingled, attended classes together and went through the process. Matter of fact, one of my classmates out there was named -- guy by the name of Bill Rathburn and Bill after he left the Los Angeles -- retired from Los Angeles Police Department, he became the security director for the Olympics that was held in Atlanta. And then on top of that then he was selected as the security director for the most recent Olympics that was held and he was a classmate of ours. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Wow.

MR. HANUS:

Another classmate became Commissioner of the Ohio State Police. Some of these guys were very bright. You were in stiff competition out there.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But it was worthwhile. It was really enjoyable. May I go on?

INTERVIEWER:

Yes. Of course.

MR. HANUS:

As a result of attending out there, then that -- Northwestern put on annual seminars, retraining seminars, and they would be held in different cities. Every year, a different city and we'd all be notified and you'd make application to go and if you did go, you'd take your family and it was down there for like three or four days, at which time the men would attend class during the day and they would have a program set up for the wives and the children and -- while we were in class. And then when the classes were over with, we would all get together and we were on our own.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But, you know, they would take the families to amusement parks or whatever and it was really a great time. While we were there, I remember on the last night, they had a banquet and we were all in there at this banquet and they said the governor was invited to come, but he may not be here because there's a governor's conference in at Pennsylvania. So all of a sudden, doors opened up and this gentleman walked -- comes in with his aids and he's sitting at the head of the table and it was Governor George Wallace and everybody was kind of in awe of this guy. And he sat there and he told some humorous stories, had

everybody laughing. He was really a down-to-earth guy. And when he was done there, he looked around and he saw our children out at the pool because you could see through the glass doors and he told his aid to bring in -- bring the kids in. But before that -- I'm jumping ahead. Before that, he -- anybody who wants to come up and personally meet the governor, please do so. And the whole -- everybody went up and he shook everybody's hand and then he made that statement about the children. The children were in the pool soaking wet, wet towels around them. You know how kids would be.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And they marched them in right up to the governor. He shook their hands and away they went back out to the pool, and that was really a -- he was a down-to-earth guy and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...it's a shame that, you know, he was shot and ran for president and couldn't make it for reasons. But that

-- even down there -- my son went to Dickinson College and had to write a report most memorable event of his entire life and that's what he wrote about. So the retraining seminars were really beneficial. One of them was down in New Orleans and one in Florida. Various places. So Northwestern University really did a good job in retraining. Then that was pretty much it. There were -- after putting in the nine months out there, I come back to headquarters here and I was -- I -- everyone knew for sure because I was in the training option out there that I was coming back and going into the Academy. I assumed the Bureau of Personnel needed someone and so I was told I was going to be in personnel and not the Academy, and so I spent the next six years as a labor relations supervisor and a retirement specialist in the Bureau of Personnel, until such time as I got promoted to Lieutenant.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Next question? Did I ramble too much?

INTERVIEWER:

No. That's fabulous. No. It's great.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

I am going to kind of go back just a little.

MR. HANUS:

Sure.

INTERVIEWER:

Just when you were saying that you tried year after year after year...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...taking these tests to get into Northwestern.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

What motivated you? What made you want to go to Northwestern so badly that at every opportunity, you tried to get in? What was that?

MR. HANUS:

Well, some of the gentlemen, some of the members who had taken the test before and were accepted had come into Department Headquarters and had moved up the promotion ladder and became division directors or Bureau directors. And I

saw this as this is a sure way to become -- do a good job for the Department and be acknowledged for whatever you do. So that's the reason I wanted -- and, you know, I was told you're crazy. Why do you want to lift up your whole family and take them all away to Evanston in Illinois? For what? You know, why not just stay here? So that was the attitude of a lot of people. That's why a lot of men did not take the test, but that was why I did take the test.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And while we're out at -- out there, the families -- they got together. The women, they formed clubs. They all got together and while the men were in class, they would go and visit different factory tours like Sara Lee was out there and some of the other places and the women would take these days trips and go different places. And so they made a good -- for the training -- while we were in training, they did their thing and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...they liked that. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

So being at Northwestern carried prestige?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, absolutely.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Absolutely. Yes. It was called NUTI, N-U-T-I, you know, by some and nutty by others. I think some of the guys that went there called it nutty...

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

...and the others called it NUTI. But it was good. They -- good training...

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

...and you went to class all day long. You were in class all day long. It was not a two, four hour -- you were there for the whole day.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And then you drove back to your apartment and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Fairly interesting. I'm trying to think of another interesting story that occurred while we were out there, but it slips my mind right now.

INTERVIEWER:

That's okay. Maybe it'll come up again.

MR. HANUS:

Okay.

INTERVIEWER:

And as far as tuition and your salary and that kind of thing, how did the State Police take care of you in that way...

MR. HANUS:

I think they...

INTERVIEWER:

...when you were...

MR. HANUS:

...got federal grants because the classes were all -- that was all paid for by the department...

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, okay.

MR. HANUS:

...and they paid for the room out there, the rental.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And our salary continued, so there was really no added expense on our part except the fact that you were living away from your home and you had those expenses and -- oh, that's what it was.

One day on the way back from class, we were -- four of us riding in this car and this girl in a -- probably a Dodge or a Plymouth. It was not a fancy car. She goes past us. Now you have to understand, this is 1972. And I looked out the window and I saw this sign, a bumper sticker on her car, and I made everybody in a car take a look and read that bumper sticker because they'd never believe me otherwise. And the bumper sticker said "Vote for Nixon in '72. Don't change Dicks in the middle of a screw."

But, you know, it was a play on words...

INTERVIEWER:

Yes.

MR. HANUS:

...because his name was Dick...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...Nixon, you know.

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

Typical college kid. Right?

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

Okay.

INTERVIEWER:

So you were -- I mean, you were back in college. You were hanging out with -- or -- it's not necessarily hanging out, but around college students...

MR. HANUS:

Absolutely.

INTERVIEWER:

...and in a college atmosphere.

MR. HANUS:

Absolutely. But we weren't hanging out with them. We had our own group and our own group hung out together, and as a

matter of fact when Halloween came, we only allowed our children to visit the other policemen's homes. They weren't allowed to go to somebody's house they didn't know. So it was - - again it was a clannish-type thing. We watched out for each other.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you study together?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Yeah. Study on your own or you studied together. It all depended what courses you were taking and if it was beneficial to study with one of the other students, that's what you did or at home, you'd study on your own. Yeah. It was a great experience.

INTERVIEWER:

Were there a few students that you became especially close with and still maybe even have contact with?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. But really -- you only have contact with them in -- sporadically, here and there.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

One of them was a fellow from down in North Carolina that our families got together. You know, we made friends with them. The other was the two gentlemen that I went out there with from Pennsylvania.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

A fellow by the name of Brad Berry (ph) from up in -- near Scranton and the other was Tom Brennan (ph) from Harrisburg and -- but we don't see each other -- we saw each other once or twice after that, but that hasn't continued like maybe it should, you know. But we're still friends, you know. It's nothing negative, so to speak.

INTERVIEWER:

So you -- there were three of you from Pennsylvania that went out?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

And those other two, did they go on to do...

MR. HANUS:

Well...

INTERVIEWER:

Move up in the ranks, so to speak?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Brennan went into the Bureau of Research and Development and the other gentleman went into the Patrol Division and of course I went into Bureau of Personnel when we came back.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And then they -- each of them were subsequently promoted just like I was and that was pretty much it.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And being in the training sector of the Northwestern School...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...what types of subjects did you study particularly?

MR. HANUS:

Well, organizing lesson plans. You know, how to put a bunch of data together to teach a class and draw up lesson plans and all that type of information so that you could take a bunch of information, put it together and make a lesson plan out of it and teach it to a class. And that's what we had to do while we were there.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Did you get any hands-on experience teaching then?

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. Yeah. We -- then -- we taught -- had -- we taught each other and then we went out and they made arrangements to put a class on at the other Municipal Police Departments that were out -- Northfield was one and Northbridge I guess was the other. And we went to those departments and taught a class. Yes. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you feel like you already knew a lot of what they were teaching because you'd been an instructor for years...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...before that?

MR. HANUS:

No. It was a -- more or less administrative, management-type subjects, so it was a little different. Little different and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

No. We never -- matter of fact, if anything it was stressful because you could feel like you were falling behind and you had to give yourself a kick to keep you moving because it was tough. It was not falling off a log. Believe me, it was very difficult and you put...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...a lot of hours in studying to pass the tests that were given periodically. Yes. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And did you get normal grades and everything like that?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Um-hum. And I remember one of the times, he gave us a test, you know, an oral-type test that you -- the essay-type test

and we submitted our papers and they had the graduate students from the University of Chicago graded our papers and they graded them so liberally that the class was in uproar. What are they trying to tell us, you know? We're policemen, been policemen for a dozen years and things don't operate that way. You know, we were all conservative, right?

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And the students were all very liberal, so there was a clash right there. But...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

So some of us got decent grades and some of us didn't and -- you know, and we screamed and ranted and raved to the professors, but, you know, that went by and we moved on.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Did you have any particular kind of relationship that you can speak of with the professors?

MR. HANUS:

No. Not really. They were all there. They taught different classes and different professors would come into your class and teach their subject, you know, that they're familiar with and that was pretty much it.

INTERVIEWER:

Were the professors former -- or former policemen or former...

MR. HANUS:

No. They were from either Northwestern University or from Northwestern -- the Traffic Institute or University of Chicago, you know, so...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...that's who they had. I think the professors from the Traffic Institute were more acceptable because they -- those -- many of those were former policemen...

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. HANUS:

...and so they kind of understood us. But the other liberal instructors, that was -- there was a clash there. But they were good. You know, they knew their stuff. But some of the remarks

they made on your paper, you know, indicated that they were not up to a conservative student, you know. They wanted a liberal view.

INTERVIEWER:

Interesting.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you have any sort of graduation ceremony or what was the...

MR. HANUS:

Yes, there was.

INTERVIEWER:

...ending like?

MR. HANUS:

We graduated the same day as Northwestern University graduated...

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. HANUS:

...in this big hall and they -- you know how they call up the business department and the social department and they called up each one and you had to stand because -- and then they

called, you know, Northwestern University Traffic Institute and we all stood and...

INTERVIEWER:

Wow.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. We were at this graduation ceremony the same as all of the other college graduates were. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

With a cap and gown and everything?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

How did that feel?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, good. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

You know, after nine months being there cooped up in a three-room apartment studying all day, studying all night and then finally this is the end, you know, you were happy. You felt good.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Was that kind of difficult to, you know, be going to school full-time and still spend time with your family and make sure that they're okay in this new place and all that...

MR. HANUS:

Absolutely, but your wife pretty much took care of the family, you know, while you were in school. Then you'd come home late in the afternoon, eat your meal and then you'd be studying in the evening and your -- don't forget now you have three kids in two bedrooms. You know what that would be like.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

So...

INTERVIEWER:

So it felt a little crowded?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, absolutely.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

Absolutely. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

So maybe if I'm getting this right, you weren't exactly happy to leave because you enjoyed your time there, but you were excited to move onto, you know, your new position...

MR. HANUS:

Correct.

INTERVIEWER:

...and that kind of thing?

MR. HANUS:

Correct.

INTERVIEWER:

And then a bigger home for your family.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. So we sold that home out there and then purchased one here in Mechanicsburg and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...that's where we've been ever since.

INTERVIEWER:

You were able to save a good deal then while you were going to school there because State Police were taking care of pretty much everything. The tuition and the apartment was taken care of, so that was (inaudible).

MR. HANUS:

But trust me, you didn't save much...

INTERVIEWER:

No?

MR. HANUS:

...because as I said, during the day while you're in school, your families were going here and there and everywhere...

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. HANUS:

...and so there were a lot of those kind of expenses. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Now who was the Bureau Director of Personnel at the...

MR. HANUS:

When I came back?

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

Oh, Jay Hileman.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

H-i-l-e-m-a-n, I guess.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Jay Hileman was the Bureau Director.

INTERVIEWER:

So when you heard that that's where you would go rather than the Academy, what did you think?

MR. HANUS:

Well, I was mildly upset because I thought I was trained for nine months to go to the Academy and how to do all this training and then here all of a sudden I'm going to stay here in Department Headquarters. But having had Navy experience and State Police experience, where the old saying was yours is not to

reason why. Yours is just to do and die. Well, that's why I -- you just sucked it up and you did what you were told to do. My years in personnel were enjoyable. I mean, I did okay. But I'm thinking that maybe if I was at the Academy, I might have done better or made a bigger contribution to the job than I did in personnel. Okay?

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And if you could think of a reason why Hileman wanted you, what would that be?

MR. HANUS:

I'm thinking that he had a man that was transferred out of the department right before I came in and that he wanted to replace him and that here's a Northwestern University graduate coming back, so let's -- he'd be a great person for the department. That's what I'm thinking. Yeah. He saw an opportunity to fill that position with someone who just came out of nine months of training. That's what I'm thinking. I may be dead wrong, you know, but...

INTERVIEWER:

But this is then 1973 or are we still...

MR. HANUS:

Yes. No. This is...

INTERVIEWER:

...(inaudible)?

MR. HANUS:

...June of '73.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And you moved your family then to the Harrisburg area?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. To Mechanicsburg...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...where we purchased a home...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and they attended the Mechanicsburg Schools...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and I came over here. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you like the Mechanicsburg area? Was that a good...

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Very much so.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. And my wife's the one that selected the home during -- while I was working, she would go out with the realtors and they would take her all over the place and show her all these homes that were available. And then the ones that she thought we would like, that evening then she and I would go out and look at them.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So when you started your job with personnel...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...was that eight hours a day? Can you describe...

MR. HANUS:

Pretty much.

INTERVIEWER:

...your daily...

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. Pretty much an eight-hour-a-day job here in Headquarters.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. And I was into labor relations. See we had a labor relations guy that was -- handled all the labor relations problems with the civilians in the department and then I handled labor relations problems that came up with the enlisted men. Okay? And in addition to that, I was involved in the retirement section for answering retirement questions and all that. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. And what kinds of problems would come up with labor relations? Can you give some examples?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, yeah. Especially if a man was disciplined for some reason out there, then -- and they want to appeal that and find it -- and then we'd set up, you know, meetings and go from there.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Was that the bulk of what you did for several years then?

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

That and retirement.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And also I was -- handled the transfers. Whenever anyone requested a transfer in the department, then I handled that portion of it as to where the men were coming from, where they wanted to go to, whether it would -- whether there was an available opening for them. That stuff.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And how would you go about making those types of decisions as far as if people were or were not allowed to transfer?

MR. HANUS:

Well, they would be allowed as long as there was an opening available in that particular troop. For instance up in Scranton area and Wyoming area, there were many, many requests to go up into those two troops, Troops R, Dunmore and P, Wyoming. But most of those guys up there didn't want to leave, so there -- it was stagnant and it was hard to get into those troops. So they would submit a card into Bureau Personnel of what their three choices were where they want to go and then we would decide to see if there was an opening available for them to get in there. And then we would respond and tell them that you are number ten in line to go to this troop and then we'd move on. We would go on from there.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Why were Scranton and Wyoming so popular?

MR. HANUS:

That's where most of the State Policeman actually came from when they came on the job was that -- from that area and they all wanted to get back. And I was -- my wife and I were never interested. I could have gone to Wyoming when I made corporal out of Montoursville, but I chose to stay there and take the opening up in Mansfield. I really didn't have any interest in going back to the coal region, so to speak. I left there. I was happy. I

was happy where I was at. But most of those men wanted to go back there. A good example is a lot of those men from up in that area that -- when the coal mines went down and they left and went out to New Jersey to get jobs. They went to New Jersey and their wives stayed in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area. So they would go down there and rent a room for the week and then on Friday evening, then they would come back to Wilkes-Barre, spend the weekend and then drive back down to Jersey for the next week, because the wives did not want to move. But the men almost had to just to put food on the table.

INTERVIEWER:

Sounds similar to what a lot of State Policemen did.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. Yeah. They wanted to go back to Wyoming area or Dunmore area and they didn't want to be out somewhere else.

INTERVIEWER:

Let's kind of go back to Greensburg. I feel like we kind of went through that pretty fast.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

You were a full-time instructor then for the Southwest Training School?

MR. HANUS:

Southwest Training Center, I was a full-time instructor. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. And what subjects did you teach there?

MR. HANUS:

I taught the Vehicle Code.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Then another instructor taught the Crimes Code and then we had another instructor that would pick up the other things like the revolver training and First Aid and those subjects.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And this is again just for municipal police?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

So it -- did it kind of replace the M-40?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, okay.

MR. HANUS:

You hit it right on the -- yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. But then these men were coming from all over rather than just that local area?

MR. HANUS:

Just that troop. Yeah. They were coming from half of Western Pennsylvania...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...coming to the Southwest Training Center and the other half were going up to the Northwest Training Center up -- okay.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Did your -- your family lived with you then in Greensburg at that time?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. We moved out to -- I went out on my own and worked there for a while and was looking for a home and finally found a home and brought my wife out to look at it and we agreed that that was the -- where we'd like to live. And so we bought the home and then moved the children out and they attended Greensburg Schools and my wife went to work at one or two hospitals there and I of course was at the Greensburg Headquarters and then the Training Center. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. Did you have to apply to do that or did someone appoint you to that position?

MR. HANUS:

For the training center?

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

No. Actually I was told that that -- this Training Center is opening up and we would like you to accept the position because of your past experience, and so that's what I did. I had no problem with it.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Did you see a difference in your salary between, you know, being a station commander to being an instructor?

MR. HANUS:

No. There was no...

INTERVIEWER:

There was no...

MR. HANUS:

Same thing. There was no increase because of whatever you were doing.

INTERVIEWER:

But when you were promoted...

MR. HANUS:

Well, you went from...

INTERVIEWER:

...wasn't...

MR. HANUS:

...corporal to sergeant, then there was an increase in your salary because of the promotion...

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

...from one rank to another, but not for the duties you were doing.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And what was that increase? Was it large or small?

MR. HANUS:

Probably anywhere between five and ten percent is probably what I'm thinking of at the time.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. And by now, I mean you definitely -- you have full benefits. Correct?

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. And that in my opinion was largely due to the State Police -- the FOP, Fraternal Order of Police...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...negotiating with the governor's office to get these benefits. See every year they would have negotiations...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and we would pick up benefits here, benefits there, and that was basically because of the negotiations that went on between the FOP and the governor's office.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you have any particular involvement with the FOPs yourself?

MR. HANUS:

I was a member and I attended the meetings, but I did not attempt to be an officer or anything like that.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And what types of things happened at these -- at the meetings, if -- I mean, if that's not...

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. They would basically bring up what the -- what some of the problems were and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...how they were trying to correct them and what they were trying to do and then they would -- then some of the members would have to go to another city for meetings and that was the part that I -- you know, I had -- raising three children, I didn't want to be traveling anymore. I had already been out to Northwestern and

went through that bit, so I didn't want to travel anymore. I was just happy to be home with the family and raise my own family.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

And what types of problems would arise at that time?

MR. HANUS:

Mostly disciplinary problems that would occur...

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. HANUS:

...in the job between the men and the -- you know, and the administration. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Did you ever need to discipline someone or...

MR. HANUS:

Yes, but it was just minor. Trifle stuff. It wasn't very much. I remember one time having to discipline a fellow to give him -- gave him three days off and so he came running in and wanted to know hey, could I have -- could I be off here on Friday and Saturday and Monday because I already have Saturday off and I

want to go the shore so I'd be -- if you can discipline me and give me my discipline on those three days, I'd be very happy. So we...

INTERVIEWER:

What did you say?

MR. HANUS:

I said absolutely. Why not? He's getting his discipline, he's getting the three days. If he wants them at his convenience and it's not going to hurt the station, the job, it's not going to hurt that whatsoever. It didn't matter to me if he was off on those three days or three other days and this way it made him very happy. He walked out the door whistling. You know, that was good.

INTERVIEWER:

Well, then in that case, was it really discipline?

MR. HANUS:

Well, he lost three days' pay.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

Right?

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Which hurt him.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But I look at it as a win-win situation. Both sides won, so everybody's happy and you can't beat that.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. What other types of disciplinary measures would there be, other than forcing someone to take a day off without pay?

MR. HANUS:

Oral reprimands, written reprimands where you just put a reprimand in their file that they were not to do this again and if they did, then they're -- then it would become more severe.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And that was pretty much it. One time a fellow took a car home to another county and he wasn't supposed to. Okay?

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. So just minor things, really?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But we instituted -- way back then we instituted a couple of programs where we assigned the same car to the same trooper whenever he went out on patrol. And say this car here was assigned to you, you and you and nobody else would drive that car. Just those three men. So they really took care of that car. They -- we've had them -- they'd clean them out, clean the insides, dashboards, washed the cars and shined the cars because it was their car. And you know other times before that a guy would go out and get -- a trooper would get in a car to go on patrol and there would be sandwich wrappers there and cups from some restaurant. But not when these three men were already -- always assigned that car. That took care of it and it was in good shape. And so we instituted that program up in Ebersburg and it was well-liked by everybody and if somebody got into that car and didn't treat it right, they left them know. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Was that a policy that you helped create?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. The department did not have that policy.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

As a matter of fact, many areas say it can't be done. It can't be done. But we tried it and it worked and we made it work, you know.

INTERVIEWER:

So part of your duties were not only to do these reports and oversee things, but also to make policy changes and protocol changes?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. That would be beneficial to...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...both the men and the department.

INTERVIEWER:

Well, that's quite a bit of...

MR. HANUS:

Now...

INTERVIEWER:

...power.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Now, you know, we got some feedback. The station commander from Carlisle, I told him about it and he liked the idea, so he instituted it. The next thing, he contacts me back and he says well, guess what we had? He said did you guys have this car and they put -- you know, the big boom-box speakers? Well, they put them in the rear by the rear window and you can see these huge speakers in there and they had this loud music going. So, you know, we had to put a stop to that, you know. So sometimes you give an inch and somebody will take a yard. But for the most part I thought it was a good policy and as I said, they took care of the cars that time. Really well taken care of.

INTERVIEWER:

Kind of thinking about that how these -- perhaps younger troopers decided...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...to put the boom box in their car and play the music, would you say that you saw a definite change over the years between the class that you graduated with, those gentlemen and their values and their ideals versus the new troopers that you saw coming in and, you know, the men in the lower ranks that you were perhaps overseeing and commanding? What was that change and can you describe...

MR. HANUS:

Well, it appeared as years go on that men became more liberal and wanted to be -- do more, whereas with us, everything was tight and very conservative. But the new -- we always said the job isn't like it used to be, you know. It kept changing, you know, with the new men coming onboard when they -- they wanted to be more free and not be restricted like we were.

INTERVIEWER:

What kinds of things did they want to do that they wouldn't have been allowed to do in the past?

MR. HANUS:

A lot of it had to do with time off, with the time off...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...they wanted.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

They didn't want to work those long hours like you had...

MR. HANUS:

Absolutely.

INTERVIEWER:

...experienced?

MR. HANUS:

Right.

INTERVIEWER:

And at that point, they were allowed to come on the job as a married man. Is that correct?

MR. HANUS:

Uh-uh.

INTERVIEWER:

No?

MR. HANUS:

No. Not then. No. It -- I forget when that went into play. I'm not sure right now, to be honest with you.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. But you did notice that things were changing...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...and changing for the better?

MR. HANUS:

Well, yes. I guess you would say that.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Changing. Maybe not to your way of thinking because you were used to the old rules, the old school, but it was -- things were moving along.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So can you think of any kind of experience or story that you could share over your time in Greensburg, over your time at the training school that you'd like to share?

MR. HANUS:

Not really. I can't think of anything outstanding. Someone asked -- said well, wherever you were, you got to know the people.

They got to know you. One example was when I was in Montoursville and out on patrol with another trooper at night and

my wife called the station and said to tell her -- have her husband call home and I called home and she said that my young son was really sick. Really, really bad. And so I immediately got a hold of the doctor that was there in Montoursville, told him the problem. Wanted to know if he could go out to the house and he says I've got a whole roomful of people here. He said I cannot leave. But he says I'll tell you what you do. The two of you go up to the house, get your child, wrap it up in the blankets and bring it down to my office. But come in the driveway. Don't go out front. Don't come in the front door. Go up the driveway, knock on the back door. My nurse will let you in. You'll go in there. He said I'll come back, take care of the child. No one in the building will know that you're here and that the child's here and I'll take care of the child and then send him on his way with you. And that's exactly what he did and that was the kind of camaraderie-ship we had with different personnel. That was a doctor, you know, who was doing that. That was great.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you feel like he did that for you because you were a State Policeman?

MR. HANUS:

I would think so, in addition that we were patients of his. But I don't know if I wasn't a State Policeman if he would've done that to any of those other people. You know, they were all waiting in line in the office, whereas he -- you know, he knew we were working and knew -- was on the road and so he says come in the driveway, you know, and he'll take care of the child and that's what he did. Yes. I think so. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

How did that make you feel?

MR. HANUS:

Great. Made me feel very good.

INTERVIEWER:

And...

MR. HANUS:

Very good.

INTERVIEWER:

...your family was I'm sure was very grateful for that, as well?

MR. HANUS:

Absolutely. Yes. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Did your son get better?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Good.

MR. HANUS:

Sure.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Well, that's where we're going to end it for today.

MR. HANUS:

Oh, okay.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

I take it we're not finished though. Right?

INTERVIEWER:

No.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. My name is Shelly Becker. I'm here with Retired Lieutenant Tom Hanus and this is December 10, 2004. We're at the Pennsylvania State Police Academy in Hershey, Pennsylvania. This is the Oral History Project for the Pennsylvania State Police and this is tape three in our series, so welcome back, Mr. Hanus. Glad to be...

MR. HANUS:

Thank you. It's...

INTERVIEWER:

...here.

MR. HANUS:

...good to be back.

INTERVIEWER:

Good. Wonderful. The last time we talked, we kind of left off in your career in kind of the mid to late-70s when you were in the Bureau of Personnel up at Headquarters.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

But I kind of wanted to backtrack just a little bit in time and go back into the '60s.

MR. HANUS:

Okay.

INTERVIEWER:

The mid -- early to mid '60s...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...when Purdy was the Commissioner of...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...the State Police. During that time, civil disobedience was on the rise and there was a lot of conflict between racial groups during that time. Can you comment on what it was like to be a State Policeman during that time and the social aspect of how you interacted with those conflicts?

MR. HANUS:

Actually being stationed up at Mansfield and then Montoursville, there was very little conflict at all. It wasn't like being stationed in the city where there would be a lot of unrest, but we had very little. Hardly any at all, so to speak.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. So you didn't really notice...

MR. HANUS:

No.

INTERVIEWER:

...anything going on?

MR. HANUS:

Things went along pretty smoothly.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Even so during that time, Purdy put in some riot control tactics, namely something called Manual 7-1...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...and did you have to go through that riot training...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

...even though...

MR. HANUS:

We all did.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. And what did that involve? What did you have to do?

MR. HANUS:

Well, normally personnel from all of the stations would come into Troop Headquarters, at which time there would be a meeting or class so to speak. And then you would go outside and march and go through riot control tactics, you know, with the baton, how to hold it and what to do.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

So what kind of special equipment did that involve?

MR. HANUS:

Basically just the baton and...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...you know how to handle yourself. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Did you ever have to use those -- that training that you were given at that time?

MR. HANUS:

Not that I can recall.

INTERVIEWER:

No?

MR. HANUS:

Not that I can recall.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

I attended -- I was attending evening courses at college and I was attending an evening course then at Lycoming College, which is in Williamsport. It's next door to Montoursville. And there were college students in the class and you could see the unrest with the college students regarding that. They didn't know I was a State Policeman...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and I didn't say anything because I didn't want to stir things up. This was in the evening courses. But you could see there was unrest with the college students because here their future was at stake. They were going to get called to go into the military for they didn't know how long so, you know, I can -- kind of felt for them. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So into -- moving in the early '70s then...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...there's still a lot of conflict obviously in the world and in the United States and -- but at that time, the Pennsylvania State Police was also going through a lot of changes.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. Yes, there were.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. Namely in 1971 and 1972, women came onto the job.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Can you talk a little bit about that experience for you and how you felt about that?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Matter of fact, one would think that when the women came on board that there would be a rift between the men and the women, but there wasn't. The women were accepted readily and everything really went rather smoothly. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Do you feel that they were treated differently from men?

MR. HANUS:

If anything, they might've been getting some benefits. For instance, the men -- if they had to change a tire or something,

the men would jump in and do that. But everything else they did on their own. They gassed their own cars and went out on patrol and then I -- we had a female trooper with us out at -- when I was later stationed out at Rockview and she did very well and as a matter of fact, we -- she was given acclimates from the local judge when she testified at a hearing in front of him, she did such a tremendous job. Yes. So they were well -- they were respected and liked. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Were there women, you know -- in the early '70s when they first came onto the job, were they mainly only given patrol or were they allowed to do criminal investigations and that kind of thing?

MR. HANUS:

Well, see then after Purdy came in, then the system changed so that the men on the road would do the initial criminal investigation, whereas before you didn't. It was turned over to the crime investigator immediately. But now the trooper on the road did the initial investigation, whether it was an accident or crime, and then it was followed up by the criminal investigator. So she being a trooper, she would get the initial investigation

and work as a crime investigator on that very first initial aspect of it.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. But not any deeper investigation?

MR. HANUS:

No. Usually the criminal investigator would follow through.

INTERVIEWER:

And women were not allowed to be criminal investigators or...

MR. HANUS:

Well, you had...

INTERVIEWER:

...were then?

MR. HANUS:

It was kind of a seniority thing. You...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...had to work your way up to it...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and I guess State Police was fundamentally seniority oriented so the...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...more senior man would get that position if he requested it.

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

So it would just take women some time to move through the ranks to get into that kind of a position?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Did you ever work with a woman one on one? Go on patrol with them, midnight patrol or work with them in the office at all? Anything like that?

MR. HANUS:

No. Not really. I was a corporal and had women underneath me as troopers, but never really worked side by side in a patrol car, so to speak.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

No. I didn't have that opportunity.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But I would've welcomed it because it -- from the women that I saw, they were all doing a fine job. Matter of fact, my first reaction was why did the State Police wait so long, you know, to bring them on board.

INTERVIEWER:

Why do you think they did?

MR. HANUS:

Have no idea. I have no idea. Sometimes it's such a big change that it takes time to get something like that going. But the women then come on board and I felt that we could use them for investigations where they would work and a man wouldn't work as well. And that's what came from that -- came back from the

judge for that case because that was a case involving a juvenile and she interviewed the person and moved through with it and as a result, we had very good responses on her. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Because she was a female and was...

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

...able to interact with the juveniles and...

MR. HANUS:

Right. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

All right. So while that is a very large change within the Pennsylvania State Police, even just in that very next year just as you are graduating from the Northwestern Training Institute, Traffic Institute, the consent decree goes into effect.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

So can you describe your involvement in that and how you felt about that?

MR. HANUS:

I personally wasn't not in favor of it, although I did not fight it. I wasn't against it. But as most men, we wondered why people of certain classes were given, say affirmative action, attention over others, and the question that came to my mind was that I thought first of all it wasn't a bad idea. But it seemed to be too political in that what about the Chinese, the Orientals? They didn't get favored treatment. They -- matter of fact, they're smart enough that they moved through the system very -- rather easily. But this other group that were given preferential treatment -- and I think it's the preferential treatment part of it that bothered a lot of men and it bothered me for that reason.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Did anyone at that time ask for your input before it went into effect?

MR. HANUS:

No. Uh-uh. No. That was all done at the front office, in the governor's office and the men out in the field were not asked for input.

INTERVIEWER:

Well, there was from what I understand a vote that did happen amongst the State Police.

MR. HANUS:

Is that...

INTERVIEWER:

Are you aware of that or...

MR. HANUS:

I'm thinking of the vote that occurred down at the Academy here when -- and that appeared to be a case of where everyone knew that this issue was going to go through...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and so it would be useless to fight it.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. How did it affect your job or your position or did it?

MR. HANUS:

It did not. It didn't affect my position whatsoever because it only affected position when that person was up for promotion.

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

But we didn't -- because we -- on the station they weren't given any treatment for -- especially for transfers or different jobs. No. They were treated pretty much the same as everybody else. It was in the promotion process where they were given affirmative action.

INTERVIEWER:

And you were still promoted...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...after that, so did it affect you then?

MR. HANUS:

Uh-uh. No.

INTERVIEWER:

No?

MR. HANUS:

Did not affect me.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you know of anyone that it did affect?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, I heard of a lot of cases where it -- when they had the hearings down in court in Philadelphia I guess that some of the men who had to testify were very upset over the whole thing,

yes, and openly mentioned how it had affected them. But it didn't affect me.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Excuse me for a minute (inaudible) here.

MR. HANUS:

There was -- a joke used to go around at that time.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Do you know any black troopers and the answer was no. They were all corporals or sergeants or lieutenants...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...but not troopers. That was just an in-house joke.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Because they were getting -- I mean, that was...

MR. HANUS:

They were getting the preferential treatment. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

(Inaudible)?

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

You mentioned that you thought that it was very political, what happened. If I could read you something and then just get your response to this.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

In 1916, President Teddy Roosevelt wrote "No political influence or other influence avails to get a single undesirable man on the force or to keep a man on the force who has provided himself unfit." How do you feel about that statement? Did it hold true?

MR. HANUS:

For what I knew, it pretty much held true, although there were probably some instances where maybe it was getting to the point where a man was going to be asked to leave the job and he stayed on for some reason. That could be, but I didn't -- I really didn't know of any.

INTERVIEWER:

So would you -- could you safely say that overall, your experience was that politics did not necessarily affect who came onto the job or (inaudible) that didn't keep them from leaving?

MR. HANUS:

It is my understanding that before I came on board...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...that politics was involved in the selection process of the men who came aboard. But I was in the first class that they were given an entrance examination...

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. HANUS:

...and you had to pass this entrance test to become a trooper. So I was again in that first class where it was -- everything was pretty much above board. But I was told that before that, political influence did help a individual to come on board, to be accepted.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. How do you think political influence helped for promotional purposes?

MR. HANUS:

If it did, I'm assuming that it occurred at the upper ranks because at the lower ranks, we all had to take a promotional examination and then you were put in rank order and then you were selected from the top of that list on down. So if you -- person had political

influence but wasn't high enough on the list, well, then he wasn't going to get promoted.

INTERVIEWER:

So you couldn't get bumped up because you knew somebody?

MR. HANUS:

In my opinion, that's correct.

INTERVIEWER:

Now in 1973 to 1979, you were at the Bureau of Personnel.

Correct?

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

And then in '79, you were promoted to lieutenant?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Can you explain what happened after you became -- you were promoted?

MR. HANUS:

Well, when I was promoted to lieutenant, I accepted the position at Troop A Greensburg, but I was sent to Ebensburg as a station commander...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...and I was station commander there for one year and then I requested a transfer to State Police Troop G, Hollidaysburg because I knew there was going to be an opening at Rockview, which is outside of State College. And that would've been a lot closer for me to travel home. Being at Ebensburg, I only got home one night a -- for my days off because it was too far to travel in between. But I realized that with only an hour-and-forty-five-minute travel from Rockview to my home, I would be able to get off and go home during the week. Not all the time. I stayed over most of the time, but when the opportunity availed itself, then I could go home. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

What did you do at Rockview?

MR. HANUS:

I was a station commander, just like I was out at Ebensburg and in state -- you had a sergeant who was in charge of crime and a sergeant who was in charge of patrol and you were we'll say the whole bit. You instituted different policies and procedures. One that we instituted was allowing the men to take the car home and before that you had to drive into the station, pick up the car and

then go out on patrol. But especially when the men were working 3:00 to 11:00, back out again at 7:00 to 3:00, we instituted the policy where they could take the car home and then come right -- leave right in the morning from their home on patrol, and that worked well. The men appreciated that and they liked that and it worked really well. Matter of fact, another one that I instituted was assigning X number of men to the same car, so no matter what shift they were on, these men always got that same car. And all of a sudden, the cars were clean. They were shined. They were taken care of and the men would get upset if somebody else got that car and didn't take care of it. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And that worked really well. They said it couldn't be done because of the complexity of the scheduling, but it worked. We made it work. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. I'm just going to -- I mean, it seems like there would be a conflict between having more than one man assigned to a car and then letting them take it home at night. How would the other men get to work? They...

MR. HANUS:

Well...

INTERVIEWER:

...would just drive themselves then rather than take the patrol car
or...

MR. HANUS:

Well, when they took the car home at night, it was working out.
The men normally that -- affected would be the men on the
midnight patrol.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Okay? But it worked out. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Good. And did you have any involvement with the penitentiary
that's there at Rockview?

MR. HANUS:

Well, whenever there would be an outbreak or whatever, they
would call us immediately. They would -- we had a hotline
between Rockview Station and the prison and had visitation over
at the prison quite a bit and met with the officials over there and -

- so you'd know what was going on. They pretty much handled their own problems, but we were involved. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

So when you say an outbreak or situation, can you describe that? What would happen?

MR. HANUS:

That was just that -- if there was a rumbling going on within a prison because the men basically couldn't go anywhere because they were behind the wall, so to speak. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

So did you handle that personally? Was...

MR. HANUS:

No. Uh-uh.

INTERVIEWER:

...your...

MR. HANUS:

No. We had -- we sent over several men from the Rockview station to take care of it and it usually was over and done with very quickly.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Would that be an example of when they would need to use their riot training?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah, but it never got that far.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

It never got that far and I was given a tour of the prison and show where -- I was up at -- where all the prisoners who are ready for -
- say death row.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And then right outside that room, then there's the room where they would -- the electric chair was located and I was in that room. Matter of fact stood on the plate where the wires came up through to be hooked to the electric chair. The electric chair wasn't there then. It had been dismantled and it was down in a basement, but it could be readily assembled if the word came out that they were going to execute someone. It would not be a problem.

INTERVIEWER:

And what was that experience like for you? How did you feel about that...

MR. HANUS:

I...

INTERVIEWER:

...knowing that...

MR. HANUS:

...never had to witness an execution.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But I talked to some senior officers that did and it's a matter of the individual. One told me that he would never want to go through that experience again. He said that in front of every person that witnessed it there was a spittoon and that -- and people would get so upset that they would actually throw up into the spittoon. And another State Policeman said that it didn't bother him a bit. You know, it didn't matter. How that occurred was these men would sign up to be a witness, but there were also many other civilians who were signed up to be a witness. But then when the day came for the execution, these other civilians would back out and so they'd get on the phone and call the station and then the troopers would go over there and witness the execution.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you ever sign up to be a witness?

MR. HANUS:

That was before my time. There were no executions when I was there -- stationed there.

INTERVIEWER:

At Rockview?

MR. HANUS:

Right.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. All right. So you were there for two years. Correct?

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And can you describe what happened in September of 1982?

You went to headquarters. Correct?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, yes. The department put out a memorandum requesting people who would want to come in and organize the Crime Prevention Division.

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

Other departments including State Police Departments throughout the country had already moved forward in instituting a Crime Prevention Division. State Police in Pennsylvania did not, so they decided that they will do that and get on board. And so I submitted a request to be considered and I was considered and I was given the opportunity to come into headquarters and I was transferred into the Bureau of Community Services to work with then Major Mike Donahue (ph) and organize this department. That was quite an experience because see prior to that, everything was reactive. A person commits a crime and the policemen would go out and investigate it. Now this was flipping on it. It was proactive where the men would go out and organize the civilians in their areas into a crime watch program to try to get them to call the -- their station whenever they saw any kind of illegal activity going on. So that's what the start was. It -- when I was called in, I was told that the crime prevention officers -- there was going to be about 15 of them and that they would all be civilians and -- because the governor's office had allocated so many civilian positions to the State Police for that program. I immediately didn't think that was a good idea. I -- because you'd have civilians telling enlisted men, the troopers, the corporals on

the station what to do and I thought there'd be conflict. So we asked Colonel Dilarsapi (ph) if we could do a survey across the country to see how other departments were doing it and he gave us permission, providing we could get it done in a week. So Major Donahue manned one telephone and I went in another division and manned another phone and we called all these departments all over the country that had Crime Prevention Divisions and we found out that 90 percent or more all used uniformed police officers for that position. And so we went back with the results to Dilarsapi and so he went along with the program and that's what we did. We, you know, used enlisted men, troopers and the problem come up well, what do we do with these positions? We got these positions from the governor's office. And my thought was well, if we're going to use a trooper, we're taking the trooper off the road from the station. Well, let's just take and make those positions PCOs, meaning police communication operators instead of crime prevention officers. And that looked good to the front office because now we're saving money because PCOs would be getting less pay than a crime prevention officer. So front office okayed it and that's the way we went. So the next thing we did was we

contacted Baltimore PD because they had a pretty good program going. So they invited us down. Everyone was so helpful with this and we went down to Baltimore and they took us over to the Baltimore TV station that was working with them on this program and we're waiting there to meet some people and sure enough, who walks by but -- that was involved in the program with the Baltimore Police was Oprah Winfrey because she was a night reporter and the other evening reporters. So we saw them people and so things moved along. Wherever we called for assistance, we got all kind of help. They'd send us their forms. They'd send us their regulations. Whatever we wanted, we could have and it worked real well. And Baltimore, if you recall later on just -- several years ago, they had a program on TV called *Homicide: Life on the Streets* and they featured this one building, this one department that they said on the TV was the police department. It was not. It was another building in their police department, but their main police department building was downtown. This building was at -- right outside of Baltimore. I'm trying to think of the name of the village, what it was called. It started with an F. I'll think of it. And so we went there, met with their men and they showed us everything they did and how they

went about doing it and we moved on from there. We came back and I knew two men from PP&L and mentioned it to them. This is on the side. That (inaudible) said wait, we'll talk to the boss. We normally have -- routinely we have meetings where all the electric utilities from the state meet and hash out ideas. So they went back to see the head of PP&L. He welcomed us. Major Donahue and I went to their meeting. Both of us put on our program, told them exactly what we did, what we wanted to do, what we wanted them to do. We no more than finish and the top guy from PP&L, he stuck his hand up and he said I'm all for it. That's all we needed. Everybody jumped on board and the program got underway, so we made up decals for the utility company to put on their trucks and then had the police -- crime prevention officers go to the electric utility in their area and give them training, exactly what we wanted them to do and what we wanted -- expected of them. And it went over big. It went over really well. Matter of fact, the utility that jumped -- really jumped in with both feet was -- Three Mile Island was the name of the police -- the utility that handled Three Mile Island and I think it was because of the adverse publicity they had from

Three Mile Island that they jumped on board. I'm trying to think of the name of that utility right now, but it'll...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...come to me.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And so that -- as a result, that gave all of the crime prevention officers throughout the state something to do. That -- they -- that gave them a reason to be out there working because they had -- they didn't just have to go out and organize civilians. They had a plan, a roadmap where to go and what to do and so then the next thing -- am I going too fast?

INTERVIEWER:

No.

MR. HANUS:

The next thing we decided was -- well, wait. These are all police officers and this program is more or less oriented toward civilians, so we ought to get some civilian security people involved. So the major and I went down to the Philadelphia area

and we met with security people from the -- Southeastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. Alarm people, alarm owners, people that were involved with department store security, people -- any kind of security, they met us and we had a meeting. And we asked for assistance in training the crime prevention officers, giving them a class, a week-long class. God, they jumped aboard, both feet. They -- 7-11 people sent up a contingent of their people from Dallas, Texas and put them up in the Hotel Hershey up here on the hill for that week while their people conducted the class here at the Academy. Just really went well and we were proud that we started this because these men accepted it so well, too. Yeah. You know how change is. I mean, people are a little reluctant to move in that direction, but when they went to those classes, the word got back to their Troop Commanders and to the front office and then back to us of how great this program was and so everyone felt real good about us. I'm sorry about that.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, that's okay. That's okay.

MR. HANUS:

So the program got off the ground and was -- started working well and I think that week-long class that we had down in

Hershey where we brought outsiders in had a big effect on all these crime prevention officers because they could see how other people looked at this program.

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

We had hospital security there, you know, any kind of security were there at that meeting and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...conducted a program. It went well. Very well.

INTERVIEWER:

So from the beginning of the idea to the actual implementation of this new program, how long did that take?

MR. HANUS:

It was a couple months.

INTERVIEWER:

Really? Wow.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. Yeah, because we moved rather fast. As a matter of fact, Baltimore PD had -- part of their program was where they would reenact a crime and they would videotape it and then it

would go on the evening news and the people out in the public would be asked to watch this crime. Have you seen anything that resembles this crime and please call the police department, and it went over big. But Commissioner Barger felt that we were moving too fast. That he wanted to back off and wait a while before instituting that part of the program. So we instituted everything else except that and that was (inaudible) using the policemen and civilians and others as actors on TV to show how the crime went and then ask for public support. Yeah. They had a good program and it went over well. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And what kind of public support or feedback did you get for your program?

MR. HANUS:

Well, we didn't have any repercussions. It all went well. It all went very well. The only -- we thought that the problem might be with our own people, but it didn't -- it went well. It went over pretty good. For a brand new program that was never heard of before in the State Police, the program went over well. Yes. Um-hum. Of course, I had -- Major Donahue was in charge of the Bureau of Community Services where I was assigned and he was an easy person to deal with. He did not fight you on any

ideas that you had that you wanted to institute. You approached him with it. You showed him and he went along and he says okay. Let's go. Let's do it and that's how we moved along so fast. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

So were you and him the two major players in the development of this program?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Yeah. And whenever we went out to utilities or wherever, he put on his part of the show first and then I put on my part of the show and, you know, worked hand in glove. It all worked very well. Um-hum. And -- especially Baltimore PD. They had two crime prevention officers that were really part of a dog-and-pony show. I mean, they were fantastic.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

When they -- and they come up to the Academy for our week session...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and matter of fact, they got the highest accolades of anybody for that program.

INTERVIEWER:

How did you go about choosing your crime prevention officers or were they just signing up left and right to want to...

MR. HANUS:

No.

INTERVIEWER:

...get involved?

MR. HANUS:

We left it pretty much it up to the troop commander...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...to select -- you know, the men would volunteer to -- and -- to be a part of the program. But then it was up to the troop commander to select who he wanted to use. And we did not get too involved there. We did not care who they selected because

it was going to be at their station, their headquarters. We just wanted to give them direction from here. Yes. That's how that worked.

INTERVIEWER:

And how many approximately did you have overall? How many crime prevention officers?

MR. HANUS:

Around 17. You know, we wanted one from every troop.

INTERVIEWER:

Are you all right?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. I'm all right, but I have just a -- yeah. I think...

INTERVIEWER:

There's some water in...

MR. HANUS:

...I'll do that. Sure.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. That's about it pretty much. Everything went over well...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and we moved on from there.

INTERVIEWER:

Well, as far as training goes, I know you had that one very successful week of training...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...for your CPOs. But after that for new crime prevention officers that would come in later, what kind of training did they receive or did...

MR. HANUS:

Well, they were...

INTERVIEWER:

...that continue?

MR. HANUS:

...pretty much broken in by the crime prevention officers that were at the troop.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

The men who were already crime prevention officers, because most of them had a backup that -- in case they...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...were ill and couldn't go out and do the program, they had a backup and so that backup filled in.

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

I thought the whole program went pretty well for being a new program and -- with new ideas. Yes. It went over very well.

INTERVIEWER:

Can you describe in a little bit more detail what exactly these crime prevention officers would do?

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. They would organize a crime prevention program in their station and they would get the people from the -- called like the neighborhood watch program.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And they would get the people from that neighborhood to come to a meeting and they would explain to them exactly what they wanted them to do just to be the eyes and ears. And anything

that would happen, then they would report it and then our troopers would follow up on it, and that's how that went. Pretty much people out in the community being the eyes and ears of the police and reporting to the police whenever they saw something that was out of whack.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Were there any crime prevention officers that felt that they had difficulty in their community or neighborhood doing that?

MR. HANUS:

None -- if they did, it never came back to us.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

It didn't come back to us. They -- the crime prevention officers were happy with the way things were going and they were satisfied. And again, the feedback that went up to the troop commanders and then back to the Commissioner from that class that we put on, the troop commanders then all saw the benefits and the...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...pluses and so nobody fought it.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Were you able to see a drop in the crime rate or could you see statistically an impact in those communities?

MR. HANUS:

Well, that would be pretty much up to the crime prevention officers in that particular station area if they could see the drop.

INTERVIEWER:

And I'm sure that they would report that then to you. Right?

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. Yeah. But we didn't get much feedback on that because I think the program was too new for that to occur. But there was definitely a reduction in crime.

INTERVIEWER:

So after you implemented the program, you weren't quite as involved after you implemented it or...

MR. HANUS:

Correct. That's correct.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Once we got it rolling, then it was the troop commanders and the station commanders who would kind of follow up on it.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. So what was your role then with the Community Services Department?

MR. HANUS:

Just keeping in touch with the men to see if they needed any further instruction or any new material or whatever they need or get any ideas from them to pass on to the other crime prevention officers throughout the state, and that's how that worked.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. So how long were you there at the...

MR. HANUS:

Well, I retired in '84, so I was only in that position for a couple years.

INTERVIEWER:

Two...

MR. HANUS:

Two years.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And then I left the department. I retired.

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

So you just kind of oversaw the entire program for those couple of years.

MR. HANUS:

Right.

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Then retired.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. Was that mandatory retirement or was that...

MR. HANUS:

No, but see everyone told me that -- mandatory retirement was age 60...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and if you wait until age 60, nobody wants to hire you...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...at age 60. So if you had an opportunity to get off ahead of time to get a good job, then do it, and so that's what I did. I got a -- an offer from a security company and so I took it and that's the direction I went. And that's the reason I left. I -- from day one, I've always said that I thought that mandatory retirement at age 60 was not a very good idea because when I got off, it was in mid-50s and I worked until just a couple weeks ago until I was 72 and did a lot harder work than a lot of the troopers did on the road and I could handle it at age 72. So I did not see a need to force retirement at age 60 and I still feel that way.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Why do you think they do that? Do you know?

MR. HANUS:

I guess they figured that it's getting to the point where physically it would be too difficult for the men, but I -- again I -- now in my position, I cannot see that because again I worked daily until age 72 and that was it. So I saw no problem with men staying on the job longer than age 60. Sixty-five maybe, 70.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But not 60. I thought 60 was too young and I still do. I think you're losing a lot of valuable knowledge and experience from these men who you're forcing to leave the job and they're taking that knowledge and experience to an outside agency or they're getting another job and State Police is losing that. I still feel that way.

INTERVIEWER:

But then again you could also think of it as spreading the wealth a little bit. State Police has kind of fostered all of this knowledge and experience in you and then rather than just keep it in-house so much, you can move it out into the greater system and the greater society to use that and help maybe continue that on.

MR. HANUS:

The -- well, that is a good thought and a good point of view.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

It's just that I didn't think that the men should be forced to leave at age 60. That's all.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. Do you feel like you had any influence over anyone in particular becoming a trooper themselves? Do you know of anyone that became a trooper because of your...

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. Well, when I was at Greensburg as a sergeant, some of the men that worked under me approached me and they said they're going to leave the job. They were upset with some of the command structure and they said -- and I cautioned them. I said hey, if you don't like who you're working with -- and they weren't referring to me obviously because they wouldn't have told me. But -- and they -- I said if you're not happy then ask for a transfer because we had a system where you could put in the transfer card and go anywhere statewide, as long as there was an opening there. So I said use that route and leave where you're at because you're not getting along with the sergeant or the lieutenant or the captain. But don't give up your career because

of a misunderstanding. Transfer to another troop where you can do some good and you can take the knowledge you learned at this troop over to that troop and -- yes. So -- yes. And they'd say -- they'd listen to what I had to say and they did stay. So I felt that that was beneficial.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So looking back overall -- I mean, you were in so many different places...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...over your entire career. Was there one that you could say stood out as the best or the most favorable all of the places that you were?

MR. HANUS:

Well, I guess the last one, organizing the Crime Prevention Division, was a very good one. That stands out in my mind. And back when I was in Montoursville, a -- when I was a trooper, a sergeant that was assigned to the same bedroom as I was assigned to, he said -- he was a fire marshal and he said you know, he said I often felt that I did my best work when I was a trooper on the road. He said you weren't sidelined in to a

specific area that you could just work in that area. He says a trooper on the road -- on the road gets to move around, talk to many different people and spread information. And he said I often thought that being a trooper on the road, although it was at the bottom of the list from -- you could do the best work. And I would have to agree with him. That would be number two in my mind. And if I didn't -- wasn't in that Crime Prevention Division, then it would be number one. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. After you retired, were you given a party?

MR. HANUS:

Uh-uh. No. I was...

INTERVIEWER:

No?

MR. HANUS:

...kicked out the door, so -- no. We -- my boss, Major Donahue, he did not want a party. He didn't want a party. I retired like a month after he did. He didn't want a party. I didn't want a party. We just went like -- went in that direction. Some troops are good -- big for the parties. A, Greensburg, they would put on a party for everybody that retired in that year and they found that the interest wasn't there the way it used to be years ago, and so they

were considering doing away with it. But I know that Donahue and myself, we went out to Greensburg for one specific retirement ceremony that took place out there. But the interest wasn't there like it used to be.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And what kind of a pension did you receive? Do you feel that it was adequate?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, I do.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

I think it was -- and, you know, I went out and got another job to supplement that, but the retirement was pretty decent. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Did -- were you involved any -- say the Retirees' Association or do you go to any of the annual reunions or anything like that?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. I go to the functions. The one that's coming up now, you know, the 100th anniversary, my wife and I will be there and we've been to the others; the 75th and the 70th right on back. We went to all those. After I retired, Major Donahue and I would

often meet for breakfast, but in this area, the Harrisburg area I understand see they -- the men get together and have -- I mean a group of men, maybe five, six, seven, eight and have breakfast up at a certain restaurant and they get together periodically. Maybe -- I'm not sure how often it is; once a month, once every two months or whatever. Yes. But I didn't get -- I wasn't involved in that.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Not that I fought it. No. I -- and I often said that I should because I think it's a good idea. I just never availed myself to it.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So your contact with other retirees and other State Troopers since you've retired has dwindled or would you say you keep contact with several...

MR. HANUS:

No. It has dwindled. In my private job as a private investigator, I would run into the troopers on the road and meet them and exchange experiences, and that worked out very well. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

I have heard from other retirees that they feel that they aren't respected or honored quite as much as they would want to be by current young active-duty troopers. How do you feel about that? Is that -- do you -- have you experienced that?

MR. HANUS:

No. Whenever I met a trooper and I left him know who I was, I was always given the utmost respect. As a matter of fact, my family was instructed if you're ever out on the road with your car and you get involved in an accident or you have a problem -- say your tire goes flat or anything like that, don't worry about a garage. Pick up the phone and call the nearest State Police Station. You tell them who you are and what happened and they'll have somebody there to help you because the job is not like a job. It's more like a club, like a clique, so to speak. And it happened to me up on Interstate 80 when I was coming back from Ohio and a pheasant hit the windshield and my wife was sitting on that side and the glass just shattered all over the place and it's a good thing she was wearing glasses at the time because no glass went into her eyes. But I immediately went to the first roadside rest I could come to and called the nearest State Police Station and they said you just sit tight. We'll have somebody there. And they -- next thing you know, the -- they

came back over the radio and told me where to go and I said yeah, but it's five o'clock and these garages are going to be closed. He said don't worry about a thing. You just go where we're telling you to go and we got there. They were waiting.

INTERVIEWER:

Wow.

MR. HANUS:

Took us into the garage. They worked overtime to put that windshield in and everything went smoothly. Yeah. Our guys so to speak will help one another out and I've experienced it in -- at several times and that was the most prominent that comes to my mind. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. As an overall comment to your career, what kinds of -- what kind of a feeling could -- do you think you could put to an overall comment on your career as far as how you feel about how the entire career went and -- you know, everything from being promoted to the people you met to the jobs that you did. Can you kind of elaborate on that a little bit?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, yes. Everything was very positive all the way through. I didn't really have any negative parts. I don't know if I mentioned

the last time -- last session, but when I was promoted to corporal and sent back up to Mansfield and it was in the fall and Mansfield College was going to play a football game down in the park, and so they normally would march -- the band would come down through and then make the turn and go into the park. So I just was working so I went up to the -- uptown to help direct traffic to get them into the park. And I was standing out in the middle of the road and two local businessmen came up to me, shook my hand and said welcome back, you know. That really made me feel good. Thank about it. What other job would you have that somebody would come out in the middle of the street and welcome you back? You know, hardly any, but they did and they were sincere about it and it made me feel great because your job is halfway completed when you get the cooperation of the citizens and that was the -- behind the crime prevention program. To get the citizens behind you, your job is so going to be so much easier. So I've had -- everything was positive all the way. Never had any bad experiences. Everything went smooth, very smooth.

INTERVIEWER:

Good. Okay. Well, that's where we're going to stop for right now.

INTERVIEWER:

My name is Shelly Becker. I'm here with Retired Lieutenant Tom Hanus. We're at the Pennsylvania State Police Academy in Hershey, Pennsylvania and this is the Oral History Project. This is tape four in our series and it is the 10th of December 2004. So when we left off, we really have just done an overview of your career with the State Police, all of the different places that you've been, the different ranks and positions that you've held. I mean, it's been such a wide variety. But what we really haven't gone over I think are those little details that maybe you don't really think about on a day-to-day basis, but they're still part of the job. For instance, the uniform.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

So I think that's where we're going to start. When you entered into the training school, what did they issue to you to wear?

MR. HANUS:

Well, in here it was just strictly slacks and a shirt. But when we graduated from here and went out the field, we were issued -- they're called puttees. They're leather, come up below the knee and it was -- it opened up. There was a slit in them and they

opened up and the one came over the top of the other and there was a belt that went around them and then secured at the bottom and kept it in place. You wore them over shoes, more like a work shoe. And then what happened some of the men would buy boots, leather boots. You know, the riding boots because they were more comfortable to wear than the shoes with the puttees. The puttees, whether it's the puttees or the boots, the men always kept them shined. They were nice to look at. Matter of fact, speaking to ex-captain Jim O'Donnell (ph) yesterday on the phone and his comment was that he thought when they took away the puts and the boots and went with the long pants that it took away from the State Police. That those things were like a part of the department and you would remember them, whereas straight slacks, you know, didn't contribute anything to the uniform. But those puttees or riding boots did. Yes. I never purchased a pair of riding boots. I always wore the puttees and they were a hard leather, so as a result you could shine them and they really looked nice. Okay.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you find them comfortable?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. They didn't bother me, but they did bother some people.

INTERVIEWER:

So while you were still in the training school, you just wore a regular shoe, just -- your shoes or shoes that were issued to you?

MR. HANUS:

No. Shoes that were issued.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

And you wore a -- like a khaki slacks and a shirt. Usually the shirts were old State Police shirts. The old -- they were these faded blue shirts or whatever that they would issue that the men turned in. We wore those.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you wear any type of hat while you were training or...

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. It was -- had a peak on the front of it. It's more like a motorcycle cap.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And that's what we used.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And you wore the same uniform for cleaning the stables and running laps and everything that...

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

...you did? You wore...

MR. HANUS:

Everything. We wore that uniform. Yes. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Were you issued more than one so that if it got dirty, you could wear the other one?

MR. HANUS:

I'm pretty certain we were issued several pairs of slacks and several shirts, but I cannot recall how many.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. All right. So then once you became an enlisted...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...member of the State Police...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...and you went up to Montoursville...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...like you were saying you wore the puttees and the shoes and can you talk a little bit about the rest of your uniform?

MR. HANUS:

Well, the rest of the uniform was the standard State Police jacket. It was a kind of long, finger-length jacket. It was gray with black trim and the shirt was gray and then the coat was like a heavy gray overcoat. That's what we wore.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you recall the type of material that this was made of?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. I'm pretty certain it was all wool.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Was that your winter uniform or did you have a differentiation between winter...

MR. HANUS:

No. You had...

INTERVIEWER:

...and summer?

MR. HANUS:

The summer uniform, you did not wear the overcoat. It was just a -- like a summer shirt and the slacks and -- I mean the puttees with the boots.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Did you have any kind of a belt or anything that went with that?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. We all were issued a belt. The belt had a part that went over the shoulder and came down and met the other part of the belt and it would hold your holster, your gun and that was pretty much it.

INTERVIEWER:

Was that the sand brown belt? Is that what you're speaking of?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. The sand brown. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Now I have heard that that -- some men felt that that was fairly uncomfortable and stiff to wear. How did you feel about the sand...

MR. HANUS:

It didn't...

INTERVIEWER:

...brown belt?

MR. HANUS:

...bother me. It didn't bother me at all. No. It was okay.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Is this something that you wore every single day?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. We wore it every day. That was part of the uniform.

INTERVIEWER:

So when you were doing crime investigations, you didn't wear plain clothes at all?

MR. HANUS:

Well, remember I said back then that the trooper on the road wore the uniform and he didn't do crime investigations. The criminal man on station...

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

...wore civilian clothes and he did the criminal investigation. We wore the uniform and did the accident investigations in uniform.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And then when you were training people, when you were an instructor...

MR. HANUS:

No. When I was an instructor, that -- it was back to wearing the - - well, I'm trying to think if the long pants came in, in the meantime. I'm not sure. But the long pants were instituted somewhere in that period and then we -- and they said that many of the men had problems with their legs with those leather boots or leather puttees, so the department decided to just issue the long slacks and that was part of the -- that was the uniform. That and the shirt and then the overcoat.

INTERVIEWER:

So that was the only thing that changed for you while you were on the job? Your -- the -- that part of your uniform was the only thing that changed?

MR. HANUS:

Well, no. There was another part. As I said, we wore an overcoat...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and then the department came out with a nylon Eisenhower-type jacket to wear and we would wear that mainly in the fall and in the spring or in the summer if it -- there were cool days. And that was well received by the men and the only thing that wasn't well received that -- the men had always hoped -- it's too bad that when the department issued that that they didn't issue the jacket with a zip-in, zip-out lining because the men then for -- on cool nights and mornings, they ended up going out and buying vests, gray vests to kind of match the color with the other part of the uniform and they would wear a vest underneath that Eisenhower jacket for extra warmth, whereas if the jackets were purchased with the zip-in, zip-out lining, they wouldn't have had to do that. It would have -- everything would've been together. That was just a -- in my opinion a mistake that the department made. When they were instituting this uniform, they didn't think it out far enough.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So do you think that maybe they should have consulted the men as to...

MR. HANUS:

Oh...

INTERVIEWER:

...what to...

MR. HANUS:

...absolutely. I think that was the biggest mistake. They could've sent a uniform, the new -- I mean the new jacket out to the field and have like one for each troop and then have that troop send it out to each station and have it tried by men in the station and then have the men fill out a form which indicated the pluses and minuses of that new jacket, what they thought of it and how they liked it or disliked it and -- but that wasn't done and it was -- everything was done here in headquarters and did not put the men -- they should've been up front and asked the men what they thought before they were issued to everybody. Yes.

Absolutely.

INTERVIEWER:

So besides that though, do you remember anything else about the uniform that changed over time?

MR. HANUS:

No, just the uniform jacket and the shirt. Well -- no. Basically that was it. Pretty much it. When we were issued a -- the hat, it

was not the motorcycle-type hat that we wore in the Academy.

This was the regular State Police Stetson...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and that's what we wore out on the road. Yes. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Is that the only hat that you were issued then? Did you ever get the helmet to wear?

MR. HANUS:

No. No.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

No. I believe nobody was issued helmets unless they were going for riot duty or something like that. But you didn't wear a helmet out there on patrol. No. It was the Stetson.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And like I mentioned before, when you were teaching and instructing...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...you had to wear the uniform or were you allowed to wear a suit and tie?

MR. HANUS:

No. We wore a uniform. They wanted us to wear the uniform because -- to -- the image. Um-hum. Project the image of the State Police and the instructor, see.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

So we wore a uniform. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

So then the only time that you really didn't wear the uniform while you were working for the State Police was when you were at the Northwest Training Center Traffic School...

MR. HANUS:

Correct, and...

INTERVIEWER:

...(inaudible)?

MR. HANUS:

...of course while I was a criminal investigator up in Montoursville, then I was a criminal investigator from morning until night and we wore civilian clothes.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Can you talk a little bit about the types of weapons that you were issued?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. We were issued a 38-revolver, six-inch barrel, and that's what everyone was issued. The same weapon. There were often rifles or shotguns that were -- the men would take out from the station out on patrol and put in the car, but their main weapon was the revolver.

INTERVIEWER:

What else did you carry with you, other than the gun?

MR. HANUS:

Well, we all -- at that time we all carried a -- called a Blackjack. It's an item about this long and it -- and the end of it was weighed like it had lead in it or shot and it was flexible in the middle, and we carried that as a means of protection and also a long wooden nightstick. We carried that also.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you ever have the need to use any of those?

MR. HANUS:

Uh-uh. No. No. I honestly think it was the fact that the person you're taking into custody knows who you are, what you

represent and that you are -- you have access to the nightstick and also the Billy and they didn't -- usually did not assault you.

INTERVIEWER:

So was there -- by carrying those you had an intimidation factor?

MR. HANUS:

I would say so. I would say so.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you feel that the uniform represented that as well?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Um-hum. Yes. Um-hum. Yes, I do.

INTERVIEWER:

And along those same lines as with the uniform, what kinds of regulations were there for caring for your uniform to make sure that it always looked presentable?

MR. HANUS:

Well, you always had the sergeant on the station who was in charge and if you were going out on patrol and you weren't presentable, he'd tell you about it and you'd change. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

How did you care for your uniform?

MR. HANUS:

Well, you had it dry-cleaned. We'd take our uniforms home and send them to the dry-cleaners. Sometimes the men just had them dry-cleaned right there at the station.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh.

MR. HANUS:

The dry-cleaner would come to the station and you'd put an identification of some sort in the item and some of them already had it in and the dry-cleaner would take the uniforms right from the station and then bring them back and then you would pay accordingly. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

How often would you do that?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, probably at least once a week. Um-hum. Because you wear a uniform, you know, five days, six days a week, you know, it's going to get wrinkled and your wife would press them off, but then the cleaning was done by a cleaner. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And was this always one certain dry-cleaner that you would go to?

MR. HANUS:

No, it -- you could go to whichever one you like -- you wanted. It was your preference.

INTERVIEWER:

It just seems...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...that perhaps there was a risk involved in letting someone take the uniform when it could get lost and then someone could pose as a police officer.

MR. HANUS:

That was slim to none because the cleaner that you used was very reputable and there was no chance that that was going to happen. As I said, if it did it would be slim to none.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So that was never really a risk that you...

MR. HANUS:

No.

INTERVIEWER:

...considered...

MR. HANUS:

It was never really a problem.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Uh-uh.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. And -- so did you have a -- you had a weapon change however though in 1980. Correct?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Can you describe that?

MR. HANUS:

Well, the revolver -- instead of being a six-inch barrel and being a revolver where -- you know, the revolver has a round cylinder where the bullets are in. Does not -- we now were issued an automatic pistol in place of the revolver. Yes. And they were stainless steel.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And if I'm correct, that was a Colt 38. Is that right?

MR. HANUS:

Well, that's what we had before was a...

INTERVIEWER:

Oh. Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...Colt 38.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And then it was replaced by this automatic and I'm not sure what the -- what type that was.

INTERVIEWER:

357 Magnum. Is that right?

MR. HANUS:

I believe that might be it.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, okay. Did you require new special training to use that weapon or...

MR. HANUS:

No. But...

INTERVIEWER:

...what happened?

MR. HANUS:

...you had to qualify twice a year, so you went out to the range with the other men and you shot the revolver, the pistol to make sure you could qualify.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And if you didn't, well, then it was up to you to put in extra time so that you could qualify.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Now the uniform since it was issued to you, that was at no cost?

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And any supplements that you wanted to that like the vest that you mentioned, you needed to purchase that on your own.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

But how about if you needed to get uniform if it got damaged like there was a hole in it or if you lost it, needed to get it replaced;

was that up to you to provide that at your cost or did they just give that to you freely?

MR. HANUS:

They gave it to you freely. All you did was see the quartermaster who was stationed at the Troop Headquarters. So you'd just get permission to go in to see the quartermaster and take it. He'd replace it. Sometimes you didn't even have to go in. Say maybe somebody from headquarters was out visiting the station and you just turned the shirt or whatever it was into this sergeant and he turned it over to the guy that was out there visiting and they turned it in and brought you back a new one. It was not a big deal.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Did you need to get fitted then so it fit you perfectly? Did you get measured and that kind of thing?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. You were measured for your uniforms and they had the measurements and they would supply you with replacements, the slacks and shirts that closely resembled that. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. And did you wear the same size uniform throughout your entire career...

MR. HANUS:

No.

INTERVIEWER:

...then?

MR. HANUS:

No.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

No. I gained a little weight and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...there was a change there, but not much.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Okay.

MR. HANUS:

For instance I and many of the men had seams sewn into the shirts, three of them across the back and maybe two down the front. Well, you paid for that. You'd have that done on your own see because that wasn't...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...required, but instead of having your wife ironing in those seams all the time to make them look neat, you just had them sewn in. And then -- but when you did that then you had it done on your own.

INTERVIEWER:

And they didn't have a problem with you altering the uniform in that way?

MR. HANUS:

Well, no, because all you were doing is having a -- the seam, the pleat sewn in. That's all. Matter of fact, I just on TV a trooper the other night. He wasn't necessarily from State, Pennsylvania. It was some show and he was on and he had his -- I noticed that his back of his shirt had the pleats sewn in.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

So that's probably nationwide that men are doing that.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And after you retired, did you turn in your uniform then?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, you had to. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

You had to turn in your uniform. Everything, including the shoes, socks, the whole bit. Everything.

INTERVIEWER:

You were issued socks, as well?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. I think you got six pair a year, if I'm not mistaken. Three pair at a time. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And were those wool as well then?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. I -- there may have been cotton later on, but...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

I believe they were cotton.

INTERVIEWER:

Overall would you say that you thought that the uniform was comfortable?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. I had no problem with it at all.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And what did it represent for you?

MR. HANUS:

Well, it represented the State Police and, you know, you wore it and you wanted it to be neat and clean at all times because it's -- what it represented.

INTERVIEWER:

I mean, I guess -- I know that it represented the State Police, but...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...what kinds of feelings did it conjure or what types of emotions did it represent for you?

MR. HANUS:

Well, neatness, cleanliness, authority for starters say.

INTERVIEWER:

How about pride and honor...

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

...would you say?

MR. HANUS:

Absolutely. Absolutely.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Other types of things that the State Police provided for you to do your job better, things like your patrol car, for example; can you describe the patrol car that you used in Montoursville for your first station?

MR. HANUS:

Well, the only thing is the patrol cars were rotated around when you were assigned to a shift and the sergeant would put down the number of the patrol car. You went out and you used that. Well, somebody else had used it before you and then someone else was going to use it after you, and that continued. And sometimes some of the men wouldn't take care of the patrol car as well as other men and that's why I said when I -- I instituted the practice of trying to assign the men to the same patrol car all the time and that motivated the men to keep the vehicle up. And it worked because if someone else -- if something happened that

that was issued to another person and that person brought that vehicle in and there might be coffee cups inside the vehicle or other trash, right away that trooper would look to see who had it before him and he would make sure he brought it to his attention that that was not to happen again. Yes. The men took pride in the cars.

INTERVIEWER:

And you?

MR. HANUS:

Did I? Oh, absolutely. I feel responsible for that program. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

But as far as the car that you used when you began; what kind of car was that and what do you remember about that patrol car?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, it's been so long ago.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

I can't recall which vehicle it really was, but again we -- those cars were rotated. You may not use the same vehicle for three, four days.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Okay?

INTERVIEWER:

And the changes that the State Police implemented as far as those cars were concerned over the years, I mean it was a different car...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...again and again. So were you using a different car year after year?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, yeah. When...

INTERVIEWER:

(Inaudible)?

MR. HANUS:

...the cars reached a certain mileage, then they were taken in and taken -- put on the auction block to the -- taken to the state garage where they were auctioned off to the public. And then we would get new cars in place of them which were issued to the stations and replaced those cars. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you remember what the mileage was or what -- when that point was where they said okay, it's time to get another...

MR. HANUS:

I believe it was 50,000...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and that's when the -- that's when they were rotated.

INTERVIEWER:

That seems fairly low.

MR. HANUS:

Yes. I think so too, but, you know, back then in my opinion the vehicles were not up to par as they are today, so to speak.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And so at that time, they felt that that would be the proper time to rotate them. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And with as much driving that those cars are getting, it wouldn't take long for them to reach that.

MR. HANUS:

That's correct.

INTERVIEWER:

Did it?

MR. HANUS:

That is correct. And I'm not saying that they went in exactly at 50,000, you know...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...but that was the start of it. It would be 50, 60. Okay?

INTERVIEWER:

And what were your responsibilities as far as the car was concerned?

MR. HANUS:

You mean when you were assigned the car to drive?

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

Basically to keep it clean and not damage it. That was pretty much it.

INTERVIEWER:

Didn't have to care for it in any other way?

MR. HANUS:

No. We normally -- like on the station, we normally took the cars up to this gas station once a week and had them all washed.

Um-hum. And that was paid for by the department.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And oil changes and repairs and that kind of thing that wasn't something that you did?

MR. HANUS:

No. We did not do that on our own. The department paid for that. When it came time -- the rotation for oil change or tires, then the -- you took it into the garage and they changed them for you and replaced it with new stuff, new equipment.

INTERVIEWER:

Were you responsible to report that information to them like you had a log that you kept, the miles that you drove and...

MR. HANUS:

Oh, every day when you'd come in off of patrol, you put down the mileage that was -- the stop for that vehicle where you ended, and so the supervisors, the corporal or the sergeant would look

at that sheet and it -- and they could see where that vehicle was as far as being replaced or...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...other service to be done to it.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Do you recall caring for any other type of vehicles or using any other type of vehicles while you were with the State Police?

MR. HANUS:

When I was at Rockview, we had a van that was assigned to the station that they used to use for surveillance or radar, but that was assigned to the station and not to a man.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

So the motorcycle -- did you ever drive a motorcycle?

MR. HANUS:

No. Uh-uh.

INTERVIEWER:

No?

MR. HANUS:

No.

INTERVIEWER:

Helicopter? No.

MR. HANUS:

No. I rode in one, but...

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

...that was -- I rode in the helicopter when the helicopter came up to Rockview to patrol the interstate or patrol anywhere and so I went with the pilot and went up and we patrolled with the -- or with the helicopter and an interesting thing happened. As we were flying down the interstate highway, all of a sudden I hear this noise coming and this military jet flies under us. Now you realize that, you know, huge airplanes fly high and smaller planes lower and lower and lower, and helicopters really flow low.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

Well, this jet flew under us and I looked down through the windows and I could see the smile on the pilot's face. That was a little scary. But he -- they were out in New Jersey and they were up into that area and they were practicing running the mountains.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

Staying close to the terrain.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And that's what they were doing at the time and we were up there at the same time and I mean, I -- it was a fun thing then.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So this was probably when using a helicopter for patrolling a highway, using radar was fairly new.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

How effective do you think that was for patrolling?

MR. HANUS:

Well, I thought it was very effective, especially for speed control because we did tabulate quite a few arrests that way because the motorists on the road couldn't see you. We were up high. They couldn't see you and we would fly over and then there were markings on the highway and you would -- the man that was doing the speed control, he would note when the car down there ran over the one mark on the highway and then when he ran over the second mark on the highway and they were a certain distance apart. And so using calculation, you could tell exactly how fast that vehicle was going, and then we would call down to the other patrols that were down there in the distant (sic) and they would wait for that vehicle to come by and they were pulled over and then arrested.

INTERVIEWER:

So you weren't using radar up in the helicopter then?

MR. HANUS:

No. No. Radar was used by the other patrol cars.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

But I don't recall ever using radar in the helicopter. I mean, maybe it was someplace. You know, I would not argue that point. But it wasn't used where I was.

INTERVIEWER:

Was there one helicopter per station or how many helicopters...

MR. HANUS:

No, no. There was...

INTERVIEWER:

...did you have?

MR. HANUS:

Helicopter that came up to Rockview came out of Harrisburg or Montoursville, so there were the two helicopter airports in our area. So they would be assigned to come up to us or wherever and we knew when they were coming and then we would have men assigned to patrol with the helicopter on that given date.

INTERVIEWER:

I'm sure that that was a very desirable assignment. Would you say?

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. It was and -- but, you know, when you're -- or the helicopter would come up or the plane and when you'd take a fixed-wing airplane and he's flying circles, you know, and you're

sitting there in the seat and you're kind of looking down and he's flying these big circles, well, after a while, you know, it gets a little nauseating. I know it did for me.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

I didn't regurgitate or anything, but it wasn't the nicest feeling.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But I think the men that were assigned to that duty got used to it and could handle it.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Now when you're in your patrol car, can you talk about the types of communication devices that were available to you then?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. We simply had just the radio that we could communicate back to the base station or to other vehicles and that was pretty much it. Not like it is today where it's very specific and -- but back then, you could just call out to the base station or call out to another vehicle and you'd pass the message on.

INTERVIEWER:

And how would they get a hold of you?

MR. HANUS:

Same way. Over the radio. They would just call your number and...

INTERVIEWER:

So it was a two-way radio?

MR. HANUS:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

You used a two-way?

MR. HANUS:

Two-way radio.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. Yes, it was.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And did you also use the teletype machine back at the station?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Um-hum. Yeah. We -- the old fashioned teletype machine, but that's what we used to communicate with headquarters or another station. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And did you have a chance to patrol with the radar as well or was that something that you didn't...

MR. HANUS:

Well, by that time, I was a lieutenant and, I mean, I didn't actually do the radar patrol. I rode -- I would ride with the men to see what was going on and how they were handling it and...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

In a supervisory position. But the troopers were always assigned as the radar operator.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. And how do you feel about that change? Do you think that's a positive change for the State Police then?

MR. HANUS:

What? For the radar?

INTERVIEWER:

For -- these changes in communication systems and...

MR. HANUS:

Oh, yes.

INTERVIEWER:

...technology?

MR. HANUS:

Absolutely. Sure.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. Yes. Much -- yeah. Way back when, the communication wasn't very good, especially up in the mountainous terrain or Mansfield, Montoursville. You know, you'd get blocked by the hills and the valleys, so you did not have the communication that you desired.

INTERVIEWER:

And what would you do to overcome that then if you didn't...

MR. HANUS:

You just go to a hill -- top of a hill and...

INTERVIEWER:

Right.

MR. HANUS:

...radar -- or call in again. So...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

After a while being in that area, you got to know the dead spots. So when you were going to use the radio, you would stay out of those dead spots and find a hill and call from there, see.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. You know, since we're kind of talking a little bit about changes that the State Police have undergone over time, one of those things -- one of the major things was in 1963, they allowed married men to join the State Police.

MR. HANUS:

Okay.

INTERVIEWER:

And how do you feel about that change?

MR. HANUS:

Well, I guess it's working out all right. Before that, you had to be single for two years...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and, you know, at that time, I abided by it, but I wasn't very happy about it because I just got married and had to wait for two

years -- or I mean I was on the job and I had to wait for two years to get married. So I wasn't really pleased with that rule, but you abided by it because that's what the rule was. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

So do you think that made a big difference then...

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. I think...

INTERVIEWER:

...though with...

MR. HANUS:

Yes. I think so. But...

INTERVIEWER:

In what way?

MR. HANUS:

Well, the men could get married sooner and when they'd get married sooner then the woman was moving up to where the man was stationed and of course he's going to work right from his house instead of from some long distance. For two years, I lived in Plymouth, Luzerne County and drove up to Montoursville or Mansfield for patrol and that was quite a distance.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. So you think there's a difference in the morale or the camaraderie that happened though over that change between the men -- between the State Policemen?

MR. HANUS:

I don't know. Some of the old timers said that the job was better back then than it -- than with the new changes.

INTERVIEWER:

How do you feel about that though?

MR. HANUS:

No. I don't see anything wrong with the changes. I'm...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

You know, allowed to married sooner and it -- I don't think it had any effect on the moral of the State Police, you know.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. Well, there were also a couple of incidents that happened, major incidents that the police -- State Police were involved in. Just want to see...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...what you knew of them and perhaps if you had any involvement in them. There was one in the 1966 called Shade Gap. Do you remember that and can you...

MR. HANUS:

Yes, I do.

INTERVIEWER:

...say something about that?

MR. HANUS:

Well, I was not involved in it, but that was a case of -- where this young girl was abducted by a so-called mountain man who lived in the area and he lived up in the mountains and he abducted her and took her up to a cabin or wherever he lived. And then the FBI and the State Police and everybody was mobilized and went out to hunt for this -- and he was finally caught.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. There was a book written about it and I believe there was a movie made on that deal. I know the sergeant that was in charge of that station out there wrote a book about the incident.

INTERVIEWER:

And were you involved in any criminal investigations or anything similar to that though?

MR. HANUS:

No. I was -- my criminal investigations were the routine burglary; house burglary, cabin burglary. That type of stuff.

INTERVIEWER:

You never worked on a murder case at all?

MR. HANUS:

No. Uh-uh. No.

INTERVIEWER:

No?

MR. HANUS:

Uh-uh.

INTERVIEWER:

Why do you think that is?

MR. HANUS:

Well, I think it was because we had regular -- well, we had regular criminal investigators, but then when I went into the crime office, there were also senior criminal investigators in (inaudible) and I went in as a pup, so to speak. I was one of the two young guys in the office, so anything of that nature would've been assigned to one of the older criminal investigators.

INTERVIEWER:

So perhaps you just didn't stick around long enough in the criminal investigation...

MR. HANUS:

Then I got promoted to...

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. HANUS:

...corporal.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And then when you get promoted to corporal, I was promoted to another station and then I went on up from there, see.

INTERVIEWER:

Now it seems like every time you got promoted, you then were transferred.

MR. HANUS:

It appears that way. Yes. Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And why is that?

MR. HANUS:

Well, that's where the opening was. You had to go where the opening was. You didn't have to take the promotion. Now in Montoursville Troop, I took the promotion in the troop, but then the opening for corporal was up in Mansfield and so I was sent up there. And then what happened is the opening -- six months later, the opening occurred in Milton, so I was transferred from Mansfield down to Milton. But when I made sergeant, the opening was out in Greensburg, so I could either accept it out at Greensburg or any other station where there was an opening or pass. But if you -- you risked that if you passed a couple times, then the list would so-called run out. You know, the year would be up and then you wouldn't get promoted. It would just bypass you. So I accepted the promotion and the transfer.

INTERVIEWER:

So it was impossible to just be promoted and stay in the same place. You had to move?

MR. HANUS:

Not really. No. Some men were lucky. Some men got promoted and stayed right there because that's where the opening was or at least that troop -- they were in that troop and they moved to another station within that troop, which is like what happened to me when I went from trooper to corporal. The

opening was at another station, but it was still in Montoursville Troop. But then when I went for sergeant, the opening was out at -- there was only three openings at that time. One was out I think in Greensburg. One was up in -- or down in Washington and the other one was I think up in Erie Troop and I took the one in Greensburg.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you think that because of that that makes promotions almost somewhat undesirable because you have to move?

MR. HANUS:

To a point, you're right. But again you didn't have to accept it. If you want to -- a lot of men did not take the promotion. They preferred to stay right where they were at, even if it meant staying a trooper their entire career and that's what many men did. Some of the men -- now my wife was a registered nurse and she worked at the hospital, but she was willing to pick up stakes and move with me. But I understand that in some instances, the women did not want to move. They just wanted to stay where they were. They had a good job and they didn't care, so the husband didn't accept the promotion. He just stayed where he was as a trooper or corporal or whatever.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Does that make sense to you?

INTERVIEWER:

Was your wife able to find work every place that you went?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. Being a registered nurse, she was.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

They needed nurses all over wherever we went. So she...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...had a occupation that was wanted.

INTERVIEWER:

Did the State Police -- every time you were promoted and had to move, did they do anything for you that made that a little bit easier? Help you -- help allay those moving costs or anything like that?

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. Well, if you got promoted, then the moving costs were on the state. State Police paid for those.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But if you put in a card to be transferred on your own, then you paid for that move.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

So when I got promoted and went to Greensburg or when I got promoted and I went up to Mansfield, they would've paid for that move, but I did -- my family did not move to Mansfield as a corporal. They stayed right there in Montoursville and I did the commuting up to the station.

INTERVIEWER:

What kinds of pay raises went along with your promotion?

MR. HANUS:

They were basically five percent.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, okay.

MR. HANUS:

Not much, but...

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. Now I know that you -- when you were in the training school -- we're going to kind of shift gears here. You had to take care of the horses and learn how to ride a horse.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

But did you say that you did not have any involvement in the rodeo? Is that right?

MR. HANUS:

No, I did not. I wasn't good enough...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...to be honest with you. Some of the men were very good. Motorcycle riders are very good horsemen and they were the men that were selected for the rodeo.

INTERVIEWER:

But did you watch a rodeo?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. What did you think about it?

MR. HANUS:

I thought it was great. I thought it was really something. I know the public thought it was fantastic. An incident when I was at -- when I was stationed out in Milton and the rodeo -- I honestly don't think it's a cold. I really don't. I think it's something else.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

Sorry.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

When -- can I continue?

INTERVIEWER:

Yes. Absolutely.

MR. HANUS:

When I was in Milton, the rodeo -- it used to move around from location to location. It was scheduled to be held at Bucknell University stadium there on Route 15 at Lewisburg. So as many men as we could we would have out there directing traffic, both on Route 15 and over on Route 14, and I know I was directing traffic there and so we were moving all the cars that were going to make a -- going north, the cars that were going to make a right

turn to go into the stadium, we were moving them over to the right lane and those that were going straight north, we moved them into the left lane. Well, we moved this man into the right lane and he comes on down and so naturally when he gets to the stadium, the trooper down there turns him inside. So he goes into the stadium. So then he runs into me. I went down there and he saw me, flagged me down and he wanted to know how do I get out of here. You know, he said I didn't want to come into this stadium. He said I'm going -- we're coming from Florida. We're going to New York State. We're on vacation. What's this all about? I said oh, it's the State Police rodeo. I said fantastic show. I said you've heard of the Canadian Mounted Police and the show they put on. I said well, this equals that. And I looked and I said I see you have several children in the car. Yeah. I said well, they're going to love it. I said why don't you just stay in here? Just -- I said it's only going to be like two hours. You know, I said it -- probably be the highlight of your trip. And he said well, okay. If you say so. So he -- they stayed and again when the show was over, he was coming out. He looked me up and thanked me.

INTERVIEWER:

Wow. Good.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah. He says everybody loved the show, and they did. It was a good show.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And what do you think that the rodeo represented to the State Police?

MR. HANUS:

I personally think that what it showed the public was that here the State Police can do this. They can ride horses. They can ride motorcycles. They can shoot straight. You know, all of these things were incorporated in the rodeo and so it added to the prestige of the department and I believe that that's what it was all about. It was a -- in addition to that, it was a fundraiser because the money that was collected went to the State Police Retirement Fund. But for the most part, it added to the prestige of the State Police. And we had some guys that could, I mean, stand on their hands on a riding horse. You know, go down the field standing on their hands and make a turn and come back and the same way on a motorcycle. Guys that would do the same things standing on the seat of a motorcycle with their legs up in the air and they're riding this machine from one corner of the stadium down to the other. Then there was another show

where they would start out with motorcycles coming from the four corners so that'd it be four, four, four and four and they would meet in the middle. And so you have all these motorcycles meeting in the middle and crisscrossing and I mean the people used to go wild, you know, just to see this because it looks like there was going to be one big accident, but it never happened.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. Perhaps also do you think that the rodeo kind of showed the lighter side of the State Police? That maybe they felt like they didn't want the public to only see how they were constantly coming down and, you know, enforcing the law, enforcing the law and here's this lighter side? Do you think that that...

MR. HANUS:

Oh, I think that...

INTERVIEWER:

...(inaudible)?

MR. HANUS:

...had a -- was a big part of it.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

Yeah, because they had State Policemen out there dressed as clowns and they'd put on a clown show. Trick shooting -- clowns would be doing trick shooting or any number of things like that. But it did show the lighter side of the State Police and it was a good show. There was no doubt about it and the public got in free. The money was raised through advertising in these yearly books. But the public just walked in and walked out. There was no cost to go to the show.

INTERVIEWER:

So that ended in 1974...

MR. HANUS:

Okay.

INTERVIEWER:

...and how do you feel about the change -- or do you feel that there was a change that occurred in the public's eye since the rodeo has ended concerning the State Police and their -- the -- how the public views the State Police?

MR. HANUS:

I don't know. There had to be some change. Do you follow me?

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

I would think that the public missed the rodeo, you know, when it didn't come back anymore. But to what extent, I'm not sure, you know, unless they were questioned and asked.

INTERVIEWER:

And just as far as like I said with this lighter side as far as that's concerned...

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

...where is that now with the State Police? After the rodeo ended, how do you think that that lighter side came out? Did it come (inaudible) or did it?

MR. HANUS:

Well, I don't believe it was replaced by anything. It just went back to the way -- to the serious part of it. There was no fun and games anymore, so to speak.

INTERVIEWER:

And how do you feel about that? I mean, what...

MR. HANUS:

Well, I always liked the rodeo. I always thought it had a lot of pluses.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

But I do know for sure -- see going out to Northwestern Traffic Institute, when you're out there, students have to -- are assigned to go to another police -- another department and do a study in that department for a week and then come back and write out a big report. It is my understanding that State Policemen or the City Policemen that came to the Academy seeing this rodeo and seeing that -- how there were so many men taken off of the road in the -- during the summer months to perform in this rodeo, they questioned the benefits of it. Seeing that there are X number of troopers coming off the road to be in the rodeo when maybe they should've been out on the road patrolling. You follow me? So I think that that's what happened for several years. These evaluations were conducted by policemen from other states that never had a rodeo and came here and saw what was going on and questioned the validity of it and the benefits of it and wrote up their report and I -- so I think that finally what happened, the heads of the State Police Department decided that well, maybe we are taking too many men off the road at a critical time. Now keep in mind, that's my opinion. I didn't get that from anybody. I didn't get that from the front office or anyone say well, this is the

reason we stopped the rodeo. No. No. That's just from my observations, which could be totally wrong.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you think that maybe there was a jealousy factor involved there? They saw how much fun the State Police were having and their State Police weren't maybe. (Inaudible)?

MR. HANUS:

I don't think so because I think the way policemen are if they saw something beneficial at another department, they would have ran back to their department and say hey, we ought to do that. It's working over at Pennsylvania and they're doing well with it and they've got the public support for this rodeo and it's going over big. I think we ought to do the same. I think that's what would've gone back to their superiors. Okay?

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

No. I don't think the jealousy would've come into it. I think they would've indicated that it was a good thing that way but that it was not a good thing in that it took all these men off the road.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

And I did hear that aspect of it from the students at Northwestern who did -- who were assigned to come to Pennsylvania and study the Pennsylvania State Police. When they got back into the classroom setting, they would approach us and ask us about this. So we knew where they were coming from, see. So that did not -- again did not come out of the front office. That came -- feedback from those men that were assigned here and they went back to the school after this week's evaluation was over with and we found that out.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum. And when you went and visited another State Police (inaudible)?

MR. HANUS:

Yes. I went to New York State Police.

INTERVIEWER:

Right. And what kinds of differences did you see then?

MR. HANUS:

Not many because they -- you know, they formed their department after ours.

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

See we were the first and then they followed suit...

INTERVIEWER:

Um-hum.

MR. HANUS:

...and they formed their department after what they saw in Pennsylvania and what we were doing. So there wasn't much of a drop-off there and they got along -- when we went up there, we were treated very good because they liked the Pennsylvania State Police. As I said, they were here. They saw what we were doing and they wanted to do the same and so everything went smoothly.

INTERVIEWER:

So because they were so similar, what were you able to learn from them and take away from that?

MR. HANUS:

Oh, just little minor changes that they were doing that we weren't doing. We were using radar. They were using vascar(ph). That's another speed device. Just small changes like that. Nothing big.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Well, to finish up here, I just kind of want you to touch on the Commissioners a little bit.

MR. HANUS:

Um-hum.

INTERVIEWER:

And first of all, were there any that stood out in your mind that perhaps you met them, you had contact with them one on one; anything like that?

MR. HANUS:

I think the one that stood out the most back -- was Purdy who came in from I guess Florida and I think it was Governor Scranton that brought him in. And see he was something different. He was not an inbred State Policeman who became Commissioner. He was brought in from another state and so he had different ideas and some of his ideas were pretty good and we says well, hey wait a minute. This must be okay. You know, if he saw it work somewhere else and he's bringing the ideas into here, maybe we were a little backward all that time. And so I thought Purdy was the biggest change.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. HANUS:

The other Commissioners were kind of doing little tiny little steps upward, but he came in and he was a big change. Big change. Think about it. He said in the past they said the job came first and your family came second. Where -- from this day forward, your family comes first because without your family, you don't need this job.

INTERVIEWER:

Now I know that you've told me before about something that your son did for school. Can you describe that for the record?

MR. HANUS:

Well, attending Northwestern, then every year they had a retraining seminar at a different city, and so we -- my -- the whole family would go. And the one time we went down to Alabama and you would go down there for like three, four days and then at the end, there was a banquet. And so we were down there and so we came in for the banquet and the -- we were told that the Governor of the State of Alabama, George Wallace, was invited to attend the banquet, but they doubted he would make it because there was a governor's conference in Pennsylvania and they felt that that's where he would be going. Well, low and behold, we're at the table and who walks in but -- or who was wheeled in because he was in a wheelchair was Governor

Wallace and his aid spoke up and said if anyone wishes to come up and meet the governor, you can do so. Well, everybody went up. They walked across the front of his table and he shook hands with everyone. And then when that was done, he looked in the back and he saw through the glass doors our children swimming out in the pool with towels wrapped around them, soaking wet and the whole bit. And he told his aid bring the kids in. They all came in and shook his hand. I mean it was really a moment to remember and he was very humorous and he told some pretty good jokes and keep everybody on the edge of their seat and paying attention. Yes. It was a -- and so after that, my son went to Dickinson College and had to write a paper on the most notable experience that he ever had and that's what he wrote. That's -- so it had that effect on him and it had that effect on me. So Northwestern University Traffic Institute was great not only for the nine months that you were there for the learning but for the yearly seminars that you could go to and you weren't - it wasn't a must. You -- if you wanted to go, you went. If you didn't -- so that -- there was a lot of education right there going to various cities and having this week-long training seminar going.

