

HISTORICAL MEMORIAL CENTER

Pennsylvania State Police

Oral History Interview of:

Corporal Edward Singer

MR. SINGER:

...a number of camps and then in Europe for over a year.

INTERVIEWER:

All right. You graduated from high school in Sharon, then?

MR. SINGER:

After I come out of the service, I returned to school, and I went to -- for two classes during the day, and I worked midnight to 8:00 at the Westinghouse in Sharon until I got my diploma.

INTERVIEWER:

So, you graduated what year, then?

MR. SINGER:

That would be in '46.

INTERVIEWER:

'46? Is there any other members of your family? Brothers?
Sisters?

MR. SINGER:

I have a brother that's six years older than me, but he is deceased. My parents are deceased, so I'm the only one out of the four of us left.

INTERVIEWER:

After you came out of the military, what drew your attention to the State Police? What...

MR. SINGER:

I have a quick story for that. when I was in the sixth or seventh grade at St. Joseph's School in Sharon, the priest came to the house and asked my parents if I could -- I lived in the 600 block of Stambaugh Avenue [ph], and he asked my parents if I could stop at the State Police barracks on Stambaugh Avenue, which is about 100th block, and pick up a young boy that was going into the first grade. When I went to the barracks or -- it was a big house, the corporal was Corporal McGill [ph], and his wife was a housekeeper and cooked the meals. And I had taken his son, his name was Corky [ph], to and from school for over a year and a half. I'd eat there sometimes, sandwich a glass of milk. And in the evenings, I'd go to the -- after school, I'd watch the State Police clean their motorcycles, their cars, which I kind of remember, I think, were 1937 cars. After I left for the service, I come back and come on the job, and I was working the turnpike. And I think I fouled up. So, who come down to investigate me was a Sergeant McGill. And I asked if he remembered me, and he said, "No." He reminisced for a while, and he remembered. And I made a mistake, and I says, "How's your boy Corky?" And I learned that he was killed in the Korean War. So, from that

time on, I always thought about becoming a State Policeman, which I did.

INTERVIEWER:

Well, that was your initial State Police contact...

MR. SINGER:

Yes, sir.

INTERVIEWER:

...Corky, and then did you enter the State Police shortly after that?

MR. SINGER:

The chief of police of Sharon, Bill Stewart [ph], who has passed away, sent me up to the first sergeant, who lived in Mercer, PA. He later became a captain. And his recommendation to me was, "Go back to school. Get your diploma," which I did. I went back up to see him, and he had an application for me, and I filled it out and sent it in.

INTERVIEWER:

So, when did you first receive notification that you were accepted then?

MR. SINGER:

I received the notification in July of '47; however, I had to go to 21st and Herr in Harrisburg for a physical. And I was interviewed

by the commission and Lieutenant Colonel Mach [ph]. And on the 1st of August, '47, I was accepted. The next day, we started training.

INTERVIEWER:

Where did you train at?

MR. SINGER:

We trained at 21st and Herr in Harrisburg. We had a dorm upstairs, and there was 31 of us that started out on August, it would be the 2nd, more or less, the 1st or the 2nd of '47. And we had teachers like -- one was -- became deputy commissioner, who was Dalstrum [ph]. And we had First Sergeant Krum [ph], who was from -- was buried at -- I've seen his tombstone in Derry, PA. And later on became the captain with -- Bill Hennings [ph], and I spent six months at 21st and Herr.

INTERVIEWER:

Now, when you first entered, the comments -- did you get any comments from family, like parents, as to what their thoughts were about this?

MR. SINGER:

Well, my mother was very disturbed. My father just shook his head after I found -- after I explained to him what the pay was going to be, he couldn't understand why I left a \$78-a-week job,

never paid any board, and then -- I made more money under the GI bill for the six months at the training school than when I came to Harrisburg -- or Greensburg when I got my first paycheck without the GI bill. Every two weeks, I got \$66 a week. I had a bed, a closet, a dresser, with a dining room downstairs. And the food was excellent.

INTERVIEWER:

What did they refer to you when you were in the training school? Cadets? Or trainees? Or what?

MR. SINGER:

Cadets.

INTERVIEWER:

Cadets? Did you deal with a first sergeant at that time?

MR. SINGER:

The first sergeant was Sergeant Krum. He was a teacher, also.

INTERVIEWER:

How about Fontana [ph]?

MR. SINGER:

Fontana was the first sergeant when I came to Greensburg.

Eugene, I believe, he was -- later on became a lieutenant then a captain.

INTERVIEWER:

You said you -- to back up a little bit. There was 31 of you that went into the training. How many of you came out?

MR. SINGER:

Thirty-one graduated, but in the first, excuse me, three or four years, they kept dropping out and dropping out. In fact, two dropped out two days after we graduated. When I retired, there was four left, and they retired right after me.

INTERVIEWER:

What subjects and skills were you taught when you were at 21st and Herr and then when you came in at...

MR. SINGER:

Well, in 21st and Herr was the criminal, traffic, first aid, and that's about it. A lot of criminal and a lot of traffic.

INTERVIEWER:

How about the uniforms at that time and...

MR. SINGER:

Well, we had to -- we trained at -- we were issued khakis, pants, shirt. Use your own jacket for the running outside. And then eventually, we were issued a State Police uniform. I might add to that that the uniform we were issued were britches, puttees, and they were winter and summer. They were heavy, but we

never got summer uniforms for -- I think I had around nine or ten years on the job before they issued summer uniforms.

INTERVIEWER:

In that part of the training, did it include the horses? And did you participate in the rodeo or...

MR. SINGER:

I did not participate in the rodeo, however, there was no horses, there was no motorcycles at 21st and Herr. But, when I arrived in Greensburg on the 31st of January, '48, they had six horses and about four motorcycles, and that's where I was trained with the horses.

INTERVIEWER:

At Greensburg?

MR. SINGER:

At Greensburg. The first time they trained me with the motorcycle, I got confused, took it over an embankment, smashed the brand new Indian, and fractured my pelvis. I wore a brace for a year. But they never asked me again to ride the motorcycle.

INTERVIEWER:

There was a -- there wasn't a probationary period or a coach-bugle period back then where...

MR. SINGER:

No. No, there was -- you rode with -- mostly, when I got to Greensburg and the last two or three months in Harrisburg, you rode with a senior officer. He was the, what they call today, coach, and you were the student. But the -- it was up to the first sergeant who you rode with. The older man maybe had 19, 20 years on, and you just sat there and listened.

INTERVIEWER:

After you got assigned to Greensburg, where were you stationed, and where did you stay at these different locations?

MR. SINGER:

In -- I arrived there and -- like I -- repeating myself in '48. I was stationed there for about a year and a half. Then, I went to New Kensington, right in New Kensington, PA, for about a year. And then I come back to Greensburg, and then I was transferred to Washington Boulevard, Pittsburgh. That was under Troop A then as a garage inspector. I stayed there for about six months, and then I returned to Greensburg and stayed there until my retirement.

INTERVIEWER:

What were some of the career highlights that you had with the State Police, as far as major investigations and the people, the commissioners, you worked for and so forth?

MR. SINGER:

I worked for Colonel Wilhiem [ph] as a commissioner through 12 commissioners. I did mostly traffic for a while, and then I went on the garage inspector for about three and a half years. And then, I went on a criminal detail. I investigated three murders, solved two, and then, from there, I went to the fire marshal as an assistant full time and then back to radar. And then, in the '70s, I was put in charge of the Troop A vice detail where we had four counties to work, Westmoreland, Indiana, Cambria, and Somerset.

INTERVIEWER:

Let's jump back for a minute to the initial salary when you went into the State Police. As you were single, then, did it graduate when you got married, et cetera?

MR. SINGER:

When I received my first paycheck, as I stated before, from Harrisburg, the paycheck was for \$66. That did not include hospitalization. You paid your own. But you ate good. I was on the third floor of the old barracks: bed, closet, and dresser. And

then, after three years, you were permitted to get married. You had to be single to come on the job, 20/20 eyes, height equivalent to your weight, no tattoos. So, after three years, I submitted a letter to be married, and someone in the barracks would go investigate your future wife to see if she came from a respected family. Then, after you got married, we all welcomed the, what they called, subsistence, which give you approximately \$100 a month that you could live on with your wife. And I...

INTERVIEWER:

So, you got married when?

MR. SINGER:

I got married October the 21st, 1950.

INTERVIEWER:

And who did you marry?

MR. SINGER:

I married a girl by the name of Teresa Joyce, J-o-y-c-e, from Wall, PA. That's in Allegheny County, not far from East McKeesport. I think why -- her father was the chief of police of Wall, but there was only one policeman. That was him.

INTERVIEWER:

After you were...

MR. SINGER:

Excuse me.

INTERVIEWER:

...married and were working, did you have that much time off to spend with your wife at home or...

MR. SINGER:

Well, I -- usually, at the -- when I first came to Greensburg, it was mostly midnight to 8:00 and 4:00 to 12:00. We were thankful for midnight to 8:00, because we'd finish up Friday morning at 8:00, we hoped, and we would not have to come back to the barracks until 3:00 Monday afternoon. So, I worked mostly midnight to 8:00, 3:00 to 11:00, 4:00 to 12:00, and very little daylight.

INTERVIEWER:

What was your mode of communications and transportation at that time with the State Police?

MR. SINGER:

We had radios. We had very poor, poor vehicles. The tires weren't the best. The cars would run 100,000 miles before they traded them in. It's a difference, as I see on the highway today, all new cars. We never had, what we call, a bubble machine on the top. For a siren, you had a doorbell button on the steering column. So, you pushed the button and steered the vehicle with

the other hand when you pulled someone over. They've come a long, long way. A long way.

INTERVIEWER:

So, you didn't have the best of equipment, basically, back then?

MR. SINGER:

No, no, not at all, compared to some of the police departments that were local. They had better equipment than we did, back then.

INTERVIEWER:

How many days off a week did you get?

MR. SINGER:

Well, we were very fortunate. We got one day a week, and you were fortunate when you had the night before off, so you had a night before and one day. So living in Sharon, which is about 90-some miles from Greensburg with no car, I mostly stayed at the barracks. Cars were hard to get, new ones.

INTERVIEWER:

How long did it take you before you were able to get transportation?

MR. SINGER:

I was fortunate. September of 1948 I bought a new Plymouth, so I went from August the 1st of '47 until September, which is over a year, without a vehicle.

INTERVIEWER:

What was the impact as far as on your family life? Did you have children yet or did the...

MR. SINGER:

In 1952, the first child was born, the oldest, which is Edward. And lo and behold, on March 21, a year later, the same date, I had a daughter, Marie, and went on in -- a son in '54 by the name of James, and then on three, so I had four boys and two girls, my wife did, rather.

INTERVIEWER:

You mentioned the uniforms before and the issue, and you said it was a good while before you ever were issued summer uniforms.

MR. SINGER:

Oh, it was a -- it was quite some time. I can remember when they marked on their roster "white line detail". That meant you followed the paint truck either behind or down on -- where the flags were being put on the road. And with the heat coming out of the concrete and no air conditioning, even the windows down,

with a winter uniform on, it was very, very hot. No straw hats then. And later on, we received straw hats in replacement of the campaign hat.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you ever get in any -- involved in any high-profile investigations, murder...

MR. SINGER:

I had a murder right here in Jeanette where a girl's boyfriend stabbed her mother to death. I had one in Mt. Pleasant where one young boy stabbed an older man. Solved both of them. And another one, we were -- I found a skeleton. I gave the -- I had the wife take three lie detector tests, excuse me, but she passed with flying colors, but I believe it didn't truly come out right. But I never solved it.

INTERVIEWER:

What about the -- I know we talked about the cars and -- what kind of weapon did you carry?

MR. SINGER:

I carried a six-inch .38 Colt.

INTERVIEWER:

And was that the gun of -- that everyone -- or revolver one carried?

MR. SINGER:

Everyone carried the same weapon, and of course, you had access to machine guns, rifles. I can remember the rifle was a Craig. I don't know if it came from World War I or not, but it was old. But it answered the purpose.

INTERVIEWER:

Back to the -- let's back up a little bit and go back to the horses. Did you have any kind of detail in regard to taking care of those horses?

MR. SINGER:

I believe I spent my first five months either outside guard, that's midnight to 8:00, that's where you feed the horses, and I never knew they slept standing up, and take the ashes out of the furnace, wash four or five cars, pack your lunch. You'd find it outside the kitchen door. And then in the morning, you'd call out the roll call. You'd go into the stables, and you'd groom the horses and then take them over to a clean stall, clean the old dirty stall out, and then come back in the afternoon, around 4:00, and do the same thing again. I can remember one time I rather fouled up. I left the corral gate open, and when that first sergeant came into that kitchen and the dining room, here the horses went down over the hill to the red light, ate all the

people's gardens, flowers. Well, then, I was back on midnight, outside guard, again for a few months. And finally, I got to ride a patrol. But when you foul up, they disciplined you very, very strongly. I've seen a couple court martials, and they deserved what they got. They were fired. But it was strict. I'd say it was about as strict at the Army, if not stricter, excuse me.

INTERVIEWER:

So, you're saying the discipline back then was meted out rather quickly and on the spot and...

MR. SINGER:

Right.

INTERVIEWER:

...there was very little paperwork with it?

MR. SINGER:

There was no paperwork. They told you, and you did it. And if you didn't like it, there's the door. Excuse me.

INTERVIEWER:

How about -- let's back up to your family life. Over this period of time, you were married. You had several children. How did you make ends meet with the amount of money coming in and all these kids -- children?

MR. SINGER:

Well, to be truthful, I would take anybody that offered -- I'd take their car home, put it in the back yard, wash it, put a cleaner on it, Simonize it, and I'd get 15 bucks. But it would take you four or five hours. Well, then, when you were not permitted to work, I had a -- slightly a part-time job at a local funeral home in Jeanette after I moved here in '54, and I would go up and run the sweeper, pick up bodies, do anything that he told me to do when I was off duty. And let's put it this way, no one said a word to me. And that helped out at home here raising six children.

INTERVIEWER:

Did your wife work at all?

MR. SINGER:

My wife never worked until the youngest boy started into the seventh grade in Jeanette here. Housewife all her time, then she became what we call -- worked in a factory and did sewing, seamstress.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Getting back to the operations of the State Police, the horses, motorcycles, the cars, how about the investigation systems, and I'm talking about the reporting system? What did they use as far as what kind of paperwork did you?

MR. SINGER:

I believe I spent more time typing with my two fingers than I did investigating. It was -- made a -- if you made a traffic arrest or a criminal arrest, you put five sheets of carbon paper in, type the whole sheet. If you happened to be involved with a state car in an accident, whether it was your fault or not your fault, they required 11 copies. So that meant you typed it twice. There was no machines as they have today to run a copy. They -- many, many an hour I sat where we're at now today, in my residence, with a card table, a typewriter, and typed for two or three hours on my own time in order to keep up with the reports, especially a major crime. It took a lot of time. And as the sergeant said, "Get the report in." And you had to have it in. Excuse me.

INTERVIEWER:

How many troopers were out at Greensburg at that time that you were working?

MR. SINGER:

There was about -- with the criminal, traffic, special details, there was around 80 at the time.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you -- at night, it was two-man patrols?

MR. SINGER:

Well, out of Greensburg, I worked, not too often, midnight to 8:00 by myself, however, I was gifted the job of working the Pennsylvania turnpike from Irwin to the first tunnel, and that was strictly by yourself. No one else rode with you. And your communication from, say, the Irwin interchange to the Bedford barracks, there was different spots you couldn't communicate at all by radio. So that was our orders, and that's what we did.

INTERVIEWER:

Going back to those days that you patrolled the Pennsylvania turnpike, did they not have a unit for the turnpike at that time?

MR. SINGER:

Yes, they had a unit, but also at the third floor of the Greensburg barracks, they had a room. And every once in a while, they'd take one man out of the troop and put him on that room up there where your office was, and you were at the turnpike until you were told to go back to the Troop A, Greensburg.

INTERVIEWER:

So, you basically supplemented the patrols of the turnpike?

MR. SINGER:

That is correct.

INTERVIEWER:

You were on the job how long before you got your first promotion?

MR. SINGER:

Well, I did very well. It took me 22 years to make corporal, and that was the end of my promotions.

INTERVIEWER:

How about the continuation of training from time to time in the timeframe? Did they train you in first aid, CPR, update you on criminal codes, vehicle codes? What type of training throughout those years did you get?

MR. SINGER:

Well, after roll call, they would have you remain there, and they'd go over what the new laws were. And then I don't know how often you were sent to Harrisburg to be retrained with criminal, traffic, and I know I went down there for two weeks for radar, fire marshal. And it was always at Hershey, PA.

INTERVIEWER:

So, over the 22-year period, it was sporadic, here and there, whenever they decided to?

MR. SINGER:

Whatever they said, we did.

INTERVIEWER:

On the job, favorable? Unfavorable?

MR. SINGER:

If I had to do it all over again, I'd do the same thing. Very, very interesting. You get up in the morning. It wasn't like going to the factor and doing the same job that you've done for the last 15 -- every day was a different -- you never knew what was going to happen, where you were going to go, and it made it very, very interesting.

INTERVIEWER:

So, the policies of the State Police didn't affect you that much?

You just adhered to them?

MR. SINGER:

I -- whatever they said, we did, and I enjoyed it. And I met some wonderful people. Of course, I met some bad people, too.

INTERVIEWER:

How about the overall best and the worst of the job?

MR. SINGER:

Well, sometimes you get in a car and all -- the guy that was senior or junior to you, all he did was complain, complain, complain, and my thoughts -- and I would say, "Hey, if you don't like it, get out," because it ruined your ego. And some did get out. They just couldn't -- some with 10 and 12 years, they

couldn't hack it anymore, so they left. Some come out with some very good jobs, and some didn't. But I never had any problems. Any problems I had, I created myself.

INTERVIEWER:

Let's take a look at how many years, 37 years, am I correct?

MR. SINGER:

Thirty-seven years, and I think it was five months. I would be 60 in February, and I retired the end of December, so I was short six weeks of being 60, which was compulsory then. You had to leave the job. The only one that didn't have to leave the job at that time was the commissioner. Anybody else that reached the age of 60 had to retire.

INTERVIEWER:

To sum up, at the -- give me a summation of that. I know you've covered a lot of aspects of it, but that 37-year career, you -- how you really actually felt. Is there anything you may have missed, any humorous incidents that you -- or anything significant that you may have forgotten?

MR. SINGER:

I had a lot of experience. I can remember one time I was down at the Irwin interchange, working for the turnpike patrol, and I got a call that I would -- there was a fight at New Stanton Howard

Johnson's, in the restaurant. So, I motivate down there, and I called Bedford to see if I could get a backup, but I was in a bad spot, and I could raise them. So, as I pulled into the Howard Johnson's, all I could see was female and male midgets all over the place. So, when I got inside, this guy come up to me. I'll never forget his name, because it was a Howard Johnson. His name was Johnson. He had a white shirt on with blood all over it and about five teeth missing out of the front of his face. And he was screaming and yelling and the waitresses, the cooks, and everyone's standing out there. Here I am. So, I says, "What happened?" He says, "That guy sitting over there punched me." I says to him, "Well, who is the guy? Do you know him?" "Yeah, his name is Tony Galento." So, I took a sidestep and turned around and looked at him. I says, "You mean the one that fought Joe Lewis?" He says, "That's him." And this -- oh, brother. So, I went over and sat down and told him about how great the State Police in Pennsylvania are, how the people like the State Police, and I might add that Tony Galento had the biggest hands of any man I ever saw. They were huge. So I says, "What happened, Tony?" Tony says, "Well, he, Mr. Johnson," he didn't call him that, though, "he come in to my bar in New Jersey and offered

me \$100, expenses paid, to come to McKeesport and referee a wrestling match of the midgets. So, I accepted. So, when we got to McKeesport, I had a few beers, and then we had a break, I had a few more beers.” And he says, “When we got here to Howard Johnson’s, Johnson come up and threw down \$30, and he says, ‘Here, you bum. That’s all you’re worth.’” He said, “I hit him.” Well, I says, “Tony, you’re going to have to come with me.” “Where?” I says, “Well, we’re going down to the justice of the peace,” at that time, “and settle this.” So, when I got out to the State Police car, I forgot to lock it, and sitting in the back seat are two midgets: one male, one female, sitting on the armrest where your elbow goes. So, we went to the -- Harry Gongoer [ph] was the JP in what we call Straw Pump [ph] near Irwin. And on the way down, I called Irwin interchange and had them call the barracks in Greensburg for assistance. So, here they send, but both passed away, the biggest they had, Demico [ph] and Metz [ph]. So, we went into the JPs. This -- Mr. Johnson’s screaming and yelling. I had to settle him down. Tony asked if he could call his wife. We called his wife. I talked to her. It was agreed that she would send money after Mr. Johnson went to a dentist in the area the next morning to get an estimate on his

partial plates. So, lo and behold, I had to take Tony up and put him in the Westmoreland County Prison. They tell me that night, I didn't see it, the warden got the fighting bout between Tony Galento and Joe Lewis, between Joe Lewis, and the next day, when I was at home, I got a call that they were ready. So, I went and picked Tony up, stopped at Western Union. Tony got the money. We went down to the squire. Mr. Johnson had filed a complaint. Tony paid him. I took Tony down to the Gulf station at the Irwin interchange where he boarded a Greyhound bus for New Jersey. Thinking that's the last time I'd see Tony, I remain back on the pike. Well, lo and behold, three years later, while I'm down at my favorite watering hole in Jeanette, with two friends of mine, a car dealer and a trucking company owner, and I says to them, "There goes -- there's Tony Galento." And they says, "No." And I said, "Oh, yeah." So, I went up, tapped him on the shoulder, stepped back, and I says to Tony, "Do you remember me?" He says, "No." I told him who I was, what happened. He says, "Man." He says, "You looked six foot tall when I saw you." I says, "Oh, boy." So, we stepped up to the bar. Tony was a goodwill man for Stagmire's beer [ph]. So, we had a couple beers, and Tony left. And that was the last time I see Tony, who

ended up being a gentleman to me. And he has passed away.

That's the end of that story.

INTERVIEWER:

When did you retire from the Pennsylvania State Police?

MR. SINGER:

I -- when I -- December 31, '84.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. And you were a corporal at that time.

MR. SINGER:

Yes, sir.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Did you go to work after you left?

MR. SINGER:

After I left here, after I left the State Police, I loafed around down at a big garage to kill time. It was getting on my nerves. So, my wife was working then, so I got the -- I got a call from a local funeral home here in Jeanette, Razziano's [ph] Funeral Home, and I've been there over 18 years.

INTERVIEWER:

And you're still working today?

MR. SINGER:

Oh, yeah. It keeps me out of trouble.

INTERVIEWER:

And how old are you now?

MR. SINGER:

I was 80 February the 14th. I'd like to ask -- I'd like to tell you one more story. Two of us were on the turnpike, and I seen a brand new Cadillac alongside the road, so I stopped. I got out, and the other guy with me, he didn't get out. So, I went up to the guy, and I says, "What's wrong?" He says, "I got a flat tire." So, he says, "Give me a service truck." Well, the service truck wasn't available, so I seen a young farm boy riding a tractor in the field, so I went over and talked to him. He says, "I don't know how to change that." I says, "I'll help you. I'll show you." So, to make a long story short, we changed the tire. In the meantime, I'm talking to this gentleman, and then he says his name was Felix Bocchicchio. He was Jersey Joe Walcott's manager, and he asked me what I thought of the fight tomorrow night. And I said, "I'd like to see Jersey Joe win." He was fighting Ezzard Charles at Forbes Field. So, after the young boy on the farm completed his chore of changing the tire, this gentleman gave him a -- it looked like a \$20 bill. The kid was so happy. Over the fence he goes and back on the tractor. The next afternoon, before I went on the pike, I went down to what we call White Oak. It's near McKeesport to Jersey Joe's training camp, and I met Felix

Bocchicchio again. Felix says, "Your boss just left." I says, "My boss. I have so many." He said, "Governor Fine." I said, "Oh." He took me down, introduced me to Felix Bocchicchio -- I'm sorry, introduced me to Jersey Joe, a gentleman, shook hands, wished him luck. He says, "How would you like to see the fight?" Oh. "Is you married?" "Yes, sir." So, that night, my wife and I sat two folding chairs from ringside. In front of us was Jersey Joe Walcott's sister. And as I looked up, here come the captain, the lieutenant, and a couple sergeants. They were -- seats were up in left field. Jersey Joe knocked Ezzard Charles out in the seventh round and became the champion, and that's how I met Jersey Joe Walcott. I met a lot of people on the pike, good and bad.

INTERVIEWER:

Was there a question later on from the captain how you got such good seats?

MR. SINGER:

I told him I knew Tom Tannis [ph] from New Kensington, which I didn't, and I think that's where they got their tickets, but boy, they weren't as good as mine.

INTERVIEWER:

How many -- you worked for a variety of captains up here.

MR. SINGER:

Oh, yeah. I think -- as I recall, First Sergeant Eugene Fontaine [ph], I'm pretty sure Captain Hudock [ph], who later became a major, was a captain. Then there was a Captain McCann [ph], who originated -- had been with the Highway Patrol for years, and then he went into the State Police. But there was a lot of captains that came in. There was Lieutenant Dawson [ph], who later became the state commander of Pennsylvania Legion. A lot of good sergeants. A lot of them. But they knew what they were doing, and when they explained it to you, you understood it.

INTERVIEWER:

You know, I know we haven't talked an awful long time, and you've covered an awful lot of territory in a short period of time. Anything you want to sum up about the Pennsylvania State Police?

MR. SINGER:

Towards the end?

INTERVIEWER:

Beginning to the end.

MR. SINGER:

Well, I'd like to thank both of you gentlemen, Pete Butchin [ph], Robert Hank [ph], from Irwin, who have been very, very patient

with me. And I'd like to congratulate the anniversary of the 100 years of the Pennsylvania State Police. I wish them a lot of luck, and I know it's a lot of hard work, but I enjoyed my time on the job, and I'd never change my way.

INTERVIEWER:

Well, Ed, I want to thank you for taking the time to do this. I know Bob feels the same way as I do. We'd like to try -- we try to get them to tell and remember pretty much, and I know you have written a lot of things down, and you pretty much covered what you wanted to cover, so I want thank you very much.

MR. SINGER:

I wanted to thank -- I didn't mention his last name, Mr. Mertz [ph], who was very patient with his camera. And to you again, thank you, Pete.

[Tape 2]

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. This is March the 10th of 2005, and we're doing an interview on retired Corporal Edward Singer. My name is Pete Butchin. I'm a retired sergeant, and I'll be interviewing the corporal. Corporal, you did sign a consent and release form for us to do this and to use this, did you not?

MR. SINGER:

I -- that is correct. I did sign it.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Tell me a little bit about the -- where you was born and where you were raised.

MR. SINGER:

I was born in Allegheny County, Borough of North Braddock. My father worked in the Westinghouse in East Pittsburgh, however, when I was about three to four months old, my father got transferred from East Pittsburgh to Sharon, PA. So he went ahead, obtained living quarters, and my brother, my mother, and I, as an infant, went to Sharon, and I was raised right in Sharon and attended parochial school, Sharon High School. I left Sharon High School in 1943 to enter the U.S. Army. I served in a number of camps in the States, also a number of camps in Europe, mostly Germany and France. These camps were all named after cigarettes: Camp Lucky Strike, Camp Chesterfield, Camp Philip Morris, and so on. After three years in the service, I was discharged in New Jersey. I then returned to my parents' home, and I had a few jobs that didn't last too long, because I didn't like them. So, naturally, my father got me a job in the Westinghouse, midnight to 8:00. I worked there, and then I made my mind up, which I had in the back of my head, to apply

for the Pennsylvania State Police. I contacted the chief of police of Sharon, he's deceased, Bill Stewart, and with the assistance of the first sergeant out of Butler, who later became a captain, and he was in -- severely injured in the steel strike. He advised me to go back to school, get a diploma, and then come and see him. So, I'd work midnight to 8:00 at the Westinghouse, go to home, change clothes, and report to two classes at Sharon High School until it was completed. I then went back to the first sergeant. He lived in Mercer at the time, and he supplied me with an application. I filled the application out and sent it into Harrisburg. And then, on the 1st of August, I was to be at 21st and Herr at 8:00 in the morning for an interview.