

ILENE CORNICK

Interview 181a

May 15, 2009, at house of Ilene Cornick, 123 Ziegler St., Lufkin, Texas

Jonathan Gerland, Interviewer

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ABSTRACT: In this interview with Jonathan Gerland, Ilene Cornick reminisces about her life as a World War II widow, member of the Red Cross, teacher, and member of the United States Army Special Services Branch. Mrs. Cornick's husband, Ray, died when his P-42 crashed in the North Sea in 1944. She joined the Red Cross the following year and traveled to Europe to run service clubs for American soldiers in Luxembourg and Germany. She taught school in San Augustine, Diboll, and Houston, and ran the YMCA in El Paso. Mrs. Cornick also traveled to Korea with the U.S. Army, where she taught at an international school and worked for the Special Services in the service clubs. While in Korea, Mrs. Cornick was acquainted with Syngman Rhee, the eventual President of Korea. She also worked for the Special Services in Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Germany.

Jonathan Gerland (hereafter JG): Ok. Today's date is May the 15th, 2009, and my name is Jonathan Gerland and I'm with Mrs. Ilene Cornick. And we're at her house in Lufkin, at 123 Ziegler St.

Ilene Cornick (hereafter IC): 123 Ziegler.

JG: Yes ma'am, and I'd just like to ask you a few questions if you wouldn't mind. When and where were you born?

IC: San Augustine County...July the 31st, 1914.

JG: 1914.

IC: I'll be 95 the last day.

JG: Who were your mom and dad?

IC: My mother's name was Madge Boren Nolan and my father was J. B. Nolan. And he was...I was really born out Broaddus, Texas. But, my daddy was elected County Clerk in 1931 and we [moved] from Broaddus to San Augustine.

JG: Ok.

IC: And I finished school there in 1931.

JG: In San Augustine in 1931?

IC: High School...yeah.

JG: Ok...what are some of your earliest memories of growing up in those years? Do you remember the trains, the railroads...?

IC: Well, yeah...I remember on a Sunday we'd go down to the depot to watch a train come in San Augustine for some...you know, for something to do.

JG: Yeah.

IC: And there were...but my, I said my daddy was County Clerk for ten years there. And he knew everybody in the county, and I taught my first school down at Hebron. And I think there were only three teachers of us there in the country. And of course, students came and we had no electricity and...outdoor privies and everything.

JG: What size school...how many students were there?

IC: Oh...I taught the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade. And I imagine all together I had about fifteen or sixteen students down there then.

JG: Ok. How long did you teach there?

IC: Well I taught there about, I think, three years. And then I transferred to Norwood and taught for a few. And then Hebron School consolidated with quite a few and when I first taught we had only eleven grades. But, we didn't have all of them at our school. But Massey integrated a few of the schools down in San Augustine County. So, I went down...back down there, to teach English. And Massey...and then I taught again there...

JG: Now what'd you say, Massey?

IC: Massey School.

JG: Massey School...ok.

IC: In San Augustine County.

JG: Ok.

IC: But, I think the thing I remember most about the first year...I (unintelligible) around and I taught at...we called it Hebron.

JG: How do you spell that?

IC: H-E-B-R-O-N.

JG: Ok.

IC: And it's still a big cemetery down there. Now there's no more schools down there. 'Course, San Augustine used to have quite a few...now they have only two. Broadus and San Augustine, they're all consolidated. But, we lived at Mona and Monroe Burkett farms there. You know, and that year, I guess the first year we taught school, I was only 19 years old. And Celesta wasn't any older. So we were beginners, but Mona's niece had gone with Clyde Barrow in high school. And...

JG: Now who went with Clyde Barrow?

IC: Yes.

JG: Who?

IC: Mona Burkett's niece in Dallas had gone to school with him. They were sweethearts and he had brought his...her niece down to see them. The first trouble he was ever in was in San Augustine there. It was in the San Augustine paper not long ago, but they didn't, said she had come to visit her aunt...well, they didn't mention a name but it was Mona Burkett. She was husband of Monroe...but when they were killed it was the end of our school in May 1934. Her niece had married a lawyer in Dallas but she knew Clyde Barrow and the family 'cause she'd been in high school with him and had dated him until he started getting into trouble I think. (laughing) But anyway, she had tickets for his, Bonnie and Clyde's funeral. They were in separate funeral homes. And they asked Celeste and I if we wanted to go and we said, "Oh, yeah, sure." So we went with them. 'Course we didn't have tickets. We didn't go to the funeral but we got to see each one of them in their funeral homes so that was the first year of my teaching...so that was a...

JG: Now where was the funeral...where were the funeral homes?

IC: In Dallas.

JG: In Dallas. Ok. So y'all went up there?

IC: Yeah...they were in separate ones.

JG: You had to get tickets to go to the funeral?

IC: Yeah. No, we went to see them. We didn't attend the funeral 'cause you had to have tickets to...

JG: You had to have tickets for the funeral...ok.

IC: Course, she had known Clyde Barrow's mother and all 'cause she'd gone with him a lot. But she had quit him of course.

JG: And where was that? Where did they go together?

IC: Well, the funerals were there in Dallas.

JG: No, no I meant when she dated him.

IC: Oh, golly. It was before I taught down there.

JG: That was...oh, ok.

IC: Let's see she was young. When he died, she was married to a lawyer...some lawyer in Dallas so it didn't...

JG: Ok.

IC: Back in the, I imagine, the late 20's, 30's anyway...I...in the 20's sometime.

JG: Did you have brothers and sisters?

IC: I had a brother older than I and two sisters younger, but I've outlived them all.

JG: Ok.

IC: My brother died...I guess about in nineteen and ninety and he went to Houston. 'Course we were all reared in San Augustine. And when my sisters finished high school my mother, in San Augustine, in 1934, my mother moved to Nacogdoches – took boarders to send them to colleges during the Depression time, see. And my brother went to Houston. He taught for a while. At one time all my sisters and I...we were all teaching.

JG: All teaching. There locally in San Augustine County? Or...elsewhere?

IC: Oh no, they, you know, my daddy was hired with a liquor control board and we moved to...they moved here to Lufkin in September nineteen and thirty-eight. And my sister that married taught it on at Central High School out here. And she eventually married James Burke, Ward Burke's brother. And my youngest sister taught out at Moffett School...they both taught here.

JG: Ok.

IC: And I went from San Augustine to Wells, Texas and taught for a while there in high school.

JG: Now, who was your husband, and how did you meet him?

IC: Well, I met him at Foster Field. I had been teaching...I had a cousin down there. They were building Foster Field – the war had started.

JG: Now, where was that?

IC: Foster Field in Victoria, Texas.

JG: Victoria.

IC: And I had been to a college course in San Marcos that summer...had taken one on Shakespeare. And our professor was from New York and we...of course this is in nineteen and forty-one or something. Let's see '40, '41...I have to stop and think that's been so long ago. Anyhow, '41, and I remember he said that all of us were women in his class, there wasn't a single man in there because all of them had gone to the Army...had enlisted or something. And he said, "Just look, all women." He said, "You know, one of three things happens to women," he said, "God gets the good ones, men get the pretty ones, and the rest go to teacher's colleges." (laughing) So I decided, man I think he's right...I'm gonna get out of this, but, when my cousin called me from Victoria they were opening, you know, jobs down there. I decided I'd go and I worked in an office there, though, and I had my car so I went down there and my husband was a cadet and I met him and when he got his wings...I married him.

JG: And what was his name?

IC: Ray L...Ray Leeland Cornick.

JG: Ray Leeland Cornick.

IC: And he was from Davenport, Iowa.

JG: From Davenport, Iowa. Ok...and so y'all married there on base or did you come home?

IC: We married at the Presbyterian Church there with the preacher.

JG: Ok...ok. And tell us a little bit about how...what happened after that and how your husband got overseas?

IC: Oh, well, he had enlisted and he was really old enough...he had...flown a small plane when he lived in Davenport. You know, for pleasure. He had a friend of his, and he just had enlisted right away, and we were sent first I think to Eulana, Connecticut where he took more training. And then we were sent two different times in New York and Massachusetts and different places for about eight months or something. And then he finally had to end up going overseas. But, what I was so surprised was that he had been over there...I guess he started flying in July of, last of July of '43 or sometime before. But, he was put in for the Distinguished Flying Cross. Let's see, in December...see, and I didn't realize for many years that the DFC was so important. I couldn't believe all that that came out.

JG: She's showing me a newspaper article from the Lufkin Daily News of May 6, 2001 where she was showing I guess some of her husband's medals – Distinguished Flying Cross.

IC: Uh huh. See he was a First Lieutenant and he was put in with two Majors in December. I know that he, only thing he wrote me...he was so conscientious he wouldn't tell anything he wasn't supposed to...that with Ilene I he'd hit a rock pile and landed. Now, I don't think a rock pile would destroy a P-47. And then, on our anniversary day, he flew Ilene the Second.

JG: Ok...let's back up a little bit. Where were was he...here's a clipping, an older clipping that I'm looking at in this scrapbook...where it says, "Mrs."... "Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Cornick 1129 E. 14th St. of Davenport."

IC: Yeah, that's where he was born and reared...his family lived there.

JG: Ok. That's his mom and dad I guess. Ok.

IC: Yes.

JG: So he shot down an ME-110 fighter during a mission over Europe is what this article here is saying?

IC: Yeah, but he didn't get a DFC just for shooting down a...

JG: It says flying his P-47 thunderbolt Ilene, named after his wife. Lieutenant Cornick was a member of a fighter group escorting heavy bombers. This was Lieutenant Cornick's first combat victory while flying with English base fighter group commanded by Colonel Joe L. Mason of Columbus, Ohio. So, where were you when he was overseas?

IC: Well, I first I came back and I taught at Redland until he went missing. Then I quit and went to Davenport. A friend of mine that lived in Elgin, Illinois – her husband went down just five days later and she'd had a child after they left. They left...I have her picture somewhere over here I...I think...

JG: She's going through a scrapbook showing us...

IC: Well...let's see here...anyway, yeah...right there. And see he never got to see his child and he went down five days after Ray did.

JG: This is Lieutenant James Megher.

IC: We called each other the same night...I didn't know her husband was missing and she didn't know mine was. And so, she'd had this child was born after he had gone over. So...I spent most of that year with the Cornicks and with her 'cause her baby was small.

JG: Is that '43 or '44?

IC: Uh...that was in '44.

JG: In '44...ok.

IC: Yeah.

JG: I saw something here where it said that he went missing on February the 3rd.

IC: He went down February the 3rd, 1944.

JG: 1944. February the 3rd. And he was over Belgium?

IC: Over the North Sea on a return flight...he was bombing. He was, they had changed him to bombers. They, for a while they were just escort. But, he made his last mission to [unintelligible, possibly Baumshaden?], Germany, and had a U-boat thing...

JG: Oh.

IC: And two years to the day he went down. I was there, and we spotted the same place. But, and it was...the weather was so terrible. He fussed all the time – said they took half their time flying above the clouds, you know, to get anywhere. I thought I'd burned all his letters, but, I came back and my mother had kept...I found this many of them that I have...

JG: You got a whole bag of envelopes and letters here. (laughing) But he...let me go back to the plane a little bit...he named his plane after you and painted the Ilene...I'm looking at some pictures here.

IC: Yeah, yeah he went down in Ilene I but he was flying Ilene II when he went down.

JG: So what happened to Ilene I...the first one?

IC: He said he hit a rock pile in landing but I never...

JG: Ok.

IC: ...did find out what he did to get the DFC...I didn't...

JG: Distinguished Flying Cross...yeah.

IC: ...so soon 'cause he was put in for it in December and had been only over there since July.

JG: Huh.

IC: And he was put in it with a two Majors.

JG: Yeah.

IC: And I know they don't...but I didn't know it was important. I left...I didn't...he had sent me his airmail in three of these clusters, but, he said he had to wait until the big brass came down to issue the DFC. Well, when he went missing I didn't pay any attention to it so I didn't care about medals, I was so upset. And then, when I went overseas, I wound up years later that I had some stock with Scott Sherman. And he came out about every three months, and we were going over it and I was cleaning out and I happened to find the letters. I thought I'd burned them all. But my, I had left here and my mother hadn't burned them and I reread them. And I found out...well I never did get his DFC. So I asked Scott Sherman about it. He said, "Mrs. Cornick, you've got to have that medal...that's the highest one the Air Force gives. There's only one higher and that's the Medal of Honor." And I didn't know it was that one but I get to turn it over to Scott and I think it took him two years before I finally got the medal. But, when I tried to find out what he did to get it they said something had burned and I never knew what he did.

JG: Hmmm.

IC: I know that he wasn't given one for shooting down one enemy plane.

JG: Now, I was looking at these photographs and...of his plane with your name on it...and, then there's one says, "I love you darling." So, in some of these letters is...he sent these pictures to you in the letters. Is that correct?

IC: Oh yeah...uh huh. That's right. He sent it, yeah, in the letters that came.

JG: So how...so after the war you were able to go overseas?

IC: Well uh...no, I went over before...I was in Luxembourg City when the war ended.

JG: Ok, ok.

IC: And I tell you, we used it...Luxembourg wasn't hurt much and we used it for an R&R place. They used the casino for a Red Cross Club. And they came there on three days. I was there when General Patton was buried in December of 1945. You know, he was hurt and wrecked down at Mannheim...he died. But I didn't know until I was there at the cemetery where they were...so many of them were buried...how they buried them. But, a lot of times they had just found ashes or bones and they buried them. 'Course they had their dog tags, you know, where they'd find them. We went out there to the cemetery, I mean from Red Cross, and get some of the letters that were written so that we could answer them for the families in the...

JG: So you worked for the Red Cross then? Yes.

IC: Uh huh...yeah, I joined the Red Cross. Anyway, they told me that they'd just buried the ashes and the bones and whatever they'd found and then they'd put a cross, had a grave and a name. I said, "What do you do if they want their..." I probably shouldn't...don't put this down... "...bodies sent home." Said, they'd just weight it down and then send it home a closed casket. I hadn't thought about it, but, they couldn't afford. But, General Patton was buried in a casket though, when he was buried... (laughs)

JG: I see a picture here of the Red Cross Club in Luxembourg and then here's an inside shot.

IC: Uh huh....yeah, it was an old casino in Luxembourg.

JG: Ok...and here's a picture of you at the desk there.

IC: Yeah.

JG: Yeah, that's pretty neat and there's your house where you were staying I guess, at the time, in Luxembourg.

IC: Yeah, uh huh. That's where we lived...yeah.

JG: There's a lot of photographs here.

IC: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

JG: How long were you over there?

IC: Well, I was over there for quite a long time and then when I quit I...we went from Red Cross to Special Services. And all that yeah...

JG: Now, where are these bombed out buildings here? What is that?

IC: Well, yeah, that was in Europe. This was all there. This is the Brandenburg Gate. I was in first in Berlin. And...but I...probably July or sometime 1945 it...they just had to bulldoze a way through. It was completely destroyed.

JG: Now your husband's plane was never found?

IC: No, he went down in the North Sea.

JG: Oh, on the sea, ok.

IC: And ran out of...evidently gave out of gasoline. I had a letter there from his commanding officer somewhere but I don't know where...

JG: And he was doing a dive-bombing mission...

IC: Yeah...this is the first cousin of mine I ran into over there. I was on duty one day, I knew he was over there, he'd been there three years over there fighting. And he knew I was over there, but, we didn't know where each other was. And I was on duty one day and I saw these three G. I.'s come in. And I bet we had over two hundred there plus they'd come for three days. You know, from all around. And I thought, he looks familiar, and I walked up and did (motioning) and said, "What's your name Joe?" And turned around and of course it was my first cousin.

JG: What was his name?

IC: Frank Boren. B-O-R-E-N.

JG: Frank Bor...

IC: And, just recently he died. He had a military funeral in Beaumont.

JG: Boren...ok. How was he kin...?

IC: But I said, "Where in the world...what are you here for?" He said, "I'm on a little mission." I said, "What kind of mission?" He said, "Oh Ilene, I'll show you and tell you tomorrow." You know, the day after they'd be back. Well, they came back and he came in and got me and he said, they were in a big two and a half ton truck covered. He said, "Come look." And I went out there to look and they had a big divan and two over stuffed chairs. I said, "Oh my goodness," they'd been in Germany see, and I said, "You've been looting." He said, "Oh no, we've been liberating."

JG: Liberating, huh.

IC: They had a club at Rheims, France and they didn't have any furniture. So they decided to go over. He said, "Look how..." Didn't any of it come from the same place but it come from three different places. (laughs)

JG: Talk a little bit about the type of work you did for the Red Cross over there. What was the typical day?

IC: Oh golly. Oh...I imagine...I don't know. 'Course we ran the service club for 'em. But I remember one time, you know, the cigarettes we get free...um...oh coffee and doughnuts, you know. And so many times those G. I.'s that come in they had 'em girlfriends and wanted us to give them doughnuts. But, we were allowed just so much flour and all to make doughnuts with. So, we had a thing that they couldn't take 'em out of the club. And 'course a lot of them were really unhappy 'cause they had 'em girlfriends, you know, German girlfriends...Fraulines. But, anyway, for a long time, well, the military had to deliver our supplies like the flour and everything. And they usually

had Red Cross, you know, Not To Be Sold on the cigarette packages. But they didn't look at that. The military transportation brought it, they just delivered us so many cartons or boxes or whatever they're supposed to deliver. And we got the ones the PX should have had, and the PX got ours a lot. And it got to be such a problem the Red Cross accused us of selling them, you know. They finally sent a man over there and they finally convinced them not to put For Red Cross: Not To Be Sold on them 'cause...we were told we were allowed a carton of cigarettes a week and 'course I didn't smoke. But, and I gave all mine away. And they told us, the Red Cross, not to sell them because even though they were our personal ones we had on a Red Cross uniform...they'd accused Red Cross. So, sure enough, that's what happened. And when I went on my first TDY to Berlin, all those G. I.'s they were allowed...I guess about five Hershey bars. They were kind of stale, and cigarettes and it came out. And these two G. I.'s driving me...they all...the Russians...I mean theirs comes made. Like I told you, our paper money in France, and England, but they had to send the place to Russia. They made their own see, and they couldn't send their money back to Russia, but the Americans could send their money like that back here...paper money. We could only have a dollar bill on us. Unless we were gonna travel somewhere we could get green money. But anyway, I left with those two G. I.'s, they were armed, on the Autobahn. And when we got near there we were told...they were told, you know, not to put off the Autobahn because Russia controlled it...confiscating. But those Russian soldiers that stand beside...since they couldn't send their money they'd go like this with one hand and wave the wad of money. And we hadn't used that bag full of cigarettes and all. And those G. I.'s stopped and sold every one. So we had them use that bag of paper money like that. When we got there, they had the name of all the ones who given the cigarettes to give it back to 'em.

JG: Now, I notice in here, there's a few photographs of cemeteries...did you attend any of the soldiers' funerals?

IC: No, we weren't there. Because, a lot of times, we didn't know. Like I said, they didn't have anything in time for funerals. They just buried the bones or the ashes and everything, you know.

JG: Ok. Now there's a picture here of some Russian soldiers in Germany, do you...?

IC: Well, that was in Berlin.

JG: What...can you describe what that was like seeing the Russian soldiers?

IC: Oh golly, you know, they controlled half of Berlin, you know. And where...then where Hitler, again we were there one time, and you could bribe the Germans that was soldiers after...some of them were working there as police and all on Russian zone. But boy, you couldn't bribe those Russians to go down where Hitler was committed suicide down there.

JG: Is that a picture there...oh I'm sorry, you can keep your seat...this right here, what is that?

IC: Oh, those were those tunnels they finally blew up over there, you know.

JG: Like bunkers and tunnels.

IC: In Germany, yeah, uh huh.

JG: Germany. Ok. And there is a picture...is that you with the American Red Cross Club? At the restaurant?

IC: Yes, yeah. There it is. And we lived in that house there.

JG: Ok.

IC: In Germany. Yeah, that's Germany. And that, oh, that was the Germany then...this was the Brandenburg Gate. The Brandenburg Gate, when I was over in Berlin, was divided. It was a place that...but we couldn't go there because Russia had it, you know.

JG: Uh huh. There's an old tank there.

IC: All those years. For a long time...yeah, that's when...oh, when they left over there and when we left, they left equipment everywhere. They didn't try to move it or anything. And we did the Red Cross Clubs, I don't know whatever happened... But that was supposed to have been Goerring's automobile. They came to our club and we went riding that's one of their clubs there.

JG: Well, some of this...did you go to Korea?

IC: Well that's in Korea...that's Korea.

JG: So you were in the Red Cross during the Korean or...?

IC: No, I was in Special Services.

JG: Oh, ok.

IC: But I taught in Korea. I taught an American school there.

JG: Ok. And so...

IC: But I was in the Special Services again in Saudi Arabia.

JG: Oh...when was that?

IC: Golly, let's see, I came when I [unintelligible] my sister...I guess I came out of Saudi Arabia in '61.

JG: '61 so you...

IC: Yeah, see when I was in Korea they had only one bridge there over the Han River. And they lived in places like this. I was there in '48 and '49. They had an uprising there one time. And then 25 years...and there's nothing unusual...we never had to empty a garbage can, 'cause they foraged for food over there. In '45 they'd been communist. You know, when...and Syngman Rhee, Americans knew and Syngman Rhee was elected president. North Korea controlled South Korea's...all our electricity and water. The Yalu River. And sure enough when Syngman Rhee was elected president they cut off all our water and we didn't have any lights or water for almost six months that we were there.

JG: What city is that?

IC: That's Seoul.

JG: Seoul, Korea.

IC: Uh huh. That was the capitol then. They have a new capitol over there now.

JG: That was in the...the early '50's? Is that the early '50's?

IC: Oh that was in '48.

JG: '48. Seoul, Korea in '48. It's several pictures.

IC: Oh yeah. Uh huh. '48. That's how they looked then. But, I went back in '75 and I could not believe it was the same place. I had no idea...there were no lepers in the street. It was...everybody was well dressed. They dressed western. See, but they were all dressed in their kind of dress then. All of them were. This is one of them. But I think there are fourteen bridges across over there now.

JG: Is that you?

IC: No, that's a friend of mine.

JG: The woman with the...

IC: But that's me. See they all dressed in...oh, that was a Korean outfit. That was somebody who was stupid. See, on that, these were all that just different times and places. This is where I landed in Inchon.

JG: Inchon.

IC: And that...and this is a...one General came, see, it's "Welcome to Inchon, the best damn port in the Pacific." And that was a laugh for everybody. But, this is where I lived

that was our little...only two of us, Bea Beth and I, were teaching school there. We lived in Camp Sobingo among them. The rest of them lived downtown. But, when we finally left they made them paint it. That was it there.

JG: So you went over and were taught school in '48 and what happened when the war started? What happened?

IC: Uh huh. '48. Yeah, no they, I came out into Japan and the Americans most of their families had been sent home. So we talked. I had one senior in English and he was the General's son because they had sent most of the families home. But I learned when I read my mother's letter that I had taught thirteen nationalities. I had forgotten it.

JG: Wow.

IC: The Russian children and all. See, I had three of the Chinese Ambassador's children...see it's before nationalist China fell. And...but they all had to speak English to come to our school.

JG: Mrs. Cornick I really would encourage you to consider donating these materials. You've got so many letters...both with your husband and your mother.

IC: Oh, well...I might just do it because can't take them to anyone else. If you want them...

JG: Yeah. We...like I said we would preserve them and provide access to people to do research. And, you know, you and your mom and everybody's done such a good job saving them to start with. Oh I'm sorry.

IC: Well, you know, something that happened over there, oh, was ...when that came out, General Hodge was our, in Korea, was our commanding officer. And it was the worst place. We could...oh we had nowhere to eat except the mess hall and it was a mess. And half the time if you wanted anything you had to go down on the (unintelligible, possibly Bong Chong) or somewhere else to get it. See, and someone wrote those and it was so typical of Korea, that I had to have a copy and he forbade it to be published.

JG: It says "An Individual Guide to the United States."

IC: Yeah, yeah.

JG: So this is uh...it says at the end it says, "The country is run by Republicans, Democrats, and Frank Sinatra."

IC: Yeah. (laughing) I can't imagine certainly...they didn't dare sign their name. They'd been in trouble see on the thing so...(laughing)

JG: Oh boy. Well, that is neat and you've got some military payment and certificates. That's what you were talking about.

IC: Yeah, left over from World War II we were issued. When I got back I read in the Reader's Digest about the fact that Russia wouldn't let 'em. And you had to pay it off in legal tenders. See, but the Americans stopped the G. I.'s from sending that home unless it was...unless they could show it was their...'cause they could sell their pants and things, you know, for nothing and made a whole lot of money. They stopped it on July the...no, November the 11, 1945. Because, I was then on a jeep...we were in Paris, France and they relit the Arch of, the light, turn light on the Arch of Triumph. And it, they had five caskets there of the French Marquis that had been killed. And it was dreary and it was kind of raining and they were marching with... tapers, the lights all down...it was an eerie feeling to see it. They relit the light – the eternal light.

JG: You've got so many photographs here and this is one you were telling. This is about 1910 or so postcard.

IC: Yeah, it had to have been. Yeah, Lufkin.

JG: And you think that's Lufkin from 1910...it's a street scene.

IC: I think my father, some of the Nolans, were here around then...they came from Ranger, Texas and on their way to San Augustine. It had to be Lufkin...I don't know of any...

JG: It looks like a pretty good size hill there.

IC: Huh?

JG: It looks like a pretty good size hill. The streets going up hill there.

IC: Yeah, it sure does. I found it I really it was a house...I really don't know whose that one is. But these are...

JG: Yeah...that is really neat. You've got more...more war era photographs here.

IC: Yeah, well...this was our building in Korea there.

JG: More Korea.

IC: I guess...oh Mrs. Underwood was killed over there. She went over there as a missionary teacher in 1919.

JG: Ethel Underwood.

IC: And met her husband...he was born over there, and she told us, she had taught the first missionary school there and Dr. Underwood had been born over there. And she spoke, they spoke the language fluently, and she was going to give...they had to leave though. Her sons were interpreters during the war with Korea. I mean, yeah, Korea all that time. 'Cause they were born and reared over there. But she was going to give a tea for the Presbyterian missionaries had a school over there. And her husband was about the fourth member that had been in charge of it. Her son John...young son was a missionary there. Then, and when she was going to give that tea we'd been...they'd been with us the night before we had a school meeting telling us she was a large woman. They had to get out when the war came. But they came back, and all those people...they loved Mrs. Underwood. But while she was having that tea these communist came down from North Korea and assassinated her. And when she was buried there, it was way out in the cemetery...see, in Korea they all are cremated. When I first went there and saw all these hills up on the mountain I thought what could that be? Well, you see they had such little land they had to raise rice on that they had to be cremated and 'course the higher up you bury them...I guess, I don't know which was more expensive. But everybody had to be cremated, see.

JG: Here's, there's so many more photographs. Here's one from Washington D.C. when you joined the Red Cross.

IC: Yeah, well, we went over together. There I am yeah.

JG: Yeah, so did your husband's death influence you joining the Red Cross? Was that...?

IC: Oh he was already down before...I didn't join till he was...

JG: Right...right. That's what I meant until after...

IC: He was missing. Uh huh. Yeah.

JG: He went missing. Ok.

IC: Like I said nobody else knows or remembers so many of these.

JG: Now here it says you were Miss San Augustine in 1933 and '34.

IC: OH!!! I have never shown anybody that...never. (laughing)

JG: Well how 'bout that...what was that all about?

IC: Oh...well Mr. Barge at the Barge Chevrolet talked me into it and I really did...I had a borrowed a dress or something...I was, I guess, let's see here, I think it was in 1933...I've forgotten when. Anyway, this was our buildings in Korea where...that's where we stayed.

JG: Yeah.

IC: In the (unintelligible) and then I, we lived out there...

JG: There you are in your swimsuit. (laughing) Saudi Arabia.

IC: Ohhh.

JG: With a Volkswagen Beetle. That or it might be a microbus.

IC: Well, you know, in Saudi Arabia we kept the G. I.'s only 13 months. There were no girls there for them to date. At ARAMCO they sent their children after the eighth grade back to the states or to Europe, you know, to...to go to school. And so, all we could do is take them out to Half Moon Bay and try, and try to take care of them. But I'm throwing away so many of these 'cause nobody really...

JG: No, no please don't throw them away. We...that's what we are all about.

IC: Well, I don't know you just show me what you care to have... a lot of this...so many of these people that...

JG: Here's a clipping of you from the San Augustine Newspaper about being in the Red Cross. 326 Homer Boulevard Lufkin, TX.

IC: Yeah, we lived there first. I thought I'd burned all my husband's letters...but these were the few that I didn't burn. My mother had kept them here...

JG: Oh, ok.

IC: ...I was away teaching and I just couldn't stand to read them. That's the reason I was so long to getting the Distinguished Flying Cross. I found all the ones that I had in the...that my...had left here and didn't get burned. So, then...

JG: Here you are 1958 going to Jerusalem.

IC: Uh huh.

JG: There you all are with your airplane. Where did y'all fly from?

IC: We flew from Rhein-Main, Germany. I ran the service club at Rhein-Main Air Base for three years. And...

JG: How was that?

IC: In Japan I taught the G. I.'s and I sometimes...I said, "I think I'll learn more from them than they did me." (laughing) I figured, unless he shot me with electricity and took a lot of air.

JG: Well, this is all great.

IC: And I said, no, I didn't for any of those things. I'm just downsizing...I got to get rid of a lot of stuff. My mother...this was my mother and father's home and my brother and sister deeded it to me so...anyway.

JG: Yeah, well, like I said we are...you will have to come down and see us. I'd be glad to come and get you sometime and take you if we can get with Suzie we'll go.

IC: Well, I'd like to yeah.

JG: And I'd love to show you...

IC: You know I used to teach in Diboll.

JG: Oh you did...ok.

IC: I taught there two different times.

JG: Yeah...what years?

IC: Oh, let's see first I came back in 1950 because they wrote me...Mrs. Underwood was killed over there and I went to her funeral and her young son, that was a missionary, held her funeral. 'Course all the Koreans had to be cremated, but she was buried. They had her placed about eight miles out where from Seoul, where they buried, you know, the Christian missionaries and all of them.

JG: Uh huh.

IC: And I remember her funeral, oh, you had to have a ticket to go. Those Koreans lined up, well the constabulary, lined up all the way. 'Cause they was afraid that if Syngman Rhee came that they would try to kill him or something. I don't know. It was a mess over there. (coughing) And but her young son held her funeral and he prayed for forgiveness for those who killed his mother. She loved him. And so, like I said, I was school oh, when I was there. (coughing) Sorry.

JG: Do you need a glass of water?

IC: Well, I'll go in there and get some in a minute I think I'm talking too much. (laughing) But, we left, we left there and I came in and I taught G. I.'s in Yokohama. They were downsizing the military so I switched to teaching them, to get them through the fifth grade level test. If they couldn't they were three, six, eight them out. I have the

staff I had with them somewhere that I taught in Japan. But, sometimes I've said teaching G. I.'s, nothing shot me but electricity and took a lot of air. (laughing) So, it was interesting then and then when I went to Saudi Arabia at the desert in service club there for about three years I ran the service club there and there were no girls. ARAMCO had to send their children to school after the eighth grade to states or somewhere. So all we could do was take them out to Half Moon Bay and try to entertain them. 'Cause, they'd have their heads cut off if they had, you know, tried to talk with a Korean girl. I mean a Saudi girl.

JG: This is a little booklet says Istanbul Hilton.

IC: I was at the Hilton Hotel in Turkey. That's a Turkey one.

JG: Room Number 610.

IC: Well I'm gonna throw it away.

JG: And...no, no don't throw that away. We...I mean you've got a great collection here. This is a...

IC: I was in Turkey a couple of times.

JG: You've led a very interesting life.

IC: Well, I don't know...yeah.

JG: Not many people here have ever gone as many places...here's another one here that's...

IC: Yeah...a lot of that stuff I didn't think matter to anybody.

JG: Yeah...well, it does.

IC: I don't even know a lot of it.

JG: Like I said the part of it...is that it's so complete. You've got so many different things.

IC: Yeah...I don't care. Oh, that was...he was our schoolboy there in Korea, you know, when I taught. Johnny Pack. But I didn't keep up with him, see. And I'm sorry...see, nobody...he wrote a real fine letter. But, like I said I...

JG: Okinawa '52. Christmas greetings.

IC: Uh huh.

JG: Yeah. It would take hours and hours to read all this huh?

IC: They see from a lot of G. I.'s and letters and I just thought...I don't think...

JG: This is great.

IC: Oh, this is my cousin that I was...

JG: Frank...Frank Boren.

IC: He, he died, yes. They had a military funeral for him and he had written his pastor on...let's see...it was dated oh, it's nineteen forty...well, see there was two but, oh, here it is. And do you know that I found a copy of that and my sister was teaching in Beaumont and evidently my mother had kept it. It was cut out of the Beaumont Enterprise....see he lived in Beaumont.

JG: Yes, ma'am.

IC: And I thought I was cleaning out her stuff where I found a lot of mine, and I came across the original cutting from the Beaumont Enterprise.

JG: Yes, ma'am.

IC: And so I sent it to my cousin out there does Frank have a copy of that and she wrote back and said, "No, he'd like it." So, I sent him the original copy. I said, "Well, I want one of it back." Read his letter he wrote in 1943 to his pastor.

JG: Which one? This one here?

IC: And do you know they read that at his funeral. I couldn't get over it. His mother hadn't even cut it out and saved it. Anybody had saved it for him and I gave it to him. He just was buried oh, just recently. I just, about three weeks ago I was down there. He died.

JG: It says that, "people will never know how the Frenchmen have suffered. Most of the towns are nothing but powered concrete."

IC: Yeah.

JG: "The Germans move out of a town one day and we move in the next. They are going so fast that they don't even bury their dead. I've never seen people so happy as the French are...when we go into a town it seems that they cannot do enough for us." He mentions driving his LST onto the beach.

IC: He's the one I told you that I ran into in the service, you know, club in Luxembourg.

JG: Yes, ma'am. Says the chaplain comes once a week and holds services under the nearest trees.

IC: I couldn't believe Aunt Celestine hadn't kept a copy of it. 'Cause I know my sister was teaching in Beaumont and they brought the copy to my mother. See, she kept everything. I'm having a time going through all of it.

JG: He closes by saying, "Well," he says, "Well, Brother Strickland I guess that I had better bring this letter to a close as it is getting late and we cannot have lights. Say a prayer for us boys, Brother Strickland, and the best of luck to you all. As ever, Corporal Frank Boren. August 23, 1944." And this was from the Beaumont Enterprise.

IC: Yes.

JG: They just reprinted his letter.

IC: Yeah...it came out there.

JG: Yeah.

IC: That's the way when Syngman Rhee was elected, the Russians controlled the water on the Yalu River and they had old dug out candles for about six months. And the Army issues you a gallon can of water. And boy, I don't waste water or lights now, believe me. (laughs) None of that. So, as my mother had kept it see I couldn't believe.

JG: Yeah, this is great. Now...

IC: And such a mess is hard to decide, see.

JG: Now Richard Donovan had come to see you the other day I understand. Dick Donavan.

IC: Oh yeah...he did.

JG: I'm the one that he was talking about that we would be interested in having this.

IC: (laughs) I don't know what impressed him so. But I moved it all out here. I was straightening up what I might want to keep or give somebody and what to throw away. A lot of this I don't even remember, you know, and I have nobody to leave it to so I have Ray's niece and I'm gonna leave her all his medals and all.

JG: Ok, yeah.

IC: In Ohio. But his sister died, his brother...his sister and I had the same birthday and Mrs. Cornick's was the day before. And so, and they're all gone now. So...and I'm the last one of mine.

RECORDER STOPPED AND RESTARTED

JG: Well, that's really great.

IC: See they used to dress like this all the time in Korea. All of them but when I went back over there in '75 they're all Western. I was kind of disappointed...

JG: What's that pipe?

IC: Oh, I don't...peace pipe or something

JG: That he's smoking. Ok.

IC: He was an American Major...that's a Korean uniform...

JG: And he's just posing...just posing for the photograph.

IC: Uniform...yeah, I've forgotten his name. He just, you know...

JG: Big ole' stovepipe hat.

IC: I, in fact I had my picture taken in one of them. Everybody... you did over there. But I don't know who'd want them then.

JG: Yeah, so when did you come back to Lufkin?

IC: Huh?

JG: When did you come back to Lufkin?

IC: When I retired from Houston.

JG: Ok. And now tell me again, if you did...

IC: And my sister and brother deeded me this home. My sister married a Wa...James Burke...Ward Burke's brother.

JG: I've been trying to read and absorb all these photographs and I hadn't been able to pay much attention. (laughs)

IC: You'd like to?

JG: Well, no I said I was...while you were speaking I was distracted by reading...so you might have to repeat yourself if you already told me.

IC: Oh you were...oh ok. Yeah. Well I don't...

JG: How did you get to Houston?

IC: Huh?

JG: How did you get to Houston?

IC: Well I taught in Houston three different times.

JG: Ok.

IC: Sometimes in between an overseas assignment I come back. My daddy was still living, my mother had died. And then, after I had adopted, by proxy, when I was in Germany – a little German girl that was born, you know, in a family in Wiesbaden and my sister was teaching, youngest sister, was teaching in Fort Worth. She was married and didn't have any children. And she had told me that if I got a chance, I knew they had children over there to adopt, she wanted one. And I was running the service club for the G. I.'s and I did have a chance to. And I took her out of the hospital in Wiesbaden when she was 5 days old. I think she was the fifth child in that family. And I think the father was an alcoholic or something. Mother was there...I did meet her...and I met her twice. And I had to keep her four months before I got all the paperwork through to bring her home to my sister. But, my sister was teaching in Fort Worth. And I got home with her I guess the first day. She was born, let's see, October the 5th, 1958 in Germany. And I got home with her the first day of February 1959. I stayed awhile, and then I went back to Germany and I transferred to Saudi Arabia...Special Services. And my sister died. I hadn't been home in three years when I brought her. 'Cause the last time...the second time I taught at Diboll. Well, the first time I'd taught there I came back in '50 'cause I knew my mother was having surgery and sure enough she died three days later. So, my daddy was left here and so I was staying here.

JG: In Lufkin?

IC: Yeah, with him 'cause I had come back. 'Cause I knew she was gonna have surgery and I thought about Mrs. Underwood dying, I thought what if she did? Sure enough she did. But, she had to go to Nacogdoches, she thought Steve Tucker was hung the moon. And sure enough, peritonitis killed her we found out later. But anyhow, I had, I started... Blanche Prejean was teaching English in Diboll. And she had resigned I think in April of '51 or something. And I started teaching down there. And then I had this senior play. I taught senior English. And that's the worst subject to teach 'cause everybody has to take it. I said, "Never again." And then I had the graduation and the play and everything and I quit and went to Houston. I had a friend there and I had taught in Houston one time, short time. So I went back to Houston. But later I came back and decided, well, I'd stay with my daddy. Kind of old he's getting in age and I wound up...teaching down at Diboll again. But, when I found out in February 19, what was it, 56 maybe...that I was gonna have all that senior stuff again...I resigned. Went to Galveston. My brother lived in Houston...took me to Galveston and I took a Lykes line. I went to Europe and didn't

come back for three years that's when I brought my sister's little girl I adopted for her by proxy.

JG: Where is she now?

IC: She's gone and married and she mar...what was, her husband that spent eleven years in Berlin and she married him. He was her instructor in German or something while she was...after she'd gone to college two years she wanted to come back to Lufkin 'cause we'd lived between here after my sister died I came from Saudi Arabia. Then in '61 to rear... and then, she upped and joined the Air Force. After just two years of college. And she married her instructor...he'd been in Germany eleven years, but, they went back. They have three children. He's out of the service for sometime and she lives...they moved now to...Round...Rockpoint...Rockwall...

JG: Rockwall.

IC: It's up above Tyler somewhere...she has three grown children now. But the thing was when she lived over there all those years...she went back with her husband, they lived over there. Her mother and them, she never looked her family up. So, when she got around to looking to 'em they were all dead except one brother. And he'd come...he still works in Wiesbaden. He told her they were kept by a very wealthy... to some there lady in Wiesbaden ...I don't know all the history of it but it didn't sound good. And, he told Ilene that he had...he wasn't married. I said, "Why didn't he marry?" He said he, wouldn't marry and bring a child in the world and go through what he went through for anything in the world. He'd been living with some woman and still was about twenty-five years. He worked for the Mercedes in Wiesbaden.

JG: Oh, ok.

IC: Still did...he said, he joined the German Air Force and they taught him, you know, to be a mechanic. And that's what he still is. He's the only one, I guess, that's left in that family.

JG: I'm jumping way back now...but, if you could, someone of my age, my generation, describe life in the 1930's. The Depression era...tell...

IC: Oh, well we were lucky in that... 'course my mother had a good garden and all. My daddy had a cow. And from 1921 to '31 he was County Clerk. See, and like I said, and my mother did all the sewing. She had three daughters, but she didn't teach one of us to cook, to sew, or to quilt.

JG: She did...did not?

IC: No, but she canned, I don't know how she canned, somewhere like three hundred cans in the summer in hot, you know. And over a stove while we lived in San Augustine.

So, we never went hungry and she made us clothes, you know, was a good seamstress and all. And we had a car so we and...

JG: What about hogs?

IC: And my grandfather killed a lot of hogs...

JG: Hogs.

IC:...we'd go down there, you know. And he had...oh, I guess about 800 acres down at San Augustine County.

JG: Your grandfather?

IC: Yes.

JG: And what was his name?

IC: Uh...Boren. B-O-R-E-N.

JG: Ok. Boren.

IC: Yeah. So, we didn't lack for anything. But luckily my first year I taught school down at Hebron, those kids brought their lunches and maybe they'd just have a cold biscuit and a little, you know, syrup or squirrel or something. No hot lunches or anything, you know, we all...nobody had. And a lot of them came to school in...uh...oh, well, even without shoes on. But you know, they never complained...I was amazed. They never complained.

JG: Didn't know they were in a Depression.

IC: And they behaved, they were no problem. But I remember the funniest thing that ever happened when I was teaching that first school down there. The Principal taught the science and I was teaching English. We had the same students...we didn't have a whole lot, you know. And I knew the smartest student...every one and that was. And, he was going to be gone one day and we had to write our questions, you know, on the blackboard. 'Course we had no electricity or anything. He wanted to know if I'd offered I'd give his science test to the students...I taught the same ones. I said, "Oh, sure." And just before school started or something one of the students came up to me and said, "Mrs. Nolen what 'causes people to be cross-eyed." (laughing) Well I was teaching English. And here I was all nineteen years old and I didn't know it. So I was honest and I didn't know why he wanted to know. But anyhow, when I put the questions on the board that was one of them see...in their science class. And I waited until they handed in their papers and I took the smartest boys paper. I said, "If anybody knows he'll know." See I knew them all. I looked...I was flabbergasted. And I looked, and they'd all put the same thing. A cross-eyed person is one born in the middle week looking both ways for Sunday.

(laughing) He never asked me to give any more of his science tests but, I did learn what caused people be cross-eyed.

JG: Any other stories about teaching in the '30's? How did the children get to school?

IC: Well, we had...we rode school buses. I even walked first year that I was at Massey. When I went back to Massey I still stayed with Mona and Monroe Burkett but I had to walk about three...oh, quarter or a half a mile to catch the school bus. And we used to teach from eight to four.

JG: So you rode the school bus?

IC: Yes. Uh huh.

JG: Ok. You walked about three quarters a mile and then caught the bus?

IC: Well, oh I guess I rode it only about maybe two miles.

JG: Ok. And then the students got there...

IC: See, I bought my first car in 1935. It was a two door Chevrolet and cost me \$800.

JG: Was it brand new?

IC: Yeah.

JG: Where did you buy it?

IC: Well, that's why Miss San Augustine...that picture of Barge Chevrolet Company. He wanted me to do it.

JG: Ok. Yeah...right Barge Chevrolet.

IC: I didn't expect no...I thought Marguerite Sublett'd be Miss San Augustine. I wasn't...

JG: Yeah that's right.

IC: Near...you know, and I, in fact, I had on Esther Goodwin let me...loaned me a...she thought a better looking suit or something when we went on there. And I had my banner Barge Chevrolet across...but when I went back I just took it off. 'Cause I was sure that Marguerite Sublett would win...I thought she was the prettiest one there. And when I was called back I think they said I had my banner upside down. (laughing) So, I was...I didn't tell anybody, I haven't told anybody...not any of my friends. I ever told them that I was. But, they had taken it. I showed you the picture I think. I don't know.

JG: Which one?

IC: Oh...I was...

JG: With the banner?

IC: Did I have it on? I don't even remember.

JG: I think...well, there's that one there that I saw. Where it said on the back.

IC: Well I...let's see what, I had a big one.

JG: You've got so many photographs. (laughing)

IC: Oh...here it is.

JG: Oh no. What's going on there? There's your color photographs. Yeah.

IC: (laughing) Here you know...this was in Saudi Arabia. And, like I said, we didn't have any...

JG: She's showing me a different picture now. (laughing) Now...this was in Saudi Arabia.

IC: See isn't that one funny...and what they'd do out there...oh, in Germany, Germany no that was it.

JG: And this was your Barge Chevrolet...Miss San Augustine right there.

IC: Yeah, yeah.

JG: Yeah, you were very pretty.

IC: But, I've never told anybody. Cindy...I don't want Cindy to know it.

JG: That's a very nice photograph.

IC: See because we didn't have the money then to go anywhere in...so, that was as far as I went.

JG: But, you had a new car, new Chevrolet and Miss San Augustine.

IC: Yeah, but...you know what it took me several years to pay for it. We didn't make much money. I think the first year I made money...I made \$75 a month and they couldn't even pay us. We had vouchers. I remember Jack Smith had a grocery store there. He had...we'd get maybe sixty...I paid only fifteen dollars a month I guess for room and

board down there in the country. And, it took me quite awhile to pay for that car. My daddy gave me his old Ford, Model T Ford roadster for check-in. I think they allowed me twenty-five dollars on it. And after I had it finally paid for, I was thinking about buying another one, see up-to-date...thought it had to be. And I asked my daddy what was the best kind of car to buy and I thought he said Buick or something. He said, "You know sister the best kind of car you can have?" And I said, "No, sir." He said, "One that's paid for."

JG: There you go. (laughing)

IC: Oh, well.

JG: Here's a...here's something from Foster Field. Graduation exercises...

IC: Yeah, that was raised...uh huh.

JG: Army, Air Force Advanced Flying School.

IC: Yeah, I remember that.

JG: And there he is right there. Graduation Cadet...

IC: Oh, the thing that made me so mad that I never did see...

JG: November 10th of '42.

IC: Until his things were sent back from overseas. You know, I got his Distinguished Flying Cross...

JG: Oh, you got more...you got more stuff. (laughs)

IC: I looked through this thing...he came back in his things. I had never seen it. And I couldn't believe everyone...I want you to know...everyone in all these things has told what they wanted to be the pilot, to be this. But, look at what my husband wrote...it's a good thing I didn't know it then...see. (laughing)

JG: He wrote, "Ambition: to find a rich old maid."

IC: Only one in the whole thing. (laughing) See what the others wrote.

JG: But then he wrote, "To the world's best instructor. Ray L. Cornick."

IC: Yeah, and I don't know why it ended up back in his things that were sent from overseas.

JG: Hmmm.

IC: Unless the instructor that I think the Colonel that I knew Mason...Colonel Mason wrote me later probably. I knew him, see, his name. We ran into each other...we were up there in Connecticut together with him and all at one time.

JG: They each had to state what their ambition was and all around him...

IC: Yeah, everyone. He was the only one in that whole dern thing.

JG: One fellow said that, "To go over there..."

IC: No wonder he didn't show it to me.

JG: Yeah. "...and see what's going on." Another one wants to be a flying officer. Some...one ambition is, "to get home again."

IC: Now see I don't know what to do with that but I thought I'd just send it...

JG: "...to be a big dog." But he wanted to find a rich old maid. (laughs) And this was his... Wilco 42J.

IC: See, he'd had it all the time and it came back in his things from overseas.

JG: He was the business manager. Ray Cornick. Now that is...that is really something.

IC: I think that one was from Corsicana. Where, he was there before he came to Foster Field.

JG: Hmmm. Yeah, you got a whole other box down there of things...don't you?

IC: Well, now, hold on. I'm doing these a lot of them I thought to his niece. I think she would like his medals. I think I...

JG: Oh those are his medals, ok.

IC: Well, but I didn't understand they even sent me back his flight book. And I understand nothing ...

JG: Hmmm.

IC: ...about those and I'm giving...and I don't...I'm sure I don't know what to do with that. Just throw it away I guess.

JG: Oh no, no. We've got some of these already.

IC: Do you want...would you want something like...?

JG: Yes...oh yes ma'am definitely.

IC: I asked one guy what was ramrod...to tell me the difference and all those things. He said...oh, this was the bullets, some he shot. He had a different...they sent me back his Air Force medals. He was issued one and then when he got...the...that one's faded. But when he got the Medal of Honor, I didn't realize that was the Medal of Honor. See, they sent one with a star on it.

JG: Oh, yes ma'am.

IC: It was different from his...look at this one this is faded (laughs) I tell you what.

JG: Oh yeah. Yeah, you got one with a star and one without.

IC: Yeah, and this was a bullet...

JG: Sterling silver.

IC: Alright now...who would want that?

JG: What, the old bullet?

IC: Yeah.

JG: (laughs) It's, well it's...yeah...that was a...I'm not even sure what that is. That must be a fifty caliber. Looks like a tracer. That's what he would have shot in his P47. I think they had fifty caliber machine guns.

IC: I'm gonna throw...nobody I could think of would want that...

JG: Well no...we would want that.

IC: You'd, you'd want that?

JG: Yeah, yeah...you'll have to come see us. See, we did a World War II exhibit not too long ago.

IC: See when he...after he got the Distinguished Flying Cross he was issued a different one.

JG: Ok, with a star on it huh? Yeah, yeah. I was looking through his flight log here. He flew the P47C's and the P47D's. And I was gonna see what his...

IC: Well you can...I don't think Dee would care, his niece, why, she wouldn't, she's like me...she wouldn't care for it. I don't understand any of it anyhow.

JG: I was gonna see the date of what the last entry was. Looks like February the 2nd ...was the last entry that he made. Of '44. Combat...

IC: Well you can...

JG: Here's one that says, "Practice dive bombing." So they were getting ready for that mission...

IC: Yeah.

JG: ...with the U-boats.

IC: See I don't...well a lot of that you'd think...like I said I don't...

JG: Here's where he shot down that Messerschmidt ME110.

IC: Yeah, that was in December wasn't it?

JG: December 11th of '43.

IC: Yeah...and his birthday was December the 10th.

JG: Two thousand horsepower Pratt & Whitney. How about that.

IC: You mean, you can read all that.

JG: Uh huh.

IC: Well, you can have it. I don't think Dee would care for it.

JG: Ok. Yeah.

IC: I know I don't have anybody that...just a niece and a nephew or two are all he's got left, too.

JG: We've got several World War II era similar records so...

IC: Ok.

JG: ...that would all fit in. Yes, ma'am. But uh...

IC: Well you can.

JG: Ok. Well, I'll turn the tape machine off then...and, we'll kind of look through some more of this if you don't...

IC: I sure don't want that...I don't know what that is.

JG: Ok. (laughs)

IC: ...I don't know...what would you do with it?

JG: We'll have it on display...we'd do it...we're not really a museum, but we have an exhibit area. Sometimes we put exhibits out. And so that would be good to have.

IC: I was getting all this for his niece...

JG: But...I'll go ahead and stop this tape player for now.

END OF INTERVIEW