

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

YSU Naval Reserve Project

Naval Reserve Experience

O. H. 157

PAUL R. CATHELIN

Interviewed

by

David S. Arms

on

April 30, 1975

PAUL R. CATHELIN

Paul Richard Catheline was born May 16, 1923 in Youngstown, Ohio, the son of Felix and Mary Catheline. He attended St. Patrick's Grade School, Grant Junior High, and South High School. After graduating from high school, he went to work on the railroad and enlisted in the Navy in 1943.

He served in the US Navy from 1943 until 1946. After returning home, he joined the United States Naval Reserve. He married Lillian Dietz in 1949. In 1950 he was recalled by the US Navy to serve in Korea. His involvement in the Korean War however, took him only as far as Pittsburgh, where he did physical examinations for the armed forces. He was discharged in 1952. When Paul returned home, he again joined the Reserve. He had made first class before being recalled for Korea and in 1954 he made Chief.

Paul Catheline retired from the United States Naval Reserve with 36 years service. He and his wife have five children, Mary Gustinella, Paulette Cretella, Howard Catheline, and Debora Catheline. They attend St. Patrick's Church of Youngstown. Mr. Catheline's special interest is sports.

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INTERVIEWEE: PAUL R. CATHELINÉ  
INTERVIEWER: David S. Arms  
SUBJECT: Naval Reserve Experience in Youngstown  
DATE: April 30, 1975

A: This is an interview with Paul Richard Catheline for the Youngstown State University Oral History Project by David Arms at the Naval Reserve Center, 315 LaClede, Youngstown on April 30, 1975 at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Catheline, I understand that you're a chief petty officer in the United States Naval Reserve. Do you mind if I address you as chief?

C: That's perfectly all right.

A: Chief, could you just give me a rundown, maybe of your family background, your life history type thing?

C: I was born about six or eight blocks from the training center here, on Marion Avenue. My father was a policeman, and he retired. I had three brothers and one sister. I went to St. Patrick's Grade School, Grant Junior High and then I went to South High School. After school, I went to work on the railroad and enlisted in the Navy in January, 1943. I went up to Great Lakes for my boot training.

The day I arrived there, my brother was up there. He was a pharmacist's mate stationed up at the Naval Hospital. Through him I went to Corps School and finished Corps School, and then I got assigned to the USS Hornet in Newport News, Virginia.

A: Do you remember about what time was this, you got as-

signed to the Hornet?

C: I commissioned in 1944.

A: What happened to the Hornet about this time? Anything? Did she go to sea, Europe, Japan, any of that?

C: We went over to the South Pacific. We got over there about the time of the Truk invasion and we stayed west of Pearl until after Okinawa. The third typhoon we were in, we had the section of our flight deck bent down over the bow and we had to go in reverse to launch flights. And shortly thereafter--that was in 1945-- we came back to California to have the ship repaired.

A: So you just have to back down to get enough with speed?

C: Well, we just had to send them off the fantail.

A: To get enough wind speed to send them off.

Did you see any action on the Hornet?

C: Yes, we saw quite a bit of action there. One night the planes were out over the Marianna Island there, on a turkey shoot they called it; they shot down many Jap planes. It was a little further than they expected and they were coming back and most of them were out of gas. So, they were landing on the first carriers that they could get on. And the admiral lit up the fleet at night. That was the first time it was ever done.

A: Did you get shot at at all, or do you remember?

C: Well, my battle station was on the hangar deck there and a couple of times I thought a couple of them Jap Bettys were coming in and they just got them at the last minute and they went down.

A: Did you ever wonder if you were going to make it or not?

C: No, it was touch and go there a few times there with them suicide planes diving at us.

A: So, what happened after the Hornet and everything? Did you stay on it throughout the war?

C: Yes, I got off there at California. I went home on leave and I came back, and then shortly thereafter I got out on points. I got discharged at Treasure Island, California.

A: From the United States Navy?

C: From the United States Navy.

A: Whatever made you join the Reserves?

C: I had two brothers in the USNR [United States Naval Reserve] and the fellow that lived with us was in the Reserves, too. His parents were dead and he was like another brother. He was in USNR. That was three of them, and then I joined up, and then a few years later, my younger brother joined. That made us a five star family.

A: That was back here in Youngstown?

C: Yes, this was in Youngstown. It was between 1946 and 1948 that there was five of us in USNR.

A: Can you kind of give me an idea what it was like, I mean, when you went down and signed up or joined the Reserve? Did somebody come out and talk to you? How did that all go about?

C: The thing that got me interested in it was that my brothers were in it and I just thought I'd follow along the same as I did when I enlisted in the Navy the first time. They were in and they seemed to like it and so I thought that I'd try it and make it a Navy family.

A: Any of your brothers still affiliated with the Navy at all?

C: No, they dropped out on work commitments. They couldn't make the meetings or drills and go away for the two weeks. Their jobs wouldn't let them do that. So, one by one they dropped out.

A: How did you sign up in those days?

C: Well, we went down to the Dollar Bank Building downtown across from the Palace Theater. They had the yeomen in there, J. J. Ferranti, and Lieutenant Fields was the officer in charge. And we just signed up. I forget how long it was for, three or four years.

A: Now, what was expected of you for signing up for three or four years? What did they expect of you?

C: Well, they expected us to come down once a week whenever we could make it from work during their working hours. They used to give us books to read.

While they were getting organized they didn't have a place, so we'd just meet right down at the bank building at their desk there and spend two or three hours-- I forget which it was. We'd go down there once a week. Then later on we moved up to South High School.

A: Now, was this as a group or individually you went down once a week?

C: Individually.

A: Individually? So, you could go any time of day?

C: Yes, any time.

A: Did you get around to a meeting time so that everybody got together sooner or later?

C: No, we didn't do that until we got up to South High School.

A: How long a period of time was this?

C: Oh, I imagine it was about six months to a year before we moved up to South High.

A: And then what?

C: Then we'd have regular classes. Everybody was put into different groups and they gave the TC Classification Test and things of that nature.

A: Do you remember who was in this outfit at the time besides yourself? Anybody you can remember at the time?

C: Well, I believe Chief Sharky is still in, and there was Danny Slagle, and my two older brothers. I think C. Booth, he's still there. He was down there, and Chief Pellys. That's going back quite a ways. It's kind of hard to remember. It has been about almost thirty years.

A: Do you remember what you used to do at these meetings? You said you read at first, but then you had meetings. What kind of activities took place?

C: They'd have an instructor and go over different facets of Navy material. And then they start putting us into separate groups like the storekeepers, and the medical, gunner's mates. They kind of start sectioning them off.

It was like a little red schoolhouse at first. Everybody was with the same instructor, then they start sectioning them off in their own fields. Then they had an instructor there to go over material to get you prepared when you went on your two weeks active training duty.

A: Who were the instructors?

C: They were regular Navy personnel, but I can't recall their names at this time.

A: I mean, were they active duty people or fellow Reservists?

C: Fellow Reservists were the instructors. They only had two active duty personnel. They only had one officer and I think, one or two enlisted men was all that they had at the time. They were on full-time active duty.

A: What was their job at that time? Do you remember?

C: J. Ferranti and Leo Stoney were the yeomen and they took care of all the service records. And lieutenant Fields was the officer in charge. Commander Stansbury, I guess he was the commanding officer of the unit. He wasn't on active duty. He was in a reserve status.

A: Do you remember where he worked in civilian . . . ?

C: He worked right in the Dollar Bank Building there. He was the one that got the office.

A: So, in other words, the office was kind of an arrangement that the Navy had or was it something that Commander Stansbury . . . ?

C: Commander Stansbury was the one that set it up. They had to have some place where they could go down to sign up and enlist and then go to meetings.

A: After you moved, how long were you in South High? How long did the meetings meet there? Do you remember?

C: We must have been up there about a year, a year and a half and then we moved up to the training center in 1948 when that opened up.

A: Do you remember any of that, what happened in that period there? Moving into the center, building it or did you take part in any of that?

- C: No, I didn't take any part in the building, but I know a lot of the fellows did. They used to come up and help with the building and that and get credit for drills. That was the way they tried to keep the cost down.
- A: Do you remember if any of the materials were brought in at any time for the building at all?
- C: When I first come up here it was mostly already erected and completed.
- A: What was your job or what were you supposed to do in the Reserves at the time?
- C: My main job was seeing that the inoculations were kept up and they used to have to get a physical every year. And that ought to all be taken care of prior to their departure on two weeks training duty, so that when they got there, they didn't have to take time to give them inoculations or anything. They were ready to go to work. Wherever the ship went, they were qualified to go.
- A: What was your rate at the time?
- C: I was a second class pharmacist's mate.
- A: How did somebody make rate at that time? How were they advanced or promoted?
- C: It was about the same way as now. They'd give you written examinations. And then they didn't have any quotas. As long as you got 2.5 or better, you automatically were advanced in rating. You had to be recommended to take the examintaion by the commanding officer and then if you passed it, it was automatic. There was no quotas.
- A: Was it fairly difficult? Were the tests difficult did you think?
- C: They weren't too difficult if you hadn't been out too long and you still remembered a lot of the training that you had; it wasn't too difficult. But it was a matter of two or three years between gradings at the time.
- A: They dealt specifically in a professional area?
- C: Mostly in a professional. They had some on the Navy line, but it was mostly professional.



- A: Can you recall any different happenings between, let's say, when you joined and the early 1950's? Was there any great turnover of personnel? How many people were here at that time? Do you remember?
- C: We used to have, I imagine, around two hundred to the division at the time. In the 1950's when I got recalled, the Navy station here had a softball team. I used to play with them. I came out to play ball one night and they said, "You won the raffle." And I said, "I did?" And they said, "Yes, they drew your number. You're the first one to be recalled for Korea out of this station." They kind of joked with me about it as we were playing ball that night. I said, "Yes, well I'll be saying good-bye to you guys one of these days, too."

Well, later it did turn out that way because I got to Pittsburgh and they were just starting to recall them and they were short on corpsmen down there. And they sent a speedy message to hold me at Pittsburgh. I was supposed to go to Philadelphia to get a detachment of Marines; and the letter came back approved and I stayed there for two and a half years at the recruiting station.

- A: So, your basic involvement in Korea was in Pittsburgh?
- C: All of it was in Pittsburgh, right.
- A: What did you do in Pittsburgh?
- C: Well, at first I started out working, giving physical examinations and then I went to armed forces examining, which was in the same building. That examined everybody, Air Force, Army. From there I went to the office of Naval Office of Procurement, which was in the same building. That had mostly to do with the enlistment of officers and recalling officers and doing their physical examinations. Also, that's where the Waves [Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service] were enlisted and also the nurses.
- A: What was the main purpose of this whole thing down in Pittsburgh? Is it a screening?
- C: The main purpose of it was to take the work load off of the main stations. We did a complete physical examination on them and a complete medical history. Usually they sent them down by train and we used to have to see that they got down there and got on the train and got on to Philadelphia. And when they got there, they were

ready to be placed.

A: So, a guy was physically qualified when you turned him away? Is that right?

C: When he turned away he had all his medical records and everything and he was ready to start right on duty when he arrived there instead of waiting around to get it all done there.

A: That sure was a lot different from your first naval experience on the Hornet I'm sure.

C: Oh, yes it was.

A: Do you remember any particular instance at Pittsburgh that stands out in your mind?

C: Yes, the one I remember is in 1950 when they had the big snow. I used to come home on the weekends, but I'd go down early Sunday night so I'd be there Monday morning. And we were just outside of the train station, about a half of a mile and it took us about four or five hours to get in there. I stayed at the YMCA, which was a block from the recruiting station and I was the only one that made it to the station for two days. A lot of the fellows overstayed on their leave and they run out of money, so I would give them meal tickets to go down to the Y and eat and then later on, that would be taken out of their pay.

A: Did the Navy pay for your lodging at the Y or did you have to pay for that yourself?

C: Well, we were on subsistence and allowances. You could stay anyplace you wanted to stay and I chose the Y because it was close and you could go down and work out and different things in the evening. I'd just go home on the weekends.

A: You left your family here?

C: I left my family here.

A: You were married at the time?

C: I was married. My first child was born about two months before I got recalled. I was lucky though. I still had my railroad pass and I rode between Youngstown and Pittsburgh on the train and it didn't cost me nothing.

A: It turned out handy then?

C: Yes it did.

A: I know you mentioned that your brother was in the Navy and all this and you wanted to make a Navy family. Was there any other reason that you specifically chose the Navy for any particular reason or was it strictly just a family type thing?

C: This other fellow, Jim Moran, he was a chief storekeeper. He was in the Navy before the war about 1936, 1933, 1934, around in there, and when he came back, his parents weren't living so he came to live with us. And I kind of admired him and the way he conducted himself and looked in his uniform and everything like that. And then he enlisted in 1942. He went back in and then my two brothers went and then I went.

A: What kind of activities did you participate in, in this period here at the center? Any special activities? I'm sure there was a lot going on.

C: Well, like I say, we had a bowling team and a basketball team and a softball team. I used to like sports, which I still do. And being as that they were short with the station keepers, that some of us Reserves would fill in to make up the different teams. We used to have some good times. We used to go out after playing ball and have beer parties and different things. Everybody was close to everybody.

A: Now, after Korea and everybody came back, did a lot of the guys that were here before come back or did they call it quits?

C: Most of them, I don't think they came back because they didn't want to take a chance on being recalled again. I don't know how many were recalled, but I'd say maybe about 25% came back that were recalled. The other ones didn't want to have their family life interrupted again, so when their time was up, they got out.

A: In this 1950's period after Korea, what kind of activities did take place here at the center? In other words, was there any change in the training or advancements or anything like that during the 1950 period?

C: No. They remained about the same. The examinations were about the same. They were still mostly professional. Maybe 15% of it was based on Navy procedure. The rest was on professional.

C: Did this close feeling that you mentioned before, prior

to the Korea era, did this still stay in there? Was there a lot of guys that were still friends, a lot of bowling teams?

- C: Well, yes, yes. For awhile there it was like that. Then with the transfer of the personnel and everything like that and new ones coming in and the older ones dropping out as they had their time in, then they gradually got away from the extracurricular activities.
- A: Now, during this period you mentioned the two week thing here. Could you just give me an idea what some of your two week duties were; some of the places you went? Can you remember any of them?
- C: About that time I used to spend most of my two weeks right here at the training center. Then I'd work afternoon turn at my job on the railroad. That way there I'd save my vacation and I could take my family away for my two weeks. But periodically I'd get a destroyer at Philadelphia, maybe go down to Nassau or Charleston, South Carolina or else be stationed at the hospital in Philadelphia. I went up to Great Lakes Hospital up there for two weeks. Most of the time though, I'd go aboard the Reserve tin can and spend the two weeks on the ship.
- A: When you went on those two weeks, can you kind of describe what you did? What was your purpose and what did you accomplish if anything?
- C: It was just like being part of the crew. I kind of feel like the medical department is a little closer together than some of the other divisions. You just fall into the routine with the sick calls and getting their records up to date and helping with the storerooms, getting them cleaned up for inspections.
- I was pretty lucky, most of the places I went they treated me like I was one of the crew. I mean, they didn't give me menial jobs. They just had me fall in and do things according to your rate, whatever you felt that you were qualified to do. They never asked anything better than that of you. It always seemed that when you were on your two weeks, if there was a chance for liberty, they never put you on the watch. They knew that you were coming for two weeks and they wanted you to enjoy yourself and have a good time.
- A: So, it was not only the two weeks of Navy experience, but kind of a change of pace, a little vacation?

- C: Yes, a little change of pace. It's a lot different than railroading, which is the only job I've ever done.
- A: When you went on your two weeks, being a Reserve, did you ever find that you weren't accepted by the crew or anything like that?
- C: It is definitely known that some of the regulars didn't care too much for Reserves, but I always found out if you . . . I'd kind of let them talk first. If they wanted to be sociable, it was all right with me because I was willing to get along with anybody, but I didn't try to force myself on them and start conversations with them if they didn't seem like they want to be bothered. I've never had one be rude to me or anything like that. Some were a little distant and cold, but not actually ever rude or anything. So, I felt that that was their prerogative. I mean, they never, like I said, gave me any difficult jobs or anything that I couldn't do, but they never harassed me or anything. Like I say, some of them were a little distant and cold, which is understandable.
- A: As if they didn't know you or anything?
- C: That's right. You come in on their routine and they're used to men that they see everyday and live with everyday and they don't know what kind of work you do or anything like that. But the majority of them, every once in awhile you'd get a break and you sit down and start talking to them and they'd talk about their families and different things like that; if there was anything they could do. A lot of them, if they had their families there and that, they'd invite you to their home for dinner. Most of them were excellent, I would say.
- A: Now I understand why you joined the Naval Reserve. Could you give me an idea why--what, thirty years now, just about--why do you stay with it?
- C: I don't know. I guess you'd say it kind of got to be a habit. I don't know if I'm going to make it a career yet or not. I haven't made up my mind.
- A: (Laughter) How many years do you have in there chief?
- C: I've got 32 years in right now.
- A: Is that good years?

C: Thirty-two good years, yes, with the active duty in the Reserve and every year I've been here I've had a good year.

A: You didn't have any broken service at all?

C: Well yes, when I got out of the Navy in 1946. I got out in January and I didn't join the Reserve until December. That was the only broken service that I had.

A: Almost a year.

C: Yes, but other than that, when I got discharged from Korea, the next day that I got discharged I was down here and was signed up again.

A: You said it has kind of become a habit and you don't know if you'd make a career out of it after 32 years. Do you belong to any other organizations in town or participate in any organizational . . . ?

C: NO. The main reason is--I'd like to,--but I work the extra list all the time on the railroad and I'm subject to call. And if I can't fully participate in something, I'd rather not do it haphazardly. I'd join a bowling team or something like that once in awhile, but then when I got around to missing too many I felt that I was doing the team harm, so I just dropped out.

A: How does your family, wife and children, accept this Navy Reserve?

C: They think it's a good thing. I mean, Like I say, it used to be a little harder when I was younger and trying to get them away for a two week's vacation without losing out, if I could take my duty at the center. Work wasn't too good at the time. The Navy pay helped me out with my insurance and different things. I'd say, if I had it to do all over again, I'd do the same thing. I'd have joined the Reserves when I got out.

A: Now, I'm sure that back in the early period, the Reserve, there wasn't all that much. What did you usually do with the money that you did earn? Were you always in pay status, always get paid for training?

C: I was in pay status from the beginning.

A: And what did you usually do with the money that you earned from the Reserve?

C: I'd use it to pay bills, to eat and to live on, pay

the rent. When I was buying a home, to make the house payments. I always put it to good use.

- A: It was always that little bit that helped?
- C: Right. That really helped out a lot. I don't know what I'd have done without it.
- A: Do you still find that true today or do you kind of spend it on yourself?
- C: Well, now that I'm in a better position, I'm financially more stable. I have my home paid for. On the railroad I used to work in the yard and we were limited to the amount of money that we made. Since the Penn Central merged with the Pennsylvania Railroad, we were allowed to work on the road and I make pretty good money now. So, I get the checks and I usually buy something extra that really you don't need. Not like before when we used to get paid every three months, I couldn't wait to get the check to pay the bills that were ensuing.
- A: Can you remember any of the people that you've met in this organization? I'm not saying just way back when, but some of the people that just come to mind that you've talked to and dealt with in the Naval Reserve. Can you tell me anything about them?
- C: The first doctor that I can remember that we had as our Senior Medical Officer was Dr. John Renner. He was quite a surgeon in town here. I mean, I've lost track. I haven't seen him for about twenty years. Then there was a Dr. Shorten. I just ran into him last week when I was down in the hospital visiting my daughter. And he's also a surgeon and he used to be our Senior Medical Officer. I believe that Dr. Shorten and Dr. Berg and Dr. Vuksta and our medical officer, Dr. Meikle were the ones that I could remember have been around the center longer than any other medical personnel.
- A: Can you tell me anything about these guys? Did you ever work with any of them?
- C: Only at the Reserve Center, never at the hospital or at their office or anything like that. But anytime if you needed a special physical done or any type of x-ray or blood test that you couldn't do here at the center, they were always willing to have you come down to their office and they would do it down there and they wouldn't

charge you. For any emergencies at all that you had, they were always willing to help you out. They were really a good bunch of fellows.

- A: Do you remember doing anything here out of the ordinary with any of the doctors? I'm sure people must have gotten hurt or something like that.
- C: Oh, nothing really serious. Did a little suturing or something when somebody would get hurt working in one of the shops or something like that, mostly minor stuff. Anything that was more of a serious nature, the hospital was close and we'd just take them down to the hospital.
- A: How about some of the people that might not have been in the medical department? Can you tell me anything about any of these people? You mentioned Lieutenant Fields. Do you remember any of the other active duty officers?
- C: I recall the officers and that, but I just can't remember their names. They were here maybe two or three years at the time and then they'd get transferred.
- A: How about some of the more recent ones? Do you remember any of those?
- C: I was with the Marines, the Third Engineers, for about five years.
- A: Now, were they here?
- C: They were at the training center.
- A: Can you tell me anything about them?
- C: They were short on corpsmen. In fact, all they had was the active duty corpsmen and they didn't have anybody to go out in the field or on the trips with them. So, Chief Campbell, which was the active duty chief for the Marines, asked me if I'd transfer over to give them a hand, which I did and I stayed there with them for about five years. And then they broke up the unit here after that and sent some of them to New Castle. So, then I went in with the Seabees and I was with them for about three years. I couldn't make the meetings down in Columbus on account of my work, so I came back to the surface division, which I am presently in now.
- A: Now you say you had the Marines and everything. You say



you were here when the center was established and everything. When did the Marines come onto the scene? Do you remember that?

C: I don't recall, but I know they've been here for years.

A: I mean, was it around Korea? I don't have to have an exact date.

C: I believe they were here in 1950 because the Marines, when we used to have an overnight or something like that, they had their own cooks. Yes, I believe they were here in the 1950's.

A: You say they're gone now, do you remember anything that led up to their leaving? Did the Marines have a re-organization or something?

C: They must have had a reorganization. Well, the Air Force used to meet here, too, and then they moved out to the air base out at Vienna. And then I guess they were breaking up the engineering divisions and that and they just disbanded them from the unit here and they sent them out to different sub-units.

A: You say the Air Force used to drill here?

C: They just used to meet. It was a small place when they were just getting started; the same as when we were starting out down at the bank building downtown. They were getting started here and they'd come out and they'd have one of the classrooms up there. They'd start out about the same way, having them read different things and then they moved out to the air base.

A: Do you remember about what time period it was? Was that in the early 1950's?

C: I believe that was in the early 1960's. They weren't here for too long, but they were here. They used it more for recruiting, to get them signed up, till they got moved out to the air base.

A: Do you remember any other organizations that might have been drilling or meeting or anything down here?

C: No. They used to have judo instructors come out and give some courses and instructions. We used to have boxing teams here.

A: Was that part of the Naval Reserve training?

- C: No, it was just something that some of the organizers would have them come out, break up the monotony of classrooms and different things like that. Then they'd have lecturers come out and lecture on the use of marijuana and dope and different things like that. Then they'd have traffic investigators come out and tell them about the hazards of driving, and driving while intoxicated and different things, what kind of jackpots you could get into.
- A: This was part of your Naval training sometimes?
- C: Training, yes. Not regular curriculum, but it was something that was in your everyday life that could help you out.
- A: It benefitted you in that way.
- C: Right.
- A: Chief, can you recall any of the activities that you might have participated in as a Reservist? Let's say a parade or anything like that? Did you do any of that in the early days?
- C: Well, not in the early days we didn't. In the late 1950's and early 1960's and that we used to participate in the parades every year.
- A: What parades were those?
- C: Armed Forces Day and Armistice Day. Usually about two parades a year we used to march.
- A: And everybody turned out?
- C: Yes, everybody. Everybody would turn out for it. They wouldn't have no meeting that week. They'd all meet down for the parade. If you didn't make the parade, then you couldn't make the credit for the drill or you couldn't make it up.
- A: You said every week; you used to meet once a week was that it?
- C: Once a week. They used to have one division, NRSD 113, meet on Monday night and NRSD 114 on Tuesday night. And then, I believe, the Seabees used to meet on Thursday and then they had the Marines up. I think they come in on Thursday, too, at the same time as the Seabees did. Then eventually they all went to the weekend

drills.

A: So, then everybody switched over and they met--what-- one weekend a month?

C: One weekend a month, usually on the third weekend.

A: Chief, earlier you mentioned something about pay, being paid every three months. Could you just kind of relate to me, how did you get paid and how was your pay recorded and things like that?

C: Well, it's the same way. You get credit for a drill, one day's pay. You used to come to a drill for, I believe it was from 7:00 to 10:00, a three hour drill. And we got paid every three months at the time. Of course, a day's pay then was considered a lot lower than it is now, but it went a long way to paying--I used to use it mostly to make house payments and things with it and get it every three months.

A: When you came back from war, World War II, you said you were a second class pharmacist?

C: Yes I was.

A: When did you make first class?

C: I made first class just before I got recalled for Korea. And then when I got discharged in 1952, I made chief, again at the Reserve. I was one of the first ones that made chief in the Reserve. I made it in 1954.

A: You've been chief since 1954?

C: Yes, about twenty-one years. My ambition was to make chief and put in thirty years.

A: Well, it looks like you've got both of them under the wagon there.

I just wanted to go back, also, and ask you something about when you were down in Pittsburgh during the Korea call-up. Can you remember any of the attitudes of the people that were called up? Was there anybody that stood out?

C: None really stood out I would say, except a couple of guys, when they were supposed to come up for the physical, they kind of got bombed and they come up without their orders or gear and different things like that.

And I'd call one of my brothers up and have them pick up their gear and their orders wherever they left them and they'd send them up on a train and I'd pick them up and let them sleep it off in my room at the Y.

A: Can you recall, Chief, how were the people? Were they happy about being called up? Were they upset about it? What was the general attitude towards being called?

C: The ones that had already seen service before didn't mind it too much, but ones, the younger ones that were never away from home or that, they were a little bit afraid I'd say. But generally speaking, most of them that got recalled just took it in that order and went without complaining.

A: You didn't seem to have the problem like during Vietnam? There were no protests?

C: No, no, because I believe that they believed more and more in the service at the time and it was more justified in Korea. The younger people's way of thinking, they think more for themselves nowadays. If they don't think something is right, they don't want to participate in it, whereas before, they used to follow along and go along with the program. Even if they didn't think that it was right, they went along and didn't complain too much.

A: Throughout the years America has changed. We've all changed. Do you think the Navy has changed?

C: No. In some sense I believe it has. Like I say, they think more for themselves and if you try to roust them a little bit they don't like it and they claim you're discriminating against them. I believe it's a little harder to give orders to them now, to have them obey them. You can't be as rough, well, as rough like they used to be on you. You do something or else. You were restricted or you went to mass for it. I think that the petty officers were backed up more by the officers in the earlier Navy than I think that they are now. They kind of compromise with the man that's disputing the order that he's getting from the senior petty officers.

A: I'm sure we all remember since the Navy had an admiral recently visit this post, a fellow by the name of Admiral Zumwalt. Did you see any changes or anything?

C: Well, that's when I would say, quite a few of the changes came about where you were allowed to wear civilian clothes

ing and some barracks and things like that for noncoms, they'd have their own beer machines in there, which before, you weren't allowed to have any beer or anything to drink in the barracks at all, which I think was a change for the good as long as they don't abuse it. Of course, for the younger men, a lot of the states that they're in, they have to be a certain age before they can drink and they tend to abuse it when you do let them have some. So, you have to be very careful.

The same way when we used to have parties here on the QT. We really weren't allowed to have them at the center, but we kind of supervised and if somebody seemed like they were drinking a little too much, we just shut their drinks off and see that somebody took him home. It's a case where one has to look after the other.

- A: In this same regard chief, have you seen any of this reputed drug abuse in the service?
- C: I think it occurs mostly with the younger group. And naturally, I was in the Navy before most of them were born and I don't associate too much with them because we're so much a different age group. So, I really haven't had any dealings with it.
- A: If someone was going to see it--someone who had been abusing drugs, I'm sure someone in the medical department . . . On your two week tours or anything, have you ever seen any cases of drug abuse that you could relate on?
- C: No, I never really noticed it that much. Usually when you're only out for a short period of time they don't tend to use them as much as if they were out over a longer period of time, trying to get some escape from the monotonous routine of everyday living and miss going out and dancing and having female companionship. For short periods of time you don't usually come into contact with it. It's more or less when they're isolated for longer periods.
- A: You mentioned female companionship and being isolated. What's your opinion of this latest move to put women on board ship?
- C: I don't know. I don't think that the married men's wives are going to think too much of it, but it's just like anything else, everything is changing. I've been

aboard hospital ships where they've had female personnel and they seem to get along all right together. They didn't have too much trouble. I imagine there was some incidents where they might have had some trouble, but none that I know of. But I don't see any reason why they couldn't be co-educational.

A: You don't see any problems where females are being made necessarily to compromise due to the cohabitation or the living in a closed space for an extended period of time?

C: They're not usually out long periods of time like they were before. Now, I'd say during World War II and that, it couldn't be done then because, I recall we were out over a year without a liberty at the time and we had a musical play aboard ship and I had to dress up like a girl. And we went up and did our routine and that and I had to get escorted by the SP's because I guess I looked pretty good to the fellows.

A: (Laughter) When was this period chief?

C: About 1945.

A: Was this common at that time? Shows of this nature?

C: Oh no. We were in Ulithi Island there for a few days. And just like I say, the only liberty we had would be to go ashore, get about two or three cans of beer and that was it; on some little island maybe play ball or something and that was the only liberty we had for about eighteen months.

A: You mentioned earlier also about playing ball and bowling with people here at the Reserve Center and I also know that you mentioned that you didn't belong to any outside activities. There's a social life involved also with the Naval Reserve Center would you say?

C: Well, there used to be. I don't think that it is as much now being as they brought divisions down from Warren and that. Most of the old-timers that were around here, they're mostly all gone. And it's more of a change and I haven't been participating as much as I'd like to on account of my work. I'm away for two or three days at a time. When I get called to go to work, I go to Buffalo and I never know when I'm going to work. I'm on call. So, I haven't been as active as I'd like to have been in the last few years.

A: You said something about drinking on the QT et cetera.

Did they have any parties or anything like that here?

C: Yes, usually when somebody that was here for a long time was getting relieved or sent some other place--I'm talking about a long time like four or five years and everybody knew him--they'd chip in and buy him a present, and if we could, we'd have a little gathering one night for him. Mostly it was the older fellows that were here a long time that knew each other and everything. They'd have a party for him.

Occasionally we'd have it at the center, which we weren't supposed to. We never had any trouble, never any fights or arguments or anything like that and nobody was ever in an accident after one of the parties. If they had too much to drink, we wouldn't let them drive. And then we used to go to different bars around and rent a room and have food. We'd have parties, going away parties mostly, for men being transferred that were quite awhile.

A: Can you remember any big social occasions that they had here?

C: Well, the biggest that they had was around Christmas time for the children and the families would come and the children. Then they'd have a band, small band, or else they'd have records and they'd dance and they used to get together and have a good time, but none of the parties did they have anything to drink when they had the children around. It was soft drinks, coffee, cakes and ice cream. They'd have presents for all the families.

A: You mentioned people came down from Warren. Could you just tell me a little bit about what happened there, if you remember?

C: I think I was with the Seabees at the time and I don't know too much about it. But they closed the station up at Warren and they transferred all the men down here to this Reserve Center. I believe the First Service Division was 113.

A: Do you remember how many people that would have been involved in something like this?

C: I imagine it was around 100 or 125 people that come down.

A: About what time period?

- C: I'd say it was around the middle 1960's that they closed up the center and they've been down here. And they just formed in with the other units and then they eventually went to meeting on weekends.
- A: What one event possibly, in your reserve career, really stands out in your mind?
- C: Nothing really exciting really happened. I remember on one of the tours, the first one I made with the Seabees, I went down with our senior medical officer, Dr. Vuksta and we went down to Camp Swampy, Mississippi there and we didn't think it was going to be anything like it was. It was all mud and everything. The Seabees were all dressed for it with fatigues and that and we were in our dress blues. And we had on low oxfords and they had on boots. We had a jug on the plane. And we were walking in mud there and we finally hitchhiked a ride down to where we were going to stay. It was really Camp Swampy all right. They used to stay out overnight there on maneuvers.
- A: Did you go out on maneuvers?
- C: No, I didn't go out on any of the maneuvers with them. There was a lot of them that would get colds and everything because they weren't used to being out in all kinds of weather. It was raining and different things like that. I mean it was something different.

I mean, when you look back at it, I guess we had a good time. We went into New Orleans for our weekend. One of the fellows in the Seabees was supposed to rent a car for us, which he never got around to doing it and we were waiting for it, and finally, we got a ride in a truck. The doctor and the dental officer and myself were in our dress blues again riding in the back of an open end truck. We got up to the airport and we rented a car. We drove it to New Orleans, right to the hotel and parked it there and it stayed there until we were ready to come back. We never used it.

We were really kidding each other about the break we got on the room. I think it was the Roosevelt Hotel we stayed in down there. Three of us were in one room and they only charged us twenty dollars apiece a day; paying sixty dollars for a room down there. We had a bargain. We were kidding each other that the recruits were doing better than us. They were down staying for eight, ten bucks a day in a better hotel than we were and here we're paying twenty a day for three of us in



a room. It was one of the ones I remember, mostly because we really had a good time down in New Orleans going around looking at different places.

A: So, it wasn't all work? It was a lot of play and relaxation?

C: Yes. A lot of play. I mean, you met a lot of nice people in the Reserve. And they used to have on the bulletin boards different things. They would advertise work that they'd do. If you needed some plumbing done or different things like that or if you needed your lawn mowers fixed, they'd fix it and give you a good price on it. If they had a car to sell or something like that, they'd tell you what was wrong with it and everything. They wouldn't try to pawn something off on you. They used to have a bull and swap up there. I mean, you used to come one night a week and you met more often and therefore I think that you knew different personnel more closely than you do now when you only meet once a month.

A: We were talking about the changes and everything, I'm sure that the actual Navy Reserve structure has changed quite a few times since you've been in it. Have you noticed that it has changed or it has changed like everything else has changed or what?

C: I wouldn't say that there was too much of a radical change in the structure. I think that they get them better prepared now that if they are recalled, they'll go and just fit right into whatever ship or departments they go with. I think they're better qualified now.

They've cut down on some of the red tape. And I think they have better instructions now, helping them to advance in rating, but I would say nothing of really radical changes.

A: One last question Chief, can you remember, during the Vietnam buildup, of any problems arising around here, demonstrations or problems within the Naval Reserve itself?

C: No. I never noticed any change. I know a lot of us thought we were going to get recalled for it, but I don't know of anybody that did.

A: Did you give it much thought at the time or just kind of say, "Well it's like Korea?"

C: I just said, "Well, I've been in there and I've been

using the money." It has helped me out and I said, "If they need me--I went twice, I can go again."

A: Did you think you were any different than the people that were out protesting? The only reason I bring this up is it was played-up big in the papers and everything like that. Did you find any conflict within yourself on it?

C: No, I would say I didn't find any conflict. If I would have been recalled I would . . . I mean, I wouldn't like to go down and volunteer to go again because I've been there twice, but if I got recalled I wouldn't have thought anything of it. I would have went and I would have did my job to my best ability and I wouldn't have complained about it. But like I say, I wouldn't have went and volunteered to go because I'm a little older now and I felt that I had took up from my home life twice to go. If they'd have called me I wouldn't have protested or anything. I would have went.

A: You say you went twice before, when you were there, did you ever have that feeling that you were there because your country wanted you to be there?

C: The first time, I wanted to go. I enlisted because I didn't like the way that Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and I really wanted to go. And the reason that I picked the Navy was on account that my brothers were in there, but I'd have went to some service. I felt that it was my duty to go.

A: And then in Korea you felt it was your duty to go again?

C: Well I mean, I wouldn't have enlisted in Korea. I wouldn't have volunteered, but if I was recalled, if they needed me, I had to qualms about going or anything like that. But like I say, the first time I enlisted, because our country was more or less in jeopardy, but for Korea, I wouldn't have enlisted. But when I was recalled, I thought it was all right and I just went.

A: I think that's all the questions I had, Chief. Is there anything you'd just like to add? Any sea stories you'd like to tell?

C: Like I say, nothing exciting really happened. I'm not much of a story teller.

A: You must have heard a couple of good sea stories in you time though.

C: I'm trying to think of some, but they don't come to my mind at the present time.

A: Kind of like a block?

C: A mental block. It has been so long ago since I actually was on active duty and the things that happened at the time don't seem like they're out of the ordinary. They might be, to somebody else if you were telling them, but they don't seem to stand out in my mind because it was more or less routine.

A: Well, thank you Chief. I appreciate it.

END OF INTERVIEW

The following comments were added by Mr. Catheline in December of 1980:

C: Since I made this interview, I retired from the USNR with 36 year's service. I was never a very military person, because I always thought that medical personnel should be more like a friend you could come to anytime you had a problem.

When we had physical exams or inoculations at the Reserve Center, I would ask the men if they had any work commitments and put them first in line. Some might have taken advantage of me, but by and large, I think most of them were honest. I never walked by a person standing around without asking if he was taken care of. I also took their word if they didn't feel well and issued a light duty or no duty and by trusting them, they very seldom abused this privilege.

The fact that I didn't pull rate and issue much discipline, the men, I felt, respected me and felt I was a friend and trying my best to treat them like a person and help them as much as possible.

I am out of military life, but still live by the code of helping and treating other persons like human beings regardless of race, religion or creed.