

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Law Enforcement Officers

Orlando DiLullo Personal Experiences

O. H. 252

ORLANDO T. DILULLO

Interviewed

by

John M. Bukovinsky

on

March 2, 1981

Orlando T. DiLullo

Orlando T. DiLullo, the son of Guy and Irene DiLullo, was born January 10, 1930, in Youngstown, Ohio. He attended elementary school in Youngstown and went to Rayen High School where he dropped out of the ninth grade in order to help support his family.

DiLullo served in the US Army as a demolitions expert during the Korean War. After being discharged from the Army, in 1953, he worked at various jobs while obtaining his high school diploma. In 1960, he became a Mahoning County deputy sheriff in the Ray T. Davis administration.

During his fifteen years of work for Mahoning County, DiLullo held many law enforcement positions; deputy sheriff, assistant chief deputy, captain in the sheriff's office. In 1970, he worked in the Tri-county narcotics unit. During this time he also helped establish the criminal justice department at Youngstown State University and he even attended some classes at the university.

DiLullo, in 1976, left the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office to work for the Liberty Police Department. In 1977 he became Police Chief of Liberty and is still serving in that position. DiLullo, his wife, Eleanor, and two sons live in Liberty.

by John Bukovinsky

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INTERVIEWEE: ORLANDO DILULLO

INTERVIEWER: John Bukovinsky

SUBJECT: Bombings in Youngstown, Criminal Justice Department at YSU, Korean War experiences, narcotics

DATE: March 2, 1981

B: This is an interview with Mr. Orlando T. DiLullo for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program on Law Enforcement Officers. This interview is conducted by John Bukovinsky in Mr. DiLullo's office in Liberty township on March 2, 1981, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. DiLullo, what do you remember about your parents and family?

D: My parents are immigrants from Italy. They came to this country some 60 years ago. My father died when I was 15 years old in 1945. My mother is still alive. She is 87 years old and has an Italian origin.

I lived through the Depression of 1951. I was a young child during the Depression. My parents raised five children. My father was a stone mason. These days they cut stone with machinery; in those days they did it by hand. As a result of being a stone mason, the dust and the powder from the stone eventually got to him and he died of tuberculosis in 1945.

As far as morality, it's an Italian family who always felt that you had to work for a living. One of the things my mother used to tell me and I modeled from her more than my father, was that whenever you get a job you always want to give your employer ten hours work for eight hours pay. That's been pretty much the philosophy of our entire family. We never were wealthy even though we're living a little better than we did in those days. Some of us had received a little bit more than a formal education. My brother has

a degree, another brother quit school. I have a sister who quit school. I quit school in the ninth grade. That's pretty much of what I remember of my family. The food was always on the table. They were church going people, and that was it. I felt that, when my father died in 1945, I was one of two people at home and I should quit school and go to work. I did. I went to work at the age of fifteen. I had lied about my age when I quit school. Eventually I went into the service. When I came out of the service, I went back to high school and received my high school diploma. That would be 1953 at the age of 23. From there I got involved in law enforcement and eventually I attended classes at Youngstown State for a period of two years in a criminal justice course.

I was part of a steering committee in 1963 and 1964 to establish a criminal justice course down at Youngstown State. That's about all I can tell you about my family.

B: What was it like growing up in Youngstown in the late 1930's and early 1940's?

D: I was born in January of 1930 in a place called Smokey Hollow. That's Emerald Street which lies between Andrews Avenue and Walnut which the greatest portion of that property down there now belongs to the State University for parking lots and whatever else they're doing with it down there.

As a young boy, you know we were poor. Of course, the only time you got out of the area of where you lived was when you went to school. I went to Madison Elementary School. When occasionally you managed to get a nickel to go to a movie on a Saturday or Sunday. We played in the streets. Everybody was close. There were mixed families down there. They were Irish, Italian, Polish, black, and Jewish. It was just a mixed-type of a neighborhood. There was never any type of prejudicism. I've had black friends who ate at my house, and I've eaten at their house. We went to school and there was no type of racial disorders of any kind.

We managed on our own growing up. Eventually those who lived in the Smokey Hollow went to Hayes Junior High and on to Rayen. I was never really an active type of a person outside of hanging around with the guys from the corner. I've always worked all of my life. I never really had any time for outside activities.

I was 11 years old when Pearl Harbor was hit. I saw two

of my brothers go into the service. In 1950 I went to Korea. Living in those days I think was just great, really. The police were well respected in those days. The fellows used to be able to tell you if a cruiser was coming. They had signals. The kids got off the street. They didn't want to be around when the policemen came down. They were not only respected, they were feared even though they never hassled or harassed anybody.

As far as conduct in the home, I recall that there used to be a whistle that would blow at 9:00 p.m. at Republic Steel. I imagine that whistle was lunch period for the afternoon workers. When that whistle blew, you had better be home. My parents never allowed us on the street after 9:00 at night and, of course, then most parents didn't. If I happened to be six blocks away and that whistle started to blow, I had better be in bed before it stopped or else my father was waiting for me. In those days, you felt that was the way of living. Today it's another story.

My parents were not rich. Being the youngest of the family, I had all the pass me downs, the trousers, the shirts, the shoes, and whatever else. That's what it was like.

- B: Did you notice any difference in Youngstown when Mayor Henderson was elected when he brought in Police Chief Allen?
- D: Yes, of course I was real young when that occurred. Right off I recall, because I was always interested in being a police officer, that Mayor Henderson was elected and there was quite a bit of controversy when they brought in Ed Allen. I believe he was from Erie, Pennsylvania. There was a lot of gambling in Youngstown. I remember the man on the corner had a confectionary store. He wrote numbers in the open. In those days, numbers were the greatest thing going, which today is the Ohio Lottery. When Allen came in, of course, I was too young to know about any other type of serious gambling such as big crap games or whatever. When Allen came in, there was a lot of controversy. It was the first time I think in the history of the Youngstown Police Department that an outsider became the police chief. I was young enough and still old enough to be able to read and understand what was going on. He chased a lot of the racketeers out of this town. It was a type of community that Youngstown was well-respected in those years. Even people who didn't obey the law respected the police. I heard there were a lot of problems internally with the Youngstown Police Department at that time because, again, a lot of people felt that they should have selected a member of the police department to become the chief. Ed Allen was probably one of the best police chiefs Youngstown ever had.

B: You said you were in the Korean War?

D: Yes.

B: What branch of service were you in?

D: I was in the Army. I was drafted. I went to Fort Leavenworth. I took up basic training, also I took advanced combat engineering and then I went to demolishing school. I went to Korea as a demolition expert. I got hurt up at Inshung and eventually I was sent to an Island called Cojydough where the PW's were kept, actually it was called Cojy. Dough means island, Cojy Island. I spent the rest of my army career down on Cojy as a ship pilot. It was an island where large ships couldn't dock, so all of the supplies came in by LST, Land Ship Tanks, these big LST's. They were mostly manned by Japanese civilians. My job was to get in through a motor boat and go out to the LST in the bay and instruct the Japanese commander on what part of the beach he should hit and what time the tide was up, et cetera. That's basically what I did in the Korean War after being up in the front. I was discharged in May of 1953.

B: When you came home, what was the reception like that the people gave the Korean War veterens as they compare with World War II?

D: Well, in most cases outside of my family, my own friends didn't even know I was gone. Nobody really cared, nobody cared. It was no big thing. I came back and I was discharged up in Michigan. My brother and his wife picked me up and I came home to a family reunion. The next day it was just like you had never been gone. I went to work three days later. There was nothing, they had no big fanfare or anything. Of course, neither did any of the Vietnam veterens. The Vietnam War was a little bit different because there was a lot more controversy in that particular conflict than in the Korean conflict. As I recall, when I came back home, there were no questions of what it was like over there or this or that. Nobody really gave a damn. They didn't really care. You went over there, did what you did, and you came back. As I said, the only people that were happy or had any kind of celebration was my immediate family. Other than that, there was no big fanfare or any type of reception.

B: You became a deputy sheriff in 1960?

D: Right.

B: Why did you want that kind of job?

D: As I said, in my early life like any other kid, you really want to be a policeman or a fireman. I guess the sirens probably gave you excitement or whatever. I did a lot of odd things from the time I came out of the service. I tended a bar; I drove a truck; I just did a number of things. An opportunity came up where I was asked if I would like to be a police officer. I said yes and I was hired as a deputy sheriff. Back in those days I took my job very seriously.

I worked in uniform for two months. Evidently somebody must have felt I was energetic and I was made a detective. Of course, in those days they called them investigators. I worked as an investigator for the sheriff's department for about a year. At that point, the captain of the traffic patrol had passed away, and I was placed in charge of the uniform branch and got a promotion to lieutenant.

Police work really has been my life. I got into police work when I was 30 years old. It's not really a young age to get involved in police work. I've been doing it for the last 21 years, and I enjoyed it. It's the only thing I ever did in my life where I didn't resent getting out of bed and going to work. There are many, many things that are tough getting out of bed for. I had to go to that old grind. Not that I'm afraid or concerned about working hard, it's just I never did like what I was doing. But police work, for those that know me, I've always been known as a workaholic. I just love police work. That desire has never left me. I've done many things as a police officer. I've enjoyed every one of them.

B: What kind of relationship did you have with Sheriff Davis?

D: The beginning relationship was very great. The sheriff acknowledged that I had potential. Of course, being the sheriff, he was the one responsible for moving personnel within the department if it came to his attention. Working with him, he was a good sheriff. When I say he was a good sheriff, he was a good administrator. Ray Davis, like myself, was never in police work when he entered that office. What he learned about it was from what he learned from experience. Of course, he wasn't out there every day. Most of his duties, which are primarily his responsibilities, is the administration of the office, to make sure that personnel are doing what they're supposed to be doing or at least have captains or some superiors telling them what to do. He never became a police officer, but then again, he was never out there and that was his total responsibility.

We had our ups and downs in the later years. There were

some things that occurred in the department that I didn't particularly care for and I brought them to his attention and he accepted my remarks.

In 1970, I had an opportunity to move into another position. He would be one of the people who would be a director of that position, which was the head of the Narcotic Covert Operation, which a federal grant was received by three counties.

I had a little bit of a problem when I requested a leave of absence with him. He didn't particularly care that I was leaving. There were some remarks to the extent that you know you were trained as a good police officer by my administration and you should remain with us.

I felt an opportunity to do something which I thought I was really going to enjoy doing. It was with a problem I felt was starting to become a real problem, that would be drugs. I had formal training in the drug field in 1964. I attended the Drug Narcotic School. I gave lectures on drugs during the next six years and I felt that I was the right man for the job.

Evidently six people who co-ordinated that program which would be three sheriffs of Ashtabula, Trumbull, and Mahoning and three chiefs of larger cities, Ashtabula, Warren, and Youngstown, felt I was the man from the five or six other applicants and I was given the job.

After a few months of being on the job and Ray Davis being the co-ordinator, things smoothed out. They smoothed out. He knew that I was doing what I wanted to do. The program was a year to year base depending on your progress, what type of work you did. Then the federal government saw fit to refund that program for a maximum of five years. under LEAA programs. I stayed with the program until about May of 1976 at which time Ray Davis gave me my job back as the captain at the sheriff's department. I went back with the sheriff's department with no real specific duties. When I left in 1970, I was head of the detective bureau. There was somebody else in charge of the detective bureau when I came back, so I was a roustabout. If there were some internal problems, I was requested to check them. If there were jailbreaks, I was requested to investigate them. I was given an old murder file of a family of three who were murdered in 1973 to work on, three years later I was given that file. That's pretty much what I did during my last seven months with Ray Davis.

He was defeated in June of 1976 and Mike Yarosh became

sheriff. Politics being what they are, there were a number of people fired or laid off or whatever. They just demoted me from a captain down to a detective sergeant. I remained a detective, the position titles never meant anything to me, never in my life, it was the amount of money I was making. Along with that cut, I took a \$3,000 cut in pay. In 1977, I went from \$13,000 a year to \$11,500 a year and I just couldn't afford it.

Many police officers can't afford it. There were policemen who moonlighted. They did other jobs whether they were police jobs, working Saturdays and Sundays putting in somebody's driveway, painting, or whatever. I always felt that a policeman never should have to work a part-time job. I always felt that he should be paid sufficient amounts of money to survive. If you work 8:00 to 4:00 and you go home and something happens at 8:00 that night, you should be able to go back out to work. That was always my position. I never held a part-time job simply because I felt that I was obligated and I was important to the police department, and if they needed me I was available. As a result of that, I had to leave the sheriff's department because I couldn't afford to survive on \$11,500 at that time. I had a wife and twin boys, 16 years old.

I put out some feelers and I was offered about four or five different jobs. Liberty offered me a job and I accepted. I resigned from the sheriff's department on March 1, 1977.

- B: When you arrested somebody back in 1960 as a deputy, what kind of procedures did you have to go through?
- D: Well, obviously, not as stringent as today. When we arrested somebody, we were able to pick somebody up as a suspect. Hypothetically in a burglary, if you had information, not necessarily collaborated information, you picked up a subject, brought him in, and you started questioning him. There was no such thing as advising him of his rights. The Miranda warning didn't come at that point. You just worked on him and worked on him. There was no, well it could have occurred in other departments; it occurred in my own department, but there was no third degree method that I can recall, under the heavy lights or with the club in your hand, or this or that.

Normally, what you did in those days was you talked to the subject and you would tell them that you had so much

information and this and that. If he was smart, if he was bright, he would say fine, go ahead and charge me. If he wasn't too bright, he would believe what you said and at that point would probably give you a confession.

Today it's a lot different. Not that I'm against it. I think that the Miranda warning is the best thing that ever happened to policemen. I think a lot of things that the Supreme Court came down with, not all, but a lot of them, were good, were healthy, very healthy. It was very, very healthy for policemen to be better educated. You know, in those days nobody ever heard about advanced schools, going to a university and taking up the criminal justice course, or in-service type of training. When I got out of the job, they handed me a uniform and a gun and a badge and said this is it.

Things have changed as a result of Supreme Court rulings. The state made it mandatory that a police officer has to attend X amount of hours before he can even issue a gun. Then he has to attend so many more hours within the first year before he's even considered a full-fledged police officer today in the state of Ohio.

Some of the things I don't particularly care for, some of the rulings that came down from the Supreme Court. Overall, I think most of the rulings that came down from the Supreme Court were very, very good. Again, very healthy for a policeman and police department. It taught them how to do the job and put more effort and a little bit more energy into it.

- B: Was there anything like a typical day for you back then?
- D: Well, no day is typical in police work. The only thing typical about it any day is the fact that you arrived at work at a time, you had a cup of coffee, you went over last night's reports, you bullshitted for another 30 minutes, and you went out on your calls. It's typical up to that point. Then, of course, the rest of the day is never the same as it was the day before. Maybe that day they were short-handed and they handed you two warrants. One being a warrant for someone who failed to pay a fine, and the other one maybe for a mental patient. The sheriff's department is responsible for conveying mental patients through probate court. Those were probably the most unwanted details that anybody wanted. You didn't want to go to somebody's house and drag them out of the house and take them to Woodside. It was very, very dangerous because they never gave you much information on that subject's commission, except that you had a warrant and you will convey so and so to Woodside Hospital upon receipt of this warrant. Or, you may get a couple of

burglaries to investigate, or while you're working you may have a burglary in progress, or a robbery in progress, or a homicide. Every day it was not a typical day up to the point you left that last coffee break. You could have went out and did just about anything. There were days you may have went out and just drove all over the county and never did a damn thing because there was nothing going on. There were other days you probably wouldn't get in until 9:00 or 10:00 at night.

Working for the sheriff's department is a very difficult thing, particularly if you're a detective because you have a lot of county. If you have a case down in Sebring, Ohio you had to drive 70 miles round trip to get down there. Not being too familiar with that part of the county, you would always have more problems trying to solve the matter than you would if it occurred in Austintown or Boardman or somewhere nearby where you're basically familiar with Youngstown characters who would go out and do that type of crime. When you get down to those southern parts of the county over in Ellsworth, North Lima, Springfield, and Smith township down there, it was a problem.

You know anything could happen any one day. I think that's really why, like even today coming to work, I don't know what's going to happen. We have a roll call in the mornings and I find things on my desk that I have to check into. I don't find any days to be typical. There's no such thing as a typical day in police work.

B: Okay, in the early 1960's Youngstown was in the midst of wholesale bombings. As a law enforcement officer, what do you remember about that?

D: I used to have a piece of paper listing everybody who was shot and bombed and tried to develop my own pattern. They were all as a result of gambling in one way or another, racketeering, let's put it that way.

I remember one of the bombings I was either there as a bystander or as an observer or actually involved in it. I remember probably about four or five. Names at this point I don't recall, except a couple. Charlie Cavalier and his two sons were in a car. He went to start the car up in the garage and the bomb evidently was underneath the car under the front seat and it just blew him and his son that was in the middle into pieces. Of course, the son that was sitting on the side door lost his left leg and managed to survive.

I remember the bombing of Billy Naples. When he got into a vehicle in a garage on Madison Avenue off of Elm Street,

he was bombed. I happened to be there because they found a shotgun. The Youngstown Police contacted me and they wanted me to trace the shotgun. I had traced the shotgun for them because it was stolen out of a county many years ago. A few months prior to that it was stolen from Stambaugh Thompson warehouse. I was there; I saw the body.

B: How about DeNiro's?

D: The DeNiro bombing, I was there. That's the very first one. As I recall, that was probably around January, February, or March of 1961. I happened to be leaving my office. It was a Sunday night. I was down there doing some paperwork. We had just broken up a gang of some safe burglars. I lived in Struthers at the time and I was headed out Market Street and I turned left on Midlothian. I don't know how far down Midlothian I got, but I heard the explosion. Then I heard something on the radio that there was a bombing. I immediately turned around and went back down to the bombing. Of course, it was right directly across from Cicero's Restaurant, right now it's not there anymore. Colonial House Restaurant, right across the street from Strouss. Yes, that was the first one, the DeNiro bombing. I was there.

Of course, there were others that I wasn't at. Bombings that I did attend were DeNiro, Cavalier, and Billy Naples, and there was another one of the young Perk fellow who came out of an apartment around 11:30 or 12:00 in the morning across the street from St. Elizabeth's Hospital. I believe his brother is a councilman down in Campbell. He was from Campbell. At high noon he turned on his ignition and his car was just smithereens, it just blew up. I was down there when that occurred. Well, not when it occurred, thereafter.

Of course, the bombings, again, were mostly attributed to racketeering, even though none of them were ever solved. None of them have been solved to this day. I imagine like everything else, burglaries and robberies, we have lists of suspects. You're talking about people where you just can't say, "Come in and let's just talk about it," because you'll get a call from their lawyer. They're not interested in talking about something they did. There hasn't been any bombings since I've been in police work where somebody died as a result of the bombing because it would have been solved.

Bombings in those days, they set the dynamite underneath the hood of the car and, of course, tied the wire to the

coil. The ignition, of course, set off the spark, which set off the cap that set off the dynamite. What used to happen after two or three of those bombings, all racketeers would lift up their hood before they started the car. There were a number of them that became a little more sophisticated. They had an automatic starter like your garage door opener that opened the car. Well, they defeated that too because what they did at that point is put the bomb underneath the car where it wasn't visible and it would go off by movement of the car, such as a percussion cap set underneath the tire, what they call being in the demolitions, what we call a pressure release cap. It's a little thing like this and you shove it underneath the tire of the car and it's down tight. Of course, there's a wire that goes to the dynamite. Now the minute your car starts and you move the car, it expands that pressure release and sets off the cap that sets off the dynamite. There's no way you can start your car by remote control and see that it didn't happen. The car actually had to move. This occurred in a couple of them. The one that I remember very close, not that I was there, was the Alexander boy. That's how his happened. It was a pressure release cap underneath his tire.

Bombings have sort of left us now. The last bombing that I recall was the one in Cleveland where this Green was bombed and Ronnie Carrabia was in a penitentiary for it. Most of the gangland slayings since then have been done by one of the most dangerous weapons, the shotgun at close range, which leaves no doubt.

B: You mentioned the gambling activities that went on. How about raids? Did you do many raids?

D: Oh yes, me and the sheriff had complete responsibility of the entire county. He had the power to go anywhere. If there was a lack of local law enforcement and investigations, then the sheriff was called upon to investigate, and he had to go work on it. Yes, I went on several in those days. A lot of them came to grand jury action in which people were indicted. There were warrants, subpoenas, whatever, issued for raids. We did a lot of them on Center Street, which was the Naples place. Some in Struthers, Ohio, Carrabia's gambling, and Cambell, Ohio. I probably have been in about 25 or 30 gambling raids in those days. Mostly in those days they were looking for sports activities, sports gambling, parlays, football parlays, numbers action, and horse betting.

The era before I became a policeman had established gambling places in the county where you could go in, just like being at the track, and look at the board. Those were the days

when nobody bothered anybody. I would say those were in the 1950's where they were big things.

At that time, there was a syndicate, evidently, that controlled gambling and there was no inner fighting. The inner fighting came afterwards where there was a change of elected officials and influential types of racketeers on syndicate would come in and pay for the campaign of a sheriff, mayor, or judge. They became the power and the people who were in power did not want to relinquish their power. They wanted to continue to operate and the power wanted them out and the raids came about. If that didn't work, they were shot, bombed.

I was involved in a lot of gambling raids when I was at the sheriff's department.

- B: What kind of working relationship does the sheriff's office have with other local police organizations like the Youngstown Police Department?
- D: They were always good with the exception of occasionally you would come into Youngstown and make a raid which they weren't too happy about. If you came in with a search warrant and hit places in the city, and did not tell them about it, they were very disturbed. I don't blame them for being disturbed. We really didn't have any department, per department, animosities with Boardman, Austintown, Campbell, and Struthers. There would be personal animosities between an officer of the sheriff's department and an officer of Campbell or that, but generally we worked together. It's not the type of an atmosphere that I like, because I happen to be probably the strongest advocate of cooperation and communication between police departments, because we need each other. Sure, when you went into the city of Youngstown and you made a raid for whatever reason, they were certainly disturbed about it.

Obviously, what were they disturbed about? Were they getting paid off, or did we embarrass them by making a raid of a situation which they were completely unaware? It could have been anything. I don't blame them. Yes, they used to get disturbed and they get disturbed today, too. I understand occasionally a sheriff will come into a community and make a drug raid without informing the local authority. They became disturbed about it. It leaves a bad taste in people's mouths. It really does. If I was the sheriff, I would never do it. Of course, being the police chief, I'm only concerned and responsible for Liberty township, so I couldn't go into Girard or anyplace to begin with. I would be totally against it because it leaves a bad taste in people's mouths. If a

sheriff comes in right now and makes a drug raid in Liberty township, something that we were not aware was even occurring, then it leads the people in Liberty township to believe that we're not doing our job or there are those who would believe that I'm taking a pay off, okay? It's not a very healthy situation.

I say this, if I were a sheriff and I had a complaint from Liberty township or Girard or wherever the case may be, and somebody said, "Well look, we have a drug operation down here that has been going on and nobody is doing anything about it," or "We have a gambling operation down here that has been going on and the local police, the local mayor, don't want to get involved," I would say, "Fine." I would take that information and I would immediately get on the phone and call that mayor or chief. I would tell them, "Look, I had this complaint about John Doe, who has a gambling establishment on Sixth Street. I would like you to know that the complaint is that you people aren't doing anything about it. How about giving me some satisfaction and tell me you're going to do something about it." Fine. If two weeks go by and nothing happens, three weeks go by and nothing happens, then I would send an investigator in there to see if that information was correct. If it was correct, I would go in there and knock it off myself, but only after I have informed them about it. Then they can't come back to see me and say, "Hey, you made me look bad." I can always say, "Hey, look, my log shows at 3:00 p.m. on so and so I spoke to you and I told you about it. You said you were going to take care of it, evidently you either didn't care to or whatever the reason was. I also have the responsibility as a sheriff. I'm sworn by law as the chief law enforcement officer in the community or the county and when there is a lack of law enforcement, it is my responsibility. I don't have to tell you, but I told you anyway." That's the type of thing I would do. I think that does happen a lot of times. I think it happens a lot of times where sheriffs will call, particularly in an election year. They'll call the local community and tell the sheriff or tell the police chief or tell the mayor, "Look chief, we have this kind of complaint."

I've been here since March 1, 1977 in the role of a captain up until January 1 of 1980, which I became the chief. I have to this date never received a call from the sheriff to tell me there was anything going on. To this date, a sheriff has never come into this community and done anything. I'm not going to stand up here and pat myself and the police department on the back, but we have a pretty much law abiding community. Whatever problems occur, we manage to take care of them. In fact, I personally signed two search warrants about five weeks

ago on two bookmakers that came in here from Youngstown and we arrested them.

Now I'm going off on a tangent. The original question was cooperation. I think that was what your question was?

B: Yes.

D: Cooperation is a big thing in police work. I tell my guys all of the time if the police department calls you up and needs information or whatever, give it to them. You know they say sometimes to a police officer, "Well, this certain officer called me up and he wanted to know about an individual whom I had a file on, but I don't trust him."

Hey, look, my philosophy is this, you work with a police officer until the time comes where he has proven himself not to be trusted, or that department. Until then you do work with them. Cooperation is a very important thing. It may happen today. There may be somebody in this township that's selling dope that I'm not aware of or anybody's aware of, and the sheriff might come in this afternoon and knock it off without telling me about it. I'm not going to be too happy about it. I'm going to read about it tomorrow. The people around me are going to say, or I go into a restaurant and people walking by say, "Hey, how come the sheriff had to do this?"

Well, aren't you people doing your jobs?" Again, there are only two things that occurred: One, that we're taking a payoff; Two, we don't know what's going on in the community. It's not a healthy situation because, let's face it, whether it's the sheriff's deputies, police officers, or whatever, we're all apples and we're all in one bushel. If one of us is rotten, the entire bushel is rotten as far as the general public is concerned. That's the situation.

B: You said before that you helped establish the criminal justice department at Youngstown University? We know that Paul Cress was also instrumental in that. What do you remember about him, the formal police chief?

D: Paul Cress was the police chief in Pennsylvania. Paul Cress was not with the Youngstown Police Department or sheriff. At that particular time, Mayor Franko, Frank Franko, was the mayor. Paul Cress had just retired at that point and had become head of security of YSU. Back in 1964 there was a Professor Jack Foster at the university, who was gearing up a criminal justice system down there. I was sent from the Sheriff's department. Paul Cress was on that steering committee. I think there was a lieutenant

at the time, Don Kamara, from the Youngstown Police Department and Lieutenant or Captain Carmen Bruno. There was a number from the Ohio State Patrol, but their names escape me at this point. There were several of them. The purpose of that was to set up a criminal justice system, and one was set up.

If my memory serves me correctly I believe the criminal justice system started January, 1965 or 1964. It was a very slow process. I think the first class, I was in the first class, had about 15 people in it. Of course, I don't know what it is today. It's up in the 700's today. It wasn't a role-accepted thing at the university. Jack Foster, of course, has since left. He held a Ph.D. and he worked hard for it and he got it. It wasn't accepted really very strongly by faculty people in the university, even though it has had its success in other parts of the country. It was slow catching on. They were real weak with instructors. Eventually it started to get straightened out a little bit when they started to hire police officers to come in, whether they had a degree of anything, to teach and speak on facts. It was kind of dry, it was really being in a classroom and having somebody instruct from a book and glance at you periodically from a book. Of course, down here it was 'nt as though you were a rookie cop because most of us had been police officers for awhile. It was real dry.

It started to get better when they took a different type of format on it. They started hiring police officers from Youngstown and others and myself were sent in a few times and started teaching from practical experience. It's nice to read from a book. It's nice to read what is law and whatever, but it's also great to have some guy up there that can relate to them. It's like you have a section of law and read it, okay, and you read it to a bunch of young people who have never been involved in police work. They understand what you're saying, but to put it into a form . . . I remember when I had an occasion and he would spell out an actual experience whether it was a losing or a winning experience. The case may be won or lost on some type of technicality.

Then the criminal justice course began to pick up. They started getting more people involved in it. Of course, later on they let most of the police officers leave. They couldn't instruct anymore. They wanted you to have at least one degree. Then it came to the point where you should have two degrees. I think the last two or three years you had to have three degrees to teach a class down there. In fact, most of the people have Ph.D.'s down there. You have very few people that have been involved that are teaching down there. I really

don't know. I know who was in correction, Stanko. Are you in corrections now?

B: No.

D: They only had one or two. A freind of mine who has just retired who is a former FBI agent, Jimmy Vanden, taught down there. But, it's lacking. It's still lacking. Not that I have anything against anybody with any kind of a degree. I don't care if they have 42 degrees, but if they haven't been out on the field and actually experienced what they're talking about then they're only getting the point across fifty percent. I can see good instructors at a university who are police officers, that have worked as policemen, earned a degree, earned two degrees, and then going in there and instructing because he's instructing not only from the book, he's instructing from experience.

I understand at this point too that the criminal justice classes down there are starting to taper down a little bit simply because of a lack of interest in criminal justice. Of course, that lack of interest can come as a result of them not soliciting you to come to school and guaranteeing you a job. We have a lot of people come up here looking for a job. They say, "I'm going to graudate next year. I'll have my four year degree in Bachelor of Science." Well, you have to take a test. You just don't get hired because you have a degree. The degree does help in your civil service standing when you take the test. It gives you x amount of points, the same as you would get if you were a veteran.

I think they've put out, I don't like using the word, a lot of propaganda that more people become involved in criminal justice because there is a great need for it. There is a great need. I could use ten more people, but the problem is I don't have the money. I may have to lay off people. Youngstown's laying off people. Warren's laying off people. Yes, there are some communities in the southwest part of the country that are badly in need of police officers. Houston, for example, was up here last week soliciting. They need 25,000 police officers. Police officers down there turn around 300 or 400 policemen a year. They start, they quit, because it's a very dangerous situation.

Criminal justice is okay if the guy wants it. If the guy wants to go or a female wants to go to school and take their chances on getting a job locally, their chances are very slim. They're taking an application with the city of New York, where they're looking for police-

men all the time, because they keep popping them off. In the southern part of the country they're going to indict a whole division down there from what I've been reading in the papers, for drug sales.

Criminal justice, like I said, I only attended two years. I sort of worked my way out of it because I felt that some of the instructors . . . Not that I was smarter than they were, I'm always willing to learn. I've been a policeman for close to 22 years and I'm always ready to listen. I find things every day that are different than they were yesterday, and they are experiences. I just can't sit there and listen to somebody telling me what occurred in the year 1701. What has that got to do with today? That's what happens.

B: In the late 1960's and early 1970's, they were troubled times. What do you remember about them with the war protests and civil rights?

D: The late 1960's, there wasn't too much that I can recall of protests.

B: Were you ever called into Youngstown State to help their department out?

D: No, but I was in my own protest. I became the director of the NAT narcotics unit, which stood for Mahoning, Ashtabula, and Trumbull County. I was the director of probably the start of half a dozen undercover agents coming from different areas at the police department's request, and worked covert operations and drugs. I inherited Portage County. The federal government felt and the state felt that we did such a good job the years of 1971, 1972, they gave us Portage County, which I didn't want.

As far as I'm concerned, Kent, if the world needed an enema, that's where they put the hose. That's with the city of Kent. I went into Kent in 1972 to work drugs, probably two years from the Kent incident in 1970. They were really hostile up there. We had a lot of problems up there. Every time we pulled a drug raid there would be protestors' remarks. They would come out and say that we knocked the wrong doors down. They would do everything in the world to discredit us. Believe me, I had a lot of headaches for a period of two years up there. We were just constantly being hassled. They would put out publications, underground publications, and talk about the NAT Narcotics Unit. You know they may be sleeping in the same room as you. They would tell the people in the dorms to be careful of your friends. They made everybody so paranoid up there.

The time I worked Portage County and the three counties down here I had a total of about twelve people working for me, and thirteen with me. There were stories up the street there that I had as many as 200 agents on the street which was pretty good as far as I was concerned, because that presented a hell of a deterrent. The protestors picketed the police department. They picketed the Kent State University Security Office. They demanded that I be thrown out of the county. They accused me of just about everything up there. That's where the problems were.

Down here, I never got involved with any protestors at all. Any incidents that occurred at YSU were handled when they did occur by a small staff of security people plus the Youngstown Police. Of course, things are a lot different today. They have a pretty good size police department on the university. I know quite a few of them. In fact, I talked to one this morning. No, there weren't too many problems with protestors outside of drug protestors.

B: How about in 1968 when Martin Luther King was assassinated? What was it like?

D: There was a very racial thing there. I worked on that. I was assigned as a liaison officer by the sheriff with the Youngstown Police Department. Of course, everything happened over in the south side of Youngstown. We were involved in that. We supplied Youngstown with probably 25 to 30 people and maybe half a dozen or 10 cars. Our primary involvement there was to pretty well cordon off the area such as having cruisers on the boundry line, Midlothian Boulevard, and Market Street to sort of keep the problems confined. We never actually went into the troubled areas. Youngstown handled that themselves.

I pretty much, during that period of time, in fact: all of that time, there were about two or three occasions at the college, this was not one, that I worked out of the chief's office. I worked with Chief Terlesky during those problems. The mayor was A. B. Flask. That was prior to Jack Hunter's administration. I worked with their officers and, of course, if they needed something from the sheriff, I relayed or communicated the message. I controlled all of the sheriff's work, where to place cruisers and where to place men. It was a very bad situation. I did periodically drive up through that area with the police chief or maybe somebody from the National Guard to see just what was going on. It was a disaster area like a little war going on up there.

We at the sheriff's department never actually physically got involved to the point where it was hand to hand combat

or that type of thing. We may have made some arrests out on Midlothian where the Youngstown Police may have chased a car and they were trying to leave the area and our car stopped them and held them for Youngstown. We never actually participated.

B: Earlier you mentioned that you worked on some jailbreak cases. Were there many of those?

D: There were quite a few, from the very first day I became a deputy sheriff until the day I left there. Yes, there were a lot of them. I don't know the numbers, but more than we should have ever had.

Number one, the Mahoning County Jail is probably the worst constructed jail in the world. I remember, even not being part of the department at that time, even the sheriff, we accepted the jail and--loved it. We thought it was a very insecure jail, but we had no choice in the matter and we accepted it. We found things wrong in that jail that should have never even possessed. It's poor, very poor planned. The bars were supposed to be hard steel. They weren't hard steel, they were soft steel. The lavatories, light fixtures, they left these guys with more weapons in those cell blocks. They could take these light fixtures off and make knives out of them. Toilets were just regular porcelain type toilets you have in a house. They would bust the hell out of those.

The escapes were where somebody would smuggle in a saw blade and as I said, they sawed them, these soft steel bars. All they had to do was take a section maybe two bars and make a space about that wide and were able to crawl through them. They made ropes. Over a period of time they would steal blankets and shred these blankets up and make a rope out of them, tie them, and then go out. As I can recall now, there has never been anybody that got out of that jail that never got back there. They were all successful escapes with the exception of a couple where the rope broke and they landed maybe 30 or 40 feet and busted a few bones. We eventually later put screens on the windows, but they managed to cut the screens. In those days, we also only had two people in the jail from 5:00 on; the radio operator and telephone operator combination and one jailer that used to walk the entire three floors checking the cell blocks. There were quite a few of them, juveniles getting out because they were in a very insecure range. I remember one guy who fell off the roof coming down. He broke two legs. He was really a simple bastard because he had a year to do in jail and he was up there with some people who were headed for the penitentiary. They decided to make a jailbreak.

He went with them. He was being released the next morning, he would be free. He just decided to go with them. I don't know why the hell he ever did it. Of course, he wasn't too bright. They attempted to escape. It was a successful escape job except for him. At 1:00 in the morning they made themselves a rope, two or three of them went down. He was the last one. The rope broke and he landed probably two stories and broke both legs. That lasted until about 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning and was due to be released at 6:00 in the morning. That was just something stupid.

There were a number of jailbreaks, and they are going to continually have jailbreaks. They haven't had any recently that I know of. The jail was the biggest farce that ever existed. They have an elevator in that jail that if somebody dies they have to get them out standing up. You couldn't put a stretcher in the jail. If people got hurt in that jail . . . The elevator is probably the size of that closet there. It's a very poorly constructed jail. Whoever was responsible for financing that, of course that was the county, were primarily interested in office space on the first, second, and third floors, for the commissioner's office, health department, or whatever. They never gave it much thought, the top three floors, which was the jail and security. Not enough money was spent up there. They have to get out of there. Of course, money is short, but they need another jail, too many escapes.

B: Being the sheriff and deputy sheriff in the department, which was a political type of job, what were the elections like? Were they hard fought?

D: They were hard fought, yes. You see, deputy sheriffs were required to go out and do a lot of work for the sheriff. Off-duty sheriffs were expected to put out signs, put signs in your yards. Their wives were expected to make so many phone calls. Their families were expected to send out friend-to-friend cards, send them to people to advise them to re-elect the present sheriff. We came across some vicious campaigns where they would go out and steal your signs. They would sabotage your larger signs, they would paint over them, they would put stickers on it. For example, Ray Davis, a Republican, he never campaigned as a Republican. He just campaigned as a man, and they would get stickers made Republican. Not being a majority Republican county, they would slap Republican stickers on his signs for those who don't know it, if this guy is Republican, you shouldn't vote for him. Yes, it used to get pretty bad. I never recall, nor was I ever involved in, anything where it got down to fist fighting or anything like that. Talk shows, vicious things were said about both sides. There were no real

battles.

B: Why do you think Ray T. Davis was defeated by Grimes in the primary?

D: A lack of a lot of things the sheriff's department wasn't doing. Talk about all of my pet peeves, I left the sheriff's department in 1970. When I left there, I had a damn good rapport with all of the local police departments. I made it my business to make personal contacts with them. Again, as I said earlier, it has always been my philosophy to have good communications and cooperation. When I left there I guess a lot of that ended, really. A lot of things occurred between the sheriff's department, Austintown, and Boardman. Actually, in 1976 a lot of policemen from Austintown and Boardman went out and actually campaigned against the sheriff. They hung their hat on a guy who was state patrolman by the name of Paul Grimes. Ray Davis was defeated in the June primary or in those days, the May primary.

He, himself, was accused of a lot of things which later surfaced to cause an indictment. There was a lot of that stuff flying around, a lot of activity on the sheriff's department for patrolling, and a lot of animosity within the department. There was no respect for superiors simply because in most cases they didn't demand respect. No one was entitled to it. I'm not trying to paint a rosey picture for myself, but I noticed a lot of this stuff when I went back to the sheriff's department. People were telling me that since you've been gone this happened and that happened. There was probably a lot of complacency on the part of the sheriff. I think the sheriff, himself, must have thought that he had become an idol among people from all of his baseball fields and all of his PR that he put out, which was good. He spent money for baseball fields. Of course, it didn't come out of his pockets. He became complacent and he really didn't get out and campaign as hard as he should have. I think it was just a number of things. His own people beat him, he beat himself. Again, he was in for 16 years and it was time for a change.

B: Do you think he left the sheriff's office better than he had found it?

D: Anything would have been better than he found it. The guy is dead, but Paul Langley's administration was something else. Definitely, even when he left, yes. That sheriff's department was a total disaster. There was no leadership down there, none whatsoever. The sheriff, Paul Langley, was not a cop. He had a hell of a chief deputy in those days and he did most of the work. The people who worked in uniform, it was disgusting to look

at them. They would be out there with a pair of green pants and a gray shirt and a purple hat. They didn't care how they were dressed. They were really a bad image. Paperwork in that jail was just atrocious. There was no such thing as accurate reporting, no such thing as an accurate and meticulous type of filing. It was really a total disaster.

I can tell you about that jail. I was one of the first guys to walk in that jail. We got on the elevator at 11:30 or midnight New Year's Eve to go up in the jail. There was only one man on duty because everybody else left that day. They were all fired by the sheriff. The minute that elevator came to the third floor, he was standing there and he said, "It's all yours." He got on the elevator and left us there with 100 prisoners in jail. Probably out of 50 people Ray Davis hired, three of them had prior police experience. He left us with a communication outfit there. They threw their keys all over the place. If there was a fire in that jail, there would have been about 100 people dead. We just couldn't find keys to open up the locker. It took us most of the night and only with the help of a black ex-deputy, a fellow by the name of Joe Carter, who had volunteered his service to come down there. If it wasn't for him, we couldn't have gotten into those cell blocks for days, unless we would have had someone come in and torch them. It took us about four or five hours, maybe even longer, to find keys to fit certain cell blocks. It was a terrible thing. Transition was nothing. There was no transition. The sheriff refused to let the new sheriff in, refused to let any of his people in. You come here at midnight New Year's Eve and it's your job. Until then, don't come in this building. When we went in there, there wasn't anybody there. They just left it. To answer your question, yes, we left it in a lot better shape. Of course, it gets better all of the time. It was very badly managed.

B: Do you think enforcing the law is getting easier or better through the years?

D: Well, it's not getting easier. Enforcing the law is really up to the local police department. Discipline, if your police officers are well disciplined, and that means disciplined to the point where they come to work in uniform and they're all wearing the same uniform, their shoes you can see yourself, their hat is put on properly and their uniform, when they go out they will get respect. They go out there and do their job, and they don't hassle people. Using the radio, that's a constant problem. I keep calling people in here every day because somebody made a remark over the radio. Use the radio by using slang and making cute remarks. People

today hear what's going on and they lose respect for you. We try to preach professionalism. I tell these people, "I don't care what you think about law enforcement and how you feel about it, what you do on your off duty hours; when you come over here, you will be a police officer."

If the people respect you, then you're going to get along with them. It's going to be a lot easier to do your job. If you walk into somebody's home and you look like a police officer and you act like a police officer and you're a gentleman and you take the report of the stolen property, in those cases those people don't even care if you solve it or not, they just felt they were served by a fine looking individual. That person looked like a police officer and he's doing his job. As far as it not getting easier, it's not getting easier because of certain situations the courts require. It's not their fault because they come from the United States Supreme Court. I can go into a lot of cases, which would take time, that we lost in court simply because of something that we failed to do or something that we didn't know we were supposed to do.

We had a case not too long ago that we felt the search warrant was not required because a guy had just shot his wife, and we entered the house. The prosecutor, had we called in, would have told us the same thing, to go into the house that's natural. But we were told in court we lost the case because we didn't get a search warrant to go into the house, and here was a guy in the house with a gun. Today, we need a search warrant to go into the house. There was no need for us to go into the house after the guy. We should have got a search warrant. It's just a really stupid thing that came out in the last year.

Of course, there is plea bargaining. I can't say that I'm against plea bargaining because a lot of times it becomes necessary. It saves you time in court. Plea bargaining often hurts the morale of the police officer, too. He works hard on a case. He's justified to give good conviction on the guy. Maybe a sentence would have been a 4 to 25 [years] and the next thing you know the guy is pleading for a six month to two year sentence. Then again, you can't blame the prosecutor because he's got stacks and stacks of cases. It's easier for them to plea bargain them and get them out of the way than it is to try them all. It's impossible to try every case. It's impossible, you can't try every case.

Police work is not getting any easier, no. It's not that bad. You do what you have to do and you do what you have to do by law.

B: Is there anything else that you think is important that we haven't covered yet?

D: I can't think of anything. I think you asked a lot of questions that I didn't really anticipate. Personally, I've got twin boys 20 years old. I'd break both of their legs if they became cops. We have a lot of bad policemen. I don't necessarily mean in Liberty, I mean in the entire country. In any event, you're damned if you do and you're damned if you don't. It's difficult. We have a financial problem, a burden this year. The police department in Liberty operates on its own levies, it's not given any general fund. We've found ourselves close to \$100,000 in the hole and I have to put out a levy this June. People aren't too happy about it. I can't blame them, the taxpayers. We have to pass it. I've told the 19 officers, which includes myself, if that levy doesn't pass in June, then I'm going to have to lay off six or seven people in July. Then I have a renewal levy, and if it doesn't pass come January 1st of next year there are going to be six policemen here.

We don't make friends. Policemen don't make friends. I have all the respect in the world for the fire department because I need them like they need a policeman. Firemen don't have the disrespect the police have. I don't care how good you are or whatever, there are people who just don't like you because we arrest them. On any given day we give out 20 citations, illegal parking, speeding, whatever. We made enemies right then and there. I don't care who it is, it could be the most law abiding citizen in the world, it could be a priest, it could be a rabbi, he's going to be disturbed when he gets a ticket. We don't get any friends.

The fire department, if your mother or father winds up with a stomach ache, they send for the ambulance. The ambulance is there, shoots you down to the hospital, no charge, greatest thing. The fire department doesn't charge you for that ambulance service where it would cost you \$200. They make friends. It's easy for them to ask for money. It's difficult for the police department to ask for money because the people, even though they realize that you're needed, they can't forget they got a ticket six months ago. Why the hell did that policeman . . . I went into the store for ten minutes, I came out, and I found a parking ticket. It cost me ten dollars. Why, the hell with that damn policeman.

I tell people today who say, "Well, I don't like your levy," I say, "Well, I'm not going to argue with you. If you don't feel that the police department should exist then fine." There are people who will come in from other communities and knock down your doors, come in

and rape your wife, and steal your property because they know you don't have a police department. They know it might take anywhere from 15 minutes to 30 minutes to 40 minutes to get the deputy sheriff down here. Then they're going to start thinking twice about that extra \$40 of their property tax that they would have paid. I'm not going to argue about it, all I'm saying is this, you own property in this township, if you value your family's life you ought to give it a second thought.

B: Do you think because of the low salary that law enforcement officers get that that might breed corruption?

D: It certainly does. It isn't only low salaries. I don't care what the police officer gets, if he has bad habits, such as gambling or he's a drinker in his off duty, or he likes playing around with women, I don't care if he makes \$40,000 a year, it still might not be enough for him. Low salary doesn't necessarily corrupt a police officer because we have low salary police officers that go out and moonlight as extra policemen in stores. As I said earlier, they go out and put in asphalt driveways, driving a truck, trying to supplement their salary to live on. No, low salary doesn't necessarily corrupt a police officer. It's the individual police officer himself, his style of living. Again, a police officer can make \$35,000, \$40,000 a year. If he's married and he's keeping two broads someplace and paying for an apartment, he likes brand new, big cars, he likes to go and wear \$200 suits, \$40,000 isn't enough for him. He's going to take bribes. He has to. On a salary here, you have to take bribes if you want to live that way. You know working a part-time job picking up \$50 to \$70 a week certainly isn't going to take care of a habit. You go to a crap game and blow \$300 or \$400. You walk into one of those joints on the strip. I've seen policemen over here on 422 walk in, after parking their 1981 Cadillac, and going in and sitting down and having dinner and having a tab for \$150. You wonder how do they do it. You don't wonder very long because you know how they do it. But, low salaries, don't necessarily corrupt a police officer.

B: Okay, thanks a lot.

D: I hope that met with your satisfaction.

B: Sure.

END OF INTERVIEW