

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Law Enforcement Officers

Personal Experience

O. H. 1013

CARMEN M. BRUNO

Interviewed

by

John M. Bukovinsky

on

March 10, 1981

## CARMEN M. BRUNO

Carmen M. Bruno was born December 6, 1926 in Youngstown, Ohio. He is the son of Italian immigrants, Michael and Concetta Bruno, who settled down on Youngstown's north side. Bruno graduated from Rayen High School after having attended various elementary schools.

When he completed high school World War II was already in progress so he decided to join the United States Naval Forces, serving from March 1945 until October of 1946. upon coming home, Bruno attended Youngstown College for two years and married the former Margaret Tater, in 1947.

In 1954 Bruno took, and scored high on the civil service exam for policemen which got him a job on the Youngstown Police Department. During his career as a Law Enforcement Officer for the Youngstown Police Department, Bruno has served such capacities as; Policeman, detective, assistant to the Chief of Police, and captain.

Carmen M. Bruno, still employed by the Youngstown Police Department as a Captain, his wife and children reside in Youngstown.

by John M. Bukovinsky

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INTERVIEWEE: CARMEN M. BRUNO

INTERVIEWER: John M. Bukovinsky

SUBJECT: Views on police chiefs, Cases he was assigned,  
Evolution of police work, Strikes, Riots,  
Bombings

B: This is an interview with Mr. Carmen Bruno for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on Law Enforcement Officers. This interview was conducted by John Bukovinsky in Mr. Bruno's office on Tuesday March 10, 1981 at 9:00 a.m.

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

CB: Well, that's a good question. The thing I can remember about my family, it was close knit and that both of my parents, from my impressions of it, sacrificed themselves for the children in almost every type of effort that they did. They stood home, they got up early in the morning and went to work and went to bed early at night and most of their efforts were to try and educate us and provide for us and provide for us and instill in us about obeying the law. They instilled large amounts of religious training. I can say that for my parents. I thought I couldn't find finer parents.

B: Tell us something about your childhood.

CB: Well, most of my childhood that I can think of off-hand-- it's been a long time ago--has been going to school, participating in sports, going out on weekends trying to earn a few dollars working cutting laws, shoveling snow, things like that and doing a little work around the house. Our family, we all had something to do. My job was to clean the trash out

every Saturday morning, cut the lawn, sweep the sidewalk, things like that.

JB: What side of town did you live on?

CB: North Side, Briar Hill section.

JB: What high school did you go to then?

CB: I went to Rayen High from, I think it was 1940 to 1944, Hayes and Jefferson prior to that. The one thing I'd like to say about that school at that time and Hayes had some of the finest teachers I ever met and that's including going to college. Those teachers, and I say this to everybody I encounter, they tried to teach you and they made an effort to teach you and they stood on you. They brought you in after school if you needed any remedial work. I can remember a couple of teachers there in courses that I had, they'd stay there until 5:00 and 5:30 at night and I mean it literally. It wasn't an eight hour job with them. That's the one thing I can remember about my high school, the teachers, and junior high too.

JB: What was Youngstown like in the 1930's?

CB: Well, nobody had much personal transportation at that time and I think the neighborhoods, which had a lot to do with having a low crime rate I think, the neighborhoods were closely knit groups. Everybody knew each other. They participated in a lot of social events together. I think it held true for most of the neighborhoods like the East Side and the Lower East Side, the rivalries that developed, the West Side and places like that, but you hardly ever got over to the other side of town. When I was a teenager you might come downtown to the Y and meet some people from the other side of town or when you had some sporting activities, that's the way you met most of the people from other sides of town. But usually you were restricted maybe because of economic reasons, to your own neighborhood. Most of the neighborhoods, like I say, they were groups that participated in a lot of social events together. Not only social events, but I can give you an example. We had the big snow where we had maybe 3, 4, or 5 feet, maybe better than that, of snow. The whole neighborhood came out and shoveled the sidewalks and street, shoveled the streets because they were impassable. It was either in 1950 or 1951 and then they had another one in the early 1940's. The people helped each other a lot though.

JB: What do you remember about World War II? Were you living around here?

CB: World War II when it broke out, I can remember the day like it was yesterday, Pearl Harbor. We were all playing football that day and I think I was about 14, or 15. I ran around with a group of boys, we were all about the same age, about 19 or 20 of us and the attitude at that time was that they wanted to do something about it. Join up and defend your country. It was an attitude like somebody raped your sister or something like that. You wanted to get back at them and everybody was interested in joining the service and going and fight the Japanese and Germans. I can't remember anyone in the group that didn't want to do something about it in a positive way.

JB: What branch of the service were you in?

CB: I was in the Naval Forces and the only reason I say Naval Forces, I wasn't on a ship. I was part of a Military Government that was attached to the Third Marine Division. And we were the first white people in 35 years that went into the Turk and Caroline Islands to set up the governments there after we had taken them over. In fact, we had about 40 thousand Japanese troops and the war trials were held there while I was there in the Caroline Islands in the South Pacific. I trained at Great Lakes and went to further training at Hawaii, the Hawaiian Islands. I went to school there and then from there we went to the marinas and from there down to the Carolines and that's where I spent most of my time.

JB: When were you discharged?

CB: I got out in October of 1946.

JB: Did you come right back to Youngstown?

CB: Yes.

JB: What was Youngstown like after the war then?

CB: It was a prosperous town. There was a lot of work. It was very easy to get a job. My neighborhood was a real close neighborhood. Everybody knew each other. They had sporting events every night. They used to go out and play softball, football, whatever was in season at the time, whatever sport was. We used to walk to town, see movies together, dances together. I really think

we had it a lot better than the kids today that have cars because it was a lot of fun, but it was group participation. A lot of involvement by everyone in the neighborhood. Like if we'd ever go to Milton Dam, heck, we'd go up with groups of 19 or 20 to go swimming there. We'd walk to Mill Creek Park and things like that. Or when you had these softball games, what have you, it would be the North Side against the East Side. And it was all walking. Once maybe the players would get transported. For instance, in our neighborhood we had the Rimedio Grocery and they sponsored and backed up most of these. Weller's, Weller Funeral Home, the undertakers. They financed the equipment and transporting of the teams and the neighborhoods went in support of them. They used to go to Oakland Field, Shady Run, they'd go all over town, on the West Side. There was a lot of this. The years from 1946 into the 1950's was all neighborhood participation. It seemed to me to be that way. I think the thing that killed our neighborhood was when they put the expressway through there. They tore down the homes and most of the families started moving away. People accumulated a little wealth and they went for better homes. And then the automobile came along and everybody just went their own way, television came. I think all these things were factors in getting people more or less out of that pattern of participating groups.

JB: In the late 1940's, a man came on the scene named Charles Henderson. Do you remember what he did to Youngstown as you were growing up?

CB: Oh, yes. In fact, that's who I was talking to on the phone just seconds ago. He's from my neighborhood. Well, I knew Henderson because I'm from the North Side and they were a prominent family there. I think I was kind of young at the time, but what I can remember from it was the town was racket dominated and he came in with the broom and swept the town clean and he brought in a Chief Allen from Erie, Pennsylvania. I think he revolutionized at least the law enforcement profession.

JB: In which way?

CB: I think prior to that they operated under the spoils system type of thing. Anyone that became a police officer had to go through the councilmen and they paid for their jobs and these kinds of things. I think it even applied to firemen. They brought in the merit system with the Civil Service Exams being on the up and up. I think they had Civil Service Exams back then,

but they were corrupt, they were fixed. There was no question about it. When you came on the job one of the things that was first asked was how much did you pay for the test and this kind of thing. In fact, when I went down to take the test I was warned of this and I was told that I would be wasting my time to take the exam. I took it anyhow. That was under Henderson. I got no outside help and I say that sincerely. I finished first on one and second on the other on firemen and police. And when I did, the local politician came up to me and said, "Where did you get the exam at?" And I said, "I didn't get any exam. I just went down and took the test." It was a general knowledge test. That was the attitude that prevailed, existed, at the time. I think one thing Henderson did do was take the corruption out of government and Civil Service plus a lot of other things that I am not familiar with. I was just interested in the law enforcement aspect of what was going on in government at the time. I know from when I first came on that the attitude of the younger policemen, nothing against the older policemen, they were sort of blasé about how things were. They accepted things that were dominated and fixed, but the younger fellows didn't. They were just a lot of veterans that had just come home from the service and they greatly admired Henderson and Allen for what they had done. He had upgraded the profession and brought some semblance of the merit system in.

JB: What made you decide to become a policeman?

CB: Well, you'll laugh if I tell you this. I was studying to be an apprentice brick layer and that summer we had some exceptionally hot weather and lugging around ten inch blocks all summer, handling about 900 of them a day. The guy I was working with was telling me for about a week how he was going to become a police officer and he had some political connections. And one morning I'm thinking about it, and to me he was a bit loud-mouthed dummy and I said to myself, "If he could be one, I could be one." And I was married at the time. I had found out from him the procedure for filing for the exam and I told my wife to wake me up at 6:00 that morning and I was down at the Civil Service Commission about fifteen to 8:00. In fact, I was the first one to register, the first or second, I'm almost sure because I had made preparations to have my pictures taken and have my voucher signed and this kind of thing. That's how it came about, because of this guy preaching about it. He never even took the exam by

the way. I knew nothing about law enforcement. It was just the idea to get a better job and a little security. I was married at the time. I was quite young. I was 25. The job market was good, but it was just maybe get a better secure job was probably the real reason.

JB: When you got on, what kind of training did you have to go through?

CB: Well, in comparison to today, nothing, very little, very little training. The only training that I can recall was that they took us down to the range for about a day and explained the gun and how to fire a number of rounds and that was it, as far as the gun went. And then as far as the procedures and rules and regulations, you picked them up catch as catch can when you were on the turn. They usually put you with an older person who indoctrinated you. I was very lucky. I was put with two of the better, in my estimation, the better police officers that ever worked here. In fact, they're still working here. They're both detectives now. They tried to teach me the right way. At that time you had some of the older police officers who had poor attitudes about law enforcement and they may have taught you the wrong way in terms of shaking people down and things like that. But the fellows that tried to do law enforcement work the way it was supposed to be done and they tried to instill that in me. I worked with them for maybe a year and a half. And then now and then they would have seminars of in-service training, but no formalized program of training, which shocked me. You tried to pick things up as best you could by a lot of reading et cetera, but there was no formalized training.

JB: When you came on Paul Cress was the police chief. What kind of relationship did you have with him?

CB: I was rather new and you're far from the chief's office. I always thought Paul Cress was one of the more articulate police chiefs we had. I thought he was a good police chief. I think he tried to do the right thing. He was limited in what he could do. He always had this political influence that got in the way. And in terms of different employment of men. He instituted a few training programs. There's one or two that I can recall when he was in that I really enjoyed. I think I really learned a lot from him. He had the FBI come in for about two weeks and just take us through the basic



subjects. I think this occurred about 1957 or 1958. I was on the job a couple years then. I came on in 1954. And then he brought in, for a two week period, that's why I think it was in 1958 because I was in traffic at the time and he brought in a cadre of men from the Ohio State Patrol who took us through most of the basic techniques of traffic enforcement. But other than that, like I say, in terms of training, that's all I could recall. You had to pick it up yourself. Cress was traffic oriented and most of the elite officers went to traffic. I think he knew the job, but he was limited by politics I think.

JB: Say I was a policeman in 1954. What would a day be like for me from the time I reported to duty until I left?

CB: Well, I'll tell you, I think it was much easier. The day would be filled by answering called-for services such as calls, mostly disturbances. We had a lot of cuttings at the time, domestic disputes, traffic enforcement, a lot of patrol. We did a lot of patrol especially on the night turns. We'd check our beats two and three times a night. I'll say something for the supervisors then. They met you and stood on you back about checking those beats and if you had places broken in or kicked in, what we call kick-ins, you had to explain them. I think a lot of this was brought about by chief Allen because if you had kick-ins, you had to tell where you were and what you were doing at the time of these kick-ins. And if they became more prevalent on your beat you had to answer for them or you wouldn't be on a beat very long. There was closer supervision at the time I think, a lot closer.

JB: In the late 1950's and early 1960's there were a lot of bombings in Youngstown. What do you remember about them?

CB: I worked on a couple of those because I eventually was in the detective bureau. I think it's no secret what they were about. I was an underworld war over the vice activities at the times, several factions fighting over territories.

JB: What did the police department do to try and curb them?

CB: Like I say, I wasn't in an administrative role. I think right today I think I know what they should have done was you take away what they're fighting over and there's no fight, strict enforcement of the vice activities. At that time I really don't know what they

were doing except in individual cases we tried to solve...I was assigned one of the bombings where one person was killed and there's very little you can do with those because the evidence is gone, you're dealing with professional killers and they're not going to tell you nothing. We only solve cases in three ways, you either have to have a witness, you get some physical evidence or you get the perpetrator to admit it to you. There's no way you're going to do that in one of those kinds of cases. The perpetrator is never going to tell you and they do it when no witnesses are around. And the physical evidence, usually is all blown up, anything that you can trace with. I can recall a couple of them, like I say, guns were used where you wound up with the gun. So what? That traces to no one. You wound up with a car, it's a Joe Blow car. They're professionals. They don't leave anything around that you can trace them to. And most of these things occurred in the early morning hours under a covert kind of way. You're just up against a brick wall. In fact, I was a young detective and when we helped what we had a bomb squad at the time trying solve a couple of them. And those guys were really frustrated people. They didn't want to do that work because they knew the prospects of solving the case were slim.

JB: How did they die out then?

CB: Well, I think for a number of reasons and these are just my opinions. They killed themselves off, number one, and then I think a particular group showed enough muscle that they just took over.

JB: Were you in any raids, gambling raids or anything like that?

CB: Yes, I was on a couple of gambling raids, but I was on a number of drug raids, which we had some very successful ones. That's just when the hard drugs began to rear their ugly heads in the early 1970's and late 1960's. As far as gambling raids, I very seldom worked in the vice unit against those kinds of crimes as an officer in the field. Like I say, I was in on a couple of gambling raids. One was a joke. We had trawled the place for about three months to gather the evidence to get a search warrant and make the arrest. We made the arrest. We found illegal whiskey, gambling paraphenalia, prostitution, and you won't believe this and it's the truth, you can check the record. The

operator went to court and he got a dollar and cost. And I mean it, a dollar and cost. That would have come to a total of nine dollars. And that's when it struck me. I was just a young patrolman at the time. I thought to myself, the city must have spent a couple of thousand dollars to make this pinch because we had surveyed it every night, three of us, for about a month, just the cost of our wages. The operator got a dollar and cost. It speaks for itself as to why you don't wipe these things out. I think that's the justice that prevailed at the time. There was a lot of collusion between public officials and the underworld community.

JB: When a crime was committed in say, the early 1960's, what kind of procedure did you have to go through to solve it?

CB: I'll say this, them were the early years that I spent in the detective bureau. We had some good detectives up there. You're talking about the classic kind of police crimes such as robberies or burglaries. It was simply a matter of, you got the report, you went out and checked the crime scene, you reinterviewed the witnesses and you tried to develop informants and you tried to pursue it along those lines. And some of those guys were really hound dogs and were really good at that especially in robbery cases and burglary cases. I mean, a lot of burglary cases we developed after the fact, not that they were caught during the burglary and it was done by good foot work, just going out into the neighborhoods and trying to get information. You had a lot of good detectives up there. You had Johnny Lesko, Jerome Burnett, the Chrislys, and Herdman in there right now. I think they're solution rate of robberies--they're still on the robbery team--is fantastic. And it's done through a combination of things. It's just knowing your people and having, whatever you want to call them, informants or contacts out in the community.

JB: How about before that or when you had to book somebody, what kind of procedure did you go through in that?

CB: Booking. I don't think it had changed that much although prior to the early 1960's as far as after they were booked, they had very little rights when they were in jail. Now it's almost like a hotel up there. You have to provide them. I'm not against some of the things, medical attentions, a phone call, and the right to see people, a right to this and that, I'm not against those kinds of things, but some of the rulings

that have come down, they want to make hotels out of the jails. It's all right with me if they would provide the resources for it.

JB: Did the Miranda Act change this at all?

CB: At first it was just like any other change that came about. They were for the good of society as a whole. The Miranda, the case in 1961, they were searching evidence and Miranda was on the advising of rights. There was a lot of rebellion among the men at first because it made their job just a little more tougher. It put some restrictions on them, limitations on them, but they learned to live with it. And I think it was for the good of society as a whole because you're protecting the rights of the majority of the people and the people that take advantage of these rulings are in a small minority and they'll come back. We used to have a saying up in the detective bureau when I was there, "They'll catch themselves in the long run." And that's one thing I'd like to say, of all the people that I knew that were involved in some type of criminality, through the years that I spent on the police department, sooner or later they got it. One way or another somebody either killed them or they went to jail or their wives killed them. It seemed like there was some type of Divine justice that came about.

JB: As a detective in the early 1960's, what were some of the more prominent cases that you worked on?

CB: One that I'm the most proud of. I was a lieutenant at the time. We solved an abduction, robbery, rape case up at YSU there. A young girl going to school there about 7 o'clock in the evening where she was abducted, raped and kidnapped. And she was locked in the trunk of a car. It was a real cold morning, top of Wood Street there in a vacant lot. Luckily for here, one of our patrolmen was checking his beat and he knew the car didn't belong to any. He checked the car and he found her in the car locked in the trunk. She would have frozen to death if she would have stood there any longer. Anyhow, the reason why I'm proud of that case is the whole detective bureau--and I haven't seen this again since that time--we came out at night and just hit all the neighborhoods and we came up with the guy. In fact, a Joe Adams, he got killed in the penitentiary. He got about sixty years. That, the Rosenbaum burglary, about a \$55,000 burglary, we solved that. Not only that, we him all his suits back. There's another one, that one that sticks out in my

mind most clearly because I was just new in the detective bureau. It wasn't even our case and me and Detective Herdman solved it. The two detectives that had the case were dragging their feet on it. There was some hot leads that followed on our duty-time. A young girl foinf to work at Towel Supply--I don't even recall her name now, but about 5:30 in the morning, and again, she was abducted, raped and robbed and dumped out in Austintown. And we solved that case. We had a number of liquor store robberies and burglaries that were epidemic proportion back then in the 1960's that we stopped. There was this group and they were going around cleaning out the liquor stores. That was after Casale had taken off the alarms. The govenor, in the economy move had removed the ADT alarms from the liquor stores and boy, they were just cleaning them out. And we nailed those guys. Them are the ones that I can think of while I was a detective.

JB: Were there any complete overall changes inside the department whenever a new police chief was appointed?

CB: There usually are. They all have their own attitude about how law enforcement should be performed. No doubt, if you lived in town, Baker made some big changes, Terlesky made some big changes, Golden, all the way down the line. They all have a different philosophy. They all did, I mean there's no sense in kidding people, they'd bring their own people in like I say, the deployment of personnel, who heads what unit up. Sometimes they're strongly motivated by politics and sometimes they're done solely for the betterment of the service. I'll say that for Baker, that's probably what you hear about him. The guy was a straight up and down man that tried to do what was best for the community. And then, as usually the case when someone tried to do this that they're criticized and castigated and called everything but a Christian. I think you'll see the results of his work down the road when he tried to professionalize the police department. And not that he was the greatest administrator in the world, but I think he was able to do it because he had complete control of the police department. Mayor Hunter gave him complete control as to the hiring and firing, the policy making, deployment of men. You'll never see that again to that degree, full 100% and I've never seen that again and I don't think you'll ever see it agin where a mayor will give his police chief 100% control of the police department. And he had that.

JB: Did this hurt the morale?

CB: It sure did because it made them go to work. If you go ask people upstairs right now in the department what kind of a chief Baker was, you'll probably get negative answers from 95% of the people up there because he went by the book where people had to do their job the way it was written. They were used to a softer kind of way and they resented it. He made the men accountable for their time and actions.

JB: What do you remember about former Police Chief Goldman?

CB: Goldman? The one thing I can remember, he was only in two years. In fact, I got most of my promotions when he was in and I didn't get them...Like I say, we were on a merit system from 1959 into the present day. But the one thing I can remember about him, is his law director brought that about, Russell Mock. He put the integrity back into the Civil Service Exams by bringing in Western Reserve University and cleaning out the old Civil Service Commission that was, no doubt, corrupt. It was proven beyond reasonable doubt. They resigned as a whole, as a body in one of those years. I tell everybody I know about Mr. Cushwa, Mr. Fleming and they had Rabbi Glasko, he was the former principle of Wilson High School. When they took over the commission, things were run the way they were intended to be run, straight.

JB: What role did you play in starting the Criminal Justice Department at YSU?

CB: I had been involved in training since 1966. That's when it became mandatory by the state, which, at that time, required every officer to have at least 120 hours of training and then it's all the way up to 300 and some now. But early 1970's as I can recall, there was a lot of LEAA money around and we wanted to go through the University. I can't recall too much. I'm sure Dr...I think he was in charge of the Special Education up there. We went through them and we made it available through the university at the time. But I think there was some disagreement that came about. I don't know, like I say, from about 1970 to 1974 I was not in the administrative end of the police department. I don't even know what transpired, but some kind of disagreement came about and they separated. They discontinued it. I don't know, but we did set it up. I strongly believe that training is the answer to everything and I did what I could do to try and assist them, but we did get a lot of help from the college and LEAA at the time. I think the results will be seen down the road because I can see it in some of the

officers that went there and it just takes time for that transition to come about, to overcome some of the problems that I'm sure exist in all major police departments. The political influence is probably the biggest drawback to professionalizing police departments. I'm talking about the corrupt political influences. I think the police department should be under the political--under in terms of authority to answer to the political people, when it's done in an honest fashion or way, not when it's done to further self-interest and things like that.

JB: What form of relationship did you have with Police Chief Terlesky?

CB: I think I had a good relationship with him. It's just like each police chief fit the time that they were in there. He was in there for six years, I think between 1964 and 1970 and I'm sure you know what transpired during that time period. There was a social revolution going on. We had the riots, we had the protesting, the Vietnam War and I think Mr. Terlesky had the temperament to deal with it, to cope with it. He was a fellow that you didn't get him excited too easily. Like I say, he understood. Being from the lower north side, he was born and raised in a mixed neighborhood. I think because he was there, we didn't have any killings and things of that sort in our riots although we had a lot of them. He was sensitive to the causes at the time, not only with riots, but with the students at the time. It seems like he handled everything, training, planning community relations, most of it was during the time of the riots. We spent a lot of time in training in that type of thing. It's not the kind of police work that you usually see. You never encounter groups that large and hostile. I went to Virginia for about a weeks training there. I came back and tried to instruct our people on the techniques and tactics of dealing with crowds, large crowds, exceptionally large crowds and the uses of gas and things like that if we had to. We had a bad incident up there, I think it was Parkview and Hillman where one of our policemen was shot and one of our policemen had to return fire. This was prior to when we had some real instructions on dealing with large groups of people. I was there at the time and in thinking about it, I think if we would have had some formalized training periodically in dealing with a group of this type, we might not have run into it. Such as utilizing community leaders and isolating the situation with the group. Try to pinpoint the ring leaders, remove them. The big thing I think that could have been done, we

were hit with it real early, it was in the early 1960's. This was prior to the shootings of Martin Luther King et cetera. I think a lot more could have been done with utilizing community leaders to try and diffuse it. It was a nasty situation up there. It was in the early part of the riots and occurrences. They had one at Idora Park. I think the book even tells you there that the recreational centers...We could have done a better job in isolating them. In fact, two kids came down there. I think they didn't even know the riot was going on, drove right through the center of it and they got their cars smashed and burned. A little Toyota up there on Regent and Hillman, turned his car over. But most of my time as assistant chief was dealing with getting our men prepared. I think towards the end we did a better job in community relations.

JB: When there was a riot, how did you stop it?

CB: Well, like I say, the department usually went on two shifts. They worked 12 hours, 6:00 to 6:00. And then what we tried to do, we had plans, we would isolate the area, invoke a curfew, utilize the community leaders and try to diffuse it. I think those tactics there generally...If it really got out of hand then you'd have to utilize some type of gas to disperse. We didn't have to do that though. I think the curfew had the biggest impact.

JB: Did you ever have to call in any other police departments?

CB: Well, the Guard came in. The problem with calling other police departments, they have problems of their own. They were encountering the same thing and they're going to protect their own territory. You're taught to have these reciprocal agreements, but they don't work because they're usually confronted with the same situation. They're not going to send their people down to protect your city and let their city be exposed.

JB: When did drugs really start playing a problem?

CB: Such as I could recall, in 1970 I became the head of the Juvenile Bureau when the Hunter administration came in. My hands were tied. I was trying to institute some new procedures and had new personnel down there, a new way of doing it. I knew it was around. I didn't think it was around to the degree that it was, but in the early 1970's I think it really exploded as far as the hard drugs. I think it was round a lot sooner than



that. We had encountered it in mild forms in the mid 1960's such as pills and we didn't think much of it. Heck, I knew of people using it when I was in Hayes school in the 1930's and 1940's, marijuana. I don't know about pills. The chemicals weren't around then. I know they were shooting up, but it was just a small group. The other students made fun of them.

JB: What kind of problems did you have with war protests and demonstrations?

CB: We had a number of problems. In fact, I can remember the day, quite clear in my memory, about Kent, when the Kent State Incident took place. What year was that? I thought it was 1974.

JB: I don't know the exact year. Was it 1972 or 1973?

CB: Somewhere in there right. And I was upstairs and some communication came through the radio system and it was typical situations. The information was bad. It said police officers were shot. Here it was the students that were shot, but the first information we had received said that police officers were shot up at Kent and they were asking for help up there. But we had our problems up at Youngstown. They didn't progress to the degree that anyone got hurt or anything of that sort. There were some protests up there. I think Pugsley was there. We sent our riot squad up there. Very little they had to do. I think the students dispersed with just a show of force. When you deal with these, the first priority is to show strength in numbers and then after that to isolate, then go to your priorities of forces in that ladder, then you go to chemicals. Hopefully you don't have to use the last one of selective firing and open firing if you're met with gunfire, but we never had to progress to more than the show of force.

JB: Did you have any problems with strikes?

CB: Oh, we have had some problems with strikes, yes. That was the other big thing that I had forgotten about when I was assistant chief. I was right there and seen it all. The thing that disturbed me about it, the thing I couldn't understand that morning when I went down there was that you figured it was going to come to a confrontation. It was between that Stoney Trucking and the Teamsters. You were going to know most of the people there and that's a big asset for you can talk to them. Well, when I first arrived on the scene they were all strangers and I couldn't get over it. I

figured from driving up there, I knew the leaders of the teamsters. Heck, I was a teamster myself. I knew Samarone, he was a business agent, Mike Burano, Chuck Angelo, that was the heirarchy of the teamsters. You figured you'd know these people. You'd talk to them and say, "What's going on," and try and break it up. But when I got there, it was all strangers. They were these teamsters from Cleveland. In fact I think the guy that got shot there was the guy from Cleveland, shot and killed. That was the thing that really disturbed me about that incident. But again, I say when we got there with our people and we did get to know some of them, later on some of the local people emerged and were able to talk it out, but the violence had already occurred. In looking back on it, the Monday morning quarterback is always right, a key that can't miss. A lot of work could have been done prior to this thing taking place. In other words contact the leaders of the groups and try to dissuade them from any type of confrontation that they had down there ahead of time. In fact, I could recall some other agencies that knew about this. They collected out there on Route 18 right under the nose of some other police agencies who never told us a thing. And they had ample grounds to make arrests. The State Patrol watched them put weapons and all that in the cars out there, didn't do a thing about it out there at Stoney Trucking. And then they went around after it was over telling everybody about it. And I know that's the truth. That's one of the things that really upset me. Just the communication to us down here at town. In fact, they had grounds to arrest. They had mishandling of weapons in vehicles and it was a disorderly crowd and this kind of thing. I don't understand it. We took the bump for it down here, but they came through a number of jurisdictions. Openly flourishing weapons and nothing was done about it.

JB: After Terlesky was replaced as police chief, what effect did this have on you?

CB: Well, naturally I was moved from my position as assistant chief. Chief Baker became chief. He used to be my partner as a detective. They had their plans. He asked me where I wanted to work. I really wanted to go back to the turn. I had been disgusted with the administrative work because you catch all the flack for things that you have no control over. Maybe I was over-sensitive to that, but I became the head of the Juvenile Bureau and then later on I became assistant chief under him. They had various titles for the assistant chiefs because there was a complaint that the

charter didn't call for it. There was a little politics that entered in there. Baker wanted me as an assistant chief, but because the other two assistant chiefs were Republicans they had put pressure on to fill those positions and they received them. I didn't care. I enjoyed, in fact, I wish I was back in the Juvenile Bureau. I was the chief there for four years. Then when the burglary ring broke, that came about 1974 or 1975, I headed up the investigation of the burglary ring. We had to put thirteen of our people in jail. That was the one thing you didn't ask me about that I thought was really important.

JB: Go ahead.

CB: This thing had been going on, like I say, since about 1971 to 1974. Because there was some internal fighting, the administration level, the attention that should have been given to that wasn't. Like I say, I was in the Juvenile Bureau at the time and I didn't know much. We're down here in the basement. We're almost secluded from the regular department. And I didn't know much of what was going on, not that I could have really resolved it, but I didn't know too much about it until I came back up to the assistant chief. If you recall, Baker was brought before council because he was accused of dragging his feet on it. And it was kept secret that this was going on among the few of the administrative people. That's why I say the other unit heads didn't know much about it and I learned something about it in 1974 and then he threw the darn thing right in my lap to investigate it and prosecute the people that were responsible for it, not only thirteen of our police officers, but some civilians as well. The most distasteful job; you had to put your own people in jail. I think, just like anything else, it had some good positive effects after it occurred and surely it had to be wiped out. I think it has an impact on the present day police officers. They never think of taking something. If they do, they're crazy.

JB: What did you do as commanding officer of the bureau of staff services?

CB: Well, it was just another term for assistant. You handled the support services, which would be the line services which are the people that exist for the execution of what you exist for, the operation itself such as patrol, detective, vice, traffic. The Staff Services, are the people that make these people perform or assist in performing. But I don't recall too much about that to tell you the truth. It was just paperwork mostly.

JB: Did you have many jailbreaks?

CB: That's a good question because I think relatively speaking, no, very seldom. There's a lot of reasons for it. We're a temporary holding center. They're not in there that long. We have a pretty good system up there. Whenever there's a jailbreak up there, a real jailbreak, I can't even recall any. It's usually when someone is being taken to court. They get away from the officer that's taking them to court. But to break from the jail itself, I think there was only one and I don't recall much about it. It's just a little bit of apathy and people not following procedures, but it's not a real problem with us, I think for the main reason that they're only there for a short while. They don't get a chance to know each other and get to start scheming.

JB: Throughout your career on the police force, what type of relationship did the department leave with the media?

CB: Well, both good and bad. I can only speak for myself. I always felt they had a job to do which relied heavily on what we did, what information we could provide. I try to cooperate with them at all times for a number of reasons, not only because it's the right thing to do, but the people have a right to know. But also it could have some negative affect if you get into an uncooperative kind of war with them. Like it's generally portrayed many times in movies and TV. I don't see where there's much good that can come from a situation of that type. I always got along with them. I think that they, generally speaking, the media reported things the way they really were. They didn't slant the news and they were objective in what they were trying to do. I think it should be that way. They keep people on their toes. There's a need for the media, because if you don't have the media reporting things the way they really are then people can get out of hand.

JB: Did they Youngstown Police Department always have a good relationship with other police departments?

CB: Oh, I can speak with some validity on that question. Always; I can't recall us ever not cooperating with Campbell or Girard or any of the surrounding police. The sheriff knew the people personally. In fact, they used to come down a lot in the 1960's. We have an organization of the top administrative personnel of law

enforcement agencies in two or three counties around here that meet once a month and discuss common problems, information. It still exists. In fact, that's one thing that Terlesky started that I think was a real good thing. Him and Chief Muran from Girard and Ross from Niles. We always got along. You have to.

JB: Over the years, how do you think the police department has evolved?

CB: Do you mean as far as upgrading or standards?

JB: Yes.

CB: There's no doubt that they're providing a better quality of work, but it's because of a lot of things, training, the merit system coming in. They had some real fine police officers back when I first came on. I think I worked for one of the best lieutenants that ever worked here at captains is Lieutenant Carney. He was my supervisor. Early, not only on the turn, but in the detective bureau. They were people that were dedicated. You have them come down in every generation, but they were limited in what they could do in terms of political influence. But there's no doubt today there's a better quality of work being done because like I say, the merit system being in and the training that was provided.

JB: Is it tougher to enforce the law now?

CB: Oh, much tougher. There's a lot of limitations put on us through the Warren Court. But I don't want to give the wrong impression. I think they were for the good. I really and truly believe it in looking back. I know how I felt at the time when they came in. It made your job a little harder, but it provided a better quality of justice for the people, a better quality of life in our society. And unfortunately the criminal is the guy that takes advantage of these restrictions. But, on the whole you're providing these guarantees that are mandated in the Constitution to the vast majority of your society. I go to role call training twice a week, I was just telling them in role call the other day this latest ruling, the Dunaway ruling where you don't make these investigation arrests or open charge arrests anymore if this particular guy was arrested on third hand information. How would you like someone in your family or you yourself to be arrested over some third handed information. I mean, I don't think you'd want

it that way. It's the same way with the map case, the Supreme Court ruling on searches. I don't think you would want to be subject to an unreasonable search or you wouldn't want someone in your family. It's the same way with all these rulings. They make the job much, much harder, but it can be done. It has to be done with a better effort on the part of law enforcement officers, a better trained law enforcement officer. These rulings, basically, expound a philosophy of getting convictions off of confessions and admissions. You have that protection in the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the right to remain silent. And they want you to go more with the physical evidence if it can be done. And it can be done with harder work and a better trained police officer. It's much harder to do it today. A lot of other things come into play. People watch TV and watch the movies and they can't recognize something when they see it in front of them because they're always looking for the exceptional instead of the common, what really occurs. They've seen in the movie where once in a blue moon a guy is falsely accused and convicted and they think it's the everyday thing. That has an impact, but it can be done.

JB: Does a police officer have to be involved in politics to move upwards in the ranks?

CB: Not in our department since 1960. He might have to be involved in politics to become chief or head of a unit. There is some degree of it, but to get the rank itself, no. This is done by Civil Service Exams that are given by, like I say, Western Reserve University.

JB: What do you think makes a corrupt law enforcement officer?

CB: Well, so many things, not being one I don't know. (laughter) I think generally it's poor selection in the first place. If a guy is thoroughly screened and a selective background, that helps if you get the right kind of prospect. And then you can't look inside peoples' heads. Sometimes they can't stand the pressures of their job. There is a lot of power that goes with the job, a lot of influences and some people just can't resist it. But I think the one thing that could stamp out corruption is good administrators, because certainly your sergeants, your lieutenants and your supervision will prevent corruptions as long as they're not corrupt.

JB: As a law enforcement officer what are your views on gun control?

CB: Gun control? That's funny, we were just talking about that. I'm not against people having guns in their homes and I think that's what the intent of that Constitutional guarantee was to bear arms because they were in a rural type of society at the time. They needed protection against the animals and the intruders. You'd be out here and fifty miles from your nearest neighbor and you'd have some marauders come around. Certainly you'd want some protections right? That's what I mean. I think people should have the right to have guns in their homes, but out in public no. Because just over the weekend we had a couple of shootings, killings. I don't think they would have occurred if these people didn't have guns on them. I think if we had strict enforcement of people carrying guns in public or concealed weapons it wouldn't hurt us that much. But then again, there's so many other things that go along with it there has to be some penalty for it. I don't know whether that stops it or not. I was just telling one of the police officers the other morning usually the person who gets shot is a friend or someone in the family or someone known to the perpetrator. I think in 85% of the cases it's somebody in the family getting killed or some friend. I'm not for strict gun control, but I think you have to take in both sides. There's a need for them in certain areas, but certainly not in our urban centers where they have the police they can call and get. We have a response time of two minutes.

JB: In New York City they have vigilante groups.

CB: Yes.

JB: Are there any around here?

CB: No. We had one experience with them. They usually don't know what the law is and they over-react to a lot of situations. They get to be emotional. I don't think there's a need for anything like that. If you have a professional police department there's no need for a vigilante group.

JB: Is there anything else that you think we haven't covered yet?

CB: Well, not off-hand. I think you covered quite a bit there. I don't know if it's going to help you any. And the only thing I'd like to say, those are just my opinions. That doesn't mean that they're absolutely and positively true. They're just the way I've seen it.

END OF INTERVIEW