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ORAL HISTORY

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DATE October 18, 1984

Jeff Payne
(Signature - Interviewee)

1002 Mt Vernon Road
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Hurricane, WV 26035

DATE Oct 18 1984

John [Signature]
(Signature - Witness)

PAYNE, Jeff
10/18/84
TAPE 16

WEST VIRGINIA VIETNAM VETERANS

AN INTERVIEW WITH: Jeff Payne

CONDUCTED BY: John Hennen, Jr.

October 18, 1984

TRANSCRIBED AND TYPED BY: Sally M. Keaton

18 pages

ORAP CATALOG NO.: WVVV-10

JH: This is John Henner with the Oral History of Appalachia Project and Vietnam Veterans aspect. In with Jeff Payne in his apartment Leays Valley, West Virginia. Ok, Jeff, uh, let's get a little background information first. I'll take a few notes to remind me of questions I might ask. Uh, just tell me first where you were born, a little bit about you, your family . . .

JP: I . . .

JH: Your schooling, that type of thing.

JP: Was born in Huntington, West Virginia in, uh, May sixth, 1948. Uh, was adopted at age two by my adopted parents, Mr. and Mrs. Payne and I did some research, found out that I was at one time a Kenneth Ray Harney of McDowell County. My mother, Van G- Harney, who worked in Charleston and dated a defense plant worker and became pregnant. The two decided it wasn't going to be and so she gave me up for adoption. Uh, my parents, adoptive parents lived in Charleston, uh, raised in Charleston, played (inaudible), moved to Parkersburg, my father worked for Dupont, uh, went to high school there, uh, got a sister, she currently lives in Kansas, is married to a minister, has 2 children. Both of my parents are dead, my mother died in '68, my father in '72. Uh, of course, went off to college in 1963, went to West Virginia Wesleyan, uh, about a year and a half and moved up to WVU, Morgantown 'til 1966 and, uh, that's where the military came in, uh, I wasn't drafted, I enlisted and went in with four other friends on the buddy plan in Marine Corps. I went in September 1966, we went through boot camp, Parris Island, ITR, Camp Geiger in North Carolina.

JH: ITR? W- what's that?

JP: Uh, in- individualized training regiment, infantry training regiment, I'm sorry, and then went to, uh, engineer school.

JH: Are your buddies still with you at this time?

JP: Uh, they're all alive, uh . . .

JH: I mean, at this stage in the service are they still . . .

JP: Yes, yes, uh, well, up until this time, then we broke up to go to different schools. Uh, I went to engineer school in North Carolina and, uh, I think it was about a month long. Came home for leave and then went to California in January, uh, 1967 to Camp Hamilton in California. It took staging, uh, staging is just your preparatory, uh, advanced combat training conditioning before you go and flew over to Okinawa Island in February. That was '67. Spent about a week there and then, uh, at the end of Vietnam. Uh, was attached to, uh, Charlie Company Seventh Engineer Battalion, Seventh Re- regiment at Da Nang. Uh, from there it, it, it's, uh, you know, I don't really know what you want to know.

JH: Ok, I'll, I'll just ask a couple of questions. Uh, this isn't may be pure irrelevant, I'm just curious, uh, did you have a field of study at WVU?

JP: I was a journalism major.

JH: Studying journalism, ok. Uh, Charlie Company is a, sort of a legendary outfit in Vietnam, isn't it? Yeah.

JP: Seems to be in the movies.

JH: You'd hear about the Charlie Company. I, almost every night it seemed like. Saw a lot of action.

JD: Every regiment, you know, had a battalion and they named it Charlie Company.

JH: Oh, ok, ok.

JD: We used to think that our Charlie Company was, you might consider those who were probably were the non-conformists. It was pretty obvious to me that the people I was associated with in Charlie company were not the most disciplined military group on base. That's the way I liked it.

JH: Now, ok, now this is 1967?

JD: Uh-hum.

JH: When you first get to 'Nam, uh, what was the, through your eyes anyway, what was, what was the attitude towards the war at this time among t- the

combat soldiers? Was there a clear view of what their function was or the purpose of the mission was over there?

JP: As interesting as it may sound, we, as a unit there, or most of my friends, we never discussed the reasons that we were there. I don't recall ever having any moral in-depth discussions, we spent most of our talk-time talking about those people back home and what we were going to do when we got back.

JH: Uh-hum.

JP: Uh, we didn't seem to politicize it at all. No one said, well, that's right or wrong. There was an element within the battalion or even within our company that, uh, seemed to gravitate together. I don't know what their views were. I didn't associate with them from the (JH: Uh-hum) standpoint that, uh, you know, they were not like me, so to speak. (JH: Uh-hum) But I don't think we had, you know, I thought it was right, I thought it was a good thing to do and I was raised a patriotic person.

JH: So, did your family support you when you went in the service then?

JP: Well, I think they supported the idea . . .

JH: Uh-hum

JP: I don't think they supported the ideas of going off to war. Again, we never discussed that. I went out and enlisted and came home and told them.

JH: Uh-hum

JP: I was 21 years old.

JH: Yeah, you were a little bit older than a lot of, a lot of Vietnam . . .

JP: I was leaving, I was tired of the college scene and, uh, wanted to get out of town. Not that I hadn't been out of town, but I wasn't interested in, in staying in college. I wasn't making any good grades.

JH: How about at WVU at that time? Did there seem to be much interest in Vietnam at all?

JP: Uh, I think it's something people talked about, uh, I don't remember, there was no campus-wide protest or, uh, pro-ordinate. I mean, it wasn't, uh, you know, keeping in mind that I left school May of '66.

JH: Uh-hum

JP: Which I think was just prior to the large escalation (JH: Uh-hum) at that time they were still, uh, very few people that I knew personally who had anybody connected with it, family or friends, uh, it just hadn't touched a lot of people yet. Interesting enough, as it may be, in 1964, at West Virginia Wesleyan, uh, I had two acquaintances, one whose brother had been there and, uh, one, uh, gentleman who, uh, who's just come out of the Marine Corps and started as a freshman when I was a sophomore and he talked about it. But again, it's just I don't ever remembering discussing it.

JH: Uh-hum

JP: And, uh, it was talk about something that was going on thirteen thousand miles away.

JH: Yeah, I think that's, that's, I think that might be a misperception a lot of people have, that Vietnam was just everywhere you turned, you know, at that time, which isn't really true, I mean . . .

JP: It wasn't in my case.

JH: Yeah, ok, now did you serve one tour?

JP: I served, uh, seven in about seven months, if not more than 2 or 3. I was medivaced in the fall of '67. I had been, I think first you have to understand that as an engineer, I was based in, uh, in the Da Nang area but we had temporary tours of duty with various line outfits, infantry outfits, to do their demolition work, their, uh, booby trap work, uh, construction work, so we probably generally were at a battalion area, uh, five out seven days, uh, usually working major operations, uh, operation Hickory of; their charger of, uh, their charger was in my part of operation Hickory for the Mz 1967 base, '67, uh, and killed 81 in

1967, uh, so we were more or less in and out of the Da Wang area, more out than in, uh, and I was wounded in May of '67 . . .

JH: Uh-hum

JP: in the Mz. I was wounded again in August of '67, uh, I killed 85 in Happy Valley, uh, and later on, you know, and this was pretty personal but there seemed to be a profound change in myself and several people, uh, essentially, what, what it culminated in was, uh, being medicated or what they call then a gross stress reaction, a battle, naval combat fatigue. (JH: Oh, I see.) Uh, I began to act very dependently. If anything else, it was getting in and out of the compound at night, uh, was getting by so many people, fact that I was getting back in, you know, uh, cause I got three million lines but they medi- medicated about twelve of us for this purpose. Uh, interesting enough, about, I guess about 8 or 9 of us had been there, uh, about the same amount of time and had served together constantly and I was medicated to, uh, uh, the designated hospital in November of '67. I spent about six weeks as an in-patient for my mental health and, uh, after that, was discharged back to, uh, regular duty and was transferred to my camp junior in North Carolina, second engineer battalion and put to work in the 53 training division. Uh, was a clerk-typist and, uh, only because I was, I could type and I was essentially because it was short term. I didn't have enough time to . . .

JH: Uh-hum

JP: to go back and serve another full tour and at that time, uh, men were coming through there were either on their way over or they were being discharged and so they looked for any permanent personnel that had a skill, whatever it was, you know. If you could type, you were a typist. If you, uh, could draw, you were maybe made a draftsman or something. So I became a clerk-typist, eventually rose to, uh, NCO, uh, junior NCOIC -- non-commissioned officer in charge of training division -- and did a part

time stint in the Institute Intelligence Commission as a teletype operator and did that until I was discharged then, uh, in August of '68. Early out, went back to school.

JH: Is that what you did? Came back . . .

JP: Went back to school for about four weeks.

JH: To WVU?

JP: Yeah, went back to WVU.

JH: What was that like?

JP: Well, at that time, uh, my mother was, uh, screaming in cancer and ultimately died not too, in '68.

JH: She's in Huntington.

JP: Uh, this was, she was in Parkersburg. (JH: Oh, ok) We moved to Parkersburg in 1960. Uh, I found a radical difference, you know, I was completely different than a lot of the people that I had known before that were student-types had virtual (inaudible). I think I was very withdrawn. I didn't hit the party scene and I guess I, at the time I didn't have enough, uh, I didn't feel like I wanted to, to settle down to a routine of going to classes and, uh, I guess a lot of it was not having self-discipline to do that. So, uh, after my mother died in October, I moved to Florida, went to sc- high school there, that was the name of the flight school, and, uh, flew airplanes. Was basically just com- com- commercial, non-corp commercial airline, but on a commercial license. Uh, got applied with Air America in Washington D.C. and they were accepting. They had a stack of applications VIP. Left there in July of 1970, applied for and was granted immigration rights, migration rights to Australia. Migrated to Australia in, uh, November 1970. Uh, flew airplanes there for about six months. Uh, ran into . . .

JH: This is like contract flying or . . .?

JP: Yeah, yeah, well, started out flying with VIM service from Kingsford-Smith Airport which is in Sydney to Mangrove Airport which would be very similar to, uh, flying like from Huntington to Pittsburgh.

JH: Uh-huh

JP: You know, from a smaller community based airport to a large airport, and was selling airplanes, was a salesman too. Uh, ran into an old friend, uh, from Florida.

JH: In Australia?

JP: In Australia. Uh, David Walsh. He and I had gone up to Washington D.C. at the same time to apply for Air America. He obviously got the job. Uh, he disappeared about two, three weeks after we came back from D.C. Ran into him in Sydney on my favorite walk while I was there. He ask me what I was doing. I said I was selling airplanes and flying tuxedos around and didn't seem like a whole lot of fun to me and he asked me if I'd ever come up to Brisbane, Australia on the weekend and talk to him about contract flying in Indonesia. So I said sure. Uh, it offered good money and an opportunity to fly heavy aircraft, which is aircraft over 12,500 pounds. So I went up to Brisbane to visit him and signed a contract and I was certified to fly night seat, uh, BFR and a DCC, flew up to Jakarta and for about, I guess it wasn't quite sixty days, I had a ninety day contract, uh, it wasn't renewable, I was flying for a company called Air Asia, East Air Asia, I'm sorry, uh, and I really didn't have any idea where we were flying. I still don't know to this day, but I know that we would leave Jakarta there and fly out into the boonocks, landed in nice little jungle-like strips and kick cargo out. We had 3 or 4 nationals, we used the nationals working for us, and they were unloading. Returned to Jakarta one day and was met by the local constabulary and come to find out that apparently what we were doing was not altogether on the up and up. Uh, I was very fortunate. They had seized my bank account, it was in cash, taken over my room at the hotel,

burred my clothing. Uh, I was able to get to the embassy, nothing they could say. Was still in the American embassy . . .

JH: Was this a, in a clandestine matter you had to do this or did they . . .

JD: No, no I was permitted to do that.

JH: Ok

JP: I wasn't under arrest.

JH: Ok

JP: By all means I was told I had to leave the country, I was no longer ready to stay as a tourist or anything and Mr. Walsh had gotten me work permits and all that stuff . . .

JH: Uh-hum

JP: You know, uh, just formality I guess. Uh, went to the American embassy. Of course, didn't have but maybe 25, 30 dollars in my pocket and the clothes on my back and asked what they could do to help and they said well, you can stay here for awhile and you can make long distance call, collect calls to the United States or anybody to get money. Uh, somebody suggested, I don't remember who it was, that since I had immigrated or migrated to Australia, I might try the Australia embassy, which I did. I called them and went over there and they gave me air passage out of, uh, out of Indonesia to Darwin in the northern territory of Australia, and revoked my pilot's license. I was fired from my pilot license which I had gotten at a qualified school, seized my log books, and, uh, of course, again I was on my own. They re- it was really surprising that, you know, I asked . I wanted to work, you know, and they arranged, uh, a job for me with, uh, Nabaco, which is Northern Australia Boxcid, Northern Australia Boxside Aluminum Company. It was a Swiss company. It was mining in the Northern Territory of Australia on the Gold Peninsula, uh, uh, which was aboriginal reservation. I was able to go to work there, worked there about seven and a half months as a sheet metal worker, un, also as a transport manager, un, about this time which would have been

in February of 1972. Uh, I was notified by my sister that my father was very, very ill and could I come home, uh, back up a little bit. Part of the reason I went to Australia was cause I really got angry with, uh, things the way it happened didn't seem to be any direction and I was kind of burned out on the United States, was arguing with my father, he remarried, and who left, a lot of psychological crap. So I came back in February of, uh, '72 and he wasn't ready to die yet, as he told me. Uh, so I eventually got a job managing a, a Quaker State Service Station in Parkersburg which I did until September of 1972, uh, then I began bartending in a local gig and, uh, did that. My father died in October, so he, I collected a rather healthy insurance sum, my father was an executive at Dupont.

JH: Uh-hum

JP: So I spent the next six or eight months, eight months I guess doing basically nothing, just having a good time.

JH: You still working in the bar?

JP: No

JH: No?

JP: No, well, I did a little bit just for kicks I guess it was, you know, wasn't a regular employee. The man that owned it would call me if he had somebody call in sick. Uh, met a gentleman in the bar, cause I was bartending, that had just brought a tractor-trailer, big old white road boss, conventional, forty foot flat trailer. This was the beginning of the truck movement craze. This, you know, asked me if I'd be interested in driving the truck, I said sure, why not? So we, picked me up one Saturday morning and we went down and got in the truck and I drove from Parkersburg to Ripley and back to Parkersburg. Saturday morning, but Sunday evening he came by the house and gave me all my trip tickets and, uh, money and everything and said here, you need to take this load of whole steel pipe -- at this time they were pulling a lot of pipe out of

West Virginia, coal and gas mines been sending them out west for the boom out there and they were refurbishing this and that . . .

JH: Uh-hum

JP: and started hauling used pipe between here and, uh, Gillette, Wyoming. Did that for about a year, got tired of that. Uh, a lot of people say it's a lot of fun, well it is but it's also a lot of work.

JH: Yeah, wear you down, I guess.

JP: More than I wanted, yeah, and no sleep. Uh, so at this time I, I was kind of concerned by the fact my GI benefits were going to run out. I needed to use those as, again I was getting into some education, so . . .

JH: Your education benefits?

JP: Yeah

JH: Ok

JP: So, uh, I started back to school in, uh, January of '84, no, '85 -- '75. It was '75.

JH: Did you have to go back within five years?

JP: Ten years I think. So I basically went between '68 and '78 and, uh, went back to Parkersburg Community College in January of '75 and eventually up to Morgantown. Went back to Parkersburg Community College and finished that, graduated in August of '76 with a BA degree. Uh, couldn't find a job real quick, taken a battery of civil service exams, driving a cab in Parkersburg, uh.

JH: You seem to gravitate towards transportation types.

JP: I believe it. Uh, was called by, uh, West Virginia, then the West Virginia Department of Welfare. Interviewed, got a job as a social worker. And I can remember . . .

JH: You might have said, excuse me, what your degree was in.

JP: Business.

JH: Oh, ok, right.

JH: It's interesting because I mentioned to the guy that had no knowledge at all in social work or anything like that, he said doesn't make any difference, your name came up on the register, you got the highest score, if you want the job, you got it.

JH: Uh-hum

JP: You're the only person who can turn it down. I needed the money, so I said sure, it's something to do. Well, I ended up working with the department of welfare for five years and I started out as a social worker dealing with abuse and neglect in Wood and Wirt Counties, West Virginia. Uh, transferred over to youth services, dealing, uh, with kids that were, lived in pre-delinquent behavior, uh, that eventually led to juvenile probation in two years, was a probation officer for Wood and Wirt Counties. Uh, in the meantime I got married, got divorced, lasted three years to the day -- October sixth '77 to October sixth 1980. Uh, had some financial problems because of marriage thing and wanted basically to get out of Parkersburg, which, the only place you went was, seemed to me to be just uncomfortable and, uh . . .

JH: You mean like small town?

JP: Yeah, small town. And I was ready for a change, uh, I was going to change from being married to single, and I was going to change big time.

JH: Uh-hum

JP: Uh, had been in contact with the Burlington Children's Home over in Burlington, West Virginia near Kaiser in Wood County and, uh, over a period of about a year until 1981, summer of '80, summer of '81, managed to negotiate a job with them, so I moved, uh, over there in 1981, August of 1981, was a child care worker, uh, residential field worker, worked with emotionally disturbed or delinquent or abused and neglected children. Worked there for two years. Worked my way up to, uh, uh, case worker, managing an entire cottage, was also a consultant and trainer for the home, uh, teaching, uh, the better invention techniques and verbal

and nonverbal techniques in a crisis situation. traveled all over the state teaching that kind of thing, teaching other agencies and groups that deal with, uh, children in crises. Uh, they changed the program there in August of '63. My job was effectively eliminated because of the program change. Uh, they offered me another position with about a 32 hundred dollar cut in pay and terrible hours. Uh, I'd intended to move to Huntington anyway, because of Kathy, so I packed up the jeep and commuted, moved down here.

JH: You didn't let that four thousand cut hurt her.

JP: No, well, I'd made a deal with her, uh, was under the understanding that because of my position had effectively been eliminated I could collect unemployment. Not that I wanted to collect unemployment but it was something to keep me going till . . .

JH: Uh-hum

JP: I got down here . . .

JH: Sure

JP: and find a job. Uh, got down here and applied for unemployment and found out that because there's a church-related school on the campus of the group home that they were not required to pay into unemployment, so solved that, back to square one, but I managed, uh, with Kathy's help, uh, and doing some consulting work, uh, you know, paid the bills. And, uh, in May of 19-, well, this year, '84, uh, Braley and Thompson, Inc., who I work for now, ask me if I wanted to do some temporary accounting work, a chance to use business degree that I had for eight years, nine years and never used. So I said sure, I can always use the money and it, over a period of about a month and a half, turned into a full-time job. So I'm currently working in the planning and management division of Braley and Thompson, Inc., uh, as a fiscal officer for the contracts due to five industrial accounts of Braley and Thompson, their division, and that's where I am today.

JH: Ever do any more flying?

JP: I, you know, I'm going back and taking a bi-level once in a while and fly maybe five or six hours over a period of two months. And it's very expensive nowadays compared to when I was first into it. And it's not too bad if you find somebody to share it with you. No, I haven't. This summer I might get back into it. There's a certain freedom to it, being in, in control. I imagine I might put in another five or six hours every two months and do it again.

JH: Oh

JP: Finishing school and Outward Bound stuff.

END OF SIDE 1

JH: Uh, Jeff, you mentioned before we got started on the interview that, uh, you were pretty active in VVA for, for a good while. When did you get involved with them?

JP: I got involved with them I guess around October of 19-, uh, '83, a couple of months after I got down here. I had gone to the, uh, Vet Center, uh, primarily looking to see if they had a line on a job or anything, so they matched me up and said why don't you come down to the group sessions. They have a meeting every Thursday night, rap sessions.

JH: Uh-huh

JP: So I started going to those, uh, just to rap and, uh, some people had mentioned there was a VVA chapter here and, uh, at that time they were holding meetings at the library or wherever they could get and I got involved with it from that standpoint and, uh, wasn't real actively involved with it. Went to meetings, but I wasn't really active in, uh, any of their drives or mon-, +un-, fund raising things. Uh, I continued to be involved by going to the meetings. Not until, I guess it was early summer of this year, '84, uh, I just basically lost interest from the standpoint that we discussed earlier. I didn't see cohesive group, I saw a lot of, uh, small, uh, groups of people, smaller lines within a larger organization . . .

JH: Uh-hum

JP: Which I didn't feel was, you know, going to be successful. Uh, then again, many of the vets have their serious problems and, uh, I found it difficult to spend a lot of time, uh, around that. This is not their fault as people, but, you know, my own personal needs, found that I was damaging them, so I dropped out and became a member.

JH: Oh, this is just a general question, just your type of response. One veteran I talked to, I guess he was 46 or 47, he was saying that particularly in this area that, uh, of course PTSD is, is a problem (JP: Uh-hum) nationwide with a lot of veterans but he said that is almost being superceded by unemployment around here. Now you've been, you've got a fairly checkered but successful career in finding a job. What about that? Is any response to that about, uh, how the community accepts veterans for work?

JP: Ok, I think, well, number one, uh, you know, post-traumatic stress disorder, uh, is an age-old problem with a new term.

JH: Uh-hum

JP: Uh, then we had that similar type emotional disease or that being the difference being the Vietnam Veteran came back to characteristically an unwelcomed society, uh, high unemployment, uh, which I think probably feeds what might have been, uh, a kind of a fuse within a lot of these guys. They were angry, uh, most of them came back wanting to get back into the main stream of society and were accustomed to having a role and an objective and meeting that objective and going on, and just going on with your life. As they met, uh, some society rejection and I think it was primarily amongst those who, uh, probably were not skilled prior to the service . . .

JH: Uh-hum

JP: may have had emotional problems prior to entering the service.

Because when I went in, they were looking at the bodies, mostly the bodies.

JH: Uh-hum

JP: And when they hit the streets back here, uh, they couldn't pick up where they left off, uh, I'm sure that the combination of stress and possibly having a family and not being able to feed them, not being able to meet, uh, society's or, you know, uh, opinion of a man, being able to support, take care and then unemployment -- sure I think that's exactly what it is -- it, it, it's post-stress, uh, but I think it, if there had been a better employment rate or more opportunities when they came back, I don't think there would have been this stress we see now. PTSD, as a matter of fact, uh, I have known people who claim to have PTSD and have been diagnosed as PTSD right up until they got a job and were able to pay the bills and then they suddenly became very normal people. I think a lot of people used it a tool to get away with a lot of anger, not to say they're not angry and they have a reason not to be angry, but I think it's, uh, it's, it's overused, and I feel there's no, no doubt at all if I wanted to make a case for PTSD I've got the perfect set-up, you know, I got medicated.

JH: Uh-hum

JP: Uh, but I, I chose not to, uh, attach that stigma to my life. Uh, I just choose not to be considered crazy and I'm sure as hell not going to go out there and put a big label on my forehead and I'm not -- I don't think I'm criticizing those that, that taken the route of PTSD. There are people who generally very much can't deal with that situation, people who saw much more combat than I did, or I simply couldn't cope. But I chose not to, uh, I like money and the way to get money, uh, is to either steal or, or to earn it and I found that working is much more satisfying to me, makes a lot of things . . .

JH: Sleep a lot better.

JP: Well, yeah, you sleep a lot better but, uh, you know, I don't really sleep that well anyway but, uh, but, uh, it certainly is nice to get a job.

JH: Now, you imply there is -- oh, more on this case. There definitely is a lot of veterans who, you know, are labeled with PTSD or accepted, however, as a stigma, was there a stigma on Vietnam Veterans say at the time, by the time you went back to college. Of course that was what, '70?

JP: No, '68, fall of '68.

JH: But af-, I mean, after you'd been in the service and then . . .

JP: Yeah, I went in the service in '66 and went back for about 4 weeks in '68. Uh, I saw, I saw a great difference. Yeah, uh, that movement, you know, the anti-war movement was really picking up, uh, I didn't want to be on either side. I just wanted to move through. I remember a lot of Iranians were up in arms too and walking around the campus and more or less grabbing you and stuffing things in your head which made me, uh, made me a little angry. I almost felt as if, uh, you had to take a position. I didn't want to take a position.

JH: Uh-hum

JP: Uh, cause I didn't like what I had done, I didn't think it was right or wrong at that point, uh, and, you know, I, I didn't want to be around those guys who wanted to talk about it all the time and I didn't want to be around the people that were against it.

JH: Uh-hum

JP: I remember in one history class, uh, oral history class, uh, getting into, just a real screaming match with a professor who was auditing the class and he was claiming you can't defeat nationalism, and I was of course in the position saying, oh yeah, (inaudible) everything and I knew what I was saying about this whole crap, you know. This guy was right

all the way down the line and I doubt he was 50 years old and he studied history of the world for I don't know how many years and he knew what he was talking about. I was coming from seven or seven and a half months experience in a little nice country of the world. But I got out of that and, uh, didn't take a position on it for years and years and years. But still, at this point, I hesitate from taking a definite position on it, uh, I think the idea was probably right. I think the method was wrong. I don't know, I didn't think any change might happened whether you can even make it up to anybody or, you know, however, you can ever quell with a situation like they will. Me, I just try to move.

JH: Got that independent strain.

JP: I don't know if it's independence or not. I mean, it's just, you know, I've kind of made peace with myself, uh, during the breakup of my marriage and subsequent to that and going to Burlington Children's Home. I, you know, was talking to some people about, uh, you know, I felt I was under a lot of stress, was making bad decisions and, uh, spent a lot of time with a psychologist and myself and, uh, we worked good, I think, you know, I had a lot of self-realizations which, uh, I think, helped me. You realize you can only do so much, you can't do everything.

JH: Uh-hum

JP: You can't change it, you got to accept it, uh, or if you reject it, then you have to rationalize it. Uh, so I, I'm not saying that, you know, that I, that I've solved my problems but I'm certainly in a better position to, to cope and to work and be productive, move along.

JH: You have any, some kind of a career plan right now?

JP: No. Well, I'd like to get back into social services and I'm close to that now.

JH: Uh-hum

JP: Uh, uh, I'd like to go back to graduate school. I have an outstanding school that a lot of people do there, uh, there's some legal implications

but between whether or not, not necessarily that I owe or don't owe because I do owe money but as to whether or not I had made or not made a fair and honest attempt to repay it, which I feel I have.

JH: Uh-hum

JP: And they've been very uncalled for -- this is from WVU. One of my plans when I moved down here to Huntington was, gee whiz, I got a graduate school right there, you know, 14 blocks from my house. Wow, great, and of course, you know, when I couldn't get a transcript from WVU down to Marshall . . .

JH: Because of the loan thing?

JP: Right, uh, it's pretty petty stuff and was real angry about that, still angry about that but I'll get it worked out. Yeah, like to go back to school and I'd like to get some more education and just, I'd like to stay in the field of social services but at times I've felt inadequate to go beyond a certain point and I'd leave the condition . . .

JH: So you go to school in that field, related to that.

JP: Yeah, yeah, need to go out to Grant Is. Thompson and build a cabin and not even talk to anybody. I don't know.

JH: That's a career, too.

JP: Uh-hum. I have civilized moves, John. There's no weeds at his cabin.

JH: Weeds

JP: Here, you know, I've stomped all over the Yellowstone and, uh, all down through the Yukon and Bridge of Wilderness and Rocky Mountain National Park. It's beautiful.

END OF TAPE. END OF INTERVIEW.