

Harris County Archives
Houston, Texas

Oral History Collection

#6

An Interview with Raymond Hill

Place of interview: Houston, Texas

Interviewer: Sarah Canby Jackson

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(Signature)

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Tape A Side 1

SARAH CANBY JACKSON: This is Sarah Canby Jackson with the Harris County Archives Oral History Program, January 24, 2008. I am interviewing Raymond Hill in Houston, Texas, concerning his knowledge of the Juvenile Probation Department, Judge Robert Lowry, Harris County politics and government and anything else he would like to add. Good morning, Raymond.

RAYMOND HILL: Good morning.

SARAH CANBY JACKSON: First of all, tell me about your parents.¹

RAYMOND HILL: It's hard for me to do that because it's hard for anybody to believe a person could have parents as good as mine. I've been in a number of groups where the groups had to make disclosures about, you know, their parents and their childhood. I tell mine and they say, "What you really need is a reality check," and "You couldn't have had it so good." I'll just have to ask you to forgive me, they were wonderful. That would be the overarching generalism that I would make.

My father and mother, I truly believe, were absolutely honest. I believe they were extraordinarily generous. I believe they were deeply motivated to do the right thing and to extend the blessings of their lives to as many people as they possibly could during their lifetimes. They were not interested in money, as such, or making money and people would ask, "Well, why did your Dad do this or your Mother do that?" always looking for some sort of an advantage. The fact is that

¹ George A. Hill, Jr. and Mary Van den Berge Hill

my mother and my father did countless acts of extraordinary community service and in almost every case, and maybe in every case, they were invited to do that. They didn't thrust themselves into any position. They never campaigned to be made chairman of anything or to get on a particular board or anything like that, which I see so much of today. People came to them asking them, "Would you kindly consider doing this or doing that for the community?" It was pretty much understood that when you got the group together that they were going to say, "Mary Hill, we would like you to be the chairman or George Hill, we would like for you to be the chairman." And, that's the way it was in all of the activities, the extraordinary activities of the lives of both of them.

They were good to me. Daddy's probably only failing that I can think of is that when I asked him to help me with my Latin, he just promptly translated it all for me and when I asked him to help me with an essay, he'd dictate and I thought he was kind of wonderful. Looking back at it, I just adore the memory of it. But he was so knowledgeable in any field and every field. We were sitting one day, just for example, in my brother George's room. He had suffered from polio and had lost the use of his legs and was recovering. In the process of recovering, he needed to get flexibility in his hands and so they said, "Why don't you take guitar lessons?"

Well, he proved to be an extraordinary student. And so we are all up there in my brother's room -- my brother, Ray Cruse, and Charlie Sheppard and others - - picking away at mandolins and guitars and my Dad walks in and he says, "What are you boys doing?"

“We’re just picking out a little music, Dad.”

“Let me see that mandolin.” He picks that up and tinkles with it a little bit and said, “Do you all know *jarabe tapatio*?” which is an extremely intricate and fast thing.

My brother George said, “Well, we think we can do that.” “Well, let’s go.” My dad just picks that mandolin like he had been playing the mandolin all his life; none of us knew that he had ever seen a mandolin. He was always surprising us like that. Forgive that little diversion.

Mother and my father and our entourage which included a number of visiting guests, all sat down one day in Cuernavaca. We had a guy named Hank Gardner, a young Yale graduate, who was going to jumpstart my brother to go to

Hotchkiss and
teach him a lot
of Latin and
French and
some advanced
Math and
whatnot. At
Hank’s

suggestion, we²
all decided we
were going to



Cuernavaca, Mexico. L to R: Roger Martin, George A. Hill, III, George A. Hill, Jr., Raymond Hill, Frank C. Smith, Brownie Baker, Hank Gardner. 1937

² Thad and Palmer Hutcheson, Billie Carter, Robert Martin, Vessey Rainwater, Frank Smith and Ed Andrews were in and out. On this day there were seven or eight of us. [Information added later].

do portraits of each other. To me, that was a total mystery. I couldn't play in that game at all, but my brother and sister and mother and father all did very, I thought, credible portraits of each other. And Hank Gardner, who was supposed to be teaching us all this stuff and was supposed to be an accomplished artist, his wouldn't compare with the spontaneous products of the family members. I was astounded and further pressed back in a way which was how in the world could I compete with this bunch of people? Is little brother ever going to get to be big brother? Can I ever do what my brother and my sister can do, you know, and my mother and my father?

But, anyway, I don't know how to say it other than to say my feeling about them is just boundless in admiration and awe. They were easy to know. A stranger could sit down with them and have the feeling of long standing relationship in an hour's time. They were not haughty, they didn't shout their skills. Daddy graduated from the University of Texas Law School at age nineteen.

JACKSON: He graduated from law school or undergraduate?

HILL: Law school, after being editor of *The Texan*. At that time, and I don't know about today, he was the youngest person to have ever graduated from the University of Texas Law School; and he did it with all the undergraduate credits that one should have. It's not surprising because the rest of his life is very much like that. He died at fifty-seven and to tell his story, what he accomplished before fifty-seven, most people that live to be eighty-five and retain all their faculties are not able to accomplish what my father accomplished.

He was internationally known and respected in many fields, not one or two fields. As Randolph Bryan, Sr., who was Chairman of the Bank of the Southwest, remarked, and he was one of my father's closest friends, he said, "George Hill, Jr. was the only great genius I've ever known that was also a very likeable, sensible, loveable person." Daddy did have all of those characteristics, and he was, lots of times, I think, topped by my mother. She had gone to Sophie Newcomb, was an accomplished artist and studied architecture, but she had organizational skills and perceptive abilities. Mother was a person who very quietly in the background made little suggestions, but people would stop, listen, and take note and the little suggestion would become the next day's action.

There are so many people in Houston who have been placed in very prominent positions on boards and committees and whatnot who are there by the quiet suggestion of my mother. She saw through people, she'd say to my father, "Now, George," and some of the ways she'd say it would be sorta funny, maybe she believed a little bit in phrenology, "Now that man's eyes are too close together, I don't know, George, I'd be a little bit concerned about him." She didn't really mean the measurement of the space between the person's eyes. There was another narrowness that made it self-evident that she picked up on. I don't want to name names, but her insights were enormously valuable through the years. Particularly in terms of people that she admired and respected, I can remember one of her suggestions that nobody picked up on after my father died. She said, "You know, Morgan Davis, he'd be a good man to be the president of Houston Oil Company." Well, I don't know whether he would have considered it

or not but he would have been an excellent man to be the president of Houston Oil Company. It wouldn't have been sold in the way it was and many things would have happened that did not happen.

JACKSON: Well, let's stop here a minute and go back and tell me about what your father did for a living and place him within Houston and its society.

HILL: Well, when Daddy came to Houston and married my mother, before he married her, he spoke to my grandfather. My grandfather looked at him and said, "Well, maybe you'll do." I think he counseled with my mother a little bit and said, "You know, one of these ranchers in Victoria might really make a good husband for you." This young lawyer, in Houston and all, he didn't see it as a great boon or pearl.

JACKSON: When were they married?

HILL: Let's see. My sister must have been born in about 1920. They must have been married about 1918 or 1919, so I'm making a guess, I've got that information, but I'm making a guess. He looked real young, he was young. He tried to do anything that would give people the impression that he was older and more seasoned -- a cigar, panama hat, walking cane, white suite, black sedan -- because he was such a youngster getting started and practicing law, he had to have his disabilities removed as he was not yet twenty-one.

He went to practice law with Wilson, Dabney and King, I believe, and later he was with Kennerly, Lee, Williams and Hill. I don't know whether I've got that right or not, I know that Kennerly, Lee, Williams and Hill is correct and that was old Judge Kennerly, a wonderful, wonderful man who swore me in as an

attorney to the Bar. He used to chose and commend a little Bible verse for the Sunday paper in the editorial page, and maybe he did it every day, I don't know, but at least once a week.

Daddy represented railroads, he represented the Stark Interests. H. J. Lutchter Stark was married to Nita Hill and was an enormously wealthy man with many activities in New Mexico and Texas and around the United States and Louisiana. Father tried some cases that were locally famous, one of them involved an oak tree in downtown Houston. I think it was the Scanlan Oak. Daddy was successful in saving it. He didn't save it for very long but somebody else allowed its demise.

As a young lawyer, he was representing the Houston Oil Company. The had directors in Maryland and St. Louis, around the country and some in Texas. There were some problems in the Houston Oil Company that needed to be straightened out. It was in serious difficulty and some questions arose about the internal accounting and things of that sort. Ethan Shepley was chairman of Washington University in St. Louis. Ethan Shepley and Holman Cartwright from South Texas got to talking about what to do and one or the other one said, "Well, there's this bright young lawyer there in Houston that really seems to understand the oil industry, he could certainly step in and, if we found we needed a more seasoned person, well maybe we could get one, but he could do that." The other one said it was a good idea and Daddy was chosen. This is the way it has been related to me.

We were living on Richmond Road in a little house at 1415, little Dutch colonial, tiny little house and Daddy came home with a large touring car that the previous president of the Houston Oil Company had and he said, “They have given me this, I don’t particularly want this.” It was a maroon seven passenger Cadillac limousine and when he pulled it into the garage on Richmond, about four or five feet of it stuck out beyond the confines of the garage, and we had to hang a tin over that. It was not in my father’s character, nothing that he particularly wanted to have, but that was how he was being launched into the presidency of the Houston Oil and Pipeline Company and Southwestern Settlement and Development Company.

Those companies had a million acres of fee lands. They owned the minerals, the surface, everything, virtually in the middle of the East Texas field and turning that into income was, of course, my father’s job, among other things. The East Texas Field served, in part, as a giant, relatively free storage tank for the company’s proven, as well as unproven petroleum reserves. They also had a discovery on Holman Cartwright’s ranch of significant gas reserves. And the idea was that they needed to have a pipeline to take those reserves to Houston and they needed to have a local Houston entity in order to retail that gas to customers in Houston. Out of this were born several companies, a lot of people are not aware of the history, but there was a Delaware company and a Texas company, several of them all basically called Houston Natural Gas. It was facilitated by the Houston Oil Company, it was, in fact, it was more or less created by the Houston

Oil Company to be a retail outlet in Houston and that's how I believe it got started.

The pipeline company had some existence and this was an extension of its existence and it later extended significantly all over South Texas and East Texas and covered the State. It became a very significant pipeline and it was run strictly like a public utility, which is what it was, although it ultimately became Enron through various transmutations. The local retailer, Houston Natural Gas, bought the pipeline company from the oil company, at the dissolution of the Houston Oil Company. It was a smaller company acquiring a larger company and then that ultimately turned into the Enron that was a big scandal in recent months and years.

But Daddy's activities rapidly became those of leadership which always followed him everywhere he went. It wasn't long before he was Chairman of the Agenda Committee of the API [American Petroleum Institute], the most influential nonsalaried position in the oil industry in the United States in those days. He didn't gravitate to that position in order to have power. People placed that power in his hands because he knew how to make it effective and he was an extremely effective person in the oil industry. Ultimately, he was responsible for defeating a whole raft of treaties that were proposed after World War II that were uniformly considered in the industry to be very deleterious to the best interest of the oil industry in the United States. A joint committee of Congress finally wrote bills which he was basically responsible for tailoring.

He was recognized for his skills in various debates around the country about the proper end uses of natural gas in which he was a central figure. After World War II he was given the position of a sort of a coordinator for energy in Western Europe. As part of the Post War Planning Board he was a 'dollar-a-year' man and was responsible for many of the decisions that were made as to energy resources of Germany and France and Belgium and Holland and Scandinavia as well. He traveled widely in all of those countries and dealt with their leaders and kings and princes and conducted himself in a way that has never received anything that I know of other than just commendation. I started to say condemnation. That's the trouble with an oral history, the wrong word may come out, not a Freudian slip.

Daddy was always interested in history. I have here the documents that relate to the founding of the San Jacinto Historical Museum. Louis Kemp, Randolph Bryan, and my father were friends. Daddy was particularly close to Eugene Barker and Carlos Castañeda who were towering figures in terms of Texas history and Hispanic history. He worked with his incredible and usual foresight in foreseeing exactly what that museum could be and how it ought to be organized. When he was asked if he would consent to be its founder and organizer, he readily agreed with the great encouragement from his wife, who was wondering whether we could ever have a house large enough or facilities large enough to accommodate all of the historical materials that my father had accumulated through the years. Daddy spent lots of time in Hispanic America in discussions with historians. For one thing, he set up a program to support

financially a man in Mexico who was the leading authority on early Indian dialects and language and methods of communication. The San Jacinto Historical Museum used to support financially such a person and staff in Mexico. I don't know what has happened to that, whether that continues today or not.

We used to go to Mexico and I would travel with my father. Even though my brother had the good fortune of being able to start his business and to practice law in the building with my father in the firm that used to be my father's firm, and, of course, before I got into business my father had died, so we never got to have the relationship with each other that comes from business. He helped me with my schooling but not with my business.

But anyway, what I was going to say, is this isn't vanity that causes me to say this, I was the closest member of the family to my father. I believe, for reasons that I cannot explain and that, a matter of fact, I can argue strenuously against. I really believe I was the best loved, if there was any division of that. Either that, or we were all equally loved but they loved me very much and I was close to my father and I went with my father and mother collecting materials. I was probably the only member that ever did. I used to know the staff very well at the San Jacinto Historical Museum, long before my father died and my brother became the president of it.

JACKSON: Could I interrupt you just a minute, please. Could you tell me about his collection of manuscripts? As a former archivist at San Jacinto, I'm well aware of his contributions to the archives there. His Spanish Manuscript collection is incredible. So, could you tell me, for example, how did he get the ranch records,

or how was he getting the convent records or all these wonderful things that he got?

HILL: Well, here might be an example. Let's see, I'm looking at a paper by Eugene Barker and I'm thumbing through, trying to look for some correspondence with Carlos Castañeda. Maybe you can tell me who this gentlemen is, as I hand you a picture.

JACKSON: I don't know.

HILL: Okay.

JACKSON: Do you?

HILL: No, I don't either. We're looking at a picture of somebody speaking over KTRH with a document in front of him. But I have in my hands, here, a letter from, I think, Carlos Castañeda. Yes, he says, "I'm sending you four copies of what I call suggestions for a plan of organization of the Memorial Museum of the San Jacinto Battlefield Monument. They are nothing more than suggestions." Then he goes on, "I want to enlist frankly your cooperation in raising funds to purchase the Condra Collection of books and documents for the University of Texas. To refresh your mind, the Condra Collection is described in a general way in lists which I sent you before." And, so on, and they describe that. And then he talks about another list. He says, "I've just received a catalog of this library, it shows the collections consists of over 6,000 volumes dealing with the history, geography, diplomatic relations, law, government, education and general culture of Paraguay, in particularly, and Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile, in general. It contains, furthermore, 1,853 documents with an aggregate of more than 20,000

pages of original archives of Paraguay.” Well, I just picked that out, it’s this kind of thing, here’s another letter from my father to him, talking about the Alamo Museum and here he’s writing, he’s collecting things. “I’m sending you by express today some forty-one additional documents and three photographic reproductions of paintings, of certain ones which I’m sure you will find to be of more than passing interest. They also include. . . .” and they list a bunch of things. “I appreciate your infusion of this matter in the descriptive list to be prepared,” and so on. I’ve got lots of them.

JACKSON: So, he would get information from Dr. Castañeda and others about what they have found and then he would actually go and purchase them?

HILL: He would follow leads. In Mexico, I would go with my mother and my father and we’d talk to the priest of a big church that was getting ready to get rid of a bunch of stuff. I guess my father had a good instinct and he was a good bird dog.

JACKSON: And, he knew Spanish. Was he bilingual or not?

HILL: He was not fluent in Spanish but Daddy was such a Latin scholar.

JACKSON: Well, that was what the church documents were written in anyway.

HILL: That’s right. He managed to get along pretty well, in spite of the fact that he was not a scholar in Spanish.

TAPE 1, SIDE B

JACKSON: We were talking about running into churches.

HILL Yes. My father knew the principle archivist; he knew the families that had historical collections in Mexico, in Texas. How do you get to know these people? Well, it's interesting. I was at a little meeting in LaGrange not long ago and here's a bunch of strangers and within ten minutes as they begin to identify themselves, we all find that there are connections. I know so and so, you know so and so and he's somebody else's brother and we really had a network that was so good.

Years ago, one of Dad's friends, it might have been Hines Baker, or it might have been his brother, Rex who was the lawyer, and Hines Baker was Humble Oil. It was one of those two brothers whose son was getting ready to travel to Mexico and he asked my father to give some suggestions about where he might want to go. Daddy wrote a letter describing the better hotels and restaurants and interesting places to go. That letter got amended again and again and again for maybe thirty or forty years. Everybody that I knew, knew that there was a George A. Hill letter. If you could get your hands on that you could really get around in Mexico. We used it when I got married in travelling in Guatemala and Mexico on the honeymoon; I'm busy using my mother's and father's notes. So, he would step into a country and immediately the people he ought to know would be there. It just seemed to work that way. Well, mostly Mexico we're talking about here.

JACKSON: So, he had a real affinity for the Hispanic culture? Would you say that?

HILL: Well, I don't know to what extent John C. C. Hill, who was a prolific writer, I don't know to what extent he interested us, or the young coppersmith that James

Monroe Hill raised, who was a Mexican in this country.³ We had sort of an adopted Mexican in our family and the Mexicans had an adopted Texan in their families and it happened to be exactly the right families. The James Monroe Hill and John C. C. Hill, even though he was raised in Mexico he was one of the founders in the Texas State Historical Society. James Monroe Hill was asked by Culberson to acquire the San Jacinto Battleground and lay out the positions of the contending armies and all of that.

JACKSON: And their relation to your Dad was what? Father?

HILL: Father.

JACKSON: Father, okay. So, James Monroe Hill was your father's grandfather.

HILL: Right. And John C. C. was an uncle.

But there is something in our family, we love and appreciate the problems of the Mexican culture. There are no people that are more hospitable and more gracious and delightful to be around and yet, when I was chairman of the Inter American Bar for Harris County, I used to be doing lots of comparative law type things involving Latin America, and I finally quit that because of the uncertainty surrounding transactions and government and what not. I deplore that, I wish it didn't exist, it does. It's interesting we've discovered that all of the Latin American republics, virtually all of them, have either the French or the American, not so often the *Siete Portidos*, the Spanish heritage in their law and their

³ Julia Lee Sinks, "Rutersville College," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 1898, vol. II, p. 125 identifies the Mexican as Joseph Mendes, a fifer-boy captured at the battle of San Jacinto who in 1838 was enrolled in the primary department and later became a silversmith in Houston.

<http://www.tshaonline.org/shqonline/apager.php?vol=002&pag=125> .

The story of John C. C. Hill is told in *The Handbook of Texas Online* <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/HH/fhi24.html> .

constitutions. So interesting that Argentina can have a constitution just like the United States and take the welfare clause and invade its peoples' rights through that rather than taking the commerce clause like we did in this country to increase government and narrow private rights. We're just different kinds of people.

When I was in Puerto Rico as part of a delegation chosen by Eisenhower and Nixon, at an Inter American Conference with the leaders of all of the countries there, I made an observation which a lot of people believed, that if a population doesn't have the discipline to stand in line, democracy is not the right government for them. They haven't progressed far enough to be able to afford democracy. You know, I just believe that in my gut. Sometimes people know how to dance and sing and make beautiful art and make delightful dishes to consume and maybe not very good at standing in line. Pardon that note -- philosophical.

JACKSON: Well, no, I think that's an interesting observation. Now, your mother's family, they were Texans, too?

HILL: Oh yes. My mother's a Van den Berge and we're related to Senator Vandenberg [Arthur Hendrick Vandenberg March 31, 1928 – April 18, 1951] from Michigan but our family got down here, the Cunningham's and the Woffords, the old Chisholm Trail my mother's mother was a Wofford, and my great-grandfather's wife was a Cunningham, I guess, but Cunninghams, Woffords, and Van den Bergs pretty well describe my mother's family and they're early Texans. The old Wofford house was part of the old Chisholm Trail which went through Cuero, Texas.

JACKSON: So, she was from Cuero or that area?

HILL: That part of her family, yes. The Van den Bergs were from Victoria. They married the Woffords and the Woffords were from Cuero, just down the road a little ways.

JACKSON: Tell me about your older brother and older sister. How much older were they?

HILL: My older brother, George A. Hill, III, was born in February, two and one-half years before me, February 22nd, I believe, and I believe my sister, I can't remember her birthday, I think she's a couple of years older than my brother.

JACKSON: So, you were the baby?

HILL: Yes, my sister's probably five years older than I am.

JACKSON: What was your birthday?

HILL: July 21, 1925.

JACKSON: And you were born here in Houston?

Hill: Yes.

JACKSON: What was it like growing up in Houston in the 1920s and 1930s?

HILL: I think it was heaven. You could get on your bicycle and we always had four, five, six, eight, ten, twelve, fifteen, we'd get a lot of kids together, enough to play sandlot football or baseball or enough to have two teams. We could take our bicycles and leave them on a vacant lot. Somebody would come by in a car and we'd all hang on to the sides of the car, and in the car, and on top of the car and come back two days later and our bicycles would be there. Nobody had stolen anything. I cannot remember locking a door in the house or why we would want to do that when I was a little boy. I'm sure we did on occasions. If I climbed in a

window, upstairs window, it was so they wouldn't hear me coming up the stairs, not because the door was locked.

JACKSON: And did you do that often?

HILL: Well, I did it a time or two. I don't know why late night is so intriguing to young people. It's a wonderful time to be asleep, but young people want to explore the middle of the night for some reason. I did.

To describe being raised in Houston, I didn't believe I could ever match my brother physically. He was an absolute, almost something that you can't imagine. He was as handsome as you can possibly get and as strong as you can possibly be and as talented as you could possibly get and as good. He wasn't a bad person, he was a very good person and that was a terrible legacy and my sister exceeded my brother in brilliance. She was amazingly brilliant and very good looking, very talented, great dancer. She could play the guitar a little bit, too, and sing. It was wonderful to have a brother and sister like that on the one hand, on the other hand I think the reason why I rebelled a lot was I didn't believe I could top them. I knew I couldn't. To try to come out above my mother and father and brother and sister would have been just the most arrogant mean thing you could possibly ever hope to do. But, I don't think I was hurt by that, I had a wonderful time coming up -- the freedom that I had going into the Chisos Mountains before they were a park [Big Bend National Park] and camping and going to the Chinatis and Eagles and Guadalupe and other desert country mountains.

JACKSON: Why don't you talk about the trip you took in your station wagon? The first time you went to the Chisos was with your brother, correct?

HILL: That's correct.

JACKSON: How old were you then?

HILL: I think I was twelve. I believe I was twelve.

JACKSON: And he was fifteen.

HILL: Yes, something like that, give or take a year either way but I believe that's correct. I was so delighted; I would have gone anywhere that my brother would ask me to go. If he would ask me to do something with him, I can tell you, I'm ready to do it. So, I went. The directions to get to the Chisos Mountains were to drive out Main Street in Houston until you got to Marathon, Texas, and turn left.

JACKSON: That's taking Highway 90, for people who don't know.

HILL: That's old Highway 90 and turn left at Marathon and people would ask the embarrassing question, "Well, how do you know where to turn left?" Well, you don't. You get out there and you stumble around and, in those days, there was sort of a trail that was a pretty good dust road at times and pretty much of a trail at other times and you just had to point down toward the Big Bend and ultimately get there.

And you needed always to have, at least we always thought we did, we always had a big hawser. We liked Manila hemp to be pulled with or to pull somebody else; we had that in our car as a tow rope. We had chains in case we needed them and we always had shovels and pick axes and stuff like that. Sometimes you would have to dig your way out of loose rock. Getting stuck in

loose rock is much worse than getting stuck in the mud, because you can't keep the holes from filling back up when you're trying to dig yourself out. The loose rocks are diabolical the way they keep you hung up. You get your way through the rocks that will knock out your oil pan and get your way out of the loose rocks and then cross the little arroyos there. When there are clouds in the distance, it doesn't often rain, but when it does, six foot walls of water come whistling down the little arroyo and you don't know what that's going to do. But anyway, we got there.

When you see them on the horizon and you're a Texan and don't know that you have mountains, it is the most magnificent sight, to think, wow, we're not just a flat country place at all, look at those mountains. They just grab your heart if you are a person like me, and so then you start going for them. They had an old CCC Camp, that's a Civilian Conservation Corps, that was created during times of the Depression. They did not have a park, there was a CCC Camp in what they call the Basin. People have asked me, the Rangers at the Big Bend have asked me on times to address the staff out there and tell them about what that Basin looked like because in those days, it was covered with beautiful oak trees, as well as the ponderosas and what not. Then they had a drought, a terrible drought, and lost ninety percent of those oaks. I understand that by now they are back, not like they were, but they are back in comfortable amounts and, of course, the piñons and other trees make it quite a hospitable place. But, it was quite a place back in the days that I went there.

We got
out of the car at
nighttime when
we arrived on that
first trip and we
started up a trail
that my brother
had been up



Sage Burrows and Raymond Hill carrying their gear to set up camp in the Chisos Mountains. 1939.

before and I don't know whether Bobby Naylor had or not, but we started in the dark going up a trail to try to get to Boot Springs and that was really something.

We gave up, way up in the mountains on sort of a ledge and just pulled over to the side and set up a little camp there.

JACKSON: So, you were going up the trail in your car?

HILL: No.

JACKSON: No? You were walking it?

HILL: We were walking up this trail, just walking. Now, I left out probably the most important part of this, I didn't know I was going to tell this story.

When we first got there, there was a guy who worked with the CCC named Wade. We were going to camp at Wade's ranch at some point. We didn't do it on this particular trip, we camped at Boot Springs, but Wade would sell you a couple of burros and the reason why he called it selling was because what you did was you kept them as long as you wanted to and then you turned them loose and he says don't worry about it, they'll find their way back to the ranch. We got

two burros and we loaded them up with a pack saddle and put our packs and bedrolls and stuff like that on the burros.

Well, we had, I don't remember whether we hobbled them or what we did that first night but the next day we woke up and we got to Boot Springs. Boot Springs was up on the shoulder of Emory Peak and there was a great big tall boot upside down. It stood up that you could see from Boot Springs, probably a mile and a half or two miles down sort of a rock arroyo. Boot Springs had a log left from a fallen cypress tree that had grown up there; it must have been three and a half feet in diameter, maybe more. It was just so out of keeping with everything else there, "What's this great big log doing up here?" Well, it reminds us of what might have been there in earlier times. But, anyway, somebody dynamited Boot Springs thinking they were going to make a bigger spring and it did just the opposite. It opened up a passage for the water to drain out and I don't know what the park has done to sort of repair that, but it destroyed the beautiful little place that was there when we first camped there, where you could immerse your whole body and swim and take a bath in this clear crystal water way up there in the top of the mountains. We camped there and then climbed around. We'd climb various mountains that surrounded us, like Casa Grande and I don't think we went to Crown Mountain on that particular trip but we climbed up to the top of Emory Peak and stayed a few days and that was our first trip, my first trip.

I went one more time with my brother and he was telling us that Billy Fleming had found this nice little waterfall and a little lake and what not and my brother then had polio. We got him up to Wade's ranch in Pine Canyon and we

camped there right in the ruins of the old house that was there, which was a one or two room house with no roof and no walls really just sort of a frame work. We used that well. I was my brother's eyes, so I went climbing and I climbed up Lost Mine Peak and then I came down around towards Crown Mountain and came to the head of the little springs at the end of Pine Canyon, which are perhaps a couple of hundred feet higher, maybe that's an exaggeration, I don't know, I can't get it clear in my mind, than where you would ordinarily walk if you were just walking in Pine Canyon. And I came down on those little pools and the little waterfall that Billy Fleming had told my brother about. I was able to go back and tell my brother that I had found this little place.

Years later, on a Thanksgiving with my mother and Claire Fleming, I was able to take her and show her the place that Billy Fleming had found in the mountains. It just came back to me, I hadn't thought about that.

JACKSON: So, how old was your brother when he got polio?

HILL: He was sixteen or seventeen. It was remarkable because he was at Princeton.

JACKSON: At sixteen, he was at Princeton?

HILL: Yes. He could have turned seventeen because it was his sophomore year and at that time he had won the golf championship there, he'd won the boxing championship there in his weight class, he was on the gymnastics team and of all things a Houston boy, he was on the hockey team and on the track team. He had a roommate, Vince Carpenter, who threw the hammer and the shot and all that sort of stuff and between the two of those guys, I don't know what college you could

go to and find any two athletes that were more just generally skilled than those two people. It was really something. I couldn't have caught up with him.

JACKSON: So, he got polio at Princeton or back home in Houston.

HILL: He got it back home in Houston. What we think is that he and his friends went to a little ranch near Victoria and shot thirty or forty rabbits and cleaned them all, came back and he got tularemia. We think that weakened him and set him up for the polio. None of the doctors could diagnose tularemia. We had all the best doctors in Houston looking at him and they didn't know what he had. But he was very seriously ill because one eye seemed infected they described the disease and its symptoms to Dr. Norma Elles. (She was Dr. Israel, I don't know whether she married or didn't marry or what ever happened, but her name changed.) Over the telephone she said, "Why, he's got tularemia." I thought, now there is a real doctor, one way outside of her area of specialization. She was an ophthalmologist, you know, she was an eye doctor, an eye surgeon, I don't know, she dealt with the eyes and my brother had an infected eye, among other things with the tularemia. I thought what a wonderful person to be able to do that.

JACKSON: The polio affected his legs?

HILL: He never was able to use his legs but he practiced law successfully, raised a family. He would get in his wheelchair and get out and hoe his peach orchard in Fredericksburg. He would go hunting. They would take him in his wheelchair, set him out in the middle of a field, and at the end of the day they would come pick up the doves that were completely encircling him. He could shoot in any direction and he always had more doves than anybody else. He was remarkable.

JACKSON: So, to back up a little bit. Obviously your parents had no problem with two of their sons just taking off driving hundreds and hundreds of miles into the wilderness.

HILL: I've never understood it, but you know, we were bad in the sense of being mischievous and adventuresome and that kind of bad, but we were not going to do anything wrong. We weren't going to steal anything or take dope or get drunk by the side of the road. We weren't going to do any of those things and our parents had absolute confidence.

I really worry about that in some ways because Carson Prior and I, in the Chisos, climbing up Lost Mine Peak, we came down what we thought was a crevasse, sort of a little cut away on the side of the mountain going down where the water had worn a nice little trail that we could come down. We got about half way down Lost Mine Mountain and suddenly found ourselves looking out of a cleft in a cliff with nothing but straight down in front of us. Well, in climbing down this little passageway that we climbed down, from time to time we would come to a place that maybe ten, twelve, fifteen feet, we would just hang and drop, and so we'd have to figure out how to get back up that. We had our pocket knives out and were cutting away the roots of cactus gingerly and letting them drop and then trying to work our fingers into the little crevasses that the cactus was previously growing in and climbing our way out. We also had a rope and we used it frequently. We could use it all kinds of ways going down but you can't throw it up and have it tie onto anything. You can't climb a rope unless somebody holds the other end of it.

JACKSON: But you obviously made it.

HILL: No, we didn't make it. We're still out there.

JACKSON: You're still out there.

HILL: No, we did make it and, Carson and I talked about that for years, how would anybody know where we were, how would you, with a helicopter looking all over ever find us?

JACKSON: There were no helicopters.

HILL: Even if there were, it would have been very difficult to find us where we were in this little cleft, so it probably was a little bit foolhardy in some ways.

JACKSON: But it's a wonderful way for a boy to attain character and manhood and self reliance.

HILL: I wouldn't trade my life for anybody's. There's not a person on earth that I would rather be than me with all of my frailties and faults and problems.

TAPE 2, SIDE A

JACKSON: Okay, Raymond, you started school now, at River Oaks Elementary? Is that correct?

HILL: Let me see if I can get this right. No, I started; I don't really have this absolutely straight. I went to Kincaid when I lived on Richmond Road. And, I was there long enough to have taken Latin, I was there, I don't know whether I, I don't think I finished elementary school or I couldn't have gone to River Oaks. I must have gone to River Oaks, then gone back to Kincaid. I think I went to River Oaks

a very short time. I bet I went just a year or two to River Oaks. I really don't know.

JACKSON: But then you went to Kincaid?

HILL: I went from Kincaid to Hotchkiss; I didn't go from River Oaks to Hotchkiss. So, I'm clear on that.

JACKSON: Right. How old were you when you went to Hotchkiss?

HILL: Probably twelve.

JACKSON: Was that for High School or Junior High.

HILL: High School.

JACKSON: High School. So you started out as a freshman at Hotchkiss at twelve.

HILL: I think so. I think that is correct.

JACKSON: So they accepted you early?

HILL: Well, I may have been one of three or four that were my age and then the rest of them might have been a year older than me, I hadn't thought of that but that's probably true. I was always a little ahead.

JACKSON: Was it difficult? First of all, you were young and you're going to Connecticut, which is a totally different world from Houston, Texas, especially in the 1930s. Was that a difficult transition?

HILL: I think there's two answers to that. Yes, probably it was, but no, I didn't experience it that way. Does that make any sense?

JACKSON: Well, yes, but why don't you expound on that a little bit.

HILL: I can't really figure it out. I consider myself having had a good time at Hotchkiss, having not learned the disciplines of study. I should have, but I didn't. I always

wanted to walk in the woods there, they had a beautiful, beautiful campus and lots of woods and I built little cabins out in the woods. I had a pet owl at Hotchkiss and I did all kinds of unusual things there, belonged to the Pigeon Club, not passenger, the pigeons that they tie messages to, carrier. Carrier?

JACKSON: Carrier pigeons.

HILL: No, wait a minute. The carrier was the one that became extinct in Texas. I meant the passenger. Anyway, I belonged to the Pigeon Club and believe it or not, I knew something about them at that time. I, obviously, don't now. I made some good friends that liked the kinds of things that I liked. They'd go in the woods with me and go walking on the holidays that we had, all through the Berkshires and countryside.

JACKSON: The school just allowed you to take off?

HILL: On a holiday, yes. The thing about Hotchkiss that I thought was just, I loved it, and here I'm reading that some people just didn't think very much of it, but I absolutely adored it. Maybe adored is wrong, but certainly in hindsight, it's correct that I do.

At Hotchkiss when you have an absolutely stunning day, when the weather was just perfect and maybe the leaves were in bright colors, the headmaster at the morning meeting in the Chapel would get up and announce, "Well, today is going to be a holiday." Anyway, he would announce a holiday and he would say that lunches will be prepared in the kitchen at such and such a time and you can pick up your brown bags. You could go get a paper sack that would have an apple or an orange and a sandwich and a little something like that

and you could take off. Just walk through those Berkshires and turn around and do all kinds of things. It was just wonderful. We had quite a few of those, but each holiday was in honor of a terrific graduate of Hotchkiss, somebody who had just done something outstanding in the world. That would be given a full description that morning and this holiday's in honor of so and so. It was an all male school then. I loved that.

There weren't a lot of no trespassing signs. I don't know who owns the Berkshires, I don't know whose properties I walked through, but I'd come to places where the deer had been laying in snow and I'd see deer and I'd see pheasants and this sort of thing. Bill Ballou and Ted Sheppard and I one time, we got into some birch trees, aspens or saplings or something like that, I think they were, they grew like aspens but they might have been river birches, which grow similarly. They were tall and skinny and we'd climb up to near the top, just like you would climb a pole or a rope or something, you didn't worry about the limbs, and then we'd start swaying. The tree would sway over and you could grab another tree and you could sway from that to the next tree and the next tree. We went from tree to tree, you know, I just had a ball swinging around in the trees like Tarzan. I remember it like it was yesterday.

I remember, I was very, very good at finding owls. I could always see where they had coughed up the little ball of fur, bones and feathers. Then the next thing, you know, I'd see where their droppings were and then I could figure out where the nest was. I have raised lots of baby owls in my life. I got a great horned owl in Hotchkiss and put him on a perch underneath the headmaster's

porch. He said I could do that. He was very interested in that, too. I got him [the owl] to where he would jump on my fist and so on.

JACKSON: Did you ever go to class?

HILL: Yes, I went to class. The bell rang in the morning and you went to breakfast and the bell rang again and you went to class and you had study halls and classes and you had lunch and you had a class or two after lunch and then you had athletics. You were busy. Then, if you weren't making good enough grades, well, maybe if you weren't in the top level or something, you'd have study hall in the evening. I forget whether there was one before supper, there may have been, and one after certainly. I've forgotten how those schedules were set up, but it was very tightly organized. But I didn't feel oppressed, I felt that those people reporting oppressive conditions were grossly misinformed.

JACKSON: The ones who talked about the anti-Semitism.⁴

HILL: As for regional bias, well, the ones that talk about Texas, they thought we lived in desert down here. One year, we had seventy some inches of rain and I brought the newspaper clipping and I said, "You know, what kind of desert do you think I live in?" I discovered we were third or fourth in the nation in lumbering and I said, "We're raising all these pine trees on the desert?" I had a hard time convincing those people. There's one way of crossing the country, that takes you through the panhandle, and apparently some of them had done that and they thought that since it was a sizable trip, they thought, well, we've been through Texas and that's all there is, is just panhandle.

⁴ This was simply not a fact that I observed at Hotchiss. I spent a weekend with one Jewish family of a Hotchkiss boy and had no unfriendly feelings for the others. I simply saw no example of anti-Semitism.

JACKSON: Well, that, and, you know, the cowboy movies. They were always in Texas and filmed in Brackettville, you know. They gave people the wrong impression a lot.

HILL: You know, I like that country, that mesquite country. I don't dislike it but it doesn't characterize the State.

JACKSON: No, and it doesn't characterize Houston.

HILL: Yes.

JACKSON: Did you find any problems as a southerner being up there?

HILL: There were presumptions. It was kind of funny. The headmaster called me in there one time and a guy from Florida, named Steve Ryan, I don't know why I can remember those names, Steve didn't succeed very well in Hotchkiss and he was angry about something, but he talked about "niggers," used that term and "I'm not going to drink water out of that fountain, did you see that guy drinking the water out of that fountain, I'm not going to drink water...." This was obviously very narrow and had these weird feelings, and so the headmaster called us both in to his office and started lecturing me about how we needed to change our attitudes, and I said, "That is not my problem."

There was a movie there in a theatre that was run by a black guy and somehow or other the headmaster had me pegged wrong. Well, it didn't take long for him to change. He got to know my mother and he just thought she was absolutely wonderful and couldn't have a kid that would be as prejudiced as he thought I was.

Then, the other thing that was funny, that one of the little cabins I built out in the woods, not a real cabin, a lean-to of boughs and limbs. I fixed up a little place with pine boughs where I could relax and the immediate thought of the staff was, “He’s going out there to smoke.”

And I said, “I don’t smoke. I have no desire to smoke. I hate the smell of tobacco. I just don’t like it at all. I don’t have such a desire, that’s not me.”

“Well, what were you doing out there?” That was a misunderstanding, I got it cleared up. They just cast me in the wrong role that was all. It didn’t bother me.

I was very lazy and the greatest regret I think I have is that I hurried my way through Hotchkiss. I had enough credits to go to A&M [Texas A&M, College Station, Texas] when I left Hotchkiss at fifteen years old for the summer.

The war was on and my father says, “You need to get to be trained to be a soldier. You need to go to A&M.” My brother was going to Princeton but, and I was going to go to Princeton, “Now’s the war’s on, you need to go to A&M and learn how to be a soldier.” I went to A&M and he said, a little later, he says, “Would you like to be in the Navy?”

“Well, as a matter of fact, I would prefer it to the Army.”

He said, “Well, I know Preston Moore.” Was it Preston Moore? Some guy, he said, “I can fix that up for you.” So, I joined the V12.

JACKSON: At Rice.

HILL: At A&M.

JACKSON: A&M had a V12?

HILL: No, I joined it while I was at A&M and got transferred later on to Rice.

JACKSON: Okay, let's back up half a second. So, when you went to A&M, everyone was in the Corps at A&M at that time, right?

HILL: Yes, everybody, right.

JACKSON: So, you didn't have a choice.

HILL: I would have chosen it, probably.

JACKSON: You were a tough guy, you know, I've seen your pictures. What was it like coming in at fifteen as a freshman, with all the hazing and the harassment?

HILL: One of the things you were saying I was a tough guy. I was very, very, very strong, which I do not understand, but I was extremely...

JACKSON: Probably pulling yourself out of box canyons.

HILL: Well, really I think I do understand it, it was wondering if I could ever match my brother. So, I was strong as a bear. When I went to Hotchkiss, they have a strength test

you take there. Well, I was younger than just about anybody in the freshman class and yet I made the



Hotchkiss School Wrestling Team ca. 1940. Raymond Hill, top row, left.

highest score on the strength test of the whole school, including the seniors, some of whom were twenty years old. I was extremely strong and people didn't mess with me. I was captain of the wrestling team.

JACKSON: At A&M or Hotchkiss?

HILL: Hotchkiss. And this is something that I've got to correct them about. They don't show that, they always show in their little book the guy that's captain of the team their senior year. Well, I left before the final senior year and it just doesn't show that I was captain of the wrestling team. I just discovered it recently, but I was captain of the wrestling team and I was undefeated and I was strong.

JACKSON: And you got to A&M and I can't believe no one messed with you.

HILL: Well, at A&M there was a guy there that did my engineering drawings, I was unbelievably lazy. Not lazy, in that I was shiftless, I would work hard at stuff I wanted to do but I was a terrible student.

They would say, "Come on Hill, so and so will do that engineering drawing for you."

And, so, there was a guy that just said, "I don't want to see you flunk that course. Now, here's some engineering drawings." The next thing you know, I go over to the guy to thank him and he's in the hospital and he's been hazed. He's been made to run in a closet and do squats and stuff and it damaged his heart and so I found out who did that. I don't know whether I want to tell this story or not.

JACKSON: No, keep telling it, it's a long time ago.

HILL: Okay. I got two or three guys together. We went over to the dorm where this guy was that was responsible for hazing the man and injuring him. He was from one

of those little towns like, those Central Texas or West Texas towns where the big oil boom was, it was like Ozona.

JACKSON: Iraan, one of those, Sonora, that area.

HILL: One of those, he was out there someplace.

“Hey, there’s a girl out here, a good looking girl in the car that wants to see you, she’s from Iraan.”

You know, her name is Betsy or something like that and the guy comes out and he looks in the car and says, “I don’t see any girl.”

“So, you want to take a little ride.” So we pushed him in the car, took him out to an old dirt road. “You made so and so run in the closet until he had damage to his heart, didn’t you.” I don’t remember what he said. “We are going to give you a chance to do a little running.” So, we took his hands and tied them behind his back and it was a muddy road, sloppy mud, sticky mud in the road, and “We are just going to let you run along a little bit and let us know when you think you’ve done enough running.” We tied a rope to his belt and the other end of the rope to the bumper of the car and we started going about five miles an hour and I ran along beside him just to make sure that we weren’t doing anything that would hurt, anyway, or if he would fall or something like that.

I felt sorry for him and I made them stop and said, “Well, we can’t do this. What can we do to this guy? He’s done a little running and he knows it’s no fun.” So, we took him and unbuttoned his pants and everything and tied his hands up. We shaved his hair and his eyebrows. What did we do? I think we may have put some vanish under his armpits or something like that, I don’t know whether we

did or not, but he would look ridiculous and if he stood up his pants would fall off. So, we left him sitting there. Sure enough, you know there's plenty of tracks where the cars go back and forth, somebody comes and picks him up and he's a laughing stock the next day. He doesn't know who has done it to him.

JACKSON: Oh, he didn't see your faces?

HILL: Well, he didn't know any of us and the two guys that helped me were what they call, they're off campus people, that was not part of the Corps.

JACKSON: Oh, so there were students who were.

HILL: Very few.

JACKSON: But if they lived off campus they didn't have to be in the Corps.

HILL: They were village people. They were people that lived in Bryan or College Station.

JACKSON: So, they were like townies.

HILL: Yes, townies. So, Richard Calendar was one of them. I remember that helped, and Carson Prior helped me. My point was that I didn't approve of that at all. I could not hurt the guy. I'm too chicken. The guy deserved to have run a lot longer than he did but I couldn't let it happen. And, that was wrong, well, everything I did was wrong there and I'm not saying I would encourage anybody to do anything like that but it does express how I felt about hazing.

JACKSON: And wasn't that pretty much pervasive at the time. I mean, that's what I understand.

HILL: It was what they would do. A lot of it was a whole lot of fun and probably all right. One of the things they'd do, they'd take a wastepaper basket and fill it with

ice water and then come into your room and throw it on you and your bed and then they'd take a soapy washcloth and put it on the doorknob and you couldn't turn the doorknob, it's too slick. And there were all kinds of things that they all did to each other and I really, I don't know how I feel about all of that. I probably should have been part of that, I wasn't.

JACKSON: Well, I guess, you know, A&M was known as a democratic institution in that just about anyone in the State, well, male at that time in the State, could go there. They could get an education. They could work their way through. Was it different for you coming from a very privileged background in Houston and from this Eastern prep school, showing up at A&M?

HILL: I've never had that problem. I've never felt that I was elite and I've never felt that I was, now there's been times when people have really hurt me, it's the other way around, prejudiced me in some way or made my position more difficult by presuming things about me that are not true.

JACKSON: Right.

HILL: Presuming that I don't have any calluses on my hands and that I've always, you know. But people who get to know me know that I've never disdained any kind of work of any sort. I can get under the car; do whatever anybody needs to do today and at eighty-three I do all those things, today. So, that didn't bother me. I was very mature in some ways and it handicapped me in others because I really was my chronological age, whether I would admit it or not. I hadn't matured enough to have had the opportunities I had. For instance, at A&M, Dr. Harrington, [Marion Thomas Harrington, Ph.D., President, June 3, 1950-

September 1, 1953 and September 1, 1957-July 1, 1959] I believe, he later became the president of A&M, he taught chemistry. Well, I made straight A's in that and never did the lab work. I figured that the lab work was worth twelve points out of one hundred and if you only got six points, you could still have a ninety-four.

JACKSON: And that was an A.

HILL: Yes. So, if I only did half of the lab experiments, which were on Saturday, I'd have to have a darn near perfect score and it was my best grade at A&M, even though I wasn't in half the labs.

JACKSON: So, what did you think generally of A&M academically, coming out of Hotchkiss?

HILL: Apart from that chemistry class and from analytical geometry, it was weak in the humanities, it was very weak. I could have taught the humanities.

JACKSON: So, it was more high school level than the college, would you say?

HILL: I didn't even think it was high school level. It surely wasn't Hotchkiss level. It was a step down from Hotchkiss. Now I know that A&M has improved tremendously since then. It's a wonderful school. The University of Houston was just terrible in the humanities I thought.

JACKSON: You were at A&M for one year, two years?

HILL: You know I am so fuzzy. I was a sophomore at Rice.

JACKSON: Okay.

HILL: The years were not years in those days, as you know; you could go through college in two years and seven months, just normal pace. I don't know whether I

did two or three, I must have done three semesters at A&M before they transferred me to Rice.

JACKSON: Your dad got you into the Navy. Got you transferred from the Army to the Navy.

HILL: He introduced me to a fellow that I went to see and I passed whatever it was I needed to pass.

JACKSON: And they put you in the V12 program. And so you went in, enlisted.

HILL: Yes.

JACKSON: V12 was enlisted. And from what I've read, the purpose of the V12 program was to take both enlisted, from out of the Navy and civilians into the program, give them engineering educations and so they would go to OCS and become officers.

HILL: I guess that was it. Engineering educations, I believe that's probably true. I never really knew what its purposes were. They made me a mustering petty officer. "Hill, Hodges, Holts, Howell," I used to call off the people in my group and my squad. Yes, I guess, it's funny to hear you say that because it makes so much sense. I imagine that probably was its purpose.

JACKSON: Well, if that was the purpose, why didn't you go to OCS and become an officer?

HILL: Oh, I picked a fight with an economics professor at Rice. It was kind of a wonderful thing, this really has a lot to do with the character of my father. I used to sit there in class, we were all alphabetized, I sat next to Hester, and Hester and I played a game throughout the economics course. The economics professor,

Professor Wishmeyer, got up and took a big, red book, it looks a little fatter than this, about this color, a big red book, and then he said, “All right,” and he took us through the book to various pages.

He said, “Now cross out everything from line such and such on this page, down to line something on another page.” Then he would give you another page to turn to and he’d say, “Where it says ‘does,’ say ‘does not.’” He made meticulous kinds of changes in this big book. He said, “Now if you just memorize that, you will make an A in this course.” That was his idea of economics. Well, the way I feel about economics is that it’s not an either this or that science course, people may imagine that it is, but we’re talking about theories and not necessarily facts. These are conclusions that seem to be true at the present time, you know, and I can’t accept it.

So finally, what he wanted you to do you had to have a notebook and you were supposed to write down everything he said and then you feed it back to him at the time of the exam and you got an A.

“Hill, you’re not taking notes, you know.” So finally one day I sat down and I wrote a letter to him and I just tore that course up, as to what I thought about it in this letter. “Hill, you’re not taking notes.”

And I said, “Well, yes, I sort of am.”

“Well, let me see what you got there.”

I said, “No, this is my very private thing,” and I let him tell me that he had to see it. I said, “All right, but I didn’t intend for you to have this.” I handed him this thing. Well, man, from that, that hit the fan and the next thing you know, it’s

funny, one of my friends talked to this man, I can't think of his name, I want to say Captain so and so or Vice Admiral so and so, Radford I believe is the name, somebody Radford at Rice, calls my father. Daddy knows all these people well and they know my father well.

TAPE 2, SIDE B

HILL: He said, "George, this son of yours, this is what he's done and we just don't know what to do about this." And, incidentally during this period of time, I was loving to go over and visit with the ladies in the nursing quarters at the Hermann Hospital across the street. I was anything but a person focused on being a student.

JACKSON: Or a sailor?

HILL: Yes, the sailing wasn't too bad. I thought that was all right.

But, he said, "What shall I do?"

My father said, "Well, what would you do if you didn't know me? What would you ordinarily do?"

He said, "We'd send him to the Fleet."

My father said, "I guess that's what you'll have to do."

I thought that was wonderful. I really do. I admire my father for that more than anything I can think of. A lot of people said, "He did that?" No, that makes me really proud of him. But he had the chance.

Now, my good friend who was the son of my father's best friend, had similar circumstances, not in the Navy and so on, but he got sent to San Antonio

where the family knew everybody and he got this and that and the other and he became an alcoholic and died as a result of too much drinking. I think how much the contrast that my father wasn't looking for any special favors for me in the military services. He was very proud of everything I did in the Navy. He'd write letters and tell all his friends my son's done this, my son has done that.

JACKSON: So, when you were mustered out at Rice, where did the Navy send you?

HILL: They sent me to San Diego.

JACKSON: To boot camp, there?

HILL: Yes.

JACKSON: So, you went through a regular course of boot camp and then you became a helmsman or what were you?

HILL: Well, I have to say the other thing that happened was that not only did I get the highest score on the strength test at Hotchkiss, I did also at Rice, and made my lifelong friend John Grey Andrew. I didn't know Johnnie before and I went there and doing set ups, I noticed that the highest previous score was a thousand sit ups, so I did fifteen hundred. Johnnie came to me, "Are you Raymond Hill? Are you that guy that did fifteen hundred sit ups?"

I said, "Yes."

He said, "I would have done twenty-five hundred if I'd known you were going to do fifteen hundred."

We became fast friends and then I went on into the Navy. What made me think about it at boot camp, I got the highest score out there, also, that they had given anybody, they explained at the time. I don't know, I think I knew how to

take tests, they claim I got an astronomically high score on what they call the GCT, General Classification Test. What upsets me, I apparently have all kinds of things I can do that I haven't done. I should have been more of a performer than I am.

JACKSON: You go to boot camp and that was what ten, twelve weeks, something like that?

HILL: At least. At least twelve weeks.

JACKSON: At the same time they were training you and were you put immediately on to the LSM's [Landing Ship Medium]?

HILL: At boot camp I had some things I could voice my preferences on and volunteer for and I volunteered for submarines or amphibious -- each, assuring me a small ship. I wanted to be on a small ship. I wanted it to be family styled cooking and I just like the informality of a small ship. They gave me amphibious, so they sent me to the amphibious base of Little Creek, Virginia, where I trained to be a quartermaster. It's very confusing because in the Army, quartermaster in the Army is the guy that keeps track of supplies. In the Navy, that's a storekeeper. It's a different term but the same, the storekeeper is the same as the quartermaster in the Army. The quartermaster in the Navy is not quartermaster in the sense that the Army thinks, but he's the master of the quarter deck, where the charts in the wheel house and all that kinds of stuff are. It has a very confusing but a different origin entirely. I learned how to navigate and you read, one of these things you sent me about LSM's, was a guy who was a quartermaster. You remember, and

he said he was into charts and he knew how to navigate and what was so exciting and interesting to me was his experience was the same as mine.

My officers didn't know a damn thing about navigating and I wasn't really supposed to. When you first get your rating as a quartermaster third class, you are not supposed to know how to navigate a ship. They expose you to a little bit of it, but fortunately, I'd had enough mathematics, it's closest to sort of log rhythms in a way, you enter the same way, and I got real good at that. It gave me a really privileged position on my ship because I couldn't be disciplined for not navigating well because I was already above where I'm supposed to be. But they had to have somebody that navigated well and the officers weren't it.

When we were on the way to Panama, the triangles that we were getting from our star sights were big enough to cover the Caribbean and that's supposed to be in a tiny little triangle. If they just changed the scale of the charts, they could make it look nice, but it was really funny.

JACKSON: So, you were coming from Little Creek, which is near Norfolk, Virginia, down through the Panama Canal into the Pacific. Were you in an LSM at that time?

HILL: Well, they sent me from Little Creek to Houston.

JACKSON: To Houston.

HILL: In Houston, the Brown Shipyards were building LSM's.

JACKSON: Well, isn't that nice. You must have had a wonderful time coming home to Houston.

HILL: It was absolutely wonderful and I was really good to our crew.

JACKSON: I bet you were, I bet you showed them every place in town, right?

HILL: I learned things about Houston that I would never have learned without being part of that crew.

JACKSON: Such as.

HILL: Oh, I knew where different kinds of bars were that I didn't know about before. I also learned you can't imagine how many girls from nice families would allow themselves to be picked up by sailors. I found out about that. "You picked her up?"

JACKSON: "I know her."

HILL: Yes, it was really funny.

JACKSON: Well, there weren't a lot of guys around, I don't think. So, and then you could visit home, too.

HILL: You know, you mentioned this class thing, they had to find out about me when they were in Houston.

JACKSON: Sure.

HILL: My daddy's limousine with a chauffeur would come to the USO downtown and honk the horn and ten or twelve sailors would come running out of there and climb in the car and we'd drive them down to the Naval base. You know, they never thought I was a big rich guy, or anything, but I couldn't not do that. I did all kinds of things like that to try to, I got along well with those guys.

Now, they were really tough, they were nice people but you take Vibos and Warren and Doc Seldown, our pharmacist. Our gunner's mate, he was in one of those little bars downtown and he just took his fist like this and went right

through the wall with it. When we got to San Diego, there was a place called either the Wolf's Den or the Lion's Den or something like that. It was down in a basement, and walking down one of the main streets of San Diego then you take a few steps down and go into this place. When we were there, it was ours. We didn't want anybody else in there. Marines or anybody else, it just belongs to the LSM 92, now get your fanny back up those steps. Then this one time, in Honolulu, it was our time to be MP's. They put a band on your arm and tell you how to direct traffic. We started directing traffic around in big giant circles. We wouldn't laugh about, drunk, we did all kinds of crazy things. We had a wonderful time. I wouldn't trade it.

JACKSON: How long were you in Houston?

HILL: Surely a month, fitting out this ship and probably about a month.

JACKSON: So, this was the LSM 92.

HILL: Right. Then we took it down and through the Canal.

JACKSON: Now when you did that, because I know there were submarines in the Gulf, did you have escorts?

HILL: No.

JACKSON: You just went all by yourself or where there other LSM's with you, did you have a little convoy?

HILL: Usually there was a little group.

JACKSON: About how many?

HILL: It varied from time to time, there might be six or eight or ten or something like that, not a hundred or anything like that.

JACKSON: But you weren't really worried about submarine activity?

HILL: Well, you know that more or less wouldn't change things very much.

JACKSON: Right.

HILL: At San Diego, we got hit by a practice torpedo from some airplane and we actually saw that thing coming toward our ship, it hit us, of course it didn't explode because it was a dummy. But, boy, I can remember, Costello saw that thing, he just was having a fit, "Hey, we're being torpedoed," you know.

JACKSON: And who was he?

HILL: He was just a seaman.

JACKSON: Just a seaman, okay.

HILL: I believe I'm correct when I come up with that name.

JACKSON: He wasn't the Commander?

HILL: No.

[Section deleted]

HILL: Yes. I will say this and this is true that we had an executive officer we didn't like and we had a wonderful guy from Georgia, Georgia I believe, that we did like. His name was Ensign Tucker. And when Tucker was on the con and we'd come in along side another ship or dock it or something like that, no matter what he ordered down for us to do, full left rudder, left engine, they had one starboard engine, back two, or whatever, we would carry out those orders if they were right but we always brought him very gently alongside. He looked like the most skillful guy you ever saw, and when this other guy, who was our Exec was up there, we would follow his orders meticulously, with emphasis. You know, if he

said right full rudder, we'd give him right full rudder. We'd go banging into this ship and I imagine that's true throughout the Navy. It really pays to try to get along with every body. I was so young and I'm giving you the experiences I had when I was so young and I was seventeen when I got in the Navy.

JACKSON: So, you weren't at Rice very long then.

HILL: No. I was at Rice a full year, or two years. I got my sophomore year behind me completely.

JACKSON: And then you entered boot camp.

HILL: Yes.

JACKSON: You were like seventeen, eighteen years old.

HILL: Yes.

JACKSON: But you had had a heck of a lot more experience than most seventeen and eighteen year olds who were also in that boot camp. They hadn't been to college.

HILL: Or camping trips.

JACKSON: All of it.

HILL: And I was used to being on my own, Hotchkiss is fifteen, eighteen hundred miles from Houston.

JACKSON: Traveling made a difference. So, you came back to San Diego through the Panama Canal and you outfitted some more and trained. Is that what you were doing there?

HILL: Yes, I went to quartermaster school there and ultimately we shipped out to Honolulu. The quartermaster school it seems to me that's all I did in San Diego. I know I went down to the Marine base and took some riflery tests and I was



LSM 92 in San Diego, ca. 1945. Raymond Hill 3rd from left.

fortunate to get one-hundred forty-four out of one-hundred fifty in the riflery thing. I think I did the best on that. I felt very good about that and I think I mentioned that we had a physical and I did very well on that, so I was pleased with that. I think I got the highest

score that the guys who tested me knew about.

JACKSON: So then you went on to Hawaii. You are going west across the Pacific.

HILL: I believe so, I was in San Diego quite a period of time. I remember running into John Cypher there and I remember running into any number of friends of mine. I think I ran into Frank Smith there and John Cypher from down in the King Ranch and Frank Smith from here in Houston. I remember having some very, very pleasant times at the old Coronado Hotel, what a lovely place that was in San Diego and going down the coast, some very nice places there. I was treated very well. People were good to me.

JACKSON: Okay, then you have your LSM 90 that you had picked up in Houston.

HILL: 92.

JACKSON: 92, and the whole crew stays together and then you head to Hawaii.

HILL: Wait a minute. Something is wrong. I'm not getting this right. I went from, that's my second trip to San Diego, that's what's getting me confused.

My first trip to San Diego, I'm getting the two confused. I can't remember exactly what training we had when, but I think I'm correct, I don't believe that I had my quartermaster rating, yes, I guess I did have my quartermaster rating. I had that when I went to Norfolk, Virginia, I think. I think, maybe, when I was training there for LSM duty that I was already a, well, we're just going to have to check my record on that.

JACKSON: Well, but you ended up in Honolulu.

Hill: Ended up in Honolulu, right.

JACKSON: The Navy was bringing all the amphibious craft together to head farther to start the assault on closer into the Japanese islands? Was Iwo your first combat?

HILL: Iwo was our first combat. We were in combat zones just a whole lot of the time, I mean we went right by Japanese occupied islands. But, we didn't have any confrontation with the enemy until we were there, I mean actual confrontation until we were invading Iwo Jima. That was an absolutely astonishing experience. In some ways it was stunning, it was beautiful; in some ways it was stunning and was horrible.

I can remember the evening before being in a small group of LSMs and if I'm correct, at about sunset when you can just barely see, you could pick up way off on the horizon somewhere, maybe a mast or two of other ships. But the next morning, when we were about to invade Iwo, there were ships that had come together from everywhere. The ocean was just full of ships and we had as much concentrated fire power there as, I believe, our Navy ever had anywhere. There were larger expanses and more ships and, of course, the invasion of Normandy

but we had battleships and aircraft carriers and everything imaginable pounding that little island. The dive bombers were dropping these very large (unclear), I don't know what the proper term is to describe the magnitude of a bomb, but these were big bombs, some of them that were being dropped to try to blast out the caves and then they were dropping napalm, tons and tons of napalm to just suck up all of the oxygen and clear out those caves and underground redoubtments of the Japanese. That was quite a stunning thing to watch. We were right there, just a few hundred yards away.

JACKSON: Tell me about the noise.

HILL: The noise was not ear shattering because it wasn't coming from our own batteries, particularly. It was more like huge thunder, awesome, just unbelievable the magnitude was tremendous but the sharp crack of it was not as though you were standing next to something that was exploding.

JACKSON: And that was relentless, that went on and on and on?

HILL: Yes, but it had, it was more like a ballet and there was a drama to it. You would see a battleship come up from the distance and cruise beside Mount Suribachi and this is in the evening and then all of a sudden bright flood lights of the battleship would shine on Mount Suribachi and you could see these tiny little figures crawling around and maybe moving some big rifle on a track. They might be pushing it back in a cave or they might be bringing it out to fire and you can see all of that and then the next thing you'd see was tracers, and every bullet was not a tracer but there was enough tracers to make sure that everybody knew that they were on target. You'd see all of this just streaming out toward that mountain and

then you'd see it hitting right where you'd seen the little Japanese crawling around, you'd see the whole side of the mountain sorta cave in. The hull of the batteries of the battleship would be pounding that area trying to knock out some big gun that's up there and probably successfully so. Those things, and then, again, you'd see what obviously was a discovered cave or something and these Thunderbolt aircraft just one after the other after the other after the other dropping these high magnitude bombs and in the daytime, you'd see lots of napalm. You might see some of that at night, too. And we would, of course, go into the beach. We were ordered in that morning, the beach was littered with small craft that had come directly from their mother ships and then we came in and I don't know what wave we were, but we were right at the beginning, at the very beginning and we were waved off by the beach master. But we were already in shallow water and we had nothing that we could do other than just go on in, which we did. They needed desperately to have what they called a cherry picker, which is a crane. We had a little armored cherry picker and some tanks and we put them ashore. We went on in and put them ashore. We were told that was a very, very, very critical delivery because the shore was so littered that they couldn't accommodate any landings without the aid of that cherry picker to clear off the beach.

I remember as we backed out, the way we approached the beach was to come directly toward it and then drop a stern anchor and then turn sharply to the port and go just a short distance and then change the course directly toward the beach again and go on in and put the bow doors down and then develop a tension in the stern anchor line and the ship so that it was in at a slight angle one way with

the anchor line cable going in the other direction to where we had dropped the anchor. That would keep us from being washed sideways on the beach by waves or tides or anything of that sort. It would give us a real control of how we stayed on the beach. When we got that unloaded we then pulled in the anchor and backed toward where the anchor was. We went in reverse and we're backing up and cutting toward the right and then as we pull up to the anchor putting all motors, all the engines in forward and ahead full, particularly the starboard engine full, and turning and going back out to sea. Well, just as we got to the anchor and got those engines going full to get us out of there, well, it stood still in the water for a moment or so as a ship always does as it's changing directions, then finally it took hold and we began to pull out and just as we pulled out a great big mortar exploded exactly where we'd been sitting. If we had stayed there another five or ten seconds we would have taken a very heavy mortar shell right in the middle of our ship. I guess when we were dead in the water for a moment or so, they zeroed in on us and we were very fortunate, I considered that one of the most fortunate things that happened to me during the war was that we got moving fast enough to get out of there.

TAPE 3, SIDE A

JACKSON: You are just getting off the beach at Iwo Jima.

HILL: I'm trying to remember where we went after; of course, we kept supplying the Marines and Seabees that we put on the beach. One of the interesting things, I

believe, is that we put the Seabees on the beach just at the same time we put the Marines and they had armored dozers. We had an armored dozer on our ship and that turned out to be a great military weapon. When one of those little Japanese pill boxes would open up its fire against that dozer, the dozer would lift up its blade, which is quiet thick, and charge that pill box and it was extremely effective. You could just doze that (pillbox). We had a big old guy from Louisiana, a Cajun, that was running that armored bulldozer and he would come back on our ship ever so often and he was a hero. He was devastating with his armored bulldozer.

JACKSON: So, when the first time you went on to the beach, you unloaded your tanks and the bulldozer and the cherry picker and the people you had been carrying, the Seabees and the Marines. So, what's left on the ship is the ship's crew, right?

HILL: Yes.

JACKSON: So then, from what I understand, you went back out to sea and your ship was used to ferry supplies that you would pick up off supply boats?

HILL: That's correct.

JACKSON: And then into the island.

HILL: On that first trip in, there was a handsome young man, probably in his mid twenties, who was probably a captain in the Marines and when we put our bow doors down he stepped off our ship and he got shot dead right there. He had a wallet with pictures of his wife and children in it, it was an awful experience. I never had a personal experience like that with any of the others. He was a fine young man. I don't know who succeeded to his authority -- the kind of a guy that

anybody would be proud to have as a son or a father or a brother or a husband.

That's too bad.

JACKSON: You know one of the things they talk about when they talk about World War II and the war in the Pacific, were American's feelings toward the Japanese. I know my uncle, who was an SBD pilot, hated them passionately for the atrocities visited on his friends. Did you feel the same way toward the Japanese?

HILL: I don't understand how I feel.

JACKSON: I mean at that time.

HILL: Yes, but I didn't understand then and I don't understand now. I had emotions, strong emotions, at the time when somebody deliberately does something that's just bestial and horrible and so on, but it seems that the world over, almost every society and civilization you can find, has had some of its members at various times coached and absolutely horrible behavior. The British, who we model ourselves after, have been among the worst. One of the things that's bothering me right now about Islam is I'm very much concerned there's such a large branch that find a spiritual justification for things that I don't think can be justified. I know that when I look back into my own history of my own people, I can find the same thing. I can find the burnings of witches, Joan of Arc and how she was treated. I can find horrible things in anybody's background. I don't know how to deal with it, but I don't have any, the slightest hatred for Japanese or Chinese.

As a matter of fact, I have come to really admire the Chinese a lot now. I had a very touching experience this last Sunday with that Chinese couple in a little bible group that I have and they have a son that's still in China and he has

some mental deficiencies of some sort, they don't describe very well to what degree they exist. But they are so deeply concerned about him. They are bearing out to me what I read about the extraordinary courage and valor of the Chinese house churches. I like a lot of things that Mao Tse-tung stood for and a lot of things that Chinese have done. I don't know how to judge a nation. I do think that I have prejudices, but they are funny prejudices. I think a German is more likely to be on time than a Spaniard. What does that mean? And, he's, the Spaniard's, going to season his dishes a little bit, with more spice than the German will and the German will probably drink a little more hard liquor than the Spaniard will, the Spaniard may drink a little more wine, I don't know. They both make extraordinary music of very different kinds. I don't know how to go about judging people. I can't get a good fix on myself.

JACKSON: Where did you go after Iwo Jima?

HILL: Right after we got through with Iwo Jima we went to Okinawa and we were preparing for the ultimate assault on Japan. They decided to make us the most efficient killing machine we could be. They took all our well deck and welded it over and made us a rocket ship. We were able to launch huge numbers of rockets from our ship and it was said that we had much more fire power than a cruiser, with this redesign of our ship.

Then we got in a flotilla to invade Japan. Now we didn't have all the escort ships and all of that, that hadn't pulled together, it was sort of like Iwo. We're just cruising along out there in the Pacific with some other LSMR's, now

there's an 'R' in it because they're rocket ships, and our destination was to invade the island of Shikoku, the southern part of Japan.

We all were sort of sad about that, we're getting ready to go and invade Japan. Everybody knew that that was going to be a holocaust like nothing that had ever happened before, that we were going to kill millions of them and they were going to kill millions of us. Neither side showed the least tendency to consider the possibility of another course of action and there we were just cruising along like that and then all of a sudden we dropped one atomic bomb. We're just barely getting used to digesting that and we dropped another one and the next thing you know the war is over.

We're out in the middle of the Pacific, en route for the beaches of Japan and not far away. I never have asked myself the question or I think I knew it one time, what landing day would be, but that was probably such a huge, huge secret that it couldn't be known with certainty by anybody until it virtually happened. But there we were and we really did celebrate, we fired everything we had and drank everything you could drink and we were very pleased about that. I, myself, am certain that millions and millions of lives were saved and I feel that the probability that my own life was saved by the two bombs is just way up in the ninety-ninth percentile, somewhere up there because they would want us out of business as quickly as they could possibly get us out of business. If they had two or three hundred suicide pilots and two or three hundred LSMR's, I don't know how many they had, why those pilots' best duty would have been to explode themselves into blowing up those rocket ships. They also had suicide mini-sub

and the beaches were lined with thousands, so it's unlikely that we would have gotten through that unscathed.

JACKSON: Well, how did you get home?

HILL: Well.

JACKSON: From bobbing in the Pacific Ocean, celebrating.

HILL: We went to Okinawa and then the most harrowing part of my whole naval career took place there. In the Chesapeake Bay, we went through a hurricane. That was interesting because we . . .

JACKSON: Chesapeake Bay in Okinawa?

HILL: No, Chesapeake Bay in the United States.

JACKSON: So, you went to Okinawa and then back to Chesapeake Bay?

HILL: No, no, you'll see why I'm telling you this.

JACKSON: Okay, I'm sorry.

HILL: And we thought that was quiet an experience, that was nothing compared to the Okinawa typhoon. We'd been through another minor little typhoon, but the Okinawa typhoon, it hit Buckner Bay head on. It was the greatest storm they said they had ever recorded in the Wokyoma Ko which is that area of islands and it was awesome, just utterly awesome. It destroyed our navy sufficiently so that if it hadn't been for those atomic bombs, the war would have been delayed at least another year and maybe two years, because of the damage to aircraft carriers, had their decks curled up. All kinds of...

JACKSON: Did you ride that out?

HILL: Yes. I rode that out in LSM and I've just been reading another man's opinion that an LSM is not sea worthy and it could never endure a hurricane.

JACKSON: Are you going to contact him?

HILL: I did contact him and said, "Fellow, you just don't know. We made it through one." It blew us all over the place because we're not made for that at all but we did endure it and we endured it with flying colors. We were dragged all over the place but we did it. The wind was so fantastic; I was on the con in the beginning as the storm began to come up. I watched a big freighter with its screw, its propeller, at least fifty percent out of the water, maybe that's an exaggeration, from thirty percent to sixty percent, somewhere in there. And that big old screw just chopping along there in the water and the thing was riding very, very high because it had apparently unloaded itself and probably pumped all its ballast and bilges and everything else and there it was in absolutely no condition to encounter a storm. Why they didn't fill it up with nothing else but seawater to get it to a stable position, I don't know. But, this thing was lurching around and it blew away from where it was moored and this big old propeller was chopping away and boats were being blown around all over Buckner Bay and this thing was chopping them up. It would get blown into that big old propeller and just get cut up. I felt like somebody ought to just shoot that darn thing down. It was just horrible, but that was just the very beginning of the storm.

When the wind really began to blow, we tried to figure some way we could look in the direction of the wind. At first, as it was really warming up, I took a hand megaphone, put the big end of it over my head and tried to look down

through the little hole that would ordinarily be where your voice would go. Well, the little bits of water would come whistling down through that little hole and darn near knock your eye out. You couldn't even do that. There was no way you could look toward the wind. Inside the wheelhouse, there was just so much water that you couldn't see anything through the windows and it was a difficult thing. We tried welding glasses but they don't have windshield wipers on them.

The other thing is, you couldn't hear. I could take my hands and cup them over Ensign Tucker's ear and shout at the top of my lungs and I'd have to repeat myself four or five, six times for him to be able to hear over the sound of the wind. Now, it's a funny sound, it's a sound like if you've ever tried to talk on a telephone standing on a highway, now the noise isn't loud, but it's an overpowering noise that drowns out everything else. Well, that's the way the noise of a storm is. It's not loud like gun fire, but it just drowns out everything, so you can't see and you can't hear and it gets harder and harder and harder. Finally you see goony birds being blown backwards through the sky, just flopping around, just like rags being blown somewhere and the next thing, you can't hang onto anything. You decide, well, this is as long as we're going to stay out here, let's get inside. So, you get inside, and you don't know where you are going, you can't see, you can see a little bit, and boats come careening by.

A little PC, about to go under, a patrol craft, there is quite a few crew in one of those things, they look like tiny little destroyers, it comes careening against us. We throw a cargo net, somehow some of our crew are able to get out and get a cargo net thrown over the side of our ship and some of the people from the PC

jump and grab hold of that cargo net and get on our ship. It lurches on away from us and a few minutes later we hear their radio operator say goodbye as he goes under -- ships everywhere going down, hundreds blown into each other, just utter pandemonium. We are dragging our stern anchor and two bow anchors and we're trying to keep the waves from washing over us and we somehow go the length of Buckner Bay. We don't get crashed against the rocks and shattered as so many of them. We managed to be all right when it's all over. Of course, we're hearing on the radio, everybody's people are drowning everywhere, ships are breaking up. It was an experience far more dangerous than any that I encountered in the war. I'll never in my life see anything like that again

JACKSON: That must have been incredibly frightening, or did you feel fright afterwards and not during the time?

HILL: I don't really understand frightening.

JACKSON: No, probably not.

HILL: I don't understand it. I know that it is counterproductive, I know that. There's an old saying, "Whom the gods would destroy, they first make angry." Well, maybe whom the gods would destroy they first make frightened, because in either case, you're not thinking as carefully as you should be. I have no courage; it's not a matter of courage. You can't get me to get on that thing that takes you from Masada. I don't even like ski lifts, I'm not courageous. But, I'm not out of my mind with fear either and I've seen all kinds of people out of their mind with fear. I know rationally it's not the place to be because you're not going to get anything done if you are out of your mind with fear. I think if I was being threatened with

torture, I probably would be out of my mind with fear. I hate pain. I don't know, when people ask that question, I don't know whether I'm experiencing it, not knowing it or what.

JACKSON: How did you get from Okinawa back to the United States?

HILL: Well, we went to Guam, Tinian, trying to remember whether we went before or after Okinawa, Eniwetok -- I've been to lots of places out in the Pacific and then, of course, we went to Japan. We went from Okinawa to try to invade Japan and then we went to Japan to occupy Japan.

JACKSON: So, you were in the occupation forces.

HILL: We were the first people to put in where we put in. There's Nansi Shoto, Wakeyama Ko and Wakinura Wan, I remember those names, they are little inlets, sorta inland like lakes except they are salt water in the southern part of Japan. We weren't very far from either Kobe or Osaka. The Japanese were all lined up with their parasols to greet us. They are almost all like a little piece of bamboo inside of a big piece of bamboo, but the big piece of bamboo is all split and it opens up and turns out to be the struts of a parasol. They all have those things. I found there is some crookedness in me, I guess, because I joined the crew, we found the Japanese wanted soap more than almost anything. We had salt water soap, real cheap, you could get a big bar about maybe fourteen-sixteen inches long and an inch or two thick and three or four inches wide, we'd cut that into twenty or thirty or forty or fifty smaller cakes of soap and put a little tissue paper on them and go ashore. The Japanese would give you cameras, all kinds of valuable things for some soap. I can't think of anything that I did that got me

something valuable for soap but I know that they did that and I probably participated in it. I cannot remember actually participating in it, but the odds are that I did. They were polite and no snarling. They certainly allowed themselves to be occupied without any resistance.

JACKSON: How long were you in Japan?

HILL: Not very long. I don't know what our purpose was. Of course to make an

American presence throughout, wherever we could, but nobody shared with me what we thought we were doing and why, or if they did, I've forgotten. I'm glad I had that opportunity. I didn't get charged an outrageous price for being there, which is what happens today. Then we turned around and came back to Hawaii and then we went back to San Diego. There was a point system for which you could



Raymond Hill, Hawaii. 1945

be discharged. I discovered, being a quartermaster, I did a lot of communicating. I can still send semaphore and I can still send flashing light, I probably couldn't read it but I could send it. Let's see, dot, dot dash, dash, dot dash, dash, dot dash dash dash, dash dash dash, dot, dot dot dot, (. . - - / . - - / . - - - - . . .) that's "Eat at Joes." I just made that up but it's a perk just to see if I can do it. I can certainly; I can do it with my hands pretty fast. Then semaphore

reading it probably would take me a little while, but being able to do that, I got hold of Comwest Sea Frontier and said that our ship is commissioned, or has some orders, to go to Panama and back around to Little Creek, Virginia, with the crew. My name is such and such, these are my points, this is what's accumulated. I believe I'm entitled to immediate discharge, but the manifest of the ship shows such and such and the report that I got on semaphore on day before yesterday says that we are only supposed to have so many people rated this or that and the other, and I feel that I ought to be discharged right now. I don't think there's any basis for me making that, probably a couple of months additional stay in the Navy. I got a response to a report that Comwest Sea Frontier which I did and they said you can go back to your ship and give them this piece of paper and you're free.

I was able to wish everybody good luck and, incidentally, I was no longer the helmsman and under particular circumstances and no longer navigating and what not. They backed out into the harbor, banged into a buoy, banged into another ship, started forward and then dumped their bilge in the harbor and the harbor master was fussing at them for dumping the bilge.

[Interruption, phone rings]

JACKSON: So, they are backing into things.

HILL: I don't believe there was anybody on the ship that was really competent to navigate. I'm not alarmed by that because they were in communication with other ships, there were several of them going together, so I'm sure it all worked out fine and it did. I sent them some messages when they arrived in, I guess it was Little Creek, wherever they were going. I, somehow or other, found out when they were

arriving and I greeted them and said I was glad they made a safe trip, but I was delighted that I got off. I was very happy about that.

JACKSON: So, you made it home to Houston.

HILL: Yes. Well, I made it home to the blimp base that R.E. "Bob" Smith acquired down near Hitchcock and that's where I was discharged from. I had to report to that base, get my discharge there.

JACKSON: And then you came home.

HILL: Right.

JACKSON: To your parents.

HILL: Yes.

JACKSON: And how long before you started school?

HILL: Awhile, more or less, right away.

JACKSON: Okay, so you just jumped right back?

HILL: I went to the University of Houston and had to take about another year's worth of college. When I got through with that I decided I was going to get a master's degree and I started working on a paper that related to the European Recovery Program. I got that finished and walked around and looked in the Law School and discovered that the people in the Law School were mostly older than I was. I thought, why not go to Law School? I thought I was going to be an engineer and then when I came back and went to University of Houston, I took some courses in foreign trade and economics and I was very focused in business and I particularly focused in Latin American trade. The next thing you know, I get my degree.

Tape 3, Side B

HILL: At the University of Houston you don't get a degree without applying for one.

My father kept asking me, says, "You've gotten enough hours why don't you get a degree?"



University of Houston Law School Graduating Class, 1951
Raymond Hill, top row, far right; Bob Lowry, middle row, far right;
Billy Lee, top row, third from left.

Finally I said,
"Well, I guess I
should." I already had
a whole lot more hours
than was necessary for
a degree. As I say,
was thinking about
converting it all and
getting a master's, but
then I saw the Law
School and I applied to

get into Law School, which I did. I took my bar exam before I'd finished Law
School and passed it.

JACKSON: How can you do that?

HILL: Oh, I had taken enough courses to cause them to let me take it. JACKSON: Did
you ever get a diploma from any place? Did you ever graduate from Hotchkiss?

HILL: You know, it's interesting. I wouldn't have graduated from the University of
Houston if my father hadn't insisted that I apply for the paper. I am so self

focused, I guess I'm a self centered guy or something. All I'm interested in is learning. You know, whether they give me a certificate for it or not I don't particularly care. I've discovered the certificate is useful, it lets me practice law and things like that, but I never was focused on that.

JACKSON: What did you like about Law?

HILL: I really liked law a lot and it's not the law that's being practiced today at all. I liked the ideal that there is, well, it will take me just a second, but it's my belief that every thing out there has marching orders, everything. Whether it's mockingbirds or a piece of coal, everything responds to order of some kind. Arctic terns fly from pole to pole and the morning dove makes a nest twenty feet above the ground with a bunch of loose sticks and a weaver bird weaves an elaborate nest way up in the top of the tree and it swings in the wind like a stocking, just everything. The ram wants to inseminate the whole herd but the wolf wants to mate for life as does the gander and everything out there has a law that it obeys. I'm curious about that and about what our laws are. I listen to some of the intellectuals, and I hate to call Teddy Kennedy an intellectual but he thinks he is, he laughs at Justice Thomas when Thomas says there's Natural Law. I laugh at him if he thinks there's not. There wasn't a chance of a snowball in hell that Homo sapiens could ever have survived through the process of natural selectivity if he didn't have some rules and some order. It's been really clear, throughout the world particularly off the little island of Delos as I recall, that's where the Law Merchant began around Barcelona and the Hanseatic League and the Dutch and the English and so on and the Uniform Commercial Code which we

have today, all of those things wherever those rules were in place, nations prospered. Man did very well. I think law's out there. I think our legislatures don't see it and our judges frequently don't see it. They are interested in how rapidly you can process cases through court. Legislators are interested in what their constituency wants. But, there are some basic laws out there; I've read a lot about them. I'm intrigued with them and fascinated by them and if we ever depart too far from them we go down the drain and when we get close to them we prosper. That's my view, you didn't ask for that.

JACKSON: Well, I think it's interesting and it shows maybe why you were drawn to the law. You tried a lot of things.

HILL: I'm pretty good at some things that I'm probably better at than law, in terms of what I can do. I instinctively understand organization of things pretty well. I understand economics pretty well; to the extent it can be understood. I think I understand a lot about history that's not in the dates and not in the "who wins," but it's in the causes and effects.

JACKSON: Absolutely.

HILL: I like all of those things, I like being part of it.

JACKSON: So, what we're going to do is end for today. Thank you.

[Interview continues]

JACKSON: Today is Tuesday, April 15, 2008. I'm speaking from Raymond Hill's apartment in Houston, Texas.

JACKSON: So, where we ended the last time, you were back to Houston from serving in the Pacific during World War II, you attended the University of Houston and

completed your Bachelor's degree and you were during some extra work in international trade and you decided to begin Law School. But before we continue forward chronologically, I want to discuss just that period between the time of your service and when you ended Law School.

When the war ended, you were basically twenty-one years old. You'd seen a lot of action, you've lived an awful lot of life for a man your age. Can you tell me about your adjustment to civilian life? Was that difficult?

HILL: I think I've been given the gift of adjusting. I guess I can imagine difficulty in adjusting if I lived in an authoritarian society, I probably wouldn't adjust very well. With a reasonable amount of freedom, oh, actually, I told my mother one time that even in the absence of that, I didn't think I'd ever be lonely. I thought that she had given me the gift of imagination, of observation, of interest in every thing that would have carried me through. In a prison or something like that, I'd want to have at least an ant or cockroach or something as a companion, you know. I'd like for a ray of light to get in there every now and then. I think I adjusted quite well but I don't really think that was a problem.

JACKSON: Did you just move into your life and social standing and everything else that had been happening before the war? But you really weren't home, you were away at school and then you went into the Navy.

HILL: Course I never was not at home, in the sense that home was always with me, in some ways.

JACKSON: So, I imagine you took up with the family friends and the people you had grown up with?

HILL: I had an enormous curiosity and I had gotten out of the service with a few dollars in my pocket and I mentioned at the table, we had our meals together, that was one wonderful thing about our family, I mentioned that I'd like to go to South America. I'm trying to remember, I think it was my grandfather on one occasion and my father on the other said he'd match my money or add to it or something like that. The first occasion, I think it was my father, I believe it was my father, said he'd match that, the money that I had. I took a trip to South America by myself.

In those days, my father knew lots of people and I knew lots of people and I was able to get letters of introduction all the way around the East Coast and back the West Coast of South America to various people and those became augmented as I'll mention in a minute or two. Lamar Fleming was chairman of the board of Anderson Clayton, he had wonderful connections and there were all kinds of people that had connections like that that wrote letters of introduction for me, as did my father. Daddy knew the president of Pan American Airlines and the president of Eastern Airlines quite well. I was sort of a special guest of Pan American Airlines and got the right kinds of letters of credit to help me if I had an emergency in the various banks and so on. I took off and I didn't travel lavishly at all but I was just hugely blessed. I had friends already in Latin America that I had met in Houston and been introduced to in one way or another, so off I went.

I started Mexico City, Guatemala, and hopped from nation to nation, down to Argentina and back across the Andes to Chile and nation to nation back to coast, but some of things that happened to me were really extraordinary. I

remember, in Caracas, Venezuela, I got off at La Guirae, the airport there. I can't remember how I met a very attractive, I don't know whether we would call him a black man today or not, but he was a man that had blue eyes but was obviously of African descent, for part of his blood stream and he was an artist. I had no letter of introduction to him and I can't tell you how I met him, but he decided to show me Caracas and tell me all about Venezuela and its history. He took me from place to place. I saw Caracas and I saw Venezuela in a light that no tourist would get to see it. We weren't drinking and carousing and visiting the bordellos and what not, but that was great.

When I got to Brazil I knew Lilla Caton and Lilla gave me letters of introduction in Buenos Aires and in Santiago and in Paraguay, also. These were absolutely amazing but much of what I did was on my own. When I got off the airplane in Paraguay, I told the taxi cab driver I wanted to go to a very nice place to eat and I'd like to see a show or just the nicest place in town, that's where I wanted to go. I didn't realize that the nicest places in Paraguay, I mean in Uruguay, and in Buenos Aires were largely reserved for married men without their wives. I didn't understand that culture, the wife sort of sat at home. I didn't even know that until the evening was mostly over. But, I was seated at the edge of the balcony of this beautiful, beautiful place and this wonderful tango music being played and these couples with just exquisite grace and skills dancing down below. After awhile, some young lady -- she didn't quite look like a debutante but she didn't look like a lady of the night either -- she just came and sat at my table and asked if she could visit. I was having a drink and ask her if she wanted

something and she said yes. I didn't realize her job was to run up the bar bill. Still, I had very meaningful and interesting conversations with her and she's part of helping tell me a little bit about the country.

I went from experiences like that to, I always went to the museums and I found the better the hotel you were in, the more knowledgeable the concierges, and the more knowledgeable the concierges, the better guides you got and the opportunities you had to learn about the country. I had read all about South America. I had a friend, my father's friend, that was head of the Hispanic section of the Library of Congress. He had written a book about South America that gave all the historic background of each country and all about the cultures and the various Indian, Spanish mixes of different tribes and what they had contributed and the political developments. It was small enough so that without belaboring myself tremendously I could read the section about each country that I would go to and be fairly knowledgeable and I would also learn what the great crafts and arts were in each country and I could ask the concierges to send me where I would see the best examples of this. So, I did that from country to country. The person that I had a letter of introduction to in Uruguay, I didn't, we never did connect, we were able to communicate by telephone once or twice but there was something, I can't remember, that was really impending in her life, but when I got to Buenos Aires, a whole chapter of my life unfolded there.

I became very close to several families there that have come to visit with me in Houston. I visited them and we've carried on correspondence. Various members of that family would come to Houston and go to medical school and we

have continued this relationship and we have it very much alive today, fifty some odd years later. Particularly, the Allende family – A L L E N D E -- and they pronounce the double L differently in Argentina than in all the rest of Latin America. It's not "ayende," it's "ayjende." I should have said before I got to Buenos Aries, I met an artist in Rio and his name was Ricardo Ventosa Aros. He came across the room to tell me that I had a very Anglo-Saxon features but there was something in my eyes that told him that I was a person very much drawn to the Latin. This was in Brazil, so we were talking about now an Argentine citizen visiting in Brazil and visiting Lilla Caton and their parties. He said that he knew that I would be a good friend because I had something that showed that to him. But while I was there, being back in Brazil, I got invited, to a ball in honor of the Evita Peron, who was visiting Rio. And they, of course at the same time I was in Brazil, my distant cousin, Senator Vandenburg, was heading up a meeting in the Quintandinha area up above Rio in the mountains using largely properties of Lilla Caton's family's properties up there and I was visiting in their home in Rio. I just am blessed in stumbling into things that I don't anticipate. I got to meet Evita Peron and I got to dance with lots of the notables and so on and that was a wonderful experience.

Then I got on to Buenos Aries and I go to the cattle auctions and the flower auctions at the crack of day and drank mate on a horse, out of a little cup with a silver straw, and was told to stand absolutely still or I would wind up buying a pen full of cattle at the auction because any kind of a motion to the auctioneer meant that you were raising the bid. I got to go to watch the polo

matches at the wonderful, I think the finest polo club in the world there in Buenos Aries with all kinds of paintings on the wall of the famous artists that would have been treasures in any museum anywhere in the world. One of things I noticed both in Buenos Aries and in Rio was that when they would arrange for me to have a date and we would have a party or something like that, we would go driving out into the mountains into a park or something like that and these people were all very, very carefully chaperoned but when they would go drive up into the mountains in the park they would scatter like a covey of quails. I didn't get my signals exactly correct so I didn't know what I was supposed to do, but I considered that I did not do anything that I would be ashamed of today. I can tell you, I was too reticent of a person to get involved in anything like that and I don't think anything like that happened but it was an interesting side light on how things operate.

When I arrived in Buenos Aries, Selina Ledoux, I don't know how I'm able to remember these names, had received, a letter of introduction I had forwarded to her that I had from Lilla Caton. I didn't realize it but she had some serious problems in her family, I believe her father died of cancer and her mother had shattered a hip or something like that and in the face of all of that, she saw to it that I met the right people and had lunch with the right people and showed me around and introduced me to a lot of people with interesting names. They were Spanish and Dutch and Irish and Scots, all mixed up together. I remember one of her closest friends was Isobel Mahon, which is Isabel Mahon. I kept in touch with her for some period of time. I could probably, if I thought long and hard,

produce a lot of meaningless names to you all, but so many of these people and particularly later when I became involved in the Institute of International Education, I just developed more and more friends and contacts throughout Latin America.

Well, I got a letter to Silva Gonzales Videla in Santiago, Chile. I did not know what was to follow. I arrived in Santiago, Chile and stayed at the finest hotel there, the Hotel Carrara. But any event, I gave the letter of introduction to the concierge and asked him to see that it was delivered.

He sort of stood at attention and said, “Oh no, no, no, I can’t do that.”

“So what’s the problem?”

“She’s the daughter of the President of Chile.”

And Gonzales Videla was the President of Chile and I had no idea that I had a letter of introduction to a daughter of the President of Chile. I sent some sort of a telegram saying that I was here and didn’t know whether would be delivered or not and just simply wanted to give greetings from her friend Lilla Caton back in Rio de Janerio.

Well, I got an invitation to come to the presidential palace, which I did and I sat at a long table at the right hand of the daughter of the President of Chile and had a dinner party, I guess given for me, and there were all these people. I later found out, much to my horror, I’ll explain later, they were daughters and sons of ambassadors and people like that. I just stumbled into this, just stumbling along, has absolutely nothing to do with any merit on my part at all, I don’t know how I managed to have all this happen. But I made the statement at that dinner party

and probably after I got back to the United States, I may have my dates wrong, but the book, *The Ugly American*, was published and I'm not certain that I didn't have something to do with that. I'm just joking, but my big mouth is just incredible, some of the things that come out of it. At this dinner party seated next to me was a young lady, very attractive and she seemed to me to be quite loud and she spoke with a Spanish accent, I mean she spoke English with a Spanish accent.

We got to joking, we talked about the English and French and the Germans and all these different people and I made a statement something like this, "Well, one of these days we'll be talking about the Neanderthal man and the Cro-Magnon man and the English man," and I looked around the table and here are all these frozen looks on every body's face. I said, "Oh my God Almighty, Raymond, you are so impolitic. You never think what you are going to say," and then everybody burst out laughing.

They said, "You didn't know, did you?" I said, "What?" "The lady sitting next to you is the daughter of the British Ambassador." I don't know why I would tell that and maybe I'll ask Sarah to strike that one, but that's the kind of jackass thing that I'm capable of doing and I did that, and survived. Everybody laughed and it broke the ice and I don't think we could have gotten to know each other nearly as well as we did if I hadn't been foolish enough to make such a stupid statement.

JACKSON: It was very funny.

HILL: I thought it was kind of a funny statement, it really described the way I felt about the British at the time. I thought they were getting obsolete, you know, but here you are, out of the mouths of babes, or something.

From there, I went on down the coast and had, my notable experiences were in Bogota, Colombia, where I made probably more friends than in any other country in Latin America. I fell in love with the country. The first trip I didn't make a lot of friends in Colombia, I did make some but later on and I don't know whether it fits in this time frame or not, I sort of think it does. I got involved in an oil and gas matter in Bogota, well, in Colombia, in the Sinú River Basin and I met wonderful, wonderful people there. It must have been close by because this was before my marriage to Jerry, no, right after my marriage to Jerry.

I met an old man, whose name will probably come to me, who founded the Muzo mines, discovered them. He was in his nineties, middle nineties. I was introduced to him by Dr. Raysbeck who was a well-know lawyer in Bogota. He said, "I'm going to introduce you to this man, he'll show you some things."

This man took a liking to me, he said, "I'm going to show you something very special. I have an emerald here that's as beautiful as any emerald you'll see." It was a thick emerald. Today, a jeweler would take that stone and make it half as thick and make two emeralds with a very broad surface.

TAPE 4 – SIDE A

HILL: But, hey, the emeralds that would have resulted had it been cut that way, wouldn't have anything like the depth and beauty that this particular stone had and he sold that to me at a ridiculously low price. After all, it was an emerald that he just found and had cut but it was not in the hands of a retailer. He also sold me two matching oblong emerald cut emeralds that could make earrings. He said the safest place for those stones would be to just put them in my watch pocket. He said nobody ever looks in anybody's watch pocket for a little stone and that's the safest place, which is what I did. I brought them home and got them set for Jerry and this emerald got stolen. We looked all over everywhere; we could never find anything that was even close to this emerald. I regret very much that it was stolen, but it graced my wife and made her, of course, it could never match her beauty, but it was a wonderful gift from me to my wife and that emerald ring and those earrings and I'll never forget it.

I'm not really attached to those kinds of things that much but I also made so many friends in Bogota and Medellin and Barranquilla. I gave a big party in the Tequendama Hotel. It was a big party and they were all my friends and they would go out on the streets and they would bring in these wonderful musicians that would play the beautiful, beautiful Colombian music, the *loropos* and *huapangos* and *corridos*, and they have something like a *valisillo*. The music, I just adored the music, and they knew that and they would take me to their haciendas, little ranches out in the country side.

One evening we were invited to a cocktail party at the Ambassador and I got a sickness that is sort of like the problem you get in Mexico except the altitude

has a lot to do with it, your food digests in a different rate, you don't get as much oxygen to your brain because it's 8400 - 8500 feet high, Bogota is. They gave me some sort of narcotic that gradually made this thing subside. My wife went on to the cocktail party. Finally, I got so I could get in a taxi cab, if I stretched myself out, sort of stuck my legs way out in front of me and lean back and got in a horizontal, as nearly horizontal as possible, I got to the party and they said I looked green when I first arrived but as I began to have a drink or two that seemed to help. The next thing you know, I was surviving and enjoyed that party. I'll never forget the experience of first having this extremely, I got chills and shook and then being brought out of it so quickly by something with a narcotic base of some kind. I survived that. I went to their country clubs and I went to their polo clubs and I just had a huge, wonderful time and I've been back to Bogota numerous times until the drug trade made it an unattractive place to go.

JACKSON: Let's go back to, after the war, you went to the University of Houston, you traveled to South America, you came home to Houston and you finished your bachelors degree and then you decided to go to law school. Do you want to talk about that decision?

HILL: I want to tell you about one other thing. I'm going to cost you your life here, probably because I talk too much. I'm not going to tell you all about this, but I went to Europe the next summer.

JACKSON: Oh, you went to Europe, too.

HILL: And had the same experiences. I even had tennis matches set up for me and Brownie Baker, that's Jimmy Baker's first cousin and Anthony Eden and his wife

in a place called Eversley, a little club outside of London. If I told you all the stories that I had to tell you about Europe, it would take longer than South America. But I'll just cut it off and we can go back sometime if you want to, but I got to go into the Inns of Court and I got to go into all the courts in England and it had a awful lot to do with preparing me for law school.

JACKSON: When you made the decision your father was a lawyer, well, he had gone to law school.

HILL: Oh, excuse me, I got to go to meet Manley Hudson, who is a friend of our father and been in our home, and he was the chief judge of the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Just huge things.

JACKSON: Absolutely, especially after World War II, when so much was happening legally with the reconstruction of Europe.

HILL: I've been blessed, blessed, blessed during all of this part of my life.

JACKSON: So, could you say that your education was fragmentary in a traditional sense.

HILL: Yes, in every way it was fragmentary.

JACKSON: You go to your prep school for awhile, then you go to A&M, then you're at Rice, then you're in the Navy. But it seems that for who you are you probably gleaned more by all these experiences that have all worked together to create who you are and your view of the world than had you gone to Princeton for four years and come back to Houston and gone to law school and set up practice.

HILL: That is the kindest way to look at it. I was not focused and the unkind way of looking at it is I had a little bit of this and a little bit of that. Dr. Roberts, the

finest professor we had at the University of Houston, with a huge background, he had a lot of trouble with me because he didn't like the fact that I could make fairly good grades and not read his books. I shouldn't have had that ability because it denied me the kind of education I could have had. I long for the disciplined life that would have caused me to get more out of what I was exposed to than I got, looking back at it. Now, looking at it from the favorable side, I don't know anybody that's got a richer education than I do. You're sitting in the library now that's just packed with books that most people don't have and it's packed with, exciting to me, books that stretch the mind. I've been in and out of an awful lot of the books that you see in this room and I have an eclectic fragmentary understanding of all of them and not a real understanding of any of them. Maybe I'm being unfair to myself but that's the way I would summarize it.

JACKSON: I think there are a lot of ways of gaining education and

HILL: I'm educated.

JACKSON: Absolutely, but I think that certain people go down different paths and they learn each way and you have obviously, since you were a little boy, learned from your experiences and people.

HILL: I'm always buttonholing the speaker at any conference because he's lit a little fire some place and I want more information. It's interesting, as I told you night before last, I called Frank Moretti, Dr. Moretti in Canada to get an answer to a cutting edge question on the edge of science. Well, I really think my question is one that I have trouble explaining to most people just the question, but I have the gracious gift of knowing people that will understand my question and answer my

question. I have a tremendous amount of this resource of people that I can call and discuss things with. Most people's eyes, I'm afraid, just sort of glaze over, when I get off on something that I'm interested in because they're not interested in it.

JACKSON: Well, I think this says a lot about your work later on with juvenile probation, your ability to deal with people, a huge variety of people and to get to know them. Okay, so you're back in Houston, now tell me about getting into Law School again.

HILL: I started as an engineer. My travels, probably, and my studies really because I really studied each one of these countries before I went into them, led me into thinking about world trade and I liked finance a lot. Some of my early experiences were doing back to back letters of credit to help somebody finance Mercurys in El Salvador. I could think of ways of lining up this collateral with that credit need and so on that other people couldn't think of and that was helpful to me, so I was tending in that direction. I was blessed by my father giving me all of these papers that he was privy to and a party to in many ways about the European Recovery Program. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Paper, the Hoover Committee Report, the Harriman Reports, I studied all of those things and as to how it came together and that, and the Inns of Court and, I don't know, I had read the *The Law* by René A. Wormser and *A Kaleidoscope of Justice* by John Henry Wigmore and lots of books just inquiring what is the law, why do we have law, how does it arise.

When I walked by the law school I looked in there and here are all these people, just a few, maybe Royce Till, who went over to Fulbright; there were some there my age, most of them were a good bit older than I was. They were veterans.

JACKSON: Describe the Law School.

HILL: The Law school was in a barracks -- that common color of yellow that railroad stations are painted or whether it was that barn red but it was one of those cheap outdoor paint kind of colors that you would use for a barracks. It was wooden slats and had a wood stove in it. That's where the law school started. I'm having trouble with the wood stove, believing I'm telling the truth, but I don't ever remember anybody coming in with an armload of wood. It probably was a stove that was built like a wood stove but it probably had electrical coils in it instead. My image is fuzzy so you can check me out on that, but it was as primitive as it gets and it was wonderful. It really gave us a kind of camaraderie that you would want to have.

We were pioneers but I didn't know that that was going to evolve that way, I was just thinking about it from a point of view of am I too old to spend some more time in education and I decided I wasn't. I wanted to know something about the law. I probably just wanted to dip my finger in it, you know, I didn't have a passion of wanting to be a lawyer, I didn't know whether I was going to be a lawyer or not, I just thought I needed that. So, I joined the law school, got admitted and I got a letter from Hines Baker, who was then head of Exxon, I got a letter from Mr. Randolph Bryan, he was then president of Second National Bank

which later became the bank of the Southwest. I got another letter from Lamar Fleming, who was chairman of Anderson Clayton and these men knew me and knew me well enough to write very nice letters of recommendation. I probably got one from Palmer Hutcheson and Fred Moore, I don't know who else, oh, Eldon Young, who was general counsel for Gulf Oil Corporation. These are all people who have been in our home and me in theirs. I could have gotten them from Judge Elkins and Oveta Hobby and Johnnie Cooker, Sr., I just didn't feel like I needed any more.

JACKSON: You had mentioned before and I think it's something to be commented on, that you were from wealthy, privileged background and yet, the other students at the law school were not.

HILL: One of the biggest handicaps I've had in my life is the slight untruth of that statement. I want to explain that. Take a look at my father's estate, my daddy was not a wealthy man. My father was an extraordinary successful man. Daddy never asked anybody to put him on any committee or on any board in his life. He was in demand; everybody wanted him. He didn't ask to get into any country club as people now campaign to do those things. Daddy was always invited for everything, including the international organizations and clubs that he's a member of. Daddy was on a salary. Very different from all of the other wealthy people in Houston, all of whom had five percent interest in the stock in this and four percent in that and twenty percent in this and twenty-five percent ownership of the stock in this bank and you know, all of them can be distinguished in that respect.

People always thought that I was very rich and it was a very serious handicap. Again, and again and again I would have this thrown in my face that I didn't really need to practice law, that I didn't really need to have any clients, that I had everything you could possibly want and don't need anything. We'd go to the football games and police would clear away a path for Colonel Hill, I don't know why they called him Colonel Hill, he wasn't a Colonel, but that was sort of something you would call people, Colonel Bates, you know. I was always treated like royalty, but it was a royalty of accomplishment and intellect on the part of my mother and father and not on the part of my father's wealth.

I don't think Daddy's estate was worth half a million dollars, I don't know if it was worth a quarter of a million dollars. I remember that it was not a large estate. Mother had some oil and gas interests that her father left her in Victoria that would have been equal to and more than my father's estate. But Daddy's salary, and this sounds ridiculous in terms of today's times, a typical bank president then, probably Mr. Bryan probably got a salary of around twenty-five or thirty thousand dollars a year and Daddy got fifty and some prerequisites of one sort or another but no big stock options or any of those kind. Daddy wouldn't have wanted or asked for them and would have excused himself and probably would not have, might not have allowed his board to give him something of that sort. He was not focused on trying to get money, absolutely not focused on that.

The reason why he was, you know, Chairman of the Board of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts was because it was in trouble and he was needed to bail it out and Daddy could do that. Daddy knew every leader and wealthy person in

Houston well and he knew them because they respected his ability. He could go say, this needs your backing and your money and we need a lot of it, and they would give him what he asked. That made him very valuable; it wasn't because he could write a check. The Houston Oil Company was also community minded and philanthropic. It supported the University of Texas and the University of Houston and M. D. Anderson and the Medical Center and all kinds of things.

Daddy was chairman of the Community Chest and different organizations like that from time to time because more than any wealthy person, Daddy could give them infinitely more than that. He could give them everybody else's money as well as his own prestige and his own ability to organize. I would welcome as much research as anybody wants to do on this subject. I believe that I'm absolutely correct and I believe that it's unique. I don't believe there is anybody else like that. I don't know that Houston has ever had a leader quite like my father in that respect. Foley's, whatever, I'm trying to remember Foley's president, Max Leoine, Federated Stores would ask my father, if my father would get Eisenhower to come speak for something that was going to happen. James Conant from Harvard would be sitting on our terrace.

JACKSON: Is this James Conant?

HILL: Yes. People like Manley Hudson, who was made head of the World Bank in the Hague. We had all kinds of people like that that thought extremely highly of my father. He just attracted people and I don't think anybody, I surely would like to hear objective views of this, but I don't think anybody would ever describe my father as a pushy person who wanted power and shoved himself into these

positions of leadership. He was a reticent person who was always asked to do big things, very unusual. So, I wasn't wealthy is the point, but the trappings were around me.

JACKSON: Okay, as long as we are talking about your dad, I want to kind of skip and we'll go back to the University of Houston again. He died, out of town in Washington, didn't he?

HILL: He died in Greenville, South Carolina. It was a wonderful experience in a sad way.

JACKSON: And why is that?

HILL: Well, pardon my tears -- that community was unbelievably loving.

JACKSON: Why was he there?

HILL: He was on a train returning from Washington. He always flew everywhere, but he said, "We're going to take the train." Daddy had worn himself out on this Anglo-American oil trading to try to keep the oil industry in the United States from becoming sort of cartelized and sort of ruined by international institutions and he won.⁵ He won that battle almost single handedly but he was worn out. It had literally just worn him out. And he says, "Mary," to his wife, "we're going to take it easy. Let's take the slow train back to Houston."

JACKSON: From Washington?

HILL: From Washington. They took him off the train in Greenville when he had an attack. People say, "Do you call it a heart attack?" He had, I don't know the

⁵ The threat was very real and very imminent – very threatening to Houston and to Texas. He gave his life for his country. Harold Ickes, his opponent, gave him full credit for this victory which was reported widely in the International press. It was to Houston and to Texas economically like defeat of Obama care will be for Houston and the Houston Medical Center. [added later]

difference between athro- and arteriosclerosis, but as it was described to me it was like an old house and the plumbing system is giving out everywhere. Everything was breaking down. You patch this one leak up and that puts more pressure on another one and it bursts. He was having difficulties. You would transfuse him and that would cause a problem and his lungs would be filling with water and fluids and Dr. Anderson, I can still remember, wonderful, we gave him a sterling tea service. I'm trying to remember who ran the Buick agency in Houston, I remember the family so well, they lived on Kirby Drive, but he immediately called his friend in Greenville and we got this beautiful automobile made available to us and all different kinds of things from all over everywhere. Daddy was very happy, I held his hand as he slipped away.

JACKSON: So you were able to see him before he died?

HILL: Yes. He asked me, the last thing he asked me, said "Did you get to go with George to the game?"

I said, "Yes."

"Well, how was it?"

I said, "We had a wonderful party in the Driskill Hotel," and so and so and so and so was with me. I was being flown to Austin on George Brown's private airplane with him and others to see a football game in Austin. I was just a young man; I was treated very, very nicely, you know. He wanted to know whether or not I went and enjoyed the game.

I don't know how all that worked out, but that was the last thought I could think of that was expressed by him. The people around me in Greenville were

just good. I felt like those people, it was just as though I had been in Texas Heart Institute when Denton Cooley, who loved my family also, but a much younger man. I didn't have any concerns about being in some little town and in an inadequately financed hospital, you know, all that kind of thing. I remember the Poinsett Hotel there, named after a man who in Mexico found the Poinsettia which I suppose is named after him, maybe a Colonel Poinsettia, General something or other, I've forgotten the history of that. It's funny, I've been fussing about my brain, but you bring out in me the ability to remember things that I didn't think I could possibly remember.

JACKSON: So, your dad died in Greenville and you brought him back to Houston.

HILL: He was fifty-seven.

JACKSON: That's a young man.

HILL: If Daddy had lived just to be sixty-seven, and had lived in good health with the strength of today's sixty-seven year old men, his biography which is so extensive at age fifty-seven would have been mind boggling, because he was in demand by everybody for everything. But he was cut off pretty short.

JACKSON: So, this was in 1949 that your dad died and you were in school.

HILL: I guess so, I'm trying to remember. Yes, I graduated from law school in 1951, yes.

JACKSON: So, what you had said earlier today is most of the students at the University of Houston were poor boys. They were there on the G.I. bill and they were going to school after they had served in the military in World War II.

HILL: They certainly would not have considered themselves poor. They just thought I was rich.

JACKSON: Exactly. You had mentioned that many were living in mobile homes.

HILL: And living in San Felipe courts on Buffalo Drive or Allen Parkway.

JACKSON: Right. They were in subsidized government housing and these turned out to be long lasting friends of yours.

HILL: Yes and very good lawyers. You know, my dearest friend was probably Steve Farish, who committed suicide, just tragic, tragic. Steve and I had something in common . . .

TAPE 4, SIDE B

HILL: He got pulled into more exclusively the elite end of things. But Steve and I went to A&M together for the same purpose, to get prepared for World War II. We roomed together, but Steve and I were very close long before that. Tobin Armstrong was ahead of us at A&M. He's married to Ann Armstrong and she became Ambassador to the Court of St. James, London, and Tobin was a polo player and Steve was a polo player and we all knew each other well. I didn't know Tobin as well as Steve, of course, Steve and Tobin were very close. But Steve and I were very, very close. But Steve had this thing. Steve was more comfortable with ordinary people of moderate means who didn't necessarily fit the debutante crowd and all. I'm sorry that I sort of lost him in a way before he committed suicide, I lost his intimacy. If he'd shared with me that he had

problems, he wouldn't have committed suicide, I felt like I cost him his life. I was bringing people like George Scholabo to parties, and things like that and the country club. Well, also Steve had his friends who crossed the line between the Princeton and the Houston Community College. I regret the loss of Steve, not only his suicide but the loss before that of him being pulled away from this great democracy that was part of his character.

JACKSON: You graduated from the University of Houston Law School in 1951, you got married to Jerry and you began practicing law. What was the first firm you practiced with?

HILL: Fred Moore, F.W. Moore.

JACKSON: How did you get in with them?

HILL: It's a very interesting, to me, story. My father's law firm was Kennerly, Lee, Williams and Hill and I think maybe Wilson, Dabney and King before that and Fred Moore was part of it, Kennerly, Williams, Lee and Hill turned into Blades, Childs, Moore and Kennerly.

JACKSON: (Laughing) I'm sorry but all these law firms I find very funny. Anyway, go on.

HILL: In World War II Fred Moore says, "I'm going to go fight for my country." He was in his fifties and people were really surprised that he would do this, but Fred was a fiercely loyal American in every sense of the word. He was going to go fight the Germans, which he did. He came back and did not go back with his firm. It was just "F.W. Moore" and he had one associate that he hired to help him.

That was Joe Brown and Joe Brown got into the Korean War, and when Joe Brown left, that left an opening for me.

So, I went to Fred Moore's office and I said, "I want to go to work for you."

And Fred Moore immediately said, "You wouldn't like it up here." He said, "You know, we work Saturdays and Sundays and nights and besides I couldn't pay you very much."

I said, "I'd work free for you."

He said, "Well, I wouldn't want to do that. Why do you want to work with me?" I may have said something like this, I don't know exactly what I said. I know I did not say exactly what I'm about to say, but you'll get the twist of it, "You are known around this community as fearless Fred Moore. I know that you do a prodigious amount of work with a lot of success. I need the discipline of working for somebody like you." This is certainly the sense of what I told him and "I'd work for you if you wanted me."

He said, "Well, I'd like to do something like that." He said, "I'll tell you what," and I think I'm ninety percent correct on this, I may get the terms a little wrong, he said, "I'll pay you two-hundred and fifty dollars a month. I won't have to pay you every month, but from time to time, if I miss a month I'll pay you twice the next month. If I get a good fee and feel like it and feel like you've had a lot to do with that, I'll give you a bonus. Those are my terms."

I said, "They sound wonderful to me. I'll be happy to do that." So I did.

I went into his offices, he had 'F.W. Moore' on his door; he put 'F.W. Moore' and 'Raymond M. Hill' underneath that. He had the sign man come do that. Then he gave me a stack of files. It must have been eighteen inches thick. Anyway, in those days, a fully developed file was seldom more than an inch thick. It's not a file cabinet drawer like it is today because everything was done on a typewriter with seven carbons, manually typed and our copying machines were very primitive. Our recording and dictating machines were a solid cylinder made out of wax or something that revolved, and you shaved them when you wanted to erase something and use it again. We didn't have air conditioning on the weekends and evenings, and I'm wondering how much air conditioning we had the rest of the time, but I know whenever we had big paper problems like filing bankruptcy schedules or briefs or something like that, to make the copies and separate the pages and so on, we'd have little piles. We might have thirty or forty piles of paper stacked on a big desk and the ceiling fan would blow the pages around unless you put those paper weights on top of everything.

JACKSON: What building were you in?

HILL: I was in a building on Main Street next to Citizens State Bank. It was called the State National Bank, but there was no State National Bank. I think Henry Guissel bought that building at some point. That's where I started and incidentally, Henry Guissel tried with me one of the first significant lawsuits that I tried. He was representing the insurance company and I, believe it or not, was representing the bank. That's how I started with Fred Moore.

I was walking around in the courthouse and Bill Cannon, who later became a Court of Appeals justice, but Bill Cannon saw me in the hall. He said, “Raymond, will you try this lawsuit for me?”

I said, “Bill, I don’t know a thing on earth about trying lawsuits.”

“Yes, you do,” he says, “You get advice mostly from your family. You know more about it than I do. Come on in here and try this lawsuit for me.” He argued with me for awhile and finally I agreed to do it. I went in there

JACKSON: Wait, let me get this straight. So, you are walking around the courthouse, you run into a friend, he says try this lawsuit, you are not in practice but you passed your bar, right?

HILL: No, I think I was in practice, I think I was in the courthouse shortly, maybe before or after Fred Moore, and I was there on an errand of some kind, I wasn’t just lost there. I agreed. “Who is my client?” He introduced me to this man who has a family who got lots of medical services from a doctor that’s suing them. The doctor was actually hired, it turns out, by a law firm to take care of them in connection with a personal injury suit they had had, which had already been tried and disposed of. I’m just learning these things in the courtroom there. The two brothers, who are twins, I think they were named Peters. They were representing the doctor in this case.

We got going on this lawsuit and I proved up a contract between the law firm and the doctor and they proved up all the services they had rendered for this man’s family. But in those days, they were suing this man who was the head of this family. The rules relating to husband and wife were substantially different

then also. The husband had the right to do all of the things that the husband was then doing. They rested their case and I moved for judgment and Judge Sears McGee was the judge in the court, there was a County Court at Law and he had just been made Justice of that Court and I think I'd helped, I think I voted for him and helped him with his campaign a little bit, maybe a lot, because I knew Sears McGee.

But anyway, they said, "What's the basis for this motion?"

I said, "Well, the other side has not proved that this man that they are suing has any connection with any of these people that received these medical services. There's no admission by us that they are his children or that she's his wife and they haven't proved that up. But if they had proved up, they haven't proved that he entered into any contract with the doctor and the doctor's not rendered any services to him at all and there's no proof of any services of the doctor to this man. But the only contract, it seems that the doctor was contacted by Combs, Brown, and Brock, which is a law firm that was representing this family in a personal injury suit, so there's just nothing there to support this suit, so I move for a judgment." But I asked the court to suspend ruling on this for just a moment or two.

I went over and I talked to the Peters and I said, "You guys are out, you haven't got anything here. It's wrong for this doctor not to be paid something. I've talked to my client and my client will pay some reasonable fee to the doctor. It's not going to have any attorney's fees or court costs or any of that kind of stuff

and it may not be everything the doctor's asking for, but what do you think about such and such and I gave them a number."

They said they would take it. That was the end of the lawsuit. Now, I regard that as blind luck. You know, but that was the first experience I had and that gave Bill Cannon the ideal that I was some kind of a genius. Later on, we had the firm Hill, Lowry, Mulvihill, Cannon and Lee.

JACKSON: That's what I want to get to next. So, you were with F.W. Moore, how long?

HILL: I was with him until Joe Brown came back from the services.

JACKSON: So, that would have been what, about 1953 at the end of the war?

HILL: Something like the end of the Korean War.

JACKSON: If you can say the Korean War ever ended.

HILL: Something like that. Fred Moore was a man of intense integrity and honor and he had promised Joe Brown that he could have his job back if he wanted it when he got out of the services. He came back and said, "I want my job back," and that was the end of me in that firm.

JACKSON: So, tell me about your second firm and how that came about.

HILL: I was walking down the street one day and I ran into Jack Mulvihill and Bob Lowry and Bill Cannon. I'm trying to remember whether I ran into all three or just two, I think I ran into Cannon and Lowry.

JACKSON: Jack says he was there.

HILL: And he was there and we got to talking, I'm looking around.

"Why don't we all get together?"

I said, “Well, that’s fine with me, I’m willing to do that. I’ve got a whole bunch. I’ve got a library that I don’t know what to do with.”

They said, “Well, let’s do it.”

I said, “That will be just fine. What are we going to call it?”

They are the ones that decided it ought to be Hill, Lowry, Mulvihill, Cannon and Lee, probably because of the great genius I displayed with Bill Cannon. Of course I’m talking with my tongue in my cheek; I didn’t know what I was doing. But, in any event, I’ll tell you what we did. I inherited my grandfather’s law library which was as extensive as, really as extensive as Baker, Botts or Vinson Elkins or any of those, it was the entire American Digest system which is the Atlantic and Pacific and all of the reporters, all of the federal laws, everything, all the reporters you can think of and many, many texts and a lot of very rare and very fine texts that wouldn’t be found in any other library. So what we did was, my father-in-law, I’d just gotten married, was in the C & I Life building and was a big tenant there and he asked them if they would accommodate me and they said they would. They didn’t have any law firms in that building at that time. They had a whole lot of empty space with a carpet. We decided we would take our law books and shelves and put the shelves back to back and partition the space into offices, using law books.

[Interruption]

JACKSON: So you put the law books on shelves, back to back.

HILL: And if you can visualize the ones that you see here that go up to the ceiling when you stack books on the top of them, well they were very nice. The offices were

attractive but there were no swinging doors, there wasn't that much privacy. Still, this really baffles the sound as you can feel, sitting in this room, and we, no other little law firm had a library like ours, we had an excellent library. So, that's how we got started.

I found there was a young Jewish lady, named Murielle Kelton, and she was a wonderful person, but I watched her grow and even recently, she married a very blond Germanic type young man and started going to Christian Church and I'm not trying to comment on either Judaism or Christianity, any of those things, they are both wonderful, but she became quite a Christian. She did certain cosmetic things like maybe remove a mole or fix her hair differently and teeth and all the different things that ladies can do. She was not particularly attractive when she came, but she got more and more and more attractive and became a more and more genteel. She turned out to be quite an outstanding person, I haven't seen her recently but we did talk on the telephone not too long ago. But she was our secretary and I'm trying to remember when Ms. Foster came. Nobody could get along with Ms. Foster but me. I don't remember whether she was second, she may have been when Murielle had either parental callings for her time or something that made it necessary for her to leave, but I remember saying one thing that was fairly wise, which I take credit for and also take blame for.

One day she told me, she said, and I haven't had this happen with secretaries very often, I think I've been a very good boss, I really believe that, but she said, "Mr. Hill, you're very unfair," you're doing this and that and the other thing.

And I finally said, “Well, you know Murielle I sort of hate to give you this disappointing response to all of this, I’m wanting not to be, I’m hoping that from my point of view, maybe I’m fairer than you might think. But I notice as I get older, I get less patient, I get more demanding and If I’m unfair I probably get more and more unfair and so you probably have a real dismal future. If all these things that seem upsetting to you, looks to me like they are probably going to just grow worse and worse and worse. What can we do about this?”

Well, we got through that and things went very well, I don’t know what there was in what I said that, I acknowledged my thoughts and my inability to stop their greater increasing abrasiveness, but I think if somebody could find her today, she would say that she had very high regard for me and that we thought a lot of each other.

JACKSON: Who were your clients? You had five basically new lawyers, except for you, everyone else is just out of law school, right?

HILL: Billy Lee made the statement at the end of one year or two years, maybe, I don’t know, but I’m trying to remember exactly how he put this, he was telling somebody, he really kept track of all of the clients, he says, “You know, we had so many clients and we made so much in gross fees.” We had, I don’t know how many, what the number was, but suppose he had said fifty-seven, I just made that out of the air, I don’t know whether it’s twice to high or maybe only half of what it should have been. He said, “Some of them were big ones.” We got two-hundred fifty dollars or more for some of them. We started off, we had one lawyer, who would say I’m going to be the real estate lawyer and the other would

say I'm going to be the tax and transaction lawyer and the other one would say, well, I'm going to be the personal injury lawyer and we had all of these different aspirations for each other and none of them were realized. We all did a little bit of everything.

We tried some very, very interesting cases. Bill Lee brought in one case involving the Aldine Independent School District, which got national attention, in which I was the lead lawyer after a while, Billy was having trouble asking a question that would result in admissible evidence and I tried the case. We got all of the trustees removed from Aldine Independent School District and got Judge Stovall to appoint a brand new board.

JACKSON: On what grounds?

HILL: It was so interesting. They were deadlocked, they couldn't write checks, they had thrown various legal obstacles in each other's paths, these contending forces so they had utterly wrecked the school district. I earnestly believe that those that we represented were the open minded good side, if there was such. Our money was brought to us in cigar boxes, socks and cans and every kind of way you can think of. We were really hired by the people in that district in a literal sense of the word and the other side was very well represented. I think Ben Schleider was one and an awfully fine lawyer who has since gone back down to the Valley. I'll think of his name, a big, tall guy who used to take me white wing hunting down on the border, I can't think of his name right this minute. They defended themselves on having acted with advice of counsel. So that meant that I was trying the lawyers on the other side who were good friends of mine, but I had to show that the advice

of counsel was lousy advice and it shouldn't have been accepted. It made it kind of a humorous lawsuit, but what really won it was first, a bunch of attorney generals' opinions that dealt with what it took to remove a public official from office and these opinions were very, very strong on our side. We used them in framing jury issues, so that the issues were very difficult for the other side to contend with.

But the stroke that really won the case was I got our people together, the trustees, the school board members that we represented, I said, "How interested are you in this school board? Do you want to be on this school board? How do you feel about it?"

"No, we just want to get this problem solved. That's all we want, we want a good school board. We want to solve this problem."

I said, "Would you resign if we win?"

They said, "We'd be glad to do that."

First before we rested the case, our people tendered their resignations conditioned upon the removal of the other trustees and the jury just ate that up, they couldn't resist that and it was an overwhelming victory. It got an awful lot of publicity but that was typical.

We had any number of difficult cases, like nuisances in a neighborhood, or something like that. We had lots of things that involved a lot of people and then we had lots of tiny little things. We had a certain amount of influence, I know one of our members, this probably happened more than once, we would have both candidates for an important office trying very hard to get our endorsement and

they would like to have one or two of us on their campaign committee always and I don't mean the big campaign committee, I mean the small committee at the top, so we were fairly well thought of. Anybody that had a suit that involved us, had something to contend with, they knew that and it wasn't a slam dunk. I don't think we lost many cases. I can't really remember losing cases, I'm sure we did but we worked very hard. In spite of the fact that none of us had a lot of money, we were much more interested in the question of justice than we were in making a whole lot of money. We were not a greedy, avaricious bunch of young lawyers that wanted to charge very large fees.

JACKSON: Would you characterize yourselves as just idealistic young lawyers trying to practice the best law that you could?

HILL: That would certainly be true of Bob and me. Billy Lee was a very interesting person. Billy Lee was a Cherokee Indian and a little bit later on, Mervin Key got in our firm and he was a Choctaw Indian so we had an interesting make up. Billy Lee had been an unsurpassed boxer in the Marines. He would work part time as a manager of a hotel, part time sometimes taxi cab driver before we, this was the kind of thing, yet he had the county affairs desk in the attorney general's office. Mulvihill became or was a city tax attorney.

JACKSON: And he also became a lobbyist, didn't he?

HILL: Everybody was, more or less, yes. I used to have lots of meetings with the Harris County delegations for various things. My work, though, was always for the, all the various welfare agencies, the private welfare agencies as well as the public.

TAPE 5, SIDE A

JACKSON: So, when you were in this law firm, there were five or six of you, this is during the fifties, you were kind of finding your way into your own spheres of interests. Jack started to gravitate toward the city and tax law and that kind of thing and in addition to your law practice you said you started to work with Harris County and welfare agencies?

HILL: I can't remember when Ms. Davis Faulkner first approached me, asked me if I would consider being on the board of, I don't know whether it was Neighborhood Day Care Association or whether it was the United Fund Children's Agency Budget Committee or what it was. It was before I was asked to create the Harris County Child Welfare Unit. I think she was the first person that sought me out. I had been asked to be on some boards of church organizations. I can't get the chronological sequence of those things.

JACKSON: But at that time, you all were working within the community in your different areas of interests.

HILL: Yes, the two things that maybe brought Bob and me together in that way, we didn't know this about each other, Bob

JACKSON: We're speaking of Bob Lowry.

HILL: Right. He had created children's programs and worked with Magnolia Park, I don't know whether it was a youth program or what it was in Magnolia Park, but he had a lot to do with organizing children's services out there in Magnolia Park.

JACKSON: Would you describe Magnolia Park?

HILL: I'm not very good at that. I didn't involve myself with that. It's sort of ship channel type environment.

JACKSON: Primarily, Mexican-American, wasn't it?

HILL: That's true.

JACKSON: It could be characterized as a low income, Mexican-American, down on the East side of Houston. Not some place Bob Lowry was living.

HILL: Yes, absolutely. Now Bob was always involved in community; you know, he got to be mayor of his little town, Hillshire Village, and I was the attorney for Hillshire Village, way back there.

Our family was always interested, really in juvenile problems. I'm trying to think of just how that happened. Why my mother got to be so close to Felix Tijerina, who started the original Head Start Program here in Houston. I remember Pablo Estrada. When Pablo Estrada was maybe twelve years old or something like that, he was an extremely talented guitar player, just as a young kid. There was, I think they called it the Pachecho Murder. There was a person that was murdered and his body was thrown across the railroad track or something like that. They arrested Pablo and accused him of all this. He wasn't big enough or strong enough to have done any of the things he was charged with. We had an abysmally poor system at that time, in spite of the fact that it received a lot of accolades from people who knew absolutely nothing about it, but it was cruel and it was very biased, racially slanted in various ways and we became aware of that. Mother hired young Bert Tunks, who is an old retired and probably dead person today, but the old firm, if I talk about the old firm of Bracewell and Tunks, people

are thinking about a Bracewell who died during the last ten years but I'm talking about that man's father.

JACKSON: So, this time period was in the fifties or the forties, when this murder occurred?

HILL: Forties, probably.

JACKSON: So, it was when you were young, too.

HILL: Yes, forties. But Bert Tunks was a brand new young lawyer with old man Mr. Bracewell. That firm then, people today wouldn't have known, but they handled criminal as well as civil cases and Mr. Bracewell asked and young Bert Tunks agreed to represent Pablo Estrada. This gave Pablo a fair start and saved him from the handicap of a conviction. He became a dental craftsman that the dentist gets to make dentures. I know Pablo today, I've seen him many, many times. It's an old enduring friendship. He sort of opened our eyes to lots of things, part of which was really in spite of the, I noticed we have an article here about how wonderful the Juvenile Probation Department was, we thought it was terrible.

JACKSON: Good. I'd like you to address that.

HILL: Well, but we're seeing it through very slanted eyes looking at it from a different direction. We heard about solitary confinement for youngsters and certain kind of, not water bedding but . . .

JACKSON: You mean water boarding.

HILL: Yes, water boarding, but the use of water trying to figure whether there was fire hose or what they did but they did something with water that was very unpleasant. There was no child advocacy of any sort and it's just light years ahead today with

all of its faults and failures that it has right now, it's way ahead of what it was then. It was a *domaine privé*.

JACKSON: What does that mean?

HILL: Private domain. You don't, "I'm running this thing. What are you asking questions about?" It was sort of a . . .

JACKSON: A closed system.

HILL: Yes. Now, the Mills family was a wonderful family, with a wonderful tradition and wonderful background and J.W. Mills had some wonderful things. He was living in the culture to which he was raised and trained and I don't mean to cast any kind of a stone at him. We would have said it was wonderful a hundred years earlier when the traditions of that era prevailed and it was horrible then, but by our standards today. This was just a time for change as I see it. We addressed that and I believe that my friends and I, with Bob Lowry in the leadership, totally, totally changed the juvenile structure in Harris County.

JACKSON: Tell us how you did that.

HILL: Well, we got, I'm looking at his face right now, a good friend of ours, the chief probation officer, Larry Fultz, he worked with Dan Schoenbacher and that old man, I used to know all these, Steve Baker. It just became a different culture, a different thing, it no longer dealt with dependency and neglect. That was when we created the Harris County Child Welfare Unit.

JACKSON: And that was in 1967.

HILL: Yes, that took over Dependency and Neglect, out from under the Juvenile Probation. Mental Health and Mental Retardation became an adjunct of and

Child Guidance, all of these organizations were made to work with each other in a very meaningful way that never previously existed. I was very much involved, in that for one thing I was chairman of the children's agency section of the United Fund, which we could look at the budgets of all of these different entities and see that the funds were allocated more efficiently to perform this specific function of each of these agencies. They were not all clamoring for the same dollar for the same purpose. That was a great efficiency, I thought. But everything was, I'm trying to think of the fellow that got to be Chief of Police, following Larry Fultz.

JACKSON: You mean Chief Probation Officer?

HILL: No, Chief of Police. We worked with the Sheriff's Department, the Chief, all of these organizations were brought into contract with each other and they all knew each other and they all worked together.

JACKSON: And this was new.

HILL: New. Absolutely new. It was nobody's private domain, the Juvenile Probation Department, it had to work through the police and through the, I'm trying to think of that guy's name, I can see him right now, tall, he ran the academy, Policy Academy before he got to be chief of police, just like Larry Fultz did. It will come to me. All of this grew. It involved communications; it involved stiff negotiations with the State and with the Federal Government. The State of Texas, for instance, would be receiving funds from the Federal Government based on a match. The match would include services rendered in Harris County. Harris County would make available to the State its contribution, which the State, again, would use to get Federal funds. We suddenly discovered that we were bringing

millions and millions of dollars to the State, as a result of what the commissioners were doing here in Harris County. We said, "We don't like the way you are brokering that, nothing's coming back. We need to negotiate how this is going to flow." Good thing we had V.V. Ramsey and Squatty Lyons and, oh, I used to know all those guys.

JACKSON: I've got V.V. Ramsey, Squatty Lyons, let's see, Philip Sayers, is he still on the commission at that time?

HILL: I can't remember, there's another name that I'm missing. I apologize, you know I'm not

JACKSON: Bob Casey, was this after Bob Casey?

HILL: I'm trying to remember. Of course, we knew Bob Casey real well. Well, Bill Elliot was a classmate. He was one of the ones of all of the people in my class.

JACKSON: Was he? He was County Judge in the sixties.

HILL: Yes, we all worked together. We had friends in the courts, in the county, and in the state, the state legislature.

JACKSON: We're talking approximately ten to twelve years after the class graduated, your class at the University of Houston Law School, matured and they worked and started to get into positions and that's when the influence was helpful.

HILL: I can stand all kinds of corrections on the calendar because I'm giving you pieces of stuff that

JACKSON: I understand that. This is, you know, fifty years ago.

HILL: But somebody may say Raymond Hill doesn't know what he talking about, he wasn't even born then or he died before then or whatever but I'm doing the best I can.

JACKSON: You are doing a great job. This is, I think one of the things that you are bringing up that is very important, is the influence of that class, those first two classes at the University of Houston Law School and how important they were for the city and the state, actually, a tremendous influence.

HILL: Unfortunately, I'm not as good in remembering who our representatives and senators were. I wish I could because we, I do know this, that I was always, not because of anything I did, but because of how this all fit, I was always given great respect by the Harris County delegation. If I went to a meeting in the Harris County delegation and tried to present something that had to do with community work, juvenile matters and what not, they were very attentive and we had a good delegation, always.

JACKSON: But we do know that in 1962, Bob Lowry ran for judge against J.W. Mills. Tell me why.

HILL: There was an opening, I'm going to give it to you exactly correctly and we can talk about what's behind that. I believe there was an opening in the County Court at Law and Bob wanted to run for that at first. I said, "Bob, you can get out of this race a lot more than just winning or losing it. If you run for the county court at law and lose, next year nobody will know who you were, you won't be an inch ahead of where you are now. But, if you run for something at the district court level, like this new juvenile court, and you run against the guy Judge Elkins says

is the most powerful man, politically, in the county and you make a real showing there, you're on everybody's list. You are somebody at the point and you stand a good chance of losing whichever race you get in and you want the loss to be a feather in your cap, I think. What do you think of this?" He says, "I really think you are right." There was no discussion on that. He said, "Now that you have put it to me that way, I really think you are right." And so he signed up for that race.

I want you to know that I'm not just saying this, but I talked to Judge Elkins, I talked to Johnny Crooker, Sr. and I talked to Oveta Hobby, I talked to everybody and I talked to lots of the judges. But Judge Elkins and Johnny Crooker, Sr. and Oveta Hobby, all three said that the Mills combination, which was J.W. Mills, plus his brother who was Superintendent of Public Schools.

JACKSON: Oh, I didn't realize that.

HILL: That was a strong, strong, strong, they had both intentionally and deliberately and I don't mean wrongfully, but wisely, they had both built really strong political machines.

They said, "You're just taking on something that you can't win."

I said, "Well, we don't know whether we can win it or not." But they were very kind to me and I didn't have any difficulty in having access without previous telephone calls or anything. I would go to the office, say I'd want to speak and I'd be shown in and given as much time as I wanted. I was treated extremely generously. I did make those calls. It hardened our view that this is

what we ought to do. It did not discourage us at all and so that's how we sort of began this thing, laying the ground work and that was the ground work.

JACKSON: So, you became his campaign manager. Had you done any political campaigning in the County prior to that?

HILL: Check when Judge Culver ran for the Supreme Court, I don't remember, I was top man in his thing in Houston and then Judge Sears McGee, I think he ran to be a county court judge before I even got out of law school but I was involved in that.

JACKSON: So, you had a background in politics. Not a huge one, but you've done it before.

HILL: I'd done it out of pure ignorance and I think people wanted my name because it inferred my father's name, not because of my name really. I mean that's the easiest way I can look at it. I did have energy.

JACKSON: Tell me about your strategy.

HILL: And, incidentally, they made me chairman of the Alumni Association of the Law School shortly after I got out, so I apparently had some, I don't know what I had, maybe it was because I had some money, they thought.

JACKSON: Yes. Anyway, you decided, both of you that Robert Lowry was going to run for district judge.

HILL: He was Robert L. Lowry and I said no, you are Robert Lee Lowry.

JACKSON: Oh, very good.

HILL: That's where that came from. He is Robert Lee, but he has never used that middle name at all until his campaign.

JACKSON: Oh, that's very interesting. So, Robert Lee was running for district judge in Houston and, other than making him use his full name, what other things did you do.

HILL: Well, there are a whole lot of kind of interesting things. One thing I discovered, which apparently people have forgotten about, I discovered how to use the media. I did know the editors and I knew everybody pretty well in those days and if you could have Bob do something that was of interest to the media, why you could get free publicity. I would write up stuff that Bob Lowry did such and such today and he signed this and he, you know, I would have him doing all kinds of stuff, picture doing something at Magnolia Park or you know. That was one thing but we invented something that became a campaign tactic that was used a lot.

All of these kids were really devoted to Bob and Bob had, of course, his class. We developed these car parades where you would have twenty cars with signs all over them about Bob Lowry. We would go into a shopping center, we got to where we knew when in certain cultures and certain parts of the city it's all on Saturday and others it's on Wednesday and when everybody's there. We'd find out when their busy days were and what time of day and we'd come into that shopping center, park our cars where they were very visible and we would have this speaker thing that I had and we'd start talking about Robert Lee Lowry -- he's going to do this for the children of Harris County, you know. We would make a big display of that. Then we'd travel through various parts of town, this parade of automobiles with signs all over them. We had balloons, and then we had cards that you could put everywhere, in men's bathrooms, you know, we would spread

his stuff every place you could possibly think of. When we would get out in the parking lots, we would have all of these young and old people going around, as attractive people as we could find, just handing to every customer, handing them these things. We didn't ask them if they were interested. Then, there would be the speaker, somebody talking about Bob Lowry on the speaker. We did a lot of that. We were indefatigable with that. I don't think anybody's done it to the same degree before or since. Bob, a very reticent, very retiring, very understated person, being introduced to the public with nothing really except his Magnolia Park and what he has done for the children in the past.

JACKSON: Jack Mulvihill and I don't know if this is true, but this is what he told me.

He said you had a Mercedes convertible at the time?

HILL: I did.

JACKSON: And you all would just drive around and when ever you found a lot of people, you would get up and speak? Is that true?

HILL: We usually had a train of automobiles behind us but that's pretty true. I lived right next to the chairman of the Democratic Party over on Sunset Boulevard and he was all for Bob. At various polling places we'd have these cars with the signs at the proper distance from the polling place, somebody talking, and then we would go to the shipyard refineries, the gates, when the workers would come off their shifts and we'd hand them cards and we got cards and got on cards. A lot of unions and a lot of them, like the Council of Organizations, they would have a little card printed to say who they supported.

JACKSON: Tell me about the Council of Organizations.

HILL: The Council of Organizations was very strong. If we were in Mexico, we would say it was all the *caciques*. If we were in Chicago or New Orleans we'd say the ward heelers, you know, all of those guys would have a little card, that would be about this big and a list of all the candidates you ought to vote for.

JACKSON: But the Council of Organization was made up of who? Or whom?

HILL: The Black Chamber of Commerce, that's the first one I think of, then there was, I bet Bill Lawson was probably on that, probably Reverend Hill, no relation to me, a black minister, Hobart Taylor, I can't really remember the names of all those blacks, Al Henry probably.

JACKSON: So, basically, it was an organization that represented the black community in Houston?

HILL: I don't know whether they actually had bylaws, but they did function. They functioned as the Council of Organizations and if you got on their ticket, that was supposed to be good. However, if you got on their ticket, they would take that same ticket and they would use it in the conservative end of town as a thing against you.

JACKSON: Right.

HILL: So, it cut two ways, you had to be careful about all that. There was a guy named Crossland that really represented organized labor. This is weird, I was told by him and some other people that I ought to run for mayor. This is Union talk and I was well known for being a conservative republican.

JACKSON: When there weren't many republicans in Texas.

HILL: Yes. And yet, I was really honored that I was able to get the trust of these people somehow. Maybe I'm bragging about me, but I believe that's true. I know that when the CWPA, of which I was chairman

JACKSON: What was the CWPA?

HILL: Community of Welfare Planning Association, which was largely created by the United Fund. I had all these people on these boards and things and I could get along with them.

TAPE 5, SIDE B

HILL: That might have been considered, in a way, whatever usefulness I might have been was that I did have a cross ideology base that was to some degree respected, nobody called me a communist or a fascist.

JACKSON: Right. Tell me about the Democratic meeting across the bayou.

HILL: I haven't told you about that on the tape?

JACKSON: Not on the tape. Tell us about that.

HILL: Like the Council of Organizations, there was a loose sort of thing that was called All Precincts East of Buffalo Bayou and they used to meet and try to determine policy. They were very respected in their ideological base. They were having a meeting and Bob needed to be there. We went. I had a hand powered megaphone, someone might call it a bullhorn, it was about fifteen or sixteen inches, maybe not that big, by about eight or ten inches, maybe I'm making it too big, by four or five inches thick. It stood on its edge and a handle at the top like a briefcase, maybe,

and a cord came out of that to a handheld megaphone. You could turn the switch and speak into one end of that horn and your voice would be magnified many times and come out the other. So I brought that to this meeting and I had bumper stickers, they would just fit nicely on each side of it saying, "Vote for Robert Lee Lowry, Judge Juvenile Court" or I don't remember just exactly what they said, but very bright, probably black and orange or red or something vibrant, bright colors. So you stood it up like a briefcase would stand, it would shout out this message in two directions, you could see it from almost anywhere.

I offered it to, I'm not certain whether I offered it to Mrs. Randolph, Frankie Randolph, or whether I offered it to Frank Mann, or who I offered it to somebody kind of in charge of this meeting and said, "Y'all might find some value in this microphone if you want to use it. You're certainly welcome to use it."

"Well, we'll do that, thank you very much, Mr. Hill," they said.

So they set it on the speakers table, right in the middle of everything, elevated, and it more or less said to the whole assembly, vote for Robert Lee Lowry. I was real pleased about that, thought I'd knocked a home run until I found that it came with some problems. Different speakers that were running for different offices would get up and they'd get big applause from the crowd because they were all likeminded people. I think Frank Mann is the person I'm going to attribute this to, I could be wrong about this, but he stood up and made a very strong, very excellent speech appealing for the vote of this crowd, and then he said, "How many of you voted for Franklin Roosevelt when ran the first time?"

Some of them would stand, all of them would stand, whether they did or not, probably, except me. And I was very conspicuous on the front row and remained in my seat and they asked a second time, and a third time and a fourth time. I sat down through all of it and I was getting, I'm sure, purple in the face, I don't know what I looked like.

And then, the most wonderful thing, one of the really great things in my life happened. Mrs. Frankie Randolph, no one there had more prestige than she did. She was a woman who carried into that meeting tremendous prestige and left the meeting with tremendous prestige and had had it for years as a leader of the liberal, loyal wing of the Democratic Party even in the Shivers and Connally years and what not, she was staunchly part of the old Democratic Party. She got up and said, "You may have noticed this young man that remained seated during Frank Mann's invitations that we stand and acknowledge our loyalty to the party and Franklin Roosevelt. He remained seated. Because he's a man of integrity and I just want to tell you he's a friend of mine and a very fine man but I particularly want to tell you in the context of this meeting. The one he is representing, Robert Lee Lowry for the Juvenile Court, is an excellent, excellent candidate who has my support. And, I don't want you to hold Raymond Hill's admission of his honesty and his integrity declaring himself as a person who probably voted Republican in those occasions when he could vote." That saved Bob Lowry and gave him a fist full of votes. It pulled me out of the ditch and I'll never forget it. If she ran for public office today if she were alive, I'd have a hard time voting against her.

JACKSON: So, you had this great campaign. It sounds like it was very spirited, but he lost. And let me read in the numbers. According to the Chronicle, Mills got 96,707 votes and Lowry received 30,958. But, people notice Robert Lee Lowry.

HILL: Actually hearing those numbers which you showed me a few days ago actually shocked me because my recollection was a very close election. Because I'm interpreting it and seeing it as I saw it and felt it. But obviously, we got trounced. It is absolutely true that maybe more than almost any of the other candidates in all of the elections, Bob Lowry came from being a person that nobody knew anything about to being a person that all of the governors after that knew a lot about. For instance, Price Daniel said he was ready to appoint him when he was governor, and John Connally did appoint him when he became governor. Bob Lowry was a person from that point on who was well, well, well known in the community and respected.

JACKSON: So, you accomplished your original goal.

HILL: Yes, we did. I don't think I'm rationalizing. I believe it's clear that we accomplished our goal.

JACKSON: He was appointed to the Juvenile Court which actually was a new court.

HILL: The first Juvenile Court in the State of Texas.

JACKSON: He was appointed in 1965 by Governor John Connally. Then in the 1970s it became the 313th Juvenile District Court. Tell me about Bob Lowry as a judge.

HILL: I don't think he's been surpassed by my standards. Other people would have different standards. But we used to have a phrase that we used, I can remember, I particularly remember when the bar was deciding what they were going to do

about recommending a judge to fill a vacancy and the people that I respected wanted Judge Phil Peden. The term was always used of “judicial temperament.” Everybody sought a judge that had judicial temperament. That reaches out and embraces all things. It does not mean it values all things the same, but it’s a much broader standard than the standard of liberal or the standard of conservative – it’s the standard of justice. It’s a larger, grander and better standard. I’m sickened by the careless use of those words. They don’t even have much connection with their history. Particularly the word “liberal” has absolutely nothing to do with. The people who created the Magna Carta were liberals. The Bill of Rights proponents were liberals. In the use of the word as the word has been understood. Conservative used to mean we don’t want to try anything new. It’s conservative to stick by things that have always been. To some extent that’s me. I’ve always been thought of as being a conservative but it doesn’t mean that the earth is frozen in place. I’m uncomfortable with the use of those words.

JACKSON: But, Bob Lowry had judicial temperament.

HILL: And he came out of what was known as the Conservative Wing of the Democratic Party, there was no Republican Party. He would have been a Republican, of the kind of Republican we had back in those days, if he’d had the chance to be but he never had that opportunity.

JACKSON: What kind of changes were evident when he became judge? Did he make changes?

HILL: Of course the creation of the court itself was a change.

JACKSON: Why was that different than for example when J. W. Mills was hearing Juvenile cases in the Courts of Domestic Relations?

HILL: Well there weren't any courts of domestic relations. They were brand new on the scene.

JACKSON: They were in the 1950s.

HILL: But they hadn't really even developed a culture of their own. I'm not going to mention a name but I can remember the earliest that I can think of those courts and being told by leaders in the Democratic Party that we had to give this job to a certain lawyer because he was broke and needed the job. It was not thought of as a job that required the high skills and intelligence of a "real" judge.

JACKSON: Criminal or civil.

HILL: Yes. This all developed over time. There is a culture now that is the culture of domestic relations courts. The juvenile court has changed its culture to some extent but it has its own culture. It changed fairly recently. It's more of a law driven and less of a compassion driven court. Because of compassion is thought of being soft on criminals. There's a lot of argument both ways on that subject.

JACKSON: When Robert Lowry was a juvenile judge and he was a judge for almost 30 years, his biggest case, the case they talk about in his obituary was the Adams case where he allowed a black couple to adopt an Hispanic child that they had cared for five years as foster parents. Do you remember that case at all? It was highly controversial, the first time in the United States.

HILL: I really do not. I do remember it, but I was heavily, heavily involved in some litigation that was keeping me awake nights and weekends and it came at a time

when I was not focusing on what was going on in the Juvenile Court. I would have to know the facts and circumstances of the case, but it certainly seems logical and to me proper that circumstances can exist in which that order occurred and circumstances in which the cultural shock would be too great and it shouldn't occur.

I think a judge with judicial temperament would evaluate all of those factors. The crowning issue is always what is in the best interest of the child. That particular child, nobody else's child, for that particular child what is the best thing for him under these circumstances. I have actually known back through the years where there were relationships that developed between child and nurse that would have been extremely traumatic if they were abruptly terminated for the child. Every circumstance on this earth has to be thought of in the peculiar circumstances of standing in the shoes of the parties involved. For me to really evaluate that case, I would want to read it until I felt I could stand in the shoes of that child and the shoes of its foster parents and then in the abstract shoes of what if? What are the alternative circumstances? Can they be crafted in such a way as to give the child all of the benefits that this child would have in the continuation of the present circumstances.

JACKSON: If we were to go back to the early 1960s, late 1950s when you were doing the campaign, how would you characterize politics in Harris County?

HILL: I have never seen them as closed, even then or now, I think they are more closed now than they were then. I have believed that a good cause, adequately documented and presented, would stand an opportunity to prevail, then, as well as

now. The weight of existing opinion was sufficiently I guess pro-Mills so it didn't just open up an opportunity for Bob to win his race with the electorate at that time. I don't think that was because of closed-mindedness or some defect in the political system existing at that time. It was just that he was running against a good man and a good family with a huge background and backlog of public acceptance and knowledge.

JACKSON: Mills died I assume shortly after that race because another person was appointed into his seat the following year in 1963.

HILL: I don't even remember that. I know that I was very close to his nephew, Bubba Worsham, and many members of his family and that I never had a hatred or dislike. . .

JACKSON: So, politics was friendly? I mean, you weren't destroying your career if you ran?

HILL: I never thought anybody could destroy me even when they came close to doing it one time. I guess it depends on a mindset, a personal mindset, not what's reality in the world. I don't think the reality was that I was destroyed, that I would ever recognize it.

JACKSON: I think what we've done today is what we set out to do. Thank you very much.

[Interview continues]

JACKSON: This is a continuation of the interview. It's being held on November 19, 2009, at the Harris County Archives in Houston, Texas. In our last session we ended with a discussion of Robert Lowry's failed campaign for District Court

Judge and your comments on his career as a judge. Now I would like to discuss your community work with organizations benefiting children and how you got involved with the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department.

First of all, tell me about Mrs. Faulkner. Who was she?

HILL: It is so interesting, I was just thinking about her when you decided that is where you would start. Mrs. Davis Faulkner, her children include Sarah Jackson, she's married to Jim Jackson, that's not the Sarah Jackson I'm currently speaking to. She was the dearest, closest friend of my wife. They were inseparable as little children and in school and so on together. I knew Davis Faulkner because he was in the mortgage banking business and as a lawyer I was very much involved in that and then I got interested in the Savings and Loan industry.

Mrs. Faulkner in a very wonderful and sort of maternal way had an eye on me and she thought that I might have some abilities of some kind and she wanted to get me involved in community matters. I was to some extent just by interest and my family was much involved in community entities and that was just sort of a way of life. I can't remember what the first thing she suggested I do was. I think I may have been asked to participate as a member in a panel of the budget committee of the United Fund and I drifted toward the children's agencies.

I think that I have a good eye for seeing the big picture. I would see how these agencies would be able to assist each other and how effective they could be if Agency A used its skills in a certain area to assist Agency B or to do something for Agency B which it had to do but didn't do as well as Agency A did. I found that by a little encouragement at the budgeting level you could make the dollars

do a whole lot more work when there was coordination among the agencies. And in the children's agencies which I was very interested in, I found out that to be especially so.

Well, Bob Lowry had a heart for underprivileged children. He built a playground out in Magnolia Park area and was very much involved in children's activities there and he just always evidenced to me a real desire to contribute to the rounding out and healing and uplifting and advancing the interests of disadvantaged children as well as children that were just from any circumstance. I thought that was very much on his mind. Well, he decided at one point since we were in a class at the University of Houston Law School that produced a huge, disproportionate number of judges, he was thinking that he would like to be a judge. And I told him, your real interest and skill and insight seems to be in the area of child development. We need a Juvenile Judge. There was all kinds of talk around the civic agencies about the need for better services for dependent and neglected children and disadvantaged children.

JACKSON: Let's halt there a minute and back up a little bit because we've discussed Bob Lowry's campaign and how he got going for Juvenile Judge. I think would I would like you to talk about though, at this point he would just be running for District Judge because there wasn't a Juvenile Judge yet. That was started later. But my question is, why did people feel that they needed better court services for juveniles?

HILL: I'm going to say that there's one little thing that's a little different about the District Judgeship he was running for. Judge Mills was judge of the court that

took juvenile jurisdiction. It was the jurisdiction of a District Court and it was focused in that area. That wasn't just an ordinary District Judgeship.

JACKSON: But wasn't there a feeling that there needed to be an official juvenile. . .

HILL: Yes, there was indeed.

JACKSON: Tell me why.

HILL: I'm trying to remember what the state of the art was throughout the country. But it requires a different background of specialized training and skills. You ought to have special resources available to it. It ought to have some underpinnings that the average district court does not have. But, getting back to Mrs. Faulkner, she was talking about how we needed to have a Child Welfare Unit. There were none, anywhere but the term or like terms were being bandied about.

JACKSON: When was this?

HILL: You're going to have to help me, 1960s.

JACKSON: The Child Welfare Unit started in 1966 but this was previous to that, but they talked about for a long time before it came to be.

HILL: Right, and they were talking to me because I had shown some interest in this coordination among the agencies. I'm sure that it was her, but it probably was Mrs. Faulkner. I believe the Community Welfare Planning Association patted me on the shoulder and said, "You are the person who ought to do this."

JACKSON: May I ask another question here? First of all, in this day and age we see these organizations that you helped to get going and functioning as viable non-profits and they've been around for a long time. But back in the 1950s, if we think post World War II, there weren't that many private agencies, were there?

HILL: Well, the DePelchin Faith Home. . .

JACKSON: But, they were pretty much fragmented. Everybody was doing their own thing.

HILL: Yes. It was maybe the biggest thing we had and then Catholic Charities was poking around in that area to some extent and Juvenile Probation which is Juvenile Justice in a sense, it took on the unnatural role of dealing with dependency and neglect. Dependency and neglect, although it does involve misbehavior or questionable conduct on the part of parents and children, nevertheless it can be an entirely civil thing in every sense of the word. It needed to be a body that wasn't cloaked in enforcement to the same degree and sense that the Probation Department was.

TAPE 6, SIDE A

JACKSON: Okay, so you were saying that it was more punitive than corrective.

HILL: Some of the most compassionate activities, oddly enough, could be coming from a special section of the Police Department or a special section of the Sheriff's Department. There wasn't any coordination. I thought that Houston was always a city of great goodwill and desired to coordinate, but the mechanisms were not in place at that time. This was period of time of ferment and movement towards coordination and that really appealed to me. I liked that.

Now there is a lot of territoriality in agency directors. The nicest and best all necessarily think a little bit about their territory. You have to make something

appear in its best clothes to be saleable. Catholic Charities or DePelchin Faith Home, we're not putting you out of business, we're wanting to provide more tools within which you can operate, more opportunities. That's the way it had to be approached as I saw it. We had some good people. Harris County is an astonishing place in terms of the way the philanthropic urge is there. Houston is a bright light to the world, I think. It certainly was at that time.

JACKSON: You started off with United Fund. I'm assuming that was a precursor to the United Way?

HILL: Yes. I can't even tell you for certain what it called itself. From time to time it would try to present the best face it could to the public for its fundraising activities. I remember at one time, there was a CWPA – Community Welfare Planning Association – well a lot of people just really didn't like that because that meant regimentation and control. They wanted to be more freelance than to have some planners get in there. We can see the harm that planners have done today as well as the good. There is a question mark about planners. I mention that only because how many times it changed its name to put a different face on like in the church area where you've got the Council of Churches. Some people thought that was the most awful thing on earth and other people thought it was wonderful. But anything that is going to reach into your field of operation and try to change stuff is always viewed with apprehension. I don't think we were thought of, the people I had around me, being meddlers or trying to take over someone's job.

JACKSON: These are all people who if you look at – I'm looking at the first board of the County Child Welfare Unit and we'll get into that more in a minute, but it was

Mrs. Walter E. Vater, Mrs. John W. Meacom, Jr., Dr. Katherine Roett, Mr. W. Scott Red, Mr. Henry V. Broady, and Mr. Frank G. Abraham and yourself. These were the first members of the board. My assumption is that all of them were interested in Child Welfare activities with one agency or unit or another. Is that true?

HILL: Let me look at it and comment. I had a very warm relationship with most of the people on that board. Doris Vater was a person that was just brimming over with enthusiasm and desire to do the right thing for the community as she saw it. Where there was pain and suffering she was wanting to do something about it -- very effective. Katherine Roett was a black lady doctor -- very bright and very dedicated -- a wonderful, wonderful person. Frank Abraham was a very good lawyer. Frank has always in his career taken people who had problems and tried to solve them. He was a problem solver and a sensitive person and a good person. Scott Red was a lawyer and he was more involved with dollars and cents and probably put on the board with that thought in mind and that's a very important contribution. Henry Brody was ultimately elected to be the chairman of the board, maybe I was still on the board, I don't remember. Henry had a background of civic involvement. I never got to know him well. I don't know what all that involvement was, but I know that it existed. He probably also had skills to deal with dollars. Mrs. Meacom was a very nice lady, wanting to involve herself in welfare matters. She was certainly a pleasant and good person to have on the board. I did not know her well. I tended to know a good deal about her family

and background. I don't have any idea how they were pulled together by the Commissioners Court.

JACKSON: So, this group was determined by Commissioners Court.

HILL: Yes.

JACKSON: People were nominated and then they went ahead and put them on the board as they do any other county board.

HILL: If I had been picking a board and had known these people, there is no question on my mind that I would have thought I can't make it without Doris Vater. Seemed to me there was, I don't when she got on the board or whether she did or not, there was Jeff Montgomery's wife. I forget her first name, she was another Doris Vater and much involved in these agencies. Luellia Harrison would have been a good person to be on this board.

JACKSON: We are going to return to this in a minute. You got involved in the 1950s, Mrs. Faulkner started you with the United Fund, was this soon after you were married?

HILL: I married in 1951, started practicing law in 1951. I wouldn't be at all surprised if it wasn't back there.

JACKSON: But just roughly it was probably the early to mid-1950s you really started to get involved in these children's activities.

HILL: Certainly in the 1960s, in the early 1960s.

JACKSON: I have seen about three or four major activities that you were involved with. It seems like they happened just about at all the same time. One of them was TRIAD.

HILL: TRIAD was a culmination. It was a result of the earlier activities. It wasn't in the beginning. The groundwork for TRIAD, the first thing was getting these doctors involved and trying to put together a place where we could evaluate [children]. It was my position that several of the agencies were acting together to provide substitute care for children. The parents are in the background if at all but, we've got the actual custody and responsibility for them. What are we doing with the responsibility for numerous, numerous children and not knowing anything about them? We don't know what their immunization background is, we don't know what their metabolism is, how their internal organs are functioning and whether or not they are being infested with parasites which many would be, all of this kind of stuff. We knew nothing about all of that. Also, there is a high incidence of deficits like perceptive learning disorders. Then there is hearing and vision and all kinds of problems that these children have because they are just like other children only with a higher incidence of deficiencies of some kind. So I thought, if we were going to act *in loco parentis*, we ought to have at least the knowledge of a parent and the only way we were going to get that is by an examination and a study of some kind.

I approached Dr. Vallbona and Dr. Harry Lipscomb and a third doctor, I think Katherine Roett worked on this, "Get your heads together and tell us what to do." We want to have psychological testing and evaluation. You know delinquency's a big problem but delinquencies are frequently produced by an underlying problem we don't know anything about. If you get a bad result over and over and over again and comparisons are all your playmates, you're deficient

somewhere, you're apt to act out and become delinquent and build up an anger or self image that's crippling. So we got that thing started.

Well, then Mental Health and Mental Retardation, we need to have a relationship with them. We need to have a relationship with Juvenile Probation. We need to have relationship with the Day Care Association and all of these neighborhood centers that have various activities going on. So, TRIAD began to grow. What's this thing need to look like? Who are the principle players you gotta have to make it work? Then the division of TRIAD emerged. Then there was the question of getting the center and building the facility there. Henry Brody was the chairman when a lot of that activity occurred.

JACKSON: I remember reading in some of the minutes that I sent you about the medical facility and what I found to be interesting about it, you were breaking ground. You had paraprofessionals doing the examination of the children. It was an assembly line basis basically,

HILL: That was Harry Lipscomb's input

JACKSON: and that it really created quite a stir when it happened and started to be copied all over the country. But, it started here in Houston, in Harris County.

HILL: I'm told today by George (George Ford) we've got the best operation in the country today as well.

JACKSON: When it comes to the medical examination of children.

HILL: Fact is, lots of places don't have it at all.

JACKSON: From our point of view in this day and age it's surprising.

HILL: Yes, that's true.

JACKSON: But back then, it wasn't unless there was a problem, you didn't routinely check children who were within these agencies.

HILL: When all this began, Juvenile Probation, nobody knew what they were dealing with. Just like our prison system today. Why would we do this for children and not for adults? We probably have a lot of people in our prisons today that have such besetting illnesses and dysfunctions and handicaps that we probably don't know at all what's causing it. Now I don't want to sound like one of these highly criticized liberals that says its never the guy's fault, it's the fault of somebody else, it's the sickness he has or what not. I don't fit in that camp at all. But if you do have something that causes a predisposition for problems you ought to get it removed if you can.

JACKSON: Or deal with it in one way or another. So, TRIAD helped to make decisions and then they filtered down?

HILL: You have a lot of minutes here. You can see where certain things were agreed upon. It's the same thing that had a kind of a birth in playing around in the budget committees at the United Fund in a sense. It's trying to allocate the best resources to the solution of the problem for which they are best fitted. It's a formalized relationship between three agencies for doing that. With a lot of forethought at the meetings and discussions and self-interest and the child's interest leading the way, knowing that we can do this better if we do it together. A good example of this kind of thing that was sort of a precursor, you take for instance when the Big Brothers and the YMCA get together. They used the facilities of one and the capabilities of other. They produce a wonderful result.

This just happens over and over and over again once you have some entity or board who could overlook a group of activities and see how they could be streamlined.

JACKSON: The Child Care Council that was very significant that you helped to found, did that come before or after the Child Welfare Unit?

HILL: It came after the Child Welfare Unit.

JACKSON: Let's talk about the Child Welfare Unit a little bit more then. Up until the Child Welfare Unit was created, Harris County Juvenile Probation took care of the neglected and dependent children along with the delinquent children. They also had a few other jobs they were getting rid of in the late 1950s – tuberculosis and a few other things. So, this was established by Commissioners Court in 1966. You were given five years to take over the services for dependent and neglected children.

HILL: I think that was just a comfortable, conjectural term. I don't think we ever thought it would take five months or five years or five days. We did not want, and this is a real important thing with me today with lots of operations, I just hate to make promises that I can't fulfill and from time to time clients will push me into a situation, "Well, can you do it by this time or that time." Frequently we're talking about what third parties are going to do. Well I can't make you a promise about something I'm going to do that's partially dependent upon what some third party is going to do because I don't know if the third party is ever going to perform. So this was a very comfortable contract to operate under. We wanted to

do it as fast as it could be done because it was saving everybody money and it was saving lives and benefiting children. And we did it very rapidly.

JACKSON: You were taking over foster care, correct?

HILL: AFDC Foster Care, we were the first big operation of that sort I think in the country, if I'm not mistaken in terms of welfare units. I believe we pioneered AFDC foster care.

JACKSON: I knew they had been starting to move that area for a long time and there were foster parents in the 1950s because one of the complaints was that there was no standardization of who got to be a foster parent.

HILL: There was a Dallas unit starting up about the same time ours was and we met with them and talked with them a lot. They did some things before we did. We did a lot of things before they did. When I say that we did such first or that first or the other things first, some of that is fuzzy, but I'm pretty certain we were way out front in almost any area you could think of. Because really, why we had to get rid of Fred Souflee -- I don't know that was a fight between Fred and Austin, but he was a superb person.

JACKSON: What did Fred Souflee do?

HILL: He was the first executive director of the Harris County Child Welfare Unit. Now, Gene Louge was not a bad person, he followed him up, but Fred Souflee he wound up being a professor at the University of Texas. But, he was a Mexican, it sounds like a Frenchman, but he was Mexican. I don't know what the problem was. They did not like him in Austin. There was a battle there of some kind or another.

JACKSON: Well, you've mentioned that you thought it was racially based.

HILL: I do. Fred may have been a little sensitive. He never was with me. But I remember when that guy that was the head of the agency in Austin, said something about Mexicans all they did was eat tortillas and beans and get diabetes. Fred I think was stung by that and may have said something and that may have gotten back. This is such speculation, I'm probably wrong on all of it. But the newspapers will show that such a thing occurred.

JACKSON: You mentioned how shocked you were by his firing, because weren't you on a family vacation?

HILL: Yes, that's right. I had specifically negotiated with them that this would not happen while I was on vacation because otherwise, I wasn't going to take my vacation. I was literally crossing the Grand Canyon from the North Rim to the South Rim when I was stopped in the middle by somebody with the park there who gave me a message that Fred Souflee needed to get in touch with me immediately.

He said, "They're trying to force me to resign."

And I said, "Don't do it. I'll back you with my life's blood."

He said, "No, I've decided to go ahead and give up. The forces against me are too awesome." But, he did a superb job and was very much admired by the people who worked under him.

JACKSON: So, he got things rolling as the first executive director. One of the parts of the agreement was that the Child Welfare Unit would coordinate with all other children's agencies. Did they actually do that?

HILL: Oh, yes, they certainly did. It's so beneficial. Nobody should have to tell you that that's what you need to do. I'm glad it's in the contract because maybe we might have overlooked it or something.

JACKSON: Tell me about what y'all did with grants. You were telling me that you had a way of dealing with the federal funds so that Harris County came out ahead?

HILL: Throughout the state and generally around the county, the local units thought of themselves as being very subservient, under the control of the bureaucrats upstream. I just simply pointed out how the match worked. That they were taking our contributions and our in-kind contributions and that's where all the federal funds were coming from for the State of Texas. We were a huge source of funds. The State of Texas was taking our local contribution. If you read our contract you will see that we have standing to negotiate with them on just about any issue if we decide to.

I said, "Don't forget your card, Squatty and V. V. Ramsey."

And they said, "Yea, we really agree with you, we are all for you."

They were behind Fred Souflee too. We don't want to have to just stand up and salute every time a bureaucrat in Austin tells us to because it's good hard money coming out of pockets in Harris County that's largely running the state – maybe 30% or something. It was way up there. It was a very large sum of money. They just used that. They were not obnoxious. But they were thought to be a little bit out of line by the state. "What are these upstarts doing saying that they need more this or less that." I just pointed that all.

JACKSON: I thought you were going to talk about the way you handled your grant money. You got grants in from the federal government and you were able to manipulate that money in such a way to have a tremendous benefit.

HILL: Oh, oh. Many, many, many times there were various programs where by utilizing the resources of various agencies, especially including the in-kind contributions we agreed to include in the project, we could get more money from the Federal and state government. Yes, indeed. I'm having a hard time now thinking about that. If you get into the archives of the budget committee of the United Fund you would see that there was an artistry in crafting what was the local contribution. The local contribution can be in kind, it does not have to be completely financial. Using some skill in crafting the local contribution you could be eligible for more governmental real asset assistance or financial assistance.

JACKSON: Weren't you some of the first to really perfect that?

HILL: People used to think that, I don't know whether that's really true or not. I did have some reputation of usefulness in that area.

JACKSON: Tell me about the Child Care Council.

HILL: The Child Care Council, Jules Sugarman was head of whatever they called it. The Federal Government has changed the bureaucratic designation for its social services arm so many times I can't remember this moment what it was called then.

JACKSON: Well, just use any of them.

TAPE 6, SIDE B

HILL: HEW was its equivalent whatever it was then called. The man who was secretary was a fellow named Jules Sugarman, I believe. He suggested what he called a “4-Cs” program. A “4-Cs” program was something like Cooperative, Community, and Childcare. That’s the “4-Cs” program. So he produced the federal regulations for “4-Cs” programs, which was basically, how communities could get federal funds for community services. So there was the overall wrap in which you would get these funds and so on. Well that’s where we got to be very good players at our end of the understanding with HEW.

In order to create the Childcare Council, I had to get the approval, here’s something I did, of several dozen public service entities and agencies. There is where I instantly perceived the natural endemic territoriality of executive directors. Wonderful guys, most of them friends of mine, but they were all rightfully very loyal to their own organization and wanting it to stand out. So what I did that was a little unusual, I happened to know a lot of people and I started getting together individual board members of various organizations and just telling them, “Well there’s this ‘4-C’s’ thing. We want to qualify in Harris County to be able to receive funds in this 4-C’s program. It will be of benefit to the community, children, adults and everyone else – no, just children.” I was able to get them all to agree, they all thought this was astonishing, the “4-Cs” did. I think we were the first people in the country to get our “4-Cs” programming going.

JACKSON: And this is because you knew the people in different segments of the community?

HILL: It's because I didn't allow the executive directors to fight each other. It helped that I knew people, it could have been done if I didn't. The main thing I did was try to head off agencies that were at war with each other each wanting to seek what the other one was doing. We did get it done. And I'm very proud of one thing that I did. I hope somebody's got the remarks preserved somewhere.

But when I got all these people together at a sort of luncheon or banquet or something, I said, "Now, we're going to call this the Child Care Council of Greater Houston – or something like that – and not "Harris County '4-Cs' Program." We're giving it this name so it can endure. I've been doing a study on these Federal programs for the last ten years and the average life of a federal program is two and a half, three years. There won't be any 4-C's program two or three years from now, probably. And we would have spent a huge amount of time trying to dance to their tune and get all these things approved so we can get their money and so on and then there won't even be a program. We do need coordinated childcare. There are some real benefits that can come from this independently of whether or not there is a 4-Cs program and we have to comply with it. So, I'm suggesting that this organization is created to endure, not just to respond to the guidelines of this program. Are you all in favor of that?" They said yes they were. Well, it's here today. It's a large successful program and I'm an honorary member of its board still. They call me out there ever so often and ask me to make a talk or something. It never would have been alive today but for

that foreknowledge that the Federal Government never keeps anything. So, that I'm a little bit proud of this.

JACKSON: Well, you should be proud of that.

HILL: Juanita Hurang is another black lady.

JACKSON: She helped you to start that?

HILL: Boy, I'll tell you she has fought with great poise in measured responses, she's not a person who blows up. But she has hung in there through thick and thin and she had various conspiracies among agencies to put her out of business and all of that through the years and that thing has grown and grown and grown and it provides an awful lot of day care. It's the one that decides and give standards.

JACKSON: It licenses day care centers?

HILL: Yes. It's a very, very good organization. And it had some of the pros, I think guys like Malcolm Host, really good person Daycare Association of Houston and then it became Neighborhood Centers Day Care Association, Malcolm Holst. He's my friend, but he doesn't like somebody else having as much authority as he as to license. A lot of people wanted to shoot it down just because it's a threat of some kind. But Juanita Hurang is a gentle, pragmatic person that just rolls with the punch.

JACKSON: Tell me about the facility on West Dallas, the new Juvenile. We aren't talking about the one that was eventually built, are we? You said a group of you had gotten together.

HILL: This is not just a group of us, the whole county, everything was together on building a facility that was going to be named Lowry for Lowry in some ways.

And as soon as the, and you know we've talked about whether I'm a Democrat or a Republican or whatnot, I've been voting for Republicans and considered myself sort of a conservative but when this wave of Republicans came in and took over all the judgeships and everything, they just wiped that off the books. We can't have a big new building and a big new center and everything named for Bob Lowry so they built something downtown in the complex with all the courts which is where the juvenile headquarters are now.

That was kind of sad, because Bob Lowry had a name, an international and national name as an authority on juvenile law. He wasn't even a Democrat. If you were a judge when he became a judge you were called Democrat or you weren't a judge.

JACKSON: He had to run in the Democratic Primary.

HILL: There wasn't anything else. But he got punished after his death by them wiping out this thing they were going to do in his memory. That's sad to me.

JACKSON: Looking back at Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, what do you think your earliest memory of it is?

HILL: The Mills family is a wonderful family in Houston. Bubba Worsham is a Mills, his mother was a Mills, and he was one of my best friends and J. W. Mills was a good man. He was District Clerk, but also he became Juvenile Judge. I just think that he was sort of fossilized. He was so encrusted with whatever had been for generations that it could get beyond that was not possible. Now, part of that I admire. I admire the inevitability of punishment when there's crime and those kinds of things. There is a whole lot of stuff that he would stand for that I would

admire and stand for. But, I think he was an obstacle to – we would never have a TRIAD – there's just a whole lot of things that we have today that are very beneficial we never would have had. We would never have had the rehabilitation of juveniles to the degree to which we do today. Foster homes that they go to when they come out of the correctional part of the detention are excellent, do a wonderful job. So, we had to remove that and replace it with something better. I hate to say that, because I admired old Judge Mills and his family. I thought they had to be moved out of the way. They may say he wasn't in the way, that's what he wanted. Maybe so, I don't know.

JACKSON: Do you think it was beneficial, obviously you were a part of the Child Welfare Unit, to have the Juvenile Probation now totally dealing with the delinquent child as opposed to having to the dependant and the adoptions and all the other things that they did.

HILL: We went through so much that was good that you can just hardly believe it. When Harry Caldwell followed Larry Fultz as police chief, and at the same time we had Dan Schoenbacher and Dave Baker and good people like that over in Juvenile Probation and looking toward working together. We had a good section in the Sheriff's Department that was attuned toward working together with Police Department. We had a period of cooperation there that I consider Camelot. I don't want to use a Kennedy term, but it was very good. The goodness of it was that these people were brought to have a regard for each other and personally know each other and maybe have lunch. Maybe I'm seeing a Fool's Paradise,

maybe there was a whole lot of ugly stuff going on I didn't know about but what I saw I really liked.

JACKSON: Did you want to comment on the Juvenile Justice system today as opposed to fifty years ago?

HILL: I am very much removed, but I can say the hardliners—people think of me as a hardliner, I have a reputation as one – when you start removing rehabilitation. We call these facilities correctional facilities. If the only way we can correct something is with a water board, that's not correction.

I was thinking about trying Juveniles as adults. There is a certain amount of merit in that, but we've carried that to ridiculous extreme. Then the other thing is, this business of human beings from about, I'm no expert in this field, but from ten to fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, are a maelstrom of change and all kinds of things happening in their bodies and they affect you emotionally, mentally, physically and every other way. Hormones are all being developed and all kinds of unexplained reactions you are having and to take somebody and stain them with sex offender so for the rest of their lives, wherever they go, with no mechanism for removing it. You can't have a mechanism for removing it because in this computer age A, B, C, D, on through ZZZ get it on their computers it's on there forever and ever and ever and ever. We need to be very careful about how we brand people. I am utterly shocked by the carelessness involved in that. I don't have a good answer; I don't know what the answer is. We are killing the souls of people at a very early age by the way we treat them and what we do and what

kinds of records we keep about them. I'd like for wiser people to figure out what to do about that, but I'm "agin it."

JACKSON: Thank you Raymond. I really appreciate the amount of time you've spent. This has been a great benefit to the Harris County Archives and the Oral History Collection.