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The Vietnam Archive  
Oral History Project  
Interview with Dr. James Evans  
Conducted by Laura M. Calkins, Ph.D.  
April 26, 2004  
Transcribed by Brooke Tomlin

**NOTE:** Any text included in brackets [ ] is information that was added by the narrator after reviewing the original transcript. Therefore, this information is not included in the audio version of the interview.

1           LC: This is Dr. Laura Calkins of the Vietnam Archive continuing the oral history  
2 interview with Dr. Jim Evans. Today's date is the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2004. I am in the  
3 Interview Room in the Special Collections Building on the campus of Texas Tech and  
4 Jim is in Dallas. Good afternoon Jim.

5           JE: Good afternoon.

6           LC: Jim last time we talked you told about the party that was thrown for you just  
7 prior to your leaving Vietnam and I wonder if you wouldn't mind picking up the story at  
8 that point and telling a little bit about traveling back to the states?

9           JE: One of the things that happened just before I left a typhoon nearly landed at  
10 Chu Lai. So late in October just before I left I woke up and there was this huge roar and it  
11 was a typhoon and it was incredibly beautiful but it sort of obliterated the beach and  
12 everything around it and it would of obliterated the hospitals so I've got some  
13 photographs of me getting ready to leave, but I think things abided. We had a going away  
14 party for me and for Sheldon Nicol who left a few days after I did. I flew from Chu Lai to  
15 Cam Ranh Bay.

16           LC: Let me stop you there Jim. Tell me a little bit about, if you remember  
17 anything about it, the typhoon. You said it was beautiful. Can you describe it at all?

18           JE: Well it was this ferocious beauty of nature with ten to twenty foot waves.

1           LC: Were you actually able to stay asleep through it and could you see the beach  
2 and what was happening down there?

3           JE: Well there is one photograph that, one of my favorites, but it shows defoliated  
4 shrubs and bushes, concertina wire, and vines going across the beach. So you have this,  
5 for me, I really respond to pattern. So you have this but after this tropical storm the  
6 concertina wire was gone. The vines, most of the beach was gone. It was a very small  
7 area. It sort of in some ways marked the end of my tour of duty. So I got the camera on.  
8 The way the military worked was you were assigned to a certain plane and the plane I  
9 was on got delayed because of the typhoon so I waited in Cam Ranh several days and  
10 actually there were people I met who arrived later than I did and left earlier.

11           LC: Because you are still waiting for the particular plane.

12           JE: We were assigned to a plane and that's the way the military worked then.  
13 Nothing was going to get changed. I ran into a classmate of mine from medical school. I  
14 no longer remember his name but he was, I think he became a pediatrician here in Dallas.  
15 So he arrived after I did, left before I did. Then got on the flight. I really don't remember  
16 much about the flight.

17           LC: How long had you been waiting, do you have any idea?

18           JE: Probably three or four days. We were at Cam Ranh. There was nothing to do.  
19 I mean the barracks, I probably was reading and visiting. There was no place to go. I've  
20 got the photographs of the barracks. It's just sort of a bleak place.

21           LC: Did you feel any anxiety while you were sitting there waiting for the plane? I  
22 mean anxiety like something could happen to you in the interim period?

23           JE: Guys were very superstitious about the last day. I mean there was always this,  
24 I don't know whether it was truth or myth, but there was always this concern about  
25 something could get you. I think I heard one tale about ordinance been dropped on a  
26 runway. It was like a rocket and it exploded and killed somebody who was sleeping in the  
27 hooch getting ready to go back. So it's hard to know the truth of any of this. There was a  
28 little anxiety about the last few days, that they were somehow hexed. I'm not  
29 superstitious but I mean there was this feeling that you were not ok.

30           LC: Did you feel some of that yourself?

31           JE: Oh yes.

1           LC: Were there others like you sort of kind in the hiatus, as it were a holding  
2 pattern waiting to get out of there?

3           JE: Yes. I think, let's see, I flew back. I was wearing jungle fatigues and very  
4 shortly after that the Army made you wear khakis when you returned.

5           LC: Yeah tell me a little bit about that. You alluded to it in the material that you  
6 provided to us Jim. Did they explain or did you get any official word on what you were  
7 supposed to do in regard to your uniform?

8           JE: Ok, when I returned at the end of October 1970 jungle fatigues were ok. I  
9 think shortly after the Army made men returning wear khakis so we could blend in when  
10 we arrived.

11           LC: What was the thinking behind that, do you have any ideas or could you  
12 suggest a possibility?

13           JE: I think the official reason was that there was a lot of possibility because it was  
14 a military and U.S. Army and we would be very obvious wearing jungle fatigues, but that  
15 didn't typically hold up, I mean here you were, you were still wearing your uniform. I  
16 just think it was an attempt to make us sort of blend in and disappear. So we flew into  
17 McCord Air Force Base. I don't remember how I got to Seattle/Tacoma Airport or in fact  
18 we may have flown into Seattle/Tacoma. The first thing I did was I got my luggage. It  
19 was soaked from the typhoon. Everything was wet. So I took the uniform in the restroom  
20 and put on civilian clothes. It cost more to buy the civilian but I didn't want to wear that  
21 uniform anymore.

22           LC: It was worth it to you.

23           JE: Oh it was worth it, yeah. I've got a few photos taken at Seattle/Tacoma  
24 Airport early that morning; it's probably like the 28<sup>th</sup>.

25           LC: Did you see or experience anything in the airport that could in any way be  
26 seen as an anti war demonstration?

27           JE: Yeah.

28           LC: What happened?

29           JE: Nothing. Then I flew from Seattle Tacoma to Dallas. My parents met me at  
30 Love Field in Dallas. We had some barbecue and drove home to Ft. Worth. I had been up  
31 for two or three days probably, you know, slept very poorly. About eight o'clock that

1 night I crashed and slept for 24 hours. I remember the next day my parents kept on  
2 coming in, 'Are you ok? Are you ok?' 'Yes I am ok, just let me sleep. I'm just very  
3 tired.' Then the second night I got up at two or three o'clock in the morning and I was  
4 fixing breakfast and they came in. 'Are you ok?' Like, 'Well I'm fine. I just have a little  
5 bit if jet lag.'

6 LC: Did they have any idea what to do with you Jim? How did their treatment or  
7 questions of you strike you at that point?

8 JE: They were completely lacking in curiosity.

9 LC: Really.

10 JE: Yeah.

11 LC: Can you say why?

12 JE: I think they didn't want to know. The thing is that I had sent some photos  
13 from the very beginning so they had some slides. They had seen some prints of places I  
14 was. After I was at Kham Duc I mailed, you know it was like 5X7 black and white prints.  
15 It was a pretty grim place. It's completely in character with my parents in the sense of  
16 keeping up appearances and not getting into places that are emotional and just let's  
17 pretend, let's go along with the script, and pretend everything is ok.

18 LC: It won't surprise you Jim to know that other veterans with whom we have  
19 talked have said similar things, although not specifically obviously about certain  
20 personalities. Talking about just this kind of vacuum or the inability of people back home  
21 to kind of get to the place where the veterans were and met up with them when they  
22 returned and being detached and that kind of thing. It must have been very difficult.

23 JE: But it was also the same thing was happening when I checked at Sandia Army  
24 Base in Albuquerque.

25 LC: Which was how long after you got back?

26 JE: I probably checked in like... I had already mailed all the stuff like that. It was  
27 probably like mid November. I checked in and then I took some leave. Then came back  
28 on duty I guess in December. When you check into a base you got all these places you  
29 have to go and one of the places we had to go was the Public Information Office for a  
30 photograph. So I went there and the lady said, 'Well the newspapers are getting too many  
31 photographs of people coming back from Vietnam so we don't do that anymore.' She

1 checked my form. I said, 'Well why do we have to come here?' 'Well it's just part of the  
2 routine.'

3 LC: And what did you make of that Jim?

4 JE: Well I thought the Army was stupid. This is totally in character with military  
5 stupidity. This is what we do even though it has no meaning.

6 LC: Even though we are not doing it anymore.

7 JE: Even though we are not doing it anymore.

8 LC: But we still are doing it.

9 JE: You have to have this little box checked.

10 LC: What rationale did she give you for the Army's no longer taking the picture?

11 JE: They said that, I mean they were sending photographs for the local  
12 newspaper. This soldier has returned from duty in Vietnam and she said, actually I think  
13 this is included in the copies of the diary that I sent you. That the newspapers are getting  
14 too many photographs so we don't do this anymore.

15 LC: Jim do you remember anything else about processing in at Sandia?

16 JE: Like I got some letters from the chief of service. I had to make applications  
17 for a place to stay so I ended up in the BOQ on base. It was an efficiency apartment. It  
18 was like 13 dollars a month. It was about two blocks from the hospital.

19 LC: Had you been able to in any way influence the determination that you were  
20 going to Sandia?

21 JE: Before you returned you could request where you requested duty assignments.  
22 Sandia was my sixth choice.

23 LC: What was your first choice, do you remember?

24 JE: Some place in the San Francisco Bay area.

25 LC: Why was that?

26 JE: I just liked San Francisco. I remember a friend of mine, it may have been  
27 Gene Rogers in Vietnam, when he got his orders back to some place that he didn't want  
28 to go to in States. He was drunk one night and wrote the Army a hot letter. Well he just  
29 said, 'I've served a year in Vietnam and I desire better than getting sent here.' It was  
30 someplace; I don't know where it was. The next morning he regretted it but the Army  
31 listened. Then he got a better assignment.

1           LC: Do you remember where he ended up?  
2           JE: It may have been in Denver.  
3           LC: Well that's strange. So you had requested San Francisco. Were there others  
4       on your list that you remember?

5           JE: Yeah. Most of them were in the bay area. It turned out that they were really  
6       not active bases. Getting to Presidio and San Francisco, that was a choice assignment.

7           LC: Yes.

8           JE: Actually I really liked Albuquerque. I liked the people I was with. It gave me  
9       a chance to get up in the mountains. I went skiing a lot, hiking; I did a lot of photography.  
10          It had a good photo lab on base. There was Fran Quist who was a nurse in the outpatient  
11          clinic. I visited with her and her family off and on for a few years after I got out of the  
12          Army.

13          LC: So made some friends as well.

14          JE: Yes.

15          LC: Jim, can you describe your duties there?

16          JE: There were two things that I did. One was worked in the general outpatient  
17          medical clinic. It was just we took care of mainly dependents and retired military. We  
18          actually saw very few active duty military.

19          LC: By retired military do you mean people who had been career people?

20          JE: Yes.

21          LC: Were those the two things that you worked with, dependents and retired  
22          military people?

23          JE: Right. And then we also had to cover the emergency room.

24          LC: What kinds of things did you see in the emergency room?

25          JE: It was just colds, pneumonia, minor injuries. It was generally not anything  
26          major.

27          LC: Were there any special programs or special training that you had or that  
28          others there had to have because of the proximity of nuclear weapons manufacturing  
29          going on around Sandia?

30          JE: No. I mean we had security clearance.

31          LC: So you didn't do for example help physics, that kind of thing?

1           JE: No. I mean it was a very strange base because you know it's an Army base  
2    that commands rotated between the three services. It was really sort of an unmilitary,  
3    military base.

4           LC: In what sort of sense?

5           JE: In a sense that there was no strong sense of identity as an Army base because  
6    at least I think for part of the command that it, you know, being Navy one year and Air  
7    Force another.

8           LC: Was that in any way a problem or did it introduce tensions or did you observe  
9    inter-service tensions while you were there?

10          JE: No. As I said it sort of made it less military because there was no consistent  
11    tradition.

12          LC: Jim how long did you have to go on your service agreement?

13          JE: I finished on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, 1971.

14          LC: In the time that you were there in Albuquerque did you ever see or  
15    experience anything that reminded you of the larger anti-war movement developing in the  
16    country at that time?

17          JE: Well I think in the spring of '71 uprising broke out in Albuquerque. Not  
18    exactly sure about the date.

19          LC: What do you remember about it?

20          JE: There were all these very dramatic pictures in the newspaper of people  
21    throwing Molotov cocktails. I remember driving around outside the base, but I'm not sure  
22    how far away. It was just really unnerving because there were police and soldiers. I don't  
23    know whether they came from Sandia or... there were national guards at every corner.

24          LC: Was this concentrated in the southern part of the city where the university is,  
25    or do you remember?

26          JE: Let's see. The Sandia Army Base was like south east of the university area.  
27    It's actually now included in either Kirkland or Kirtland Air Force Base.

28          LC: Yes that is right, Kirtland.

29          JE: We were within I guess two or three miles of the university.

30          LC: And you saw police standing on the corners and so forth?

1           JE: Police and National Guard. I mean they were soldiers but since there were  
2 relatively few soldiers at Sandia, in fact they were probably National Guard. It was very  
3 unnerving, you know, having come from a war. You know it's like we are at war over  
4 here too.

5           LC: Did you witness anything or read about or remember anything about the riot  
6 themselves or the disquiet, what the source of it was?

7           JE: No I don't really remember. It was unnerving. It's like the war is not over. It's  
8 here too.

9           LC: You were spending a bit of time off the base pursuing your own interest, you  
10 mentioned hiking and doing some photography. What role did those things play for you  
11 Jim at that time?

12           JE: It was a great escape. The skiing I really enjoyed.

13           LC: Did you go up to Taos?

14           JE: I went to Taos, Santa Fe, Sandia, Purgatory, Aspen, and I joined the ski club.

15           LC: Had you been skiing before?

16           JE: I skied one long weekend when I was in internship.

17           LC: But now you really got into it.

18           JE: Yeah, I really enjoyed it. I was never that good but it was just very  
19 pleasurable. I did some photography. I've got some photographs that I may have already  
20 sent about Purgatory ski area. The photo lab was very good. They had good people that  
21 were working there that were very knowledgeable so I learned a lot about photography.

22           LC: Did you ever consider, since photography is something that was very much a  
23 part of your time in Vietnam, that it might be something that you would drop now that  
24 you were back as a kind of reminder in some way of that time period or did that never  
25 occur to you?

26           JE: I found that I did a lot of reprinting from the negatives that partly were like  
27 trying to figure out how to get the right exposures on the print. It was one way to discover  
28 the drawbacks of my photography. What was I doing incorrectly? It was one of those  
29 things that couldn't be corrected. I also got a Yashicamat, which is like a two and a  
30 quarter inch by two and a quarter inch made negative that size and made prints from

1 those. The photo lab was great because I mean it could handle 35 millimeter and medium  
2 format.

3 LC: Jim, last time we talked to you, you told a story, a little bit of a disturbing  
4 story actually about when you were hiking up in the Sandia Mountains at one point and  
5 suddenly became very upset and concerned that maybe the area had mines or flashback.  
6 Do you remember that?

7 JE: Right. I was driving outside the Sandia Mountains and walking on the dirt  
8 shoulder of the road. You are in the mode of do not walk on the shoulder of the road.  
9 There maybe mines. The roads themselves maybe mined, but you know like ok one way I  
10 knew that ok this is not mined but the other part of me emotionally was saying you are  
11 not safe. You need to get into the car, stay on the pavement, and go home. So I went  
12 home, you know back to the BOQ.

13 LC: You did actually go home that day?

14 JE: Yes.

15 LC: Jim, were there other manifestations of distress that you remember from  
16 either your time in Sandia or perhaps in the subsequent few years that kind of came up on  
17 you like that one did?

18 JE: Helicopters.

19 LC: Yeah, tell me about that.

20 JE: Like every time, you know it took a long time before a helicopter could go  
21 over here and not think about Vietnam. The other circumstance that really set it off was  
22 diesel fuel on foggy mornings. The area where I worked after I got out of residency was  
23 in East Dallas, which had a fairly large Vietnamese community. A few times going to  
24 work it would be like a foggy morning. I would get behind a bus and there would be a  
25 Vietnamese person carrying a burden on a yoke. It's like that smell that actually comes  
26 from the burnout latrines.

27 LC: What effect would that have on you? Would you have to stop what you were  
28 doing?

29 JE: No, I just would try to breathe and try to keep on going. But it was still like I  
30 typically want to remember but that took a circumstance. It was very intense.

31 LC: Very compelling.

1           JE: Right, because it was just sort of like the feel of the tropics plus that smell.

2           LC: Jim, tell me about your leaving Sandia and actually being released from  
3 active duty.

4           JE: Ok, while I was in Vietnam I had applied for radiology residency so I had to  
5 do this process. It's like summer of '70 to begin that process. When the time got closer I  
6 was accepted at Baylor Hospital in Dallas for radiology residence. I decided that I didn't  
7 want to start until January '72. After I got out of the Army I went to Europe for six  
8 weeks.

9           LC: Where did you go?

10          JE: I went on a tour that just started in London and basically Western Europe into  
11 an edge of Yugoslavia. Then through part of Italy, along the Mediterranean and Spain  
12 and to Paris.

13          LC: Jim, did you structure that yourself or did you go with a group?

14          JE: No, actually it was an American Express Tour. I had always wanted to go to  
15 Europe and it was just really great. There was a couple Edie and Dick Lawrence that I  
16 met on the tour and we were friends ever since. In fact, Edie died in January of this year.  
17 She was like 93, 94. So I visited with them. They lived in Illinois. After Dick Lawrence  
18 died then I visited with Edie outside of Chicago and Lincoln, Illinois. So I mean I had  
19 built some long-term friends.

20          LC: Can you talk for a minute about the motivation for going on this trip?

21          JE: Well I had always been interested in Europe in terms of history and art and  
22 that it had always been a dream. I think I may have alluded to sort of the way I felt when  
23 I was in Hong Kong, like what's this little boy doing in Europe or what's this little boy  
24 doing in Hong Kong? You're from cow town, don't you know where you are.

25          LC: What was it like? Tell me some of the high points of the places you visited  
26 that meant something to you while you were in Europe where maybe you felt that  
27 particularly? Did you go to Notre Dame?

28          JE: We went to Notre Dame, but I had always been very interested in Roman  
29 history. I remember it in Trier. There's a Roman gate, Porta Niger, N-I-G-E-R I think is  
30 what it is. There is also a Roman basilica and the ruins of a Roman amphitheater and I

1 remember walking to the Roman amphitheater and hearing, it's like a roaring crowd. Oh  
2 you're a rationalist, you're not hearing anything. (Laughter)

3 LC: Did you get that feeling what am I doing here?

4 JE: No, it was like a, I belonged.

5 LC: Really. Cool

6 JE: You ever felt like home because of the food, the wine, the sense of time, oh I  
7 thoroughly enjoyed it. After that I started drinking French coffee and I had croissants for  
8 breakfast. After I got back here and they were not easy to find then.

9 LC: That's right and even now you still have to make an effort.

10 JE: Well fortunately now we have several restaurants that make very good  
11 croissants.

12 LC: Oh there in Dallas, I'm sure that must be true.

13 JE: But it was like, in some ways it felt like home.

14 LC: So it gave you very much also a taste I'm sure for returning. Have you been  
15 back a number of times Jim?

16 JE: Many, many times. Been to Italy several times. Greece three times. Turkey,  
17 Egypt, Tunisia, Sicily. A trip to Scotland. Went to the Orkneys and Shetland Islands. My  
18 partner Bill and I went to England. Went to London after Christmas one year and then we  
19 went back for a longer vacation, probably '83, '84. So it always felt like I belonged over  
20 there.

21 LC: Jim, tell me a little bit about your return to Dallas after going to Europe. Did  
22 it any way parallel with your previous return to the state that time from Asia?

23 JE: Right because I did like know. It was very hard to talk to anyone about it  
24 because people didn't want to hear about it. There is a man who was in residency. He  
25 started like me, two years after I did, named James Niel who lives here in Dallas. He was  
26 in Vietnam right before the end. The medic, [John] I worked with when I went into  
27 practice who was, you know, had been in Vietnam, but basically like don't talk about it.

28 LC: Do you think that was, and this would be a judgment call of course, but do  
29 you think that was who those guys are or were as people or was this specially to do with  
30 the war or somewhere in between.

31 JE: I think they didn't want to be reminded.

1           LC: Really. That seems from some of the things you said to me earlier that that  
2 kind of became a theme. A lot of people just didn't want to be reminded of it.

3           JE: Yeah. That's what I said. We were damned for going and damned for coming  
4 back.

5           LC: How were you damned for coming back?

6           JE: We failed.

7           LC: How so?

8           JE: We didn't win.

9           LC: The big tag that this is the only war that the United States has ever lost, that  
10 kind of thing?

11           JE: Yeah.

12           LC: You named a couple of Vietnam vets in the medical community, medical  
13 schools there. Have, over the years, you learned that there are or were others in the  
14 medical community there who had served in Vietnam?

15           JE: Well by the time I started residency in '72 I think the military was probably  
16 inducting fewer physicians. So there were not as many people involved. I remember that  
17 there was a physician named Bobby Jones who completed an internship with Baylor in  
18 Dallas and went to the Air Force and what I had heard was he was involved in a crash in  
19 Vietnam and it killed him. He was in a jet.

20           LC: Did you ever independently confirm that?

21           JE: No.

22           LC: By that I mean check with, for example, the records on the wall or anything  
23 like that?

24           JE: No, I just figured Bobby Jones was, you know, it's a fairly common name.

25           LC: Very common.

26           JE: I did send a directory to house staff at Baylor Hospital and it's possible he  
27 may be in there.

28           LC: Yes you did. Ok. That may be useful to someone who followed that up. Jim, I  
29 wonder if during those first few years back in Dallas did you feel like you wished you  
30 had an outlet for talking about what you had gone through? Or were you not in that place  
31 at that time?

1           JE: Well I think I felt the need. At the time I was in psychotherapy and like it  
2 wasn't strictly coming up and I don't think my...I don't think my therapist was able to  
3 deal with it either. In terms of training and dealing with people who had been in that  
4 situation. I'm not sure exactly when the term post traumatic stress syndrome was  
5 introduced and accepted.

6           LC: I think substantially later.

7           JE: Right. So in some ways there was no medical terminology or awareness of it.  
8 I mean there was World War I shell shock. I'm not sure if there was even a term used in  
9 World War II or Korea.

10          LC: I think they used things like battle fatigue, which are again kind of very  
11 amorphous, not descriptive for particularly men no longer in the service. It doesn't seem  
12 to relate for years subsequently.

13          JE: Right, but I think in terms of the view by how you dealt with it in the military  
14 was well you get over it. If you are in the military, you're in the combat situation, get  
15 over it. If you're out of combat and you're a civilian, get over it.

16          LC: Jim, I don't know whether you want to pursue this at all but was it the case  
17 that the therapy initiative that you undertook was to your mind, was that in any way  
18 sparked by having been in Vietnam or was it separate?

19          JE: It started before I went. I've had intermittent, severe depression throughout  
20 my life beginning in childhood. So a lot of those diary entries for you know '68, '69, and  
21 '70 I was really depressed. Part of it shows up in just that I was very negative.

22          LC: And so you were pursuing, you were helping yourself through something that  
23 you had already been trained?

24          JE: Oh yes. The military didn't help.

25          LC: I can believe that just knowing it a little bit, I can believe that.

26          JE: (Laughter)

27          LC: I think that's an understatement. How did things go in the residency? First off  
28 I should ask you how had you come to decide upon radiology.

29          JE: Well I think I liked the analytic aspect of it and sort of it seemed like it was,  
30 you know you could look at an x-ray and things were obvious I mean in terms of once  
31 you had training and interpretation but it's like life, everything can be fairly gray. But

1 you know I thoroughly enjoyed radiology, particularly the last years when I was in  
2 practice when I was sort of becoming very much an atypical radiologist. Like working  
3 and developing contact with patients because that's a lot of women for pregnancy;  
4 ultrasound and for dealing with problems in the breasts; masses, possible cancer and just  
5 sitting down and talking to them. When I left they said, 'Where is the radiologist who  
6 used to sit down and talk to us?' So I felt pretty good about that when I retired, you  
7 know, I was missed for that.

8 LC: And people remember you for that.

9 JE: Hopefully.

10 LC: Well I'm sure they do. Having had some of those tests myself I'm sure they  
11 do. It does make a difference. It makes a huge difference. Jim, where do you think that  
12 impetus to sit with the patients and explain what's happening comes from because I think  
13 most people are aware that doctors are on a tight schedule? They've got 15 minutes at  
14 most on each patient. There is a Rota that you have to get through. Where do you think  
15 that came from reflecting the system?

16 JE: I think part of it was just you know self-awareness and for a while I worked  
17 with Permanente and Kaiser so they had some sort of coaching. Part of it was like when  
18 you go into see a patient you sit down. As simple as that, you sit down. So they know you  
19 were there. They know you're not at the door trying to get away.

20 LC: What year did you go with Kaiser Permanente?

21 JE: April 1988.

22 LC: And how long were you there?

23 JE: Until 1999.

24 LC: Just for clarification is that an HMO or an insurance company?

25 JE: It was a HMO.

26 LC: So they gave you a little bit of training on interacting with patients?

27 JE: Yes and it wasn't just for radiologists, it was for everybody.

28 LC: Sure. I take it from that you think that that sort of training was a good thing.

29 JE: Oh definitely. Kaiser started in California, in Arizona and had a very, very  
30 much people orientated. So it wasn't just, you know with interpersonal relationships.

31 LC: Did you like getting up and going to the office everyday?

1           JE: Oh yes. I was in practice in Ft. Worth with Kaiser Permanante with Arthur  
2       Pawgan, P-A-W-G-A-N, from somewhere like '91, '92 until I retired and those were the  
3       best years of our lives and we both said that those were the best years of our lives in  
4       terms of medical practice. We thoroughly enjoyed working together. I had been chief of  
5       radiology in Dallas, did not want to do that anymore and had been assigned to work in Ft.  
6       Worth part time. Arthur needed some help so I offered to join him. This is also with  
7       Kaiser Permanante. So it was worth the drive. I just really liked the people I worked with.  
8       We all talked about, sort of a family we had. It was a professional family. We got along.  
9       Things just got done. We didn't have to say do this, do that. We did it like it was an  
10      active partnership, not just with Arthur.

11           LC: So minimum of interoffice sort of issues that can derail the work. It sounds  
12       very good. Like it was a good place to come for treatment. Jim you mentioned briefly that  
13       you had been chief of radiology. Where was that?

14           JE: This was when I was working with Kaiser Permanante in Dallas.

15           LC: What hospitals were you affiliated with?

16           JE: The one I was affiliated with was Medical City Dallas.

17           LC: Just for someone who might be interested in this particular period and the  
18       evolution of American medical policy. Can you talk about the relationship between the  
19       hospitals and insurance companies during the time you were there?

20           JE: Well...

21           LC: Especially in specialties like yours.

22           JE: Well part of what was going on was that there is a tremendous amount of  
23       administrative tension between people leading Kaiser Permanante and say medical  
24       administration hospitals and the radiologist actively, you know, they disliked us because,  
25       I'm sure they thought we were socialized medicine or something like that.

26           LC: Right the creeping edge of...right.

27           JE: So I mean there was a lot of ongoing tension.

28           LC: Ok. Did that sort of spill over into what you faced in the office?

29           JE: Yeah it made it difficult partly because we didn't have enough staff. Then  
30       Permanante hired two retired military people to be heads of the medical staff so here we  
31       had, we were dealing with like the military all over again.

1           LC: First of all what branch were they from, do you know?

2           JE: The one who was in Dallas County was from the Air Force. He was a retired  
3           colonel. I guess the one in Ft. Worth was a retired colonel, Air Force. Anyway could be  
4           Army, not real sure. What I remember is like the one in Dallas, you know he came on  
5           board and you know he was going through all this information and he was saying we  
6           have to make a decision based on it. Someone said, 'Well this information is not correct.'  
7           He said, 'Well we have to make a decision based on it anyway.' His wife was known as  
8           Mrs. Colonel Doctor Blank. I'm not going to use her real full name.

9           LC: That's fine. We get the idea.

10          JE: She was real pushy. She was used to being Mrs. Colonel Doctor.

11          LC: Jim did it kind of mirror or bring up for you things that had happened when  
12          you were in the service? Sound like it, a little bit.

13          JE: Well it was a typical plain enlisted military. This is what we do. Information  
14          might be wrong but we still do it anyway.

15          LC: Just like the lady at Sandia.

16          JE: Exactly.

17          LC: I think the private practice route sounds like a much...sounds like you traded  
18          up.

19          JE: (Laughter)

20          LC: Let's take a break here Jim.