

Shannon: We are at the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City, Nevada. Today's date is May 3, 2006. We're interviewing Robert D. Hudson. My name is Shannon Burnt and our camera man is Ed Feldman. You're a Vietnam Vet.

Ed: Yes, I am.

Shannon: Cool. I was hoping we would do an interview on a Vietnam Vet. Let's jog your memory a little bit and get the juices flowing and tell me what you doing before you were drafted.

Ed: Well, it's sort of comical in a way. Back in 1969 I had graduated from high school and I was working at a grocery store bagging groceries and I got to thinking. My Dad worked at [##] 0:01:04 Motors, so at that time they were hiring right off the street. So I went in, I believe it was in the latter part of August or the first part of September of '69. Hired in and started working or filled out my application and was hired and started working that night. [##] 0:01:31 Motors shuts down for two weeks for Christmas and New Years, so when they came around with paychecks they had...there was a pink slip in my paycheck saying I was laid off and the funny thing about was I had worked eighty-seven days. I only had to work three more days to where I would have had ninety days in and if I would have gotten to ninety days there then when I got out of the service that they would have to take me back, but you know three days, so. Anyway, my draft number I think was number three and at that time they were going...using a lottery and when they drew mine I think it was number three, so I knew I was going into service. The latter part or, let's see here, January of 1970, first part of January my Mother and I went up and visited her Mother and my Dad called and said that I had a letter from the government and I said, "Well, it's probably saying I have to go into the service". I said, "Go ahead and open it," and he opened it and he read it and it said greetings from the President of the United States. It went on to say that I had to report for duty on the twenty-fourth of 1970, twenty-fourth of February, 1970 for induction into the Army. I mean I remember that like it was yesterday and it was what thirty-six years ago.

Shannon: What did you feel like when you read that letter?

Ed: Well, I was expecting it you know, so what could I do? I wasn't going to run to Canada to dodge the draft you know like a lot of people did, so I went into the service.

Shannon: Well, tell me about your first days in the service.

Ed: Oh, [Laughter] I'll never forget the morning I had to report. Went to downtown Piney, I think we had to be there at four-thirty or five o'clock in the morning and the Elks Club put on...had a big breakfast for everybody who was going in that day. There was quite a group of people and they loaded us on

the bus and we had to go to Fort Wayne, Detroit to be inducted, so there was a guy there that went from kindergarten all the way through high school with, he got drafted the same time I did. Well anyways, we had our breakfast they put us on this old broken down bus to go down there. It broke down on the way; they had to finally charter another bus to get us down to Fort Wayne. Then we went in and went through another physical. Now this is the best part. We're standing in, there were three ranks of us, and I'd say there were three rows of us. I was the first person in the first row on the right side and we had already been sworn in and a gentleman by the name of Mike Lindsey was to my left and he said, "Okay, ladies we've got good news and bad news. Half of you are going in the Army, half of you are going in the Marines". He said, "I'm going to start here," he said, "and tell what branch of the service you're going in," and we're still in civilian clothes, but we're at attention. He said, "Now when I point to the person in the front row and say what branch of the service you're going in, everybody immediately behind this gentleman in the front row is going that branch of service". So, he started off and he pointed to me "Marines" and he stepped over to this real good friend of mine, Mike Lindsey, and said, "Army," and old Mike he's just there busting out laughing and ha, ha, ha, you gotta go in the Marines Hudson, ha, ha, ha, ha. He was just laughing. He thought it was funny. He said, "Listen, you're at attention. You made me loose track of where I was at. I've got to start all over again". He pointed to me and he said, "Army". Went to Mike Lindsey and pointed to him and he said, "Marine Corp," and it went on down the line and after it was all over with he told us to ad ease you know, so Mike said, "thanks a lot Bob," and I said, "Hey, I wasn't the one who laughed". I said, "You were the one who laughed, so it's your fault, don't blame me". Then I remembered the rest of the day we sat around in like a big auditorium and we had to, well we had to go out on a police call, we had lunch, and we had supper. Then they bused us to Detroit Metro Airport to fly into Louisville, Kentucky because we were taking basic training at Fort Knox. Got into Fort Knox, Kentucky about, I'd say two o'clock in the morning. Went through a series of shots and listened to a little orientation and they marched us to the reception station where we got our bedding and took us to this barracks. There was one guy who says, "Yeah, we'll probably get to sleep in," then by the time we got to the barracks it was about four-thirty and this one guy says, "Yeah, they'll probably let us sleep until eight o'clock, nine o'clock". I said, "Don't count on it. We'll be up before six". Five-thirty rolls around and they come in beating on a garbage can and got us up and it was quite an ordeal, but I didn't care for it at first, but you know looking back at it I thought it was pretty funny you know had some good times.

Shannon: Was it pretty grueling?

Ed: Pardon me?

Shannon: Was it pretty grueling? Was it hard to...the basic training? The things that you had to do and...?

Ed: Oh, we had a couple of guys that had to recycle and go through another eight weeks of basic because they didn't pass, but I lucked out.

Shannon: So, when you finished with your basic training then what happened?

Ed: I went out and got a thirty-day leave, then I reported to Fort Belvoir, Virginia for AIT or what you would call Advanced Individual Training and I, well I had re-enlisted, I was only in the military for six days and I thought, "What the heck, I'm going to re-enlist for one more year". So I re-enlisted and went to Fort Belvoir...I re-enlisted to get a special schooling. It was for Generator Repairman/Operator. So I went to Fort Belvoir and I spent, I think was, oh three/four about three and a half four months there. Then they said, "Well, you guys are going to be going to Vietnam". So we took a crash course in combat, you know combat training and I mean it was nothing you know. The way that they taught it and as quick as they taught it, I thought to myself I said, "Half of these suckers are going to come back," but it was just a crash course there and I got a thirty-day leave from after going through AIT. Then I went to Vietnam for well, thirteen months, but I actually left about three weeks early from Vietnam.

Shannon: So were...did you serve in a particular place?

Ed: I was in Chrang Valley. I can't remember what unit I was with, but we were stationed at a base camp and I worked out of a generator repair shop, which we repaired generators that was used in the field, and we also, repaired refrigerator trailers that held perishables because the generators, the three...let's see what was it? The 1.5 KW generator, the motor would fit was the exact motor that went on the refrigerated trucks, so I mean we would have to replace motors and it got to the point where if they had perishables and they needed it fixed right away, oh we'd say, "Hey you know, what's it going to be worth it? What's it worth to you," and we might end up with a case of steaks, veal, but we would always put on a big barbeque and invite the mess hall and the first sergeant and everything else. Keep it on an even keel, but there were times I had to go out in the boonies, out in the combating zone and repair generators. I'd go out there, only scheduled to be out there maybe two or three days to get the generator repaired and come back in, but there were times I would spend...only scheduled to be out there two days and be out there a month because as soon as you would get their generators repaired, Charlie, the Viet Cong would come in and sabotage, so I'd have to fix it again. Send back...have them radio back in I needed certain parts and they would send them out on a chopper and drop them, but I mean you know, I had a few close calls over there and I'm not happy to say or proud to say I have killed a few, I killed a few Viet Cong while I was there. I'll never forget the first time I had to do it they were firing at me and I drew down on them with my M16 and I thought, "Can I ask you to kill a human being". Then I thought to myself, "Well, he's firing at me". I said, "It's either him or me and it's not going to be me," so as I say I can't remember how many I killed. I didn't

keep track where a lot of guys...a lot of the “grunts” as we called them, infantry, of course, they kept track. I didn’t enjoy it, but it was something I had to do.

Shannon: That’s right, it was war. Were you...did you have many casualties in your unit?

Ed: No, because the thing about are you or this base camp where we were at it had been shut down for four years and so, we actually went in and reopened the base camp. We would receive sniper fire, but nothing more than that. I pulled my share of guard duty also, plus going out in the field and things of that nature. But, no you know, not really. I think maybe...I really don’t know because you never really made friends with somebody over there because of the fact you didn’t know whether they were going to be there the next day or not or whether they were going to be a casualty or become a casualty. I had some acquaintances over there, but as far as true friends, no. I know it got to the point they tried to court marshal me just before I left because they said if we receive any...we’re on guard duty guarding a perimeter of our base camp and a snipe is starting to come through the wire, we cannot, even if they’re firing at us, we cannot fire back at them or fire any of the Claymore mines that we had set up around the perimeter, until we called in and got permission from the officer of the day, the duty officer. We couldn’t fire back unless we got permission and they were coming through the, Charlie was coming through the wire firing at me and I said, “I’m not calling in,” and so of course, I went ahead to do and they tried to court marshal me because of the fact is, that I didn’t get permission to fire back at the enemy and I said to them I said, “What would you have done in my place, if you were in my shoes”? He said, “Same thing you would have done”. I said, “Thank you,” and the court marshal was dismissed.

Shannon: Oh good.

Ed: After I got back or went home, I got a letter from one of the guys I was stationed with there he said...you would...you know was from Walter Reed Army Hospital that, well I got...as I stated I got sent home two weeks early, but two nights after I left the base camp come under heavy attack and a mortar round had hit the bunk that I was sleeping in and it just totally demolished it and the gentleman I got the letter from, he shared the same little cubical with me. But I’d say out of the time that I was over there that I spent a good six months out in the field repairing generators, out in the combat zone, but I’m very lucky to be alive.

Shannon: Oh yes.

Ed: I consider myself very lucky.

Shannon: We’re you ever fearful for your life?

Ed: Well, let's put it this way...yes. You know, you didn't know from one minute to the next whether you're going to live or die and there's two places that you didn't spend very much time in or actually three, the latrine, the showers, or the mess hall.

Shannon: Why not?

Ed: Because Charlie pretty much know what time you know your meals would be or what time, the busiest time for the latrines and the shower and if they were going to attack, that's when they would do it?

Shannon: They would do...would they just do sniper fire or would they...?

Ed: Well you know, with Charlie you never knew. You couldn't tell Charlie, you could have two Vietnamese standing side-by-side and you couldn't tell if one was North Vietnamese or one was South Vietnamese. They were sometimes crude, sly people, very sly.

Shannon: What...what...tell me about your memorable experience.

Ed: Of the whole time that I was in the service?

Shannon: Yeah.

Ed: The most memorable time in the service, I'll never forget it, is when I came home from Vietnam and my parents picked me up at the Detroit Metro Airport and we were walking through the airport and I was physically spit on by a civilian because I was a Vietnam Veteran, because I had served time in Vietnam. It was at the time when everybody was protesting the war and there was an airport police was there and he seen what happened and he went right over and arrested the guy. He said, "You want to press charges"? I said, "No," but I said, "I'd like for him to spend some time in jail". I said, "You know just because he's not man enough to go fight for our country, why should he take it out on somebody who is man enough to fight for our country"?

Shannon: You felt attitudes of change now since the Vietnam War?

Ed: As far as the civilians, yes. As far as VA health care, they're taking more and more away from the Vietnam Vets every year.

Shannon: Just the Vietnam Vets?

Ed: I shouldn't say just the Vietnam Vets, but it's just like I have nothing against the troops that are fighting in Iraq and the one's that were in Desert Storm, but if they come back wounded or even, you know, let's say they

don't come back wounded or they come back all in one piece and healthy, anything they want they can get, but yet let a Vietnam Vet try to get it. Well, Nevada is, maybe I shouldn't say this because being recorded, but what the heck. I'm going to go a head and say it anyways. Nevada is one of the worst states in the country as far as VA health care. There is only one VA hospital in the state of Nevada and that's in Reno. Now we have...there's a government hospital at Nellis Air Force Base, but they only have twelve beds for veterans, is all they've got. Back in Michigan where I'm from we've got eight VA hospitals throughout the state, throughout the state.

Shannon:                   Hmmm, big difference. When you were in Vietnam what was the food like? Was it good? [Laughter]

Ed:                           [Laughter] Rice, rice, rice.

Shannon:                   Really?

Ed:                           Well you know they couldn't get the potatoes because you know I should say the food wasn't too bad. It wasn't the greatest, but wasn't the worst either. Rice was plentiful, so you know for lunch, at dinner was always rice instead of potatoes and to this day I only like rice maybe once or twice a year, that's it.

Shannon:                   When you were out in the field what kind of...what was your...?

Ed:                           C-rations, C-rations.

Shannon:                   What's a C-ration?

Ed:                           Well they got what they call "MREs" now, (Meals Ready to Eat) to where all you do is they come in and pack it say like spaghetti and meat sauce where you just pour hot water into them and two/three minutes it's ready to eat. Now a C-ration, you've got...it came in a little cardboard box and you'd get a pack of cigarettes that had four cigarettes in them. You'd get a little, small package of toilet paper, it might have four or five sheets. Then you get what the biggest thing, I got tired of it, was called "Beanie Weenies." They were little hot dogs in like baked beans and then you might get...you'd get usually some fruit. Then you'd also get a tin that contained crackers and cheese. Now mind you, these C-rations were dated back from World War II. There's no expiration date on them.

Shannon:                   [Laughter]

Ed:                           But I'll tell you what, the cigarettes, I got one...one time I got a C-ration and the cigarettes were Lucky Strike and they were in the green

package. Now they only done that during World War II, put them in the green package, and I'll tell you what. You talking about a strong cigarette and they were stale and burned up real quick.

Shannon: Well, did you just eat like the Beanie Weenies cold or...?

Ed: No, no, no, no. They had...they would have to where they would have ohhh, like a mess truck, or not even a mess truck. They would have it to where they would have them in boiling water to where they would be or hot water to where they'd get warm. Oh, there's times when I was out in the field that I had to eat...I had cold beanie weenies, but I survived.

Shannon: Did you get free time?

Ed: Yeah, I wouldn't really call it free time, but we had time when we were at base camp that we would always have a little time to throw a baseball around or we'd always find something to do you know.

Shannon: Was there a town close by where you could go into town?

Ed: Oh, the village was off limits. We could not go to the village. Now, when we moved out to reopen that base camp there was no village whatsoever. Within three days after we got there, there was a village.

Shannon: Hmm. What were they?

Ed: They were made out of cardboard, tin cans I mean, you give...they're very resourceful people, the Vietnamese. They stole a five-ton truck one day. I seen it happen and it was delivering the mail or went to pick up the mail and the driver thought he'd stop off at a whorehouse on the way back. The Vietnamese, South Vietnamese, I'm not talking about Viet Cong; the South Vietnamese stole that truck. Two days later it was on the road as a bus. It was, you know, it's really funny you know. I can look back at it now and think of all the bad times I had while I was over there, but I try to forget the bad times and just look at the good times I had over there, which was few and it took...I got out of the service of the military in 1976 and it wasn't until 1986 that I could even talk about Vietnam. I wouldn't talk about it. Then I finally snapped and I'm not ashamed to say I spent some...about a week in psychiatric ward because of it. I kept everything all bottled up inside of me and wouldn't talk about it. Then for about a year and a half after that I went to a psychologist that dealt strictly with Vietnam Veterans and helped me tremendously.

Shannon: Good, good. Did you receive letters from home on a regular basis?

Ed: Oh yeah, sure did. Then at Christmas time I was getting care packages from people I didn't even know.

Shannon: So was, and in fact, how were the holidays celebrated?

Ed: Just like another day really, over there.

Shannon: What about Thanksgiving?

Ed: Pardon me?

Shannon: Thanksgiving, did you have turkey or things like that?

Ed: No, they [Laughter], I didn't anyways.

Shannon: And Christmas, the only way you knew it was Christmas is you got care packages?

Ed: Yeah, from people I didn't even know from like churches and things of that nature. No, it was just like another day and just hope the heck that base camp didn't hit or didn't have to go out in the field to repair generators.

Shannon: Do you recall the day that you got to go home when you left Vietnam?

Ed: Yes I do. It was comical because in a round about way to get back to the States, when I went over to Vietnam I flew out of Fort Dickson, New Jersey had a layover in Anchorage, Alaska. Then from Anchorage we went to Yokota, Japan and from Yokota, Japan to Vietnam. Now on the way back it was left Vietnam, Yokota, Japan, Honolulu, Hawaii, then Fort Lewis, Washington. Well, it's twenty-four hours of flight time, but at each stop you have a four-hour layover, so they can refuel and service the plane and everything. In Yokota I was stopped into the Class Six door, which was the liquor and we could bring back a half a gallon of liquor, but we couldn't...and I bought a half of gallon of Bacardi Rum and I think it was on two dollars and fifty cents you know in Japan. So, I brought it on board and they said now we can't open it until we get to Fort Lewis. Yeah right, it's a commercial flight, so I kept...this guy next to me he says, "Hey you got to crack that bottle". I said, "Yeah, I've been thinking about you know. Let's order a couple of cokes," so we were mixing rum and cokes and of course airline attendants knew what we were doing and they weren't going to say nothing. Anyways, I got fairly well...fairly drunk between Yokota in Japan and Honolulu, Hawaii, so we landed in Honolulu I think it was ten o'clock at night. So, we had a four-hour layover and I thought, "Well, I'm going to call home and let them know I'm on my way home". So, I'm making a collect call. My Dad answers the phone it was about three or four o'clock in the morning, I got him out of bed and the operator said, "Will you accept a collect call from Robert Hudson

from Honolulu, Hawaii,” and he says, “Who, where,” and she repeated herself and I said, “Dad, accept the charges it’s me”. The first thing he says is, “Are you AWOL”? I said, “No, I’m on my way home”. He says, “Sounds like you’ve been drinking a little bit”. I said, “More than a little bit”. He said, “Well, when will you be home”? I said, “I’m not exactly sure because...leaving me in Hawaii then I fly into Fort Lewis, Washington and by the time I get processed out and everything,” I said, “I’m not exactly sure”. I said, “I will call you in plenty of time so you can get to the airport,” and he says, “Do me a favor”? I said, “What’s that Dad,” and he said, “Sober up before you get into Detroit”. He said, “I don’t want your Ma to see you drunk”. I said, “Okay,” so. You know that was comical, but he thought I was AWOL and I said, “No Dad, I’m not AWOL”.

Shannon: [Laughter]

Ed: I think I slept for two days after I got home. I didn’t want to see, well, my two older brothers knew I was home, but and my Grandmother, so I said, “I don’t want anybody to come visit me. I just want to get caught up on my sleep,” and I think I slept for two days. The only time I got up was to go I the bathroom then go back to bed.

Shannon: So, after you got caught up on your sleep what did you do for days and weeks after you first came home?

Ed: Oh, for thirty days well, I visited relatives and not a whole lot. I went and visited some friends that I hadn’t seen in a couple of years, things of that nature.

Shannon: Did they want to question you about your time over there?

Ed: Some did and I just said, “I don’t want to talk about. I’d rather not talk about it,” so they didn’t pressure me.

Shannon: You’ve already said that you didn’t make any real close friendships, but have kept in contact with any?

Ed: No, no.

Shannon: What was your career after the war/

Ed: Well, after I left Vietnam they sent me to, I still had some time to do in the service. They sent me to Fort Reilly, Kansas and it was cold, I mean it was cold and I said, “This isn’t for me”. So I went down to the re-enlistment office to see the re-enlistment officer and re-enlisted for four years to go to Germany. So, I go over to Germany and well, it was...yeah, I was suppose to spend four years over there, but I spent thirty-nine months. Now that was...I loved it in Germany. I didn’t like state-site duty because state-site duty at the

time I was in was all spit and polish and over in Germany it was more laid back. I mean it was good food, good beer. I'd seen a lot of countries while I was in Germany that I wouldn't have ever been able to see if I wasn't in the military. Now over in Germany I was with a field artillery unit and they didn't really have many generators, so I was trained and I became the Battalion Parts Clerk where I had four batteries. The parts clerk from each battery had a parts clerk and I was over these parts clerks. They had to fill out all the request forms for parts who'd come to me. I would check them and make sure it was filled out right, then I would turn them in. So, I mean my job was pretty well, pretty easy and I remember this one day we had our battalion motor officer was a warrant officer second class, warrant officer third class, Mr. Snell. We needed a turbo charger for a five-ton truck and we couldn't get one. So I was in the first of the Tenth Field Artillery and the Second Of Thirty-Ninth Field Artillery was about, their motor pool, was about from where I am here to that building over there. Oh, I'd say maybe thirty yards, forty yards and I said to him I says, "I'll get us a turbo charger". He says, "How you going to do that"? I said, "Just never mind". So, I had a, I don't where I had gotten it, but I had another fatigue shirt and that had somebody else's name on it and I was an E-5 and the rank that was on this shirt was a PFC and I had another fatigue hat that had PFC rank on it and had the unit crest the Second of the Thirty-Ninth Field Artillery. So I grab my tool box, put on this other shirt and hat and started walking out of the office and Mr. Snells says, "Where you going"? I said, "I might go get a turbo charger for a five-ton truck". He says, "Where you going to get it from"? I said, "Off that five-ton truck right over there, Second of Thirty-Ninth". He says, "You fool, you're going to get caught". I said, "No, I'm not going to get caught. Don't worry about me". So, I've got the hood up on the truck and I'm taking the turbo charger off and their Battalion Commander came over and he says, "Good morning PFC". I'm like ohhh man, I've done been caught and I stood up and saluted him and he says, "I haven't seen you before". I said, "Well sir, I just got into the Unit two days ago," and I'd been over there for three, three and a half years at the time and he says, "Well, I haven't given you your orientation yet". I said, "No sir, you haven't". He says, "Be in my office at sixteen hundred hours," which is four o'clock, "and I'll give you your orientation". I said, "Yes sir". I saluted him and he saluted me and I went back to work. He said, "Carry on with what you were doing". So I go back to work I'm looking over and he's Mr. Snell. I looked at him and he looked like he was sweating bullets because when that Battalion Commander came up, so I came back with a turbo charger and he says, "I thought you'd been had when I seen the battalion commander from Second of Thirty-Nine talking to you," and I said, "So did I". He said, "What did you tell him"? I said, "I just told him I just got here two days ago," and he said I was suppose to be in his office at sixteen hundred hours for orientation. He said, "What you going to do"? I said, "I'm not going to go". I said, "And I'm not going to be any where around Second of Thirty-Ninth Headquarters". I said, "I'm going to steer clear of there". So, they never did find out who took the turbo charger. I had a lot of good times in Germany. Made a lot of friends that I still keep in contact with and after I left Germany they sent me to what I considered the hell hole of hell holes is Fort

Bragg, North Carolina and I only had something like God I believe it was three months to go in the military and at that time I figured well, I think I might make a career out of the service. I asked our company commander, it got down to where I had a month left and I said, "I'd like to re-enlist". He said, "Well, you have to take what they call "MOS" tests. It's a test for what you've been trained in to see if you pass it," and he said, "I'll set you up for a MOS test so you can re-enlist". Well, this went on for about two weeks and I went to him and I said, "Excuse sir, when am I'm going to take my MOS test"? Oh, I forgot. So he said, "You'll take in a couple of three days". I said, "Okay, thank you sir". Well, it got down to where I only had two days left in the service and he says....I walked by his office and he says, "Oh, you take your MOS test tomorrow morning". I said, "I don't want to take it now. I wanted to take it a month ago". I said, "I get out of the service in two days". I said, "I want my orders, clearance papers so I can clear post so I can get out of the military". He said, "You can't clear post in two days". I said, "Sir, I bet I'll clear it in a day," and I had a car and I had it cleared in...I cleared post in four hours. Then I got out of the military. When I got out of the military I went to the National School of Meat Cutting in Toledo, Ohio and I then I was journeyman butcher for ten years until I broke my wrist real bad bracing motorcycles to where I couldn't do that anymore. Then I worked odd jobs from then on, mostly security work.

Shannon:                   Where were you when the Vietnam War ended?

Ed:                            You know I can't actually say what I was...I was cutting meat. I was a meat cutter back in Piney.

Shannon:                   What were your feelings when you heard that it was finally over?

Ed:                            I said, "Glad it's over with". Now, I still feel deep down inside that we have still got some POWs over there in Vietnam. We, also, I believe whole-heartily that we have some people over there that just didn't want to come back and that are listed as MIA, (Missing in Action), you know. But it was a war that we should have never got involved in the first place, but as I said earlier, I didn't really want to go to Vietnam, but I wasn't going to fight the issue. What really ticked me off and I'm still bitter about it till this day and I can't even think of which President it was not, but had granted total amnesty to all the draft dodgers that went to Canada and let them come back into the United States without being punished, gave them total amnesty. That's still...I'm still bitter about that till this day. I think I'll be bitter about that till the day I die, but now even if they start up the draft again, which I think they should do, I don't think they should have ever stopped it. But if somebody goes to Canada now we can go in and get them, whereas before we couldn't. The government can go get them, our government.

Shannon:                   Are you a member of any of the Veterans clubs?

Ed: I am a member of the VFW Post 36 in Boulder City, Nevada. I've been a member there about four months, five months. Very nice group of people

Shannon: Good and Boulder City is a long way from Michigan. How did you end up here?

Ed: Well, I wanted to try something new and then it was three years ago that I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and it's got to the point I had an apartment, a real good job. Then I had to, I don't know, they noticed...they thought I was drunk and I was working security at one of the hospitals here in Nevada or well, Henderson and somebody called in from the hospital saying that I was drunk on duty. So I got a call in to the office and I said, "I haven't drink in ten years". They said, "Bob, we know that, but there's got to be something wrong with you if your staggering around and things of that nature". They said, "We're going to have to take you off the schedule until you find out what's wrong with yourself." At first they thought I was having mini strokes. Then they finally diagnosed me with having Multiple Sclerosis, so. I had the apartment up until well, it'll be a year ago the fifth of this month and I moved out here because it was getting to the point where I couldn't things for myself. I was told about this place by my social worker at the VA and she said, "You won't believe the place, Bob, how beautiful it is," so I filled out an application and here I am.

Shannon: Well good, it is pretty.

Ed: And I love it.

Shannon: It's a very nice place.

Ed: And it's only three years old, we just celebrated the third anniversary last July I believe it was.

Shannon: Well, do you have any other memories or experiences or thoughts you'd like to share with us?

Ed: No, I think I rambled on enough.

Shannon: Well, appreciate this.

Ed: I appreciate you folks too.

Shannon: Well, thank you very much. And you have a picture.

Ed: Yeah, now this is a picture I was nineteen-years-old. This is a picture of my oldest brother, Mike, and myself.

[End of tape]