

Ed Bradley

Interviewed by Jen Brown

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San Marcos, Texas

Transcribed by Alyssa Lucas

**[Jen Brown]:** All right. We are recording. This is Jen Brown. I'm in San Marcos, Texas. It's April 22, 2022, and I'm here with Ed Bradley, um, and also present is his wife Sue (laughs), and we are here today to do an oral history and talk about his work as a biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife. So, to begin, do I have your permission to record?

**[Ed Bradley]:** Sure.

**[Brown]:** Okay, thanks.

**[Bradley]:** Yes.

**[Brown]:** Um, can you start by you telling us about your background and early life?

**[Bradley]:** Well, my mother was born in Norway, a little town on Sognefjord, the largest fjord in Norway, and when she graduated from high school, she got angry with the family. Apparently, from what she told me, some guy, one of the members of the family, had built up this huge fishing fleet and then he passed, and she thought one of the girls would have done a better job of running it, but no, they gave it to one of the guys, and she said he ran it into the ground, and so that made her mad, and she and a friend of hers got on a ship and sailed to London or sailed to England, and her friend got homesick and got on a ship and went back to Norway, but my mother got on another ship and sailed to Canada, and she never went back. And in Canada, she met the man who became my father, and he worked with racehorses. In fact, on my birth certificate for his occupation, it just says, "racehorse man," and I guess they traveled all around the country to different tracks, you know, following the races, and I think at one time he was a—or had worked with horses as a trainer, maybe. Anyway, when she found out she was pregnant, she said she wanted me to be born in the prettiest town they had been in, and that was Hot Springs, Arkansas, where they had a big racetrack, Oaklawn Park, so that's what they did. They moved to Hot Springs, and I was born, and they, they, uh, divorced when I was less than a year old, and I never knew what he looked like, never saw a picture of him or anything. I never knew what happened to him. That's all I knew so then we—my mother worked, from the time I've known her, she worked as a waitress, and we moved around several places, especially in the summer. She would go to where she thought work was better, and at one point, we got on a bus, and I thought we were going to Houston. Turns out it didn't say Houston, it said Austin, so we went to and lived in Austin for that summer, and then she met some friends that were telling her about Corpus Christi, and so when I was in the fourth grade, I went to grade school in Corpus Christi, and that's where I grew up, and that's where I went to college. And

back then it was University of Corpus Christi, and I got interested in marine biology with a counselor at the high school. She was great, and she and I got along real well, and she gave me some pamphlets and information about marine biology because of the test that I had taken. I was real good at two things. They said writing and outdoors, and so that's what led her to kind of push me towards marine biology, and so I attended University of Corpus Christi, and my professor was Dr. Henry Hildebrand, and he was a great guy. Everybody liked him, but he was a little off, a little weird, and he would get in fights with other doctors. I think he had the biggest battle with Gordon Gunter. They were always battling about one thing or another. Anyway, so our classes weren't that big, maybe six or eight in a class, and he would take us out in his jeep frequently. We'd go to the beach, and one day we were driving along Padre Island towards Port Aransas, and we saw this big fish not very far out, maybe twenty yards out into the surf, and he was floundering around, so we stopped and looked at him for a minute, and somebody said, "Well, let's get him. Let's drag him in, so we have rope there." So, another fella and myself grabbed that rope and ran out there and wrapping that rope around his tale, and he was floundering around, and so we couldn't get a good grip on him with that rope, and finally I said, "Grab him by the tail, and let's run," and that's what we did. We grabbed him by the tail and ran him right up on the beach, and it was a broad billed swordfish, and so we ended up putting him in the back of the Jeep and went on to Port Aransas, and somewhere there's a picture of our class with him where they weighed and measured all the fish, and he was hanging up, and there's a picture of him hanging up and the class standing there. I've got it somewhere. I don't know where it is, but then we—Dr. Hildebrand took that fish back to the university, and he said he was going to debone it, get it all down just to the skeleton, and if he did, I don't know. I never talked to him about it, never asked him about it, but I have wondered occasionally if something happened to it or what happened to it or where it is, but anyway. We caught it with our bare hands. We figured it must have been sick or something wrong with it obviously but anyway, that's what happened while I was in school. Now, during my junior year, I had applied to the Texas Game and Fish Commission because they had what they called summer assistants, and I had—Dr. Hildebrand gave me this idea and said I should, so I did, and sure enough I remember vividly walking out to the mailbox one day, and there was a letter from them that I had been accepted, which I thought was great, and so we—there were maybe eight of us summer assistants from different universities that worked there all that summer, and the first thing I remember is they had opened Cedar Bayou. I don't know if you're familiar with—anyway, it had been closed, and they got it open, and so we took a houseboat and a couple other boats out there to try and see if fish were coming through the bayou, and the time we left, it was night. It was dark already and behind us, there was a little single-celled creatures with photophores that lit up and as the boat's propellers churned up the water, they just all lit up, and I had never seen anything like that in my life. I'll never forget that. I thought, "Wow, this is something," and so—

**[Brown]:** —What did it look like?

**[Bradley]:** It looked like fireworks in the water except you didn't have the big ones, but there were just—everywhere that the propeller made a little wake, they just—it just lit up. It was like going through a—I don't know what it's like going through, but it be like sparks from fire, and it

was fantastic. I had never seen anything like that. It was amazing. Anyway, we finally got to where we were, and we put out nets and then the guys, some of the guys who liked to do it—I'd never seen this before either, but they went wading out there and gigging. I don't know if you've ever seen anybody do that, but they carry a lantern with them so they can see, and the water was real clear, and they gigging big redfish and flounder. And so, apparently the Cedar Bayou had been working real well, and anyway, we put up a net, and the next morning we pulled a big cownose ray out of it. It must have been this wide. There's somewhere I also have a picture of me and a summer assistant from the University of Texas, he's holding one of the wings out, and a full-time biologist from Michigan State is holding the other wing out, and they're hamming for the camera, you know, they're looking at the camera and smiling. Me, I'm holding the tail, I'm holding it up, and my head is down because I'm straining to get that thing across the ground. Anyway, that—

**[Brown]:** So, it was about five feet?

**[Bradley]:** Yeah, yeah.

**[Brown]:** Oh.

**[Bradley]:** It was way cool. Here I was doing stuff and seeing stuff that was amazing to me. I'd never—an old country boy, I'd never seen anything like that, and (both talking at one)—

**[Brown]:** —When you, sorry.

**[Bradley]:** Go ahead.

**[Brown]:** When you grew up in Corpus Christi, did you grow up fishing and hunting and—

**[Bradley]:** I did a little fishing but not much. I was telling Sue the other day when we were down there, we lived at one time just off Port Avenue and one of the guys that I hung out with, we'd get up early in the morning periodically and go walk down to the bayfront and fish, and we never caught anything. I was not totally impressed by that, but there was one time, another time when I was still in fourth grade. We went down to the T-Head, and there was guy fishing there, and he caught a great big black drum, and he didn't want it, so he gave it to us, and we told everybody we caught it, but we ended up selling it to a restaurant, which I don't know what put that in our head, but we did. We went, took it to a restaurant and said, "Do you want to buy this?" And they bought it from us, excuse me (coughs), but anyway, that was another little experience. So—where am I? Oh, so we spent that as a summer assistant, you know, one of the boat operators that they had called us summer idiots, and he was probably pretty close to right. But anyway, we spent that summer doing all the different things out in the—I remember, I was telling Sue, we were looking at jellyfish at the aquarium and there was one, *Aurelia aurita* jellyfish, and I was out in the bay and got stung in the armpit by one, and it hurt, but it wasn't real serious, but we did a lot—I did spend a lot of time in the water. I don't know how, but I was always the one in the water (laughs), and I guess I enjoyed it. I'm sure I did.

Anyway, when the summer was over, everybody went back to their schools, and they kept me on the payroll working part time, and I would pick up samples of things, big jar full of samples that needed identifying and counted, and I'd take that back to UCC with me and then I'd spend the week examining it in the lab and then first day the next week, I'd take that back and get another jar, and I'd do that for the rest of that year, they kept me on part time and when I graduated at the end of my senior year, I had a full time job. So, I went from summer assistant to part time to full time, and that was plan B. Plan A was, there was a guy from the Valley [Rio Grande Valley] who did underwater photography for Walt Disney, and he had put in for a grant to go to the Bahamas and study and photograph gobies and what all they did. If he gets that grant, I go with him. That's plan A. He didn't get the grant, so I went with plan B, Parks and Wildlife, and that worked out great. So, anyway, I'm now with Parks and Wildlife, and I had seen Henry Compton while I was still at university because he was, he was like a year, year and a half ahead of me, but of course I saw him at the lab all the time. That was the only place I ever saw him, was at the lab, but I saw him there quite a bit. So, when I went to the Parks and Wildlife, there he was. He was already there, in there maybe a year or more, and so we saw him some during the summer. He worked for some of us, and we did some things for him, but when I went full-time, I worked with him, and he and I worked in the Gulf, but at that time all we had was a forty-two-foot bay shrimp boat, wooden hull, and so we couldn't spend the night out in the Gulf. We'd go during the day, and you couldn't go too far out, but we went out there and took trawl samples and that kind of thing, and did the best we could. Well, one time, we were working off Port Mansfield. You know where Port Mansfield is?

**[Brown]:** Yeah.

**[Bradley]:** Okay. We were working out of there, and normally what we would do is the deckhand and the boat operator would run the boat to wherever we were going down the Intracoastal [Waterway], and Hank and I would drive. So, we met them at Port Aransas [Mansfield], and on this occasion Dr. Hildebrand brought a class to go out with us. That happened fairly often, and so we were out in the Gulf trawling and to show this class, you know, what they wanted to see, and the transmission went out on the boat, so we put the anchor out, and we were stuck. We called the Coast Guard, told them where we were, and this was about noon, and then we flagged down, there was a fishing boat passing nearby, and we flagged it down and got Hildebrand and all the class people onto the fishing boat, so they could take them back to Port Mansfield. Well, then we sat there, the four of us on this boat. The Coast Guard got there at midnight, and we told them where we wanted to go, and they hooked up to us and (laughs) started hauling us, and they almost pulled the rig off the front, they were pulling us so hard, we had to honk the horn telling them to slow down. And when we got to Port Mansfield, we were waving, and they just went right past Port Mansfield, and they took us to Port Isabel because that's where their headquarters was. Well, they got us there, and sure enough the transmission was out, but also they found I don't know how many discrepancies safety wise on that boat, and the sheriff came out the next morning, and I could still remember him standing there with his hand on his gun, you know, like we were, felt maybe we were drug peddlers or something, and he said, "Well, who are you with?" And we said, "Well, we're right there. It's—" and by that time, it was the Parks and Wildlife. We had the sticker on the boat. He

said, "Well, anybody can put a sticker on a boat." So, we hooked him up with Austin, had him call Austin, verify who we were, and so we were there about a week and finally we got the boat fixed, and we could send it back up the Intracoastal, and Hank and I drove in his car back, but before we left, the guys with the Coast Guard gave us a great, big paper bag filled with grilled cheese sandwiches. I don't know why they did that, but they—I guess they saw good things in us or something, but Hank hated grilled cheese sandwiches, so I just pigged out on grilled cheese sandwiches all the way home so—but it was that incident that made everybody think, "Maybe we need a new boat. Maybe we need something better to work if we're going to work out in the Gulf," and that's how we did it or that's how it got started, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service went in with us fifty-fifty. The Parks and Wildlife paid for half, and they paid for half. So, there in Rockport, there was a ship building company, and they built us a shrimp boat, seventy-two-foot steel hull, and instead of having an ice hole down below, we had a lab and a couple of bunks to sleep in, so it worked great, and we used that boat for quite a few things. College kids always wanted to go out with us, and their professors wanted to go out with us, so we did a lot of shrimp studies, trolling for shrimp, seeing what the commercial people were catching, and we worked the whole coast. Back in that time, which is the 1960s, we were among the first to do a lot of things. One thing I recall, you know the Flower Garden Reef off of Galveston? Well, everybody knew about it, but nobody knew much about it, so we got a deal with the U.S. Navy, and we drove up to—Hank and I drove up to Galveston, and the Navy sent a cruiser and picked us up in Galveston, went out to Flower Garden Reef, and we anchored up and spent two nights out there, and Navy divers would go down to the reef, catch fish, bring them back up, and Hank and I had our fish books, and we identified the fish that were down there. That was what we were doing. We just spent two days doing that, and then they took us back to Galveston after that, but that was interesting because I don't know that anybody had ever dived on that reef before, but it was interesting to see the fish that were there, of all kinds. Uh, I don't know who—I suppose, we made a—we had the list, and I'm sure the Navy had the list and it got around, but that was interesting. That was kind of a first, and there was another time when we were—Fish and Wildlife Service was interested in sea turtles and trying to, you know, still are trying to propagate sea turtles. So, one day they brought a tub full of baby sea turtles to the lab there in Rockport, and we took them out, and nobody knew anything at that time. Far as I know, maybe the first time it was tried, but we went out to the Gulf and released those sea turtles. Well, we know now, that's not the way to do it. They've got to come off the beach. They didn't know where—they never grew up knowing where they're supposed to be, but we learned. We live and we learn, and so that was another thing we did. One time, we took the boat, the [R/V] *Western Gulf* is what we called it, we took it back to Galveston, and the Fish and Wildlife Service had a lab there. I don't know if they still do or not, but back then they did, and about four or five of the biologists from that lab got on the boat with us, and we went out off of Galveston, and we spent thirty days out there, and what we did was we'd work all night and sleep all day, but we—at night, we would trawl for brown shrimp, and we had a live tank on the back of the boat, and we'd catch these brown shrimp, put them in that tank and then at a certain point these Fish and Wildlife guys would stain the shrimp. They'd inject a green dye into the shrimp, and they had done some work to make sure it didn't hurt the shrimp. They had—they were prepared, too, and so then we released these stained shrimp, and the idea was, they put posters up all over Texas, Louisiana, and I think they offered like five dollars if you

caught one of these, you could turn it in and get five dollars. We just wanted to know where you caught it, so we could trace migratory patterns. So, we did that for thirty days, and it was kind of fun, a lot of fun. I remember one morning we anchored up, and the deck hand we had could cook. Oh man, he was great, and he'd fix breakfast. Everybody kind of had to fix their own after that, but he fixed breakfast, so I got my tray and my coffee, and I went out on the deck, and it was beautiful, sun's just come up. It was beautiful. The water was crystal smooth and clear, and the side of the deck was about that wide, maybe a foot, foot and a half. So, I sat myself down, straddled that, put my tray down and my coffee, and I was thoroughly enjoying myself. Man, this is great, drinking coffee and eating my breakfast, and a little family of bottlenose dolphins came up. It was two adults and one little one, and they came up, and they looked up at me, and I looked down at them, and I'll be darned. It was just like going to Sea-Arama. They started jumping out of the water and down, all three of them did that for a little while. I don't know if they thought I was going to feed them something or what, but after a while they got tired of messing with me, and they left, but while that was all happening, I can remember looking at my food and looking at them and thinking, "It just doesn't get any better than this, does it?" That was fantastic, and tell you what else?

**[Brown]:** Uh, what year did your—did the boat, first boat break down and—

**[Bradley]:** —Oh—

**[Brown]:** —you got a new boat?

**[Bradley]:** —that was about '65, somewhere around in there, about 1965.

**[Brown]:** And you started—that's the year you started full time?

**[Bradley]:** No, I was full-time '63.

**[Brown]:** Okay.

**[Bradley]:** But we had worked for a couple of years in the Gulf with that boat, just doing the best we could with it.

**[Brown]:** What did Hildebrand and his students do when it broke down?

**[Bradley]:** What did they do?

**[Brown]:** Yeah.

**[Bradley]:** Well, anything they could do. Everybody just stood around for a while, and (coughs) excuse me, and then we got them off, they were glad to get off, and truthfully, I was glad to get them off. It was less we had to worry about, just ourselves, we were okay so—but on the *Western Gulf* we took class after class after class, and we went out a lot. I don't know if we

were—in this day and age, I think all you can go is nine miles. We went a lot farther than that, and we would trawl and bring up some of the fish that Hank has painted, this real weird fierce looking fish, but the truth is they're all little bitty things, and then the pressure, they live in the pressure so when you bring them up, they're dead when you get them up there. But I did a lot of lecturing to college classes that came to the lab, and I enjoyed that, but I always—at some point in my lecture, I don't know if they still have them or not, but we had those fish in jars, and I'd hold them up and let them look at them and stuff, and so they'd get an idea. Yeah, they're fierce looking, but they're pretty small.

**[Brown]:** And so, these deep-sea trawls, you just bring them up and identify them and bring them back to the lab?

**[Bradley]:** Uh-huh, uh-huh, and yeah, we were—I guess we were kind of trying to see what was there and in addition to, of course, we were studying the shrimp populations, but we were also trying to see what else was out there, what, you know. We didn't have any idea that they were going to have a limit on how far you could go or how far we could go, so we went out and did some fun stuff. It was a lot of fun and then at some point, I left the Parks and Wildlife and taught in junior high for two years and then I decided that I wanted to go back to the Parks and Wildlife, and Hank had left at that time. And so, when I called them, they said, "Yeah, we'll put you in charge of the *Western Gulf*. You'll be the guy in charge." Hank had been in charge before, so that's what we did. I came back, and I was in charge of the *Western Gulf* and not to long after that, C. E. Bryan came, and he worked with me on the *Western Gulf*, and so we kept on taking people out and doing different things, but I remember—have you been to the lab in Rockport?

**[Brown]:** No, I haven't.

**[Bradley]:** Well, they have a library upstairs. I'm going to scoot just a little bit—

**[Brown]:** —Yeah—

**[Bradley]:** —and I don't want to mess your—

**[Brown]:** —do you want to take a break or—

**[Bradley]:** No, I'm fine. Um, they had a library upstairs, and one of the books I found was called the *Sea of Cortez* by John Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts. I know you know who John Steinbeck is, but Ed Ricketts was a PhD marine biologist, and did you ever read *Cannery Row*?

**[Brown]:** Yeah.

**[Bradley]:** Okay, well, you know, there was a character in there called Doc, and Doc is a marine biologist, and he catches species in the tide pools and sells them to universities and labs and stuff. Well, that character was based on Ed Ricketts. He was a PhD and at one time the two of

them—I'm sure they spent a lot of time drinking and having fun together, but they got an idea to do some research, marine biology research, so they got ahold of a ship they could use, and they got it all loaded up with their equipment, and they sailed around the Baja Peninsula up, and that body of water between the Baja Peninsula and Mexico is called the Sea of Cortez. I don't know if it still is, but it was then. And so, they decided that they were going to try to find out, kind of what we were doing, what's there, and how many do we think are there, and so they did a lot of netting and all kinds of stuff, and I know that the work, the results of their work has been utilized by others who came along after, and compared what we're catching now with what they caught then, and so I thought about that. I read that book two or three times, and I thought about that, and I was like, "Well, we do something like that but just with one species." So, we decided it was going to be the red snapper, *Lutjanus campechanus*, and I think that's correct. And so, I talked to several people about ways to go about this, and I even drove to Port Aransas. I think Gordon Gunther was the head of the lab, the UT lab [University of Texas Marine Science Institute], there for a while, and I talked to him, and he gave me some ideas, and so we developed a program where we would—on our boat, we would shrimp like we had been doing the shrimp studies because we knew there were littler red snapper that we'd catch, and this would give us an idea, we could compare how many we were catching and where we were catching them, and then we would also go and anchor up on reefs that were all up and down the coast, and we fished for red snapper just like commercial fishermen did. We'd have a big anchor weight and go down there and catch—have four, five, six hooks going at the same time, then we'd bring them up, weigh, measure, get all that information. Then, C. E. mainly, would go around to the various fish houses where the commercial fishermen were bringing red snapper in, and he would weigh and measure the commercial catch (coughs). Excuse me. I'm not used to talking this much.

**[Brown]:** Do you need a break?

**[Bradley]:** No, but I'm—just have to cough every once in a while.

**[Brown]:** That's okay.

**[Bradley]:** And once a month, I drove from Rockport up to Galveston, and I made a deal with one of the party boats, and I used the same party boat every time, but I would go out with them and weigh and measure what the party people were catching, so that worked great, and I don't know how many times. I went every month for three years, and I never went out a time that they didn't get up a poll or some kind of bet going on among the fishermen, who would catch the biggest one, and I was never there because they knew what I was up to, and I was—there was never a time when somebody didn't say, "Well, let's let the government man decide which is the biggest one," so they made it easy on me. They'd bring their red snapper to me to weigh and measure, so that was a lot of fun. Um so, anyway, at the end of the three years, we wrote a paper for the *Proceedings of the Gulf and the Caribbean Fisheries Association* [Institute], and C. E. presented that paper, I forget where he went, Miami or somewhere, and he presented that paper, and it's, it's there. It's on the internet somewhere, but one of the things that we decided, or we didn't decide, but we stated was that while you were shrimping,

all these shrimpers out there, they're killing the little red snapper. The red snapper are near shore and as they get older, they gradually work back out to deeper water. And so, we said that there needs to be something done at certain times of the year to help take and protect those little red snapper, and so they did. They used our report to shut down the shrimping industry in certain areas at certain times. Of course, shrimpers got mad at us, but that's nothing new. They always get mad at us.

**[Brown]:** (Laughs) Oh, yeah?

**[Bradley]:** Well, because Parks and Wildlife makes the laws, and they have to live by them. They made them put, uh, some kind of net in their trawls, so it protected the sea turtles if they caught them. They didn't like that too much, but they didn't do it. Anyway, so we got that done, and by that time, I was—after that report came out, I was not working on the *Western Gulf* anymore. C. E. was and he got another assistant to help him, and I was working in the bays, and I worked with Ed Hagen then. Did you know Ed Hagen? Okay. Anyway, so one time we drove up to near Seadrift. I forget which bay that is, Matagorda Bay, maybe? Anyway, we were up there, and we were pulling a shrimp net in the bay, and there was a—there was a stingray caught in the net, in the webbing. Well, I saw him down there, and I reached down to grab the webbing and pull it away from him but what I didn't see was that his spine was hooked in the webbing and sticking straight up and when I went down, my right hand, to grab that net, I ran that deal right through my finger, his spine right through my finger and of course, what did I do? I jerked, ran back through again. Anyway, they were all saying, "Ah, we need to get you back. We need—" and I said, "Aw, you know I'm a tough guy." Said, "Nah, just put a little—" we had some of this freeze stuff, and I put some freeze stuff on that and that lasted about thirty minutes, and I said, "Boys, we need to get back," so they took me back and from there from Seadrift, we called my doctor and told him, "Don't leave. I'm coming in, so don't leave." So, I sat in the back seat, and they drove as fast as they could to get me back to Rockport, and my arm, I remember clearly thinking, while we were in the backseat, I remember thinking, "You know, if we just cut my arm off at the shoulder, that would feel a lot better. That would be the way to fix this problem (laughs), just cut the arm off at the shoulder." Well, we got to the doctor's office. He took me in, sat me down, and he had a needle of novocaine, and he just—I'll never forget this either. He—my hands shaking a little bit because I have Parkinson's. Anyway, he injected—he was standing there, and I was sitting down. He took my hand, injected the novocaine in a couple spots in my finger, and he put the needle down, and he just stood there, folded his arms, and looked at me with this big smile on his face, and I thought, "What the hell are you smiling at" but then it hit me. When the novocaine hit, but it was like stepping into a shower. It started at the very top of my head, and it was just like water, cool water coming down, and it finally went down in my whole body, and I won't forget that either. That was an experience, but it worked and then he gave me some medication and sent me home, and I never had any more trouble with that, but that was the worst pain that I had ever had. The second worst pain was a sea urchin I got in my knee. Hank and I—at the lab there in Rockport, they have a little aquarium. I don't know if they still do, but they used to have a little aquarium, and during the summer Hank and I would go to Whataburger or some place and get one of these big wide mouth gallon jars, clean it up, and we'd take it to Port Aransas at the jetties, and

we would—I don't know if you know but at Port Aransas the water is crystal clear during the summer, comes in right into the jetties, and you go down there, and there's little tropical fish, beautiful, just like you see in an aquarium. So, we'd go in there and get a sea urchin and bust him open, and his eggs were bright yellow, and oh man, those fish loved that, so we'd put the eggs in the wide mouth gallon jar and then just lay it down, and these little fish would just swim in there and then all you had to do was tilt it up because they never swim up to get out. They always try to get out swimming down. I don't know why, but that's the way they are, and so we would have a lot of fun going over there once in a while, catching tropical fish, and bringing them back, beautiful fish to the aquarium. That was another little adventure we had. Uh, I don't know if I should tell you about the explosives or not.

**[Brown]:** (Laughs) Yes, now you have to (laughs).

**[Bradley]:** Well, when I was at the, in the chemistry lab, yeah, at UCC, we learned how to make, I can't remember the name of it, but it's an explosive that you filter it out, and it's on filtered paper, it's wet, harmless, but once it dries, any little thing, and it will explode, so you don't want to have too much of it. Well, one of the things I did while I was still in school was I went up to the lab and made some by myself, and I brought it down to the student center, and I walked around and just scattered it all over the floor, then I went and got me something to drink and just sat down and watched people and of course it was just little drops here and there, so people would, pow, step on it, pow, pow, pow. That was a lot of fun (Brown laughs). I had a good time with that, and you may be the first person I told that I did that.

**[Brown]:** (laughs) Did you—no one knew it was you? You didn't get in trouble (both talking at once)—

**[Bradley]:** —No, absolutely not. I was sitting over there drinking a Coke. I was just watching. Nobody had a clue what—they didn't know what it was or what was happening but anyway, that was fun, but I made the mistake of telling Hank about this stuff. Oh, I did tell him, and so we decided—we went out to his house, and we made a batch up, took it back to the lab, and put it in a guy's stapler (Brown laughs), so you can imagine the first time that he hit the stapler. We didn't put enough to do any real damage, but that was—that was a lot of fun too. Hank and I had a lot of fun together. I don't know why. He was a little bit older than me, and I don't know why we got along so well, but we did. When we were, going back a little bit—am I talking too much?

**[Brown]:** No.

**[Bradley]:** Okay. Well, going back a little bit, turns out the fellow from University of Texas who was in the picture with the cownose ray, he and I were roommates. He and I stayed in Rockport. I don't know where everybody else went but the first night, we didn't have a place to stay, so the first night that we were there we slept on the houseboat that was back in Rockport. Well, Hank said he had to go do some work one night, and we could sleep at his place. All he asked was that we feed—he had somebody who had some black angus cattle on his land. He

had like twenty acres and an old, dilapidated house, old, dilapidated. So, we said, "Okay, that's what we'll do," and he told us where the cow feed was, and we drove out there and then there was a little shed in the back and the time of day was, wasn't total dark, but there wasn't any sun either. You know how it is. All you see is black and white, you know, just outlines. So, we went to the shed in the back, and I opened the door, and I stepped in to—because he had told us where the feed was, and I heard this gurgling sound, and I looked around, and all I saw was his feet disappearing from the door, from the side of the door, and I looked down, and a snake was coiling up right outside the door, so I looked at that snake, and I waited a minute and finally it crawled under the shed so then I went out, and this poor guy was laying across the hood of the car, and his—he was going, "Oh my God, Oh my God," and what had happened was the snake had fallen off of the roof and hit him on the head and slid down his body. Well, that would have scared anybody, and so I told him, I said, "We still got to feed those cows," so I did. I went back in there and got the feed, and he followed me when I walked down to where the cows were. He followed me in the car with the lights on, so we fed the cows and then we decided we'd go back and sleep on the houseboat again (both laugh). We didn't want any part of the Hank's house anymore.

**[Brown]:** What was Hank like?

**[Bradley]:** He was a little taller than me, slender, very smart, one of the smartest people I've ever been around. In the Korean conflict, he flew the F-86 Sabre jet, and I think he got shot down one time although he never was captured, but he—I think he told me that he had to parachute out one time. Uh, while he was in the military, he met and fell in love with a nurse who was also in the military, and they were going to get married, and at some point in time she was in a plane that crashed in Alaska, and she was killed, and he told me, physically, literally, he put his fist in the air and cursed God, and he never got over that, never, but he was a great guy, had a great sense of humor. He and I, I don't know, maybe I was like a burr in his blanket. I don't know, but we got along great. We—I slept with him in his bed, I don't know how many times. You'd hear these—you can hear the rat, the snakes catching mice in the walls, you can hear the mice screaming in the walls, but that's the way it was, and Hank and I traveled a lot together because when we go to the Valley to work, we didn't ride the boat, we'd drive down. I remember one time, we were in Matamoros across from Brownsville, and we had eaten at a restaurant we liked, and we were walking down the street and here was a, I don't know what to call it, a store with big painted glass windows, and we looked in there, and there were two pairs of boxing gloves, and we looked at each other, and we had to have those boxing gloves, so we went in, and we each got us a pair of boxing gloves, and we were staying in Port Isabel at the time in a motel that had stone walls, and they weren't smooth. They were stones that stick out, so of course we boxed in the motel room (Brown laughs), and I don't know how it worked but every time he hit me, he would knock me against the wall, the rock wall. Every time I hit him, he'd fall on the bed. I never figured that out but when we got back to Rockport at his place, we decided we wanted to keep this going, so we built a ring in his backyard, four by fours, put a rope around it and then we'd have a kitchen timer set for three minutes, three minute rounds and put that on the four by fours, and we'd box till the kitchen timer went off and take a break and then box some more, and you know that boxing is hard. It's hard to keep your arms up

when you're not in shape to do that, but we would put a speed bag in his house so you could bu-dah-bu-dah-bu (makes speed bag noises). We got carried away there with that boxing for a while, and he had a problem similar to something I have. His shoulder would go out especially when he'd throw a big right hook at me. His shoulder would go out, and we'd have to stop, and I would grab his shoulder and yank it back into position, and we'd go again, and I didn't realize at the time how much that hurt, but I know now how much it hurts because I've had that similar happen to me, but he was a great guy, and he was, he tried to be such a gentlemen. If you were to come over to his house, there might be—the chair you're sitting in might have leaves on it, but he would—before you sat down, he would sweep the leaves off the chair and try to make you as comfortable as possible, and he had a brother, Bill, younger brother Bill, we called him Brother Bill, duh, and sometimes we'd go over to Brother Bill's house, which was there in Rockport, and Brother Bill had a great Martin guitar, really good guitar, and he'd play guitar, I played guitar, and usually there'd be somebody else there that played guitar and then there'd be Hank and usually on average it was four of us. They would pass this guitar around, and one guy would play and sing some, whatever, a song he'd written or something, a song he liked and then pass it to the next guy, and they'd pass it to Hank. Well, he couldn't play the guitar, and he couldn't sing, so he passed it to the next guy. Well, that made Hank mad, so he got a tape recorder, and he recorded a bunch of songs he liked so when it was his turn, he pushed the button, and we had to sit there and listen to that song that he recorded (laughs), get his turn out of the way, but that, those were some wild days. Uh, one of the guys that came, this is while—some of it was while I was still in school. One of the guys that came, I was in school with and at some point, he tried to talk me into going to California with him, to be in the music business in California, and I said, "No, I, for many reasons, I can't do that." So, he went and became a part of the New Christy Minstrels. I don't know if you've ever heard of them, but that was—Kenny Rogers first sang with them, and he was in that group for a while anyway, but we had a lot of fun over at Brother Bill's house and at Hank's house. I remember—am I telling you too much?

**[Brown]:** No, go ahead.

**[Bradley]:** I remember we had a lot of parties, and Parks and Wildlife employees had a lot of parties, and I was one of the few that didn't, didn't drink beer. I didn't drink anything back then, but I had a four-string banjo, and everybody loved that four-string banjo, and I'd play, and everybody would sing, and it's amazing, the later the night got and the drunker everybody got, the more religious music they wanted. I don't know how that works, but I remember one time, a guy that worked at the lab, he was singing about as far from me as you are and then he walks right up to me, and he's singing some soulful song, and I looked down at his hand, he's holding a long necked bottle of beer, upside down, and he's pouring beer all over my feet while he's singing soulfully to me. But we had a fellow from India, one of the Sikhs that—I think that's what you—and he was a summer assistant, but he didn't—they didn't cut their hair. They didn't cut their beard or anything and every morning he'd get up and put, twirl his beard around his head and then put something over that, but he was a great guy. His name was—can I say his name, or no?

**[Brown]:** Yeah, you—

**[Bradley]:** Jagdeep Singh, but everybody called him Juggy, and he cooked a meal for everybody at somebody's house one time, and it was great, but it was hot. Oh man, he'd like to burn our throats out, but it sure was good so.

**[Brown]:** Did you know that Hank painted?

**[Bradley]:** Yes. In fact, he did the drawings for a couple of the books that are pamphlets of the fish that are on the Texas Coast. He did those drawings as well, and he showed me how you do it, and I started a bigeye, *Priacanthus arenatus*, I think, and I was doing it well, but I didn't have enough patience. It takes a lot of patience to do it that way, and apparently, he had more patience than I gave him credit for, but it's—after he and I—he was out of the Parks and Wildlife, and I was out of the Parks and Wildlife, I saw him at Helen's house one time, Brother Bill's wife, and he had put some paintings in one of the art exhibit, art shows there to sell. I don't know how he did on that, but I was telling him, "If I ever bought anything from you, I would want a picture of these fish we used to catch, the deep-sea fish, they're fiercest looking." Turns out, he started painting those, and he painted quite a few of them, but I remember when we were both still in Rockport one time, Rockport had an art fair every year, big deal, and I told him, I said, "Why don't you compete—" They had booths and stuff. I said, "Why don't you put your paintings up at the art fair?" "Nah, I wouldn't do that." "Why?" "Because I don't want anybody to know who I am." I said, "Well, just paint a picture of a paper bag with eyeholes in it and you can be the unknown artist. You won't even have to do it. I'll sit out there, and I'll sell them for you." No, he wouldn't go, he wouldn't have anything to do with that. He was somehow too good for that. I think I told you how smart he was. One of his favorite things to do was crossword puzzles, and he would get two of the same, and he would want to bet you who could finish it first. We'd both put up five dollars and go, who could finish it first. The last time I saw him or one of the last times, he said the crosswords had gotten so easy that he would take scissors and cut either the up and down or the sideways away so all you had was the one to go by because the crosswords were so easy for him. Isn't that amazing?

**[Brown]:** Hm.

**[Bradley]:** Sue met him one time. He was working at the Oso Pier then, and so I took—I wanted Sue to meet him, so we went over there and visited with him for a little while. That was the last time I saw him.

**[Brown]:** When was that?

**[Bradley]:** When was that?

**[Sue]:** In the 1990s because we were dating.

**[Bradley]:** Yeah, 1990s, I guess. I don't remember exactly when he died, but anyway, but he

was a great guy, and I thought the world of him. He was a crude guy, and he drank a lot, and I think that related back to him losing his fiancée. He just never got over it, but you know, he and I drove everywhere, always in his car, and he always drove, and I never felt fearful that we would have a wreck or anything even though he was drinking. In fact, I used to tease him about how slow he was driving. I'd say, "Hey, we just got passed by a bread truck, in that lane right there, the slow lane," but, yeah, I get it, and I think he loved it. He liked it because I wasn't stupid, so he liked that somebody with some intelligence would give him a hard time, and I thoroughly enjoyed giving him a hard time as he enjoyed giving me a hard time but—

**[Brown]:** Can you tell me more about, um, your work in the gulf and, you know, what the fisheries were like back then?

**[Bradley]:** Uh, well, there were more shrimp probably than there are now, and we did—we caught a lot of red snapper. Hm, what were the fisheries like? I don't know exactly how to answer that.

**[Brown]:** Well, I guess, what were some of the other discoveries that you were making out there?

**[Bradley]:** Well, let's see. I think the interesting things, I've pretty much gone over. We did, in addition to the regular work we did, we did a lot of work with aquariums around the state. They would come down, and we'd go out and catch fish and keep them in the live bait and then they'd take them back to their aquarium. We did that for San Antonio Zoo, Breckenridge Aquarium, and I remember spending a lot of time with the guy from the Dallas Aquarium. In fact, he gave me a ride to Dallas when he was taking the fish back and then they used to have a place in Galveston called—what was it called? Sea-Arama. No, it was way before the Moody [Moody Gardens]. It was right up near where the golf course is up there, and so—but we did a lot of work with them, and in fact I met two people that they met and got married working there, and they were divers, and they would dive into the aquarium and feed the fish and stuff, and so it was interesting talking to them and comparing notes, but we did a lot of work with them. One time, at least once, the manager of that aquarium went out with us, in the gulf off of Galveston, and he and I hit it off, and we brought them a lot of stuff back. So we did a lot of that kind of thing, and did a lot of work at night, and we did some work in bad weather, inclement weather. Austin always seemed to figure out that we ought to go out there when the weather was bad. Of course, they never would, but I remember one year, C. E. and I were working on it and a blue norther blew in, and they wanted us to go out and pull trawls and see if we could catch flounder, that the norther may have been pushing out of the bay into the gulf, so there we go, and we're—the captain's keeping it face into the wind, and we're bouncing around, and C. E. says, "Uh," and he points, and I look and the air conditioning unit on top of the boat is on fire, flames are—so I grab a fire extinguisher, and C. E. and I climb up both of us up to the top and water's, you know, cascading over us. I don't know how that fire kept going, but it did, and so we got out there, and I held that fire extinguisher and aimed at that fire and squeezed the trigger, and it came off in my hand (Brown laughs), and shortly after that the fire went out, so we climbed back down best we could, and I asked him, our deckhand, the great

cook, about it, and he said he just turned the power off to the air conditioner and that did the trick. I told C. E. later, I said, "It's four of us that work on this boat, two of us got college degrees, and one without the college degree, without much education at all knew enough to—how to turn that fire off, not the college boys." So, the lesson I learned there and have carried with me is that book learning's great, but it ain't everything, sometimes you've got to have street smarts to solve problems and accomplish things. Well, hm.

**[Brown]:** How long did you work for Texas Parks and Wildlife?

**[Bradley]:** About fifteen years.

**[Brown]:** Okay, what did you do after?

**[Bradley]:** Oh man, after I opened up a Montgomery Ward catalog store, which I owned and ran for about a year. I didn't like that at all, so I sold it and then I got a job with the newspaper, the local newspaper, writing. I did—I wrote articles, wrote columns. They let me write a column. They put my picture in there, and I'd write a column, whatever, anything I wanted and then I did news, but on my column, I wrote poetry, I wrote short stories, you know, I wrote anything I wanted to, and they were fine with it, no problem and then I did all the dark room work for the paper. Where I learned to do that, I have no idea but I did, and so I worked for them for two or three years and then the wife of a guy who also worked there, the guy she was the wife of was a manager of a radio station, a country western radio station, and they asked me to come try out to do the news, so I did, and I got the job, and so we were transmitting the news out of Sinton, and then they built a new studio in Corpus in one of the outlet malls there—not an outlet mall but anyway, on SPID, and so that's where we did it from there, and that was probably the most fun job I ever had. Uh, I did the early morning news, and the station ran for twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and I was the only guy that used his real name. Ed Bradley did the news, nobody else. We had Hollywood Kelly and Joe Dragon and you know (Brown laughs), but that was a fun job. I won a dollar off of a disk jockey that I worked with. I won a dollar one time by doing the news with a paper bag over my head, and I got it. I won, but that was a lot of fun, but that only, that lasted two, three years too.

**[Brown]:** Why did you leave Parks and Wildlife?

**[Bradley]:** Um, I got a little mad at them. I guess I was kind of like my mother. You rub me the wrong way, I won't hit you, but I won't stay around long either, and I was always having trouble with them. On those trips that I had to go to Galveston every month, well there's two ways you can go. You can go a short way where you drive up the island to get there or the long way where you go around, go across the causeway, but if you take the short way up the island, the Parks and Wildlife charged a toll, you had to pay a toll at a certain point, and I said, "Well, I work for you guys," doesn't matter, you've got to pay the toll, so I would pay the toll. Well, then we—when you used your car, you got mileage for it. They paid you mileage, so I would put that in there and then I would also pay the—put in that I should be reimbursed for paying the toll. They had two arguments. One, if I went the long way, it was too many miles. If I went the short

way, they weren't going to pay that toll. I shouldn't—they weren't going to pay it, and we went around and around over that. I don't think I ever won, but I have found in the last few years that they don't charge employees the toll anymore so maybe I had some affect. I don't know, but it was stuff like that, was always going on and finally I just said, "That's enough. That's enough for me," so that was it.

**[Brown]:** Um-hm.

**[Bradley]:** But it was a great job. It was—and they're very interesting and a lot to do. People used to say, "Wow, you're a marine biologist. That must be fun, exciting." I'd say, "Yeah, come out with me in the summertime when we're pulling the nets through a small pool, and you've got mosquitos and alligators and stuff after you. Come out then, see what you think," but it was great. Oh, there's another guy I probably ought to tell you about. His name was John Smith, and he was a non-game biologist, and he had about twenty acres there, and he once told me that he wouldn't put, plant anything on his property that he couldn't eat, nope. He didn't care about flowers. He wanted fruit or something that he could eat, vegetables, and he was telling me one time, he was showing me where some of the bald eagle' nest were because he kept track of that, but he also kept track of crocodiles, and he was telling me that a guy with Fish and Wildlife would come down, and the two of them would go out at night, and he said the way you counted them, you shined a light around, you count the eyes that you see and then divide by two, and that's how many crocodiles there are, but he said they'd come in all wet and muddy and stuff, and they'd check into a motel, and he said they'd sign in, John Smith and Daniel Boone (both laugh). He said people wouldn't believe them but that was our name, that was our real names, John Smith and Daniel Boone so.

**[Brown]:** So, after the radio then what did you do?

**[Bradley]:** Well, when I was in high school, I had worked for a jeweler named Joe Salem, and he had a jewelry store in Six Points, and so I would work every Saturday and sometimes in the afternoons during the week but mostly just on Saturdays, and I liked Joe Salem. He was a real character. I don't know if you've ever heard of Salem's Jewelers, but they—anyway, I was going through the Padre Staples Mall. Is it still there, Padre Staples Mall? They call it that anymore?

**[Brown]:** Um, I think it's—

**[Sue]:** La Palmera or something.

**[Brown]:** Yeah, La Palmera.

**[Sue]:** La Palmera.

**[Bradley]:** Anyway, back then it was Padre Staples Mall, and there was Salem's Jewelers in there, so I went in, was talking to him, and he offered me a job to manage that store for him, so I took it, so I worked there, opened up in the morning. I opened the safe, put everything out

and then in the evenings he would come, like five or six in the evenings, and he would come, and I would leave, and he would put everything back in the safe, and we did that for about three years I guess and then I had a good buddy. I was good friends with him and his wife, and he called me one time and at that time he was working for the Caller-Times just being a distributor, and so he distributed to stores and the stores would sell the papers, and he told me there was a distributorship coming open, and I could make pretty good money if I was interested, so I said, "Yeah. Sure, I'll go interview with them," and I interviewed with them, and I got it, and so then I had to buy me a pickup, and I worked for their—at that for about nine years, and that's where I was working when I met Sue.

**[Brown]:** How did you two meet?

**[Sue]:** Mutual friend.

**[Bradley]:** Yeah, we had a mutual friend. This mutual friend had gone to the church or was going to the church that I went to and before that she had gone to the church that Sue went—was going to. So, at some point she said, told us both I guess that, "Y'all need to get together. Y'all just need to get together." Eventually, we did, and we dated for eleven and a half years before we got married. I used to tell my friends that whenever I got the urge to get married, I'd lay down on the couch for half an hour, and it'd go away (Sue laughs), but anyway, it's been great, so we'd been married for a little over twenty years now. We got married in 2000.

**[Sue]:** Yeah.

**[Bradley]:** Yeah.

**[Sue]:** It's twenty-one years almost.

**[Bradley]:** Twenty-one years. Okay, it will come to me (Brown laughs) but anyways, it's been great.

**[Brown]:** Great.

**[Bradley]:** And then (both talking at once)—

**[Brown]:** —Did you ever miss the marine biology stuff?

**[Bradley]:** Well, sure. Yes. That's why I wanted to go by Harte and visit with them because I'd heard about the building and the programs, but I'd never been there and that—we celebrated my birthday by going down and getting to see it and visit with some people and yeah, that was—I do miss that, yes. Uh, I've always liked science and that particular type of science just always appealed to me, and I have no interest in freshwater, just saltwater and really not too much into bays. I like it out in the Gulf. I just, I guess I fell in love with it out there. It's amazing, and I've been diving on the rigs out there when the water was so clear you could see all the way

across the bottom of those rigs, amazing. It's beautiful, but, you know, I never have seen a shark underwater. I've never seen one. I've done a lot of underwater diving, but I never saw a shark, and that's amazing.

**[Brown]:** I also wanted to ask, what was the university like back then?

**[Bradley]:** Well, it was a Baptist school and expensive, but it was—there were a lot of great, great people there, great kids. I remember—maybe I shouldn't tell this, but I'm going to. The president of the university, we had a get together every day. The whole student body had to meet, and he got up there, and he had a bowl of water in front of him, and he was complaining that people were using too many paper towels, so he gets his hand wet in this bowl of water and then he takes out two paper towels and dries his hands, and he says, "You see? Two at the most is all you need to dry your hands," and then he goes on with whatever else he's doing, but while he's talking about something else and not paying any attention, he reaches in his back pocket, pulls out a white handkerchief, and wipes his hands some more, and I said, "I got you buddy," and I'll never forget that either. I couldn't tell you what his name is, but I remember that incident. But, like I said, our—it wasn't a huge school. It was a small school, but we had a great—my department had a great professor. That Hildebrand was well known, and I don't have any doubt that his recommendation is what got me in with Parks and Wildlife and probably also got me in with the guy going to the Bahamas if he had gotten it. I'm sure Dr. Hildebrand was behind all of that, and I liked Hilly. One of the things I remember the most is his final exams. They were three hours, solid writing. It was not two hours or not two and a half hours, it was three hours, and you're writing and writing and writing and writing, but I did okay. I made As in all his classes, so I guess I impressed him, but they had a basketball team. They had a football team. Uh, I think it was all basketball and football they played. They weren't any good of course (Brown laughs), and back then Texas A&I in Kingsville, they were really good. Of course, we played them every year, never at our place. We always had to go and play them at their place, and I was dating one of the cheerleaders at the time and the week before UCC was going to go over to play Texas A&I, they decided that they wanted to go play a prank on A&I so naturally I was the one going to drive them over there, so I drove these, however many, four or five girls over to A&I to the football field and then they climbed the fence or got under it or somehow and on the football field they put in—it's supposed to come up a different color green, UCC on their football field. We thought that was hilarious. That was going to be great. Of course, it didn't work, never panned out (Brown laughs), but the idea was there, and I had fun doing that, but there was—so I had a car of sorts, a '49 Pontiac. It ran good, but it didn't have any spares, so you had to make do with what you could, but I had two to three guys regularly that I would pick up in town and drive out to UCC to go to classes and then everybody would be done about noon every day, so I would drive them home and then I would go to work because I worked at a place called Gulf Iron Works. I don't think it's there anymore, but I worked every day from about one till five or six every day, and so I made pretty good money. I didn't have to get a loan or anything to pay for my schooling, plus I was able to help mom pay groceries and pay on the house where we lived, so I was fortunate there that I was able to help my friends and help my mom and do some things.

**[Brown]:** What was it like going back on your birthday and seeing the university?

**[Bradley]:** It was interesting. It's very different. I was trying to find the building that used to be our lab building, but I didn't see it. I'm sure they must've torn it down. I had been there when the library was there but most everything else is gone.

**[Brown]:** And the library was in the round building?

**[Bradley]:** Uh-huh.

**[Brown]:** Yeah.

**[Bradley]:** Uh-huh. I was—I had to do some business there when I was coming up here to go to school. I had to get—the main office was in there for some reason. I remember when we would register for school when I was in school. Everybody would set up in the field house and all the professors would have tables, and they'd be sitting on their chair, and you'd go by and physically register for their class and if there were too many on there, you'd—too bad buddy, and I mean, nowadays, of course, it's all online, I'm sure.

**[Brown]:** Yeah, I'm glad I don't have to sit there.

**[Bradley]:** But everybody had to be out there and do it the hard way, but we didn't think anything of it. When you don't know any better, you don't think anything of it, you know? But if you had to go back to it, doing it that way now then it would be a toughie (both laugh).

**[Brown]:** Yeah. Um, well, this is your oral history. Is there anything else that you wanted to talk about with your life or anything at all?

**[Bradley]:** Well, I would like to tell you a little bit about a friend of mine named David Rhew and may get choked up doing this, but I will. When I was in the fifth grade, we moved across town in Corpus Christi, and there was an elementary school named Crossley Elementary, and we did drive by it, still there, but there's not much there. Sue got a picture of the front of it now, but my class in the fifth grade was on the second floor, and I remember my first day. I went and looked out the window, and that was looking down at the sidewalk leading up to the front door of the school, and I see this crippled boy coming up the sidewalk, and he's got a satchel in his hand, and he's very crippled, and all of a sudden, he falls down, trips over something or falls down. Nobody helps him. He slowly gets up by himself, picks up that satchel, and comes into the school. I never forgot that, have never forgotten that. Over years, over time, we became best friends. He had cerebral palsy. He couldn't drive a car. He couldn't ride a horse, couldn't do much walking, and yet he got his master's—got his bachelor's degree, he got his master's degree, he got his doctor's degree. He became a licensed minister, he was the head librarian at two universities, Grand Canyon University, well back then it was Grand Canyon College. He did more traveling than I will ever travel. I remember one time, we were talking on the phone. He was telling me that they had asked him to preach the sunrise service on Easter Sunday on Rocky

Top, and he said that—he said he would, and I said, “Do the cars go all the way up there?” He said, “No, I don’t believe they do.” I said, “Well, how you going to get up there?” He said, “That’s not my problem. That’s their problem to get me up there,” and that’s the way he looked at it, and he’s the only person I’ve ever known that got not one but two tickets, speeding—not speeding tickets, but tickets for driving a golf cart on the freeway (Brown laughs), and he got two tickets like that, but he said—at the time his excuse was it was the only way he could go to church, so he drove the golf cart, and he wasn’t that good a driver of a golf cart, so I don’t know how many telephone—I mean mail boxes he ran over and ran down, and in fact that’d be a running gag with us. Every time we talked on the phone I’d say, “You hit any mailboxes today?” And he’d laugh, he could laugh, that guy could make him laugh, and I thoroughly enjoyed making him laugh and then a few years ago he got cancer, and I talked to his brother. He was living in North Carolina then, and I talked to his brother, and he was telling me, “It’s only going to be a few days,” so I talked to David and at some point I said—I said, “I love you, man,” and he said, “We’ve loved each other for a long time” and then he passed, not right then but a couple days later and—but we used to have the best times. He had—why, he and I, I don’t know, just like why Hank and I, I don’t know, but I—maybe it’s because I gave them trouble. I gave David plenty of trouble too. I didn’t—one thing that made me mad was people, even in his family, called him pee-wee, and that made me mad. His name was David, and I straightened everybody out every chance I got, his name was David. But I remember, there was one year he was teaching, part time teacher at one of the high schools in Corpus, Carroll, I think, and he was telling me that he was giving them—the last day of school before Christmas, he was giving them a test. I said, “You are giving them a test that last?” He said, “Yeah, but it’s going to be a good deal, it’s going to be a good deal,” so when it was over with, I picked him up, and I said, “How did that lousy test you gave go?” And he said, “Well, it didn’t go so well. It was supposed to be, when you filled in all the blanks, it spelled out Merry Christmas, and he misspelled Christmas” (all laugh), but he was a funny guy, and he was a great guy.

**[Brown]:** Is this?

**[Sue]:** He needs to stand up.

**[Brown]:** Uh, ready for a break?

**[Sue]:** Yes, pause.

**[Brown]:** Okay.

(end of recording)

[Ed. note: after taking a break, we decided to end the interview there.]