

Pfitsch, John  
interviewed by Joanna Hooper  
transcribed by Joanna Hooper

Tape 1 side A - May 5, 1993

Joanna Hooper: ...May 5, 1993, and my name is Joanna Hooper and I am here talking with John Alfred Pfitsch ohm in his office, and ohm to start off why don't you just tell me a little bit about when you were born and where born, and ....

John Pfitsch: Want me to leave that microphone there?

JH: Sure. That's fine.

JF:OK

Well I was born in in Miraj, India and the name of the town is M-I-R-A-J. That's the name of the city and it's in South India. The reason that I was born in South India was that my father was a medical missionary from the United States. And he was a missionary to the United Lutheran Church. He was a doctor, and he was a graduate of Johns Hopkin's University, and he was freshly married, so to speak, out of, out of uh, medical school. And uh and was very interested in both in the church and so forth and so he came to India. He and mother came to India on their honeymoon. So my sister, I have a sister whose three years younger than me, and uh we were both born in India. Actually my dad and mother only stayed six years which was one term of a missionary, because my mother's health was not good having children. I don't know exactly why, but she didn't. It was very hot in the country and ah apparently she didn't do too well uh uh with both of us and never did get to be feeling very good. And in addition to that, another tour of duty for my father would have meant six more years which, would have put us into school and I think they decided that we ought to be educated in the United States rather than India, so they came home after one tour.

My father, I think enjoyed very much his work and did a lot of things but that is not what we are here to discuss. So, but I had an interesting start in life because of that. I remember only a very few things and I think probably that is not too important here but they had some influence on me, uh mainly after I got to bec..., well in my education I think that I respected language for example, because I learned to speak Telageau which is an Indian dialect, one

of thirteen I think that is in the country, and I spoke it very well according to my parents who said I was the only one in the family who really was fluent in Telageau because they had had to learn it as adults and I had an Iya which was a servant, a woman servant, who uh took care of me because my mother was not well most the time. And uh the nice thing about being missionaries is, even though I guess they didn't get paid a lot they had all these privileges, so to speak, was they had cooks and servants, people who... chauffeurs for their automobile and so on. And uh they they there was a very nice Indian lady named uh Mary, interestingly enough, who uh was my Iya who taught me Telageau. So I learned to speak Telageau before I learned to speak English. I don't know whether that did anything to my English or not. I sometimes think it did but what I was saying is that I was very, at least I can't remember when I wasn't uh interested in foreign language and foreign people from uh just from being in uh, because I grew up with them. And uh in India there were lots of English people in the mission fields and I can vaguely remember uh friends that I had and they were either Indian uh natives or English people or American missionary people and so, I had a, it was, it was an interesting start, should I say.

There were also uh another thing that I barely remember although I think that uhm would be different than the average American kid would have was that my father being a doctor and having uh, was running a hospital in the uh mission field, that the patients essentially were uh native people. And uh of course it was affiliated with the church so the object was partly to try to have a good image to the public so to speak and to convert people to Christianity or in this case Lutheranism. I don't think that my father was so hot on that, but he liked the medicine and he thought that one reason he thought this was very good for a young doctor to have that kind of experience and they had uh they had uh languages, not languages, but diseases that we don't have in the United States, which I always wondered why that would be such a great advantage for him to come back to the United States, but anyway he always thought that it was quite an experience that he had. Anyhow one of the interesting things that happened after I was uh oh maybe four years old, the Maja Raja of Colapour, this is a king of a kingdom, in at that time, this was 19..., I was born in 1919, I don't think I mentioned that I, in uh uh so we're talking about the period of time from 1919 uh upwards and that was just right after World War II, or one, 'scuse me World War I and the British

were in India and were...colonizing it so to speak the colonial Empire of England, so that's why the English people. But the Maja Raja of Colapour, Colapour was a a uh let's say might have been the representative of state inside of India in which these very wealthy Brahman people were I don't know know how they became, I don't know how they had the power, so to speak, to become the quote Maja Raja, but Raja means king and Maja means great king and he I understand that that that they were very wealthy people and uh they did not do much according from my father's point of view anyway besides uh hunt boar and uh deer. And they organized hunting trips it may be like our people do in some fashion. In the same sense at least, for recreation purposes and the Maja Raja he had uh he hunted uh boar wild boar in the jungles which there were jungles here and there and all around and uh in an area near our hospital and they hunted off of elephant back they had these little cupilos you've probably seen, a basket like thing that's set up and they could harness it on the elephant and they sat in this thing maybe two men could sit up there, and they had spears, and they would rumble through the jungle until they flushed a boar, these little pigs, or big pigs whatever they were, and they would throw spears at them they had these men on them, these bush beaters in the, in the jungle that would go our in front of the elephants. I suppose that maybe they had two or three elephants or so in this party they would go on a camping trip, so to speak, with these elephants and all this paraphernalia and bunch of uh servant beaters and so forth that uh did this.

Well anyway on this one trip the Maja Raja was a big was uh a very big man. According to my father he was weighed over 300 pounds, which is rather unusual also for Indian people, but apparently Maja Rajas were able to eat better than the rest the people. Well he threw a spear at a pig and he lost his balance and fell off the elephant or the elephant veered or like I , or something anyway fell off the elephant. And he broke his hip I think or his leg and hip a rather bad fracture and so they uh they they took him to my father's hospital. And my father was the head doctor, so he, and of course it was quite uh I guess it was a fete, would be kind of like president of something suddenly ended up in your hospital and had to be taken care of. So dad took care of him.and got to be a good friend. Well you in those days you know that people didn't have what it took a person who had a broken leg was in uh in uh bed probably for six weeks or something like... They didn't

do mu... They didn't get out so this guy was around for a month, or two months. Dad became a good friend of this of him, and he took, and he was entertained him, and he brought him to our home, and so on. Well when he got came to our home why he found out that uh, that uh my father and mother had a son, three year old son, who was me and uh the Indians, like most all off these uh like you have learned all of these countries most of them, many of them, eastern countries maybe nearly all countries in the day of the feminist movement, uh recognized that the value of a son was a great deal greater than the value of a baby girl, or daughter. So a son they made over all the time, and my sister was there too, but nobody's ever said anything about weather they ever worried about her. But the Maja Raja, in order to pay back for the medical attention etc. wanted to do uh, and the only, the only way that he could think about it was to do something for me. So it was that he came to our house several times on these trips and he would always bring a present or something for me, not anybody else but for me, just the son, which sort of tells you about everything.

Well, one time he came after that and he brought his elephants and he thought that I should ride on the elephant with him. And so I can vaguely remember that and I hav... I think it's mostly a picture that I have a picture of myself on this big elephant with this Indian man sitting up in this basket riding on the to... on the head of elephant. Oh, I think all of those those actually those experiences that I had uh even just even though I was awfully young were uh meaningful in my life in many, in a lot of ways. For example in Grinnell I always get a big kick out of of uh immediately seeing Indian people that come here as students and have for all of my career here. And I always go up and introduce myself and and then always tell them that I was born in Miraj, India which is its a nice kind a way to to meet somebody who is a stranger in this country and is coming to the college, and so on and so and. I always have had a lot of fun um associating with them as they've gone through school and so I've had a lot of them uh Indian friends and soccer players and uh not too many basketball players that I can remember. I think I had a tennis player, or two, that came from India so about that's all about India I came home of course with my family and I was nearly five years old. And um I could speak English pretty well, I guess. But they tell me that I quit speaking Telageau as soon as I got on the ship when we came home by uh steam ship. I don't understand how I did it. Well I guess I understand it, but

it's amazing because I have no vestige at all of the Telageau language even though I said I was interested in languages. And I'm really not a very good linguist myself but I have always had a very interesting, I think been very interested in the people of whatever language that they had, and never have been in intimidated to go and talk to people in whatever language that I can talk to whatever language they can talk. But I thought, but I think my Indian was uh more interesting than the average, and it was pretty good. I do remember the trip home in the, on the big boat in the ship in. I remember going through the Suez Canal and and seeing Africa and the people talking about Africa. I remember uh they'd tell me about uh the the the African elephant is different than the Indian elephant and and and and so uh I had a good educational start in life.

Anyway we came home. I think it was 1924 or '25 I think it was closer to '25, when, and my father and mother decided that they would uh uh set up uh a their uh living in United States in San Antonio, Texas. They just picked it because they had gone through San Antonio on their honeymoon on their way to the West coast to go to India. And they had a friend, my dad had a friend, uh from uh he who was at Hopkin's medical school who also practiced medicine there at and he had uh asked him, or asked dad, if he wouldn't like to come and be his partner. So I guess that's why they went to and also San Antonio is a a a city a interesting city of mixed uh races had a lot of Hispanics and Mexican people and so on even then ah besides the black race also as well as of course the the army the United States army was in very big in San Antonio and uh so it was that I was put started school in San Antonio. And um we...

JH: How old were you at that time?

JF: How old?

JH: Ya, you were six?

JF: Six I guess, and uh I started pretty much I think the year that we came and we uh my dad started practicing medicine just like any... He was just a general practitioner and also a general surgeon, and uh he liked San Antonio very much I'd say we lived in San An... An and I went to school in a elementary school and went through junior high school in San Antonio in two different schools. I would say that from that I had uh very good education, elementary education and lower grade education by uh by beca... by most standards I can see. I had a great feeling about my education uh I liked

school and I was fairly smart and I was a conformist and I didn't have any problem with trying to uh learn something. And my family were very educated. And I had had a good uh well now, I can't recall that I had any problems at all. I think that if I had problems, it was the the problem of uh I think that it uh it it it I think that I am aware that I was quite interested and active physically from the time I was born. And that was a problem in the sense in the terms of my education. I wanted to, I much preferred to play ball than to read a book, or anything that was comparable to the ball playing compared to the book reading. And although I say I was I I had no trouble academically in anyway and i was willing to con to to do it certainly do what the minimum at least as far as the academic. And I did better than that most of the time in the early grades. I don't think that I had problems with that I had a lot of problems with that. But that thing about playing games has stayed with me until now and I am 73 years old now, so it's uh it's a root problem in that I love to play still love to play and still do play and uh that's what I did even then even in elementary school or whatever it was and San Antonio was a marvelous marvelous city for kids when I was there. This was 1925 to 1935; '33 I was there about eight years through the eighth grade.

JH: So you were there for the start of the depression as well.

JF: Pardon me?

JH: You were there for the start of the depression?

JF: Of the depression,

JH: Ya

JF: The depression started like '29. I am quite aware of the depression. Yes, was very much aware of the depression I was bec... not because my father was affected like some people would be, poorer people. My dad was a doctor he had a good practice I am sure he made money like doctors do. Not like they do now days but uh but certainly we had no there was no financial, economic problems. Except that when uh in uh well... We could jump to that. I was gonna say something about my athletic business as a kid because that's really what I ended up doing and being and that's what I thought might be interested in terms of somebody because when you think back it is amazing how those types of things keep popping up and it was there. My father for example, I'll say this , that my father was very interested in academics, my dad was not an athlete neith... I think my mother probably could have been but they had never heard of that before and she was much more interested in

athletics in my athletics than my father was. My father was a marvelous person as as was my mother. But my mother and I had what I would call a very good relationship, personal relationship, person to person relationship. I always had a great relationship with my dad, but he was different. He was a much more formal person, and he was really the boss and there was always an aura of respect more or less. And I was probably a little afraid of him, more so than my mother. And my mother I could talk to person to person about anything about li... I could say, well look I 'd rather go play baseball today than to do what they migh... I would be more afraid to say that to my father. If I thought that he wouldn't necessarily like the idea.

Well that's what I mean about, and and and and my well let me say about uh I was the only person in my family that ever had anything to do with athletics. Now I'm talking about my cousins and any, all of the immediate family not that that but genetically I don't think that... I think that I was just uh kinda lucky to get to have.... well lucky 'cause I liked to do it and had a little bit of the genes it took to be a fairly coordinated and and quick person. Which is what... And so I liked to play games. And here I was in this great place for, where it's warm and hot and stuff all year long. And you could play outside also, and kids would play outside all the time. I think if I had lived....Well, if I had lived up here I'd a probably been a ice skatin' and stuff like that, so it wouldn't uh, I don't know it would make any difference. But when I was thinking San Antonio was just tremendous 'cause I could play ball eeheh I don't know... I think I played ball from the time I was six years old, five or six years old. When I say played ball, we played ball out in the, in the lots the lots, since houses weren't filled like they are now days. I'd just be a lo... houses, house and then this empty lot maybe or two empty lots. That they wouldn't have... They wouldn't have sold. And the people would just let the kids go out and play. We used to go out and dig up the weeds and roll it and do different things even as little kids. We'd go out, sometimes we played baseball and just go through paths of weeds that were way high. But we played uhh and everybody played. Had all these kids ya know... I can remember all the places just full of kids, and everybody played outside. Well it seemed like everybody played outside, at least the ones who liked to play outs... So, I'd I had that... I loved to play and I had all kinds of chances to play. My mother was such a religious person, or at least she thought she was. She thought that I could... that you couldn't play baseball on Sunday. (JH:

laughter) And, and she got very mad at me and uh and uh she... In fact I got spanked several times, because they'd catch me out on playing baseball and I could, we had this uh conflict very early in my life with religion. Didn't want to have anything to do with it except that my mother was more or less of a fundamentalist in religion 'cause she was a methodist. My father was a Lutheran and she was bo.. and she had joined the Lutheran church. But to have the family together, and we were raised Lutheran's. And there's a little difference between the fundamentalists methods by god and she never became anything but a methodist. She really thought that I was going to hell if I played baseball on Sunday. Maybe I am but (JH and JF: laughter) that that we had quite a time with it and but she was such a good person that she would get very upset with me, but I could talk to her and I would say... Tell her all the time, ya know I'd say well ya know, and I always had this strong personality, and I 'd say, "you just don't understand." And I really felt like I really did understand better than she did... Would convince her, "look I know what I'm doing," and when I was eight years old I would stand there and lecture and she would get so mad, 'cause she was so worried that I was going to hell. That's all she worried.... I used to say finally, say "I'm not, I don't care. If I go to hell, I go to hell." Or somethin'... Anyway we had a... We had a good a good relationship; I thought.

It worked out pretty good, and I spent a good bit of my life out in the summer camp out in the early years say from the time I was eight years old. I think I went to YMCA boy's camp when I was eight years old I think. I went one week the first time and that was a big deal, and I was very lons.. homesick when i went, but I loved it 'cause it that's all we did was play ball. In this in this particular camp, so I went to the damn camp next year. I went for a month, and the next year, I think after that I never... I stayed the whole summer, I'd go for two months. It was a great camp and it was out at Curville, Texas about ninety miles from home. And I, I lived there. I felt like my life was in that camp, more so than any other place ever, probably anywhere else, 'cause I was there more or less every summer from the time I was eight until I was twenty one; till I graduated from the University of Texas. And the last year I was there I was the assistant director of the camp. The year before that I was athletic director, and the year before that I ran the water front, and the year before that I was a counselor, and a counselor, and a counselor, going backward. I did I worked in every way from the time I was

thirteen until I was twenty one I had jobs in which I was... Well, sometimes I was only getting paid room and board or something, but I felt very serious about it. And I was teaching, which is part of my life also, and I taught, and I was good enough, or so I thought, in athletics anyway. And so that I could, and I had a group of...a cabin of kids. Eight nine year old kids, boys. And I would teach them how to play all these games and play with them. And we were organized by cabins. We'd have ten people, and I was the tenth person. I'd pitched first for the softball team and I pitched for the baseball team. I played quarterback for the for the ca... for the camp, for the cabin, that's the way we organized all of the counselors did tha... They had one quote older boy doing that. Well well I had no realization that I was gonna be learning to do what I wanted to do all my life. I had learned how to teach uh little kids uh, and I don't know that there's any better way especially for sports stuff. So so when I... And I'll tie it in with uh my business about when I went to get educated at the university. 'Cause it has a, has a baring. But anyway I was in this camp and in the summer time and in the normal school situation and Texas is full of sport. Ya know the whole state thinks it's uh, Ohio and Texas are the ones that have all the organized sports and they've had em for years and years and years. And uh Texas... And also has this big macho image of itself of Texas is bigger than anyone else, and greater, and everything is better, and all that stuff. And I was just the right kind of person, so I swallowed that stuff hook line and sinker. I thought Texas was the greatest place in the world and must be heaven. Ya know there was no...nothing like Texas in the who... Well it was great to feel that way about it and I admit as a kid I think I was very happy just had a wonderful time most the time. Playin' games that my father never thought were very valuable.

JH: laughter

JF: laughter

I think my mother got to begin to understand that they were pretty good. So, well, when I was thirteen. And this will be some kind of a conflict. That's when it was 1933. And that was the depression. The middle of the depression. The beginning was '29 I think it was. Well the last three or four years I remember hearing uh stuff about the depression. And my dad was worried not so much for himself as he was for the country and all the poor people. And my dad was very deep into politics in the state of Texas. He was a good friend of Linden Johnson's for example, the congressmen, and he was

later the president of the United States. He was a good friend of Hubert Humphry, who was a senator from uh uh... That's just because he was very involved. He would be like somebody now that would have known Bill Clinton or something. And he did know Linden Johnson personally and he got to know Hubert Humphry by virtue of writing him letters and and endorsing some of his programs, and they got to corresponding. And latter on, they got to having a fairly good relationship with him, so I remember all..well my dad going around and all that stu... So, in '33, uh the uh the development of all of Mr. Roosevelt's programs to try and solve the economic programs in the country. Which interestingly enough in my life also is the fact that Harry Hopkins was the guy who was put in charge of the programs and dreamed up many of the programs of Franklin Roosevelt. One of which was the CCC. The Civilian Conservation Corps. My father was asked by a friend of his I guess, a doctor friend to, if he would like to become the doctor in the CCC. He could become uh, they would give him uh, a uh reserve officer commission as a captain and he could go and be a doctor in these camps that they were going to have all these young college students who were out of college 'cause they couldn't afford it and, they didn't have jobs or people like that. And they were CCC camps being organized all over the country. Mr Hopkins was the big guy in all that business and Mr. Johnson was a cong...congressman in Texas, who had, who was trying to become the president someday, and was really a eager fellow in the Roosevelt golden years. And he was in charge apparently a congressional charge, or whatever of the Texas as...part of the CCC.

Anyway, my father decided... He signed a contract for six months to sort of take a vacation from practicing medicine. I remember this topic was that we hadn't ever had a vacation and he could take a vacation. and he could go with his beloved boys, which he loved boys. And said he had been a big boy scout person, as lay person, as well as the YMCA which I alluded to. That's why I was in the YMCA camp, and I was also a boy scout and went through all of that stuff, which I thought was also good too. My dad was all responsible for that. Well, he took the job as a contract physician and was given a choice of camps. He took the camp... He picked a camp that was going to be put in Fort Davis, Texas. Which is four hundred miles from San Antonio due West. Ah out in two hundred miles from El Paso, in the Big Bend country. Beautiful little mountains lovely place. Cowboy country. Real cowboy

country. You coming from Colorado, might not be so impressed, but we came from Texas. San Antonio was not too impressive in terms of the the beauty of the geography.

Well dad went there in June, or something, of '33. And he was very excited about the whole thing, but mostly from the political aspect, the national thing, and so forth, and he was delighted to...kinda felt like George Drake feels like now trying to become a...being a teacher and a missionary, but doing his, quote service for his country. Ya know, 'cause those of us who fought in the war, we got our service in, and these other people always, if they have guilt problems they have... That was my dad. I think had not fought the war, and he was a little young for the, and he was in medical school. In World War II. His brother... or World War I... His brother had, he had a younger brother who actually was in the wa...,was in the service with the Canadian Airforce in, and my father always uh had a little problem with himself about that, and so this CCC business... Anyway he went to Fort Davis to this camp. He wrote to me and I was in the San Antonio Y camp doing my little job at age thirteen or whatever it was, and he said, "Well after you get out of camp how would you like to come over to Fort Davis? This just a beautiful place, and you should come out here. This is a great country. You would really like these people. And they're really interesting people. They're cowboys, and I know how you have...would like cowboys." Well I said, "I think that'd be great." So it was arranged for me to go to Fort Davis to spend the month of August, after Y camp was over. I was to go there before school started and dad was not going to get out of the thing. He had started in June and he wasn't gonna get out until Oct, Nov, De, for Christmas. I think it was before Christmas. He would be home and that would be the end of his tour.

Well, the little tour never ended, and I never... I went to Fort Davis and I never left Fort Davis except to go back to the Y camp in the summer time. And my dad never got out of the CCC. He stayed in it for nine years. That thing was organized. He became a staunch, great believer in it, and he and he spent most of his time, it seemed to me like, arranging to get those kids that were in the CCC, those men, into colleges. That seemed to be his principal job. He didn't have to do much medicine. He did whatever medicine there was, but it was low keyed medicine as far as I could see. He would agree with that. He went from there to the United States Army. Just switched over. Became a...and he ran a prisoner of war camp. Which we had, by that time,

captured German prisoners of war over in Africa. That was... He was in the CCC '33. So nine years later this was '42. War started and we were in the war in '43 or 4. He was just around Fort Bliss, no, Fort Sam Houston in the medical corps. for a couple of years in San Antonio, and then he got this assignment and he wanted it 'cause he could speak German. And this prisoner of war thing was in Paris, Texas. Is that right? Not sure it was Paris. Well anyway, it was East Texas and over there. I think that may be wrong. I may be mixed up. Uh so he stayed in, and, but I just went wherever he went in the CCC, and also my mother join...my sister joined us after the Christmas when we were supposed to come to San Antonio, and then it turned out that they all came to Fort Davis. And my sister went to school in Fort Davis, as did I, of course. And I was there two years and then to Pflugerville. You probably have heard of Pflugerville in connection with me because I have made a big deal out of that German name. That's where I graduated from high school. I skipped a couple of years in school because of these things, and that's another good thing or a bad thing depending upon how you look at it. Again at Fort Davis, I had a fantastic experience for a young kid. I lived in the CCC camp for the first six months with all the boys. They were all twenty years old? college aged kids, and older. Twenty to Thirty years old. It was really an interesting experience. They were wonderful to me. I was thirteen or fourteen then fifteen and so on. I had a great time living with my father, which I hadn't ever done, in a tent that wasn't as big as this room. Ya know out there and it was a spectacular country and I didn't have any responsibilities. They had all the responsibilities. I just learned about the country, and the people like he said were great.

'At's... I won't try and tell you all the stories 'cause I had hundreds of stories in Fort Davis alone in two years time. That I was able to do things that most people had never heard of. Learning how to be a cowboy was one of them, but that was true. In the spring and in the fall, I would work on a on a ranch because the people were rather poor ranchers. And they used, they exploited children, that's really what it amounted to for labor. They taught them how to be cowboys, and how to work the cattle and how to do everything. That's how I learned how to ride a horse, learned how to rope, how to do everything, to take care of a horse, to do everything on a round up that men were supposed to do, from castrating calves, to dehorning calves, to branding calves, to flanking calves, to doing anything with calves in terms

of...and also with controlling the herds and rounding them up, riding in round ups, doctoring calves with fly disease and stuff. When the flies would blow on their wounds. When they were uh cut up and uh ahh for a month or so we would ride the pasture to have to rope them in open pastures. And we had kids that were thirteen and fourteen and fifteen years old that did most of...all of that work. And that was great and tough responsibility, but I don't know. I was sent out in to the North pasture to check on two calves that uh that Mr. Smith had uh. If they had got blown by, they called it blowing blowing blowing. I don't know why, but whatever. The flies would would eat, eat on the on the uh wound and uh they would (cough) transmit, lay eggs or something and it causes worms, some kind of worms. We had this black leg medicine. We had to rope the calf and pour this damn medicine right into the wound. And if we did it enough and didn't let it get too far along, why we'd save the calf. Otherwise it would kill the calf in time. Those calves were money you know. And they wanted them alive. And you had to rope the calf, and ropin' a calf in open uh thing.

If I told these college kids today, and told them what they did they wouldn't believe me. I don't think a kid could, would do that. Ya know it takes time to train. I had a... It was... It was... I can't think of anything that could have been more meaningful to me. We had a great time. People were... It was mostly city kids that went out there and these folks would teach you how to do it. The way they taught, another educational experience, which really had a lot to do with how I like to coach.

Well, I played football, and basketball, and baseball at Fort Davis in a high school that had fifteen boys, and we had an eleven man football team. And I came out of Fort Davis, I mean out of San Antonio where I had played junior high school football. But we had a wonderful big program in which they had A, B, and C teams. And they had little kids. I could play on the C team. And that's why I got to play when I was a little kid. I wouldn't have done it like they do it now. I'd a never played anything. I was so little. I was really little. I weighed only ninety pounds when I graduated from high school. So, I was playing high school football at eighty-five pounds, when I was at Fort Davis, on a championship team. The other guys were bi... (laughter) were big. I just happened to walk in at that particular time, and they just needed people. They just needed anybody, that was a male. So anyhow you can get uh... Are we getting to the end of the...?

JH: I just wanted to make sure that...

JF: OK. Well anyhow, that, you can, I had this uh marvelous uh...also the school was a pretty good school, and...as far as I could tell. And um in fact there were several things that were good about it, that were better than what I thought San Antonio had. Including a Spanish teacher, who I fell in love with, I think. Who I...and I learned quite a bit of Spanish, if nothin' else at tha...those two years. Did, did... I think we had pretty good...otherwise. But, so Fort Davis was a big deal, and I kept up my San Antonio Y camp business. And then...and then went...and then my fa...and then the camp finished it's job out there, building roads in the mountains and stuff. And they were moved to Three Rivers, Texas and were given another assignment. And my father didn't like it because of uh the education possibilities for my sister and I. So he transferred and was transferred... Come in Ca...Ian. We ought to turn that thing off for a minute and see what this kid needs.

Ian: Om, I was gonn...

(Tape recorder temporarily shut off)

JF: Well, anyhow we were um, uh uh... We moved... My dad arranged a transfer to another place called Pflugerville. Where there was a ca... a soil conservation camp. And uh, which was just out of Austin.

JH: When did you... When did you transfer there?

JF: That was 1935. And I was...by that time I was, amazingly enough, a senior in high school. That's really because I made up... I had two uh two uh skips of a half a year. One full year and they only had eleven years of education in Texas instead of twelve. I was very young but uh... And Pflugerville was this German community that's named with P-F-L-U-G-E-R-...people named Pfluger who were interesting people in themselves. Had immigrated from Germany some years before, and were cotton farmers and had this rather amazing community that's about fifteen miles from Austin. Well, I really didn't do anything in Pflugerville except to transfer to school and play football, and basketball, and baseball, and all the other stuff, and learn some German. And then I went to Texas Lutheran College which was in Siquean, Texas. Which was uh... I went there partly because of my father...the religious con...connection with my father, but mostly from my point of view because it was a very small school, and I thou... I was so little that I'd never play college ball and I was intent that I was gonna play. Whether I should or not...

(Tape ends)

Side B

JF: Are we ready?

JH: Sure.

JF: The college was only, had only about two hundred and fifty students. But they had...as Texas they all had athletics. So we play...I played football and basketball and tennis, and some track. I ran track. Only because I was pretty fast, and they didn't have enough people and they let me do both. I played tenn... I really liked tennis and I had done a lot of tennis in high school, and had become a pretty good tennis player.