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Interview no. 154

David Carrasco

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: David Carrasco (1919-)
INTERVIEWER: Tom Hoggan
PROJECT: _____
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 1973
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BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Director of the Residential Manpower Center in El Paso.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Biography; experiences in the Armed Forces; education; experiences with the Peace Corps in Latin America; Job Corps Center in El Paso.

1 hour (1 7/8 tape speed); 22 pages.

Interview with David Carrasco by Tom Hoggan, in 1973.

H: Would you please tell me when and where you were born?

C: Thank you, Tom. I was born here in El Paso, actually at 905 South T  llez Street.

H: South T  llez? Is it in the south side?

C: It's the south side of El Paso, and by another hundred feet or so, my place of birth would be now in the Chamizal. I only missed it by a thin margin.

H: Yes, in retrospect, you were born in M  xico.

C: I'd say that's right.

H: Mr. Carrasco, when were you born, what is the date?

C: December 29, 1919. So I'll be 55 years old very shortly.

H: Did you attend schools here?

C: I did. I attended elementary school here in El Paso, and El Paso High School, and the then Texas College of Mines.

H: Did you receive a degree from the Texas College of Mines?

C: I did. I received a degree in Education and put in a lot of hours, really, in competitive athletics, both high school and college level.

H: Did you play most of the major sports?

C: I did. I played basketball, football, and I liked boxing also.

H: Swimming?

C: Well, swimming in those days was not an inter-scholastic sport, not an

inter-collegiate sport.

H: Baseball?

C: No, not in those days. The big emphasis was placed in basketball and football, and some track.

H: Could you give me some background of your parents? Were they born in the United States?

C: Well, both of my parents were from México, actually from Chihuahua, the state of Chihuahua. My mother was born in a mining town, Batopilas. It's right down the valley they call La Barranca del Cobre. My dad was born in Chihuahua, in the outlying area of the city of Chihuahua.

H: What did your father do?

C: My father was actually a good student as a young man, and took up electrical engineering. He received his degree in electrical engineering. Then he devoted his time to being in...more or less the same kind of work that I'm in, which is teaching.

H: At what age did your parents immigrate to the United States?

C: Well, as I understand it, my parents came to the United States in their teens.

H: Did your father complete his education here in the United States?

C: Yes, as a matter of fact, my dad went to Aoy Elementary School. I don't know that he went to any of the local high schools. I do know that he took correspondence courses, and started to work at an early age, like most of the Mexican American families.

H: Particularly at that epoch, that point in time.

C: By and large, we talk about the time that we were poor when we were young. In this case, I think both of my parents were from poor families.

H: And did they have to struggle to provide their children with opportunities?

C: They did. I have two brothers, and speaking for them and myself, we are certainly very grateful to the effort that our parents made to help us through our growing years. Although my mother has passed away, my father still lives, and I still rely on him heavily for advice. He's 81 years old.

H: Is he very lucid in his thoughts and quite active?

C: Yes, my dad moves around very well for his age, and he's a clear thinker.

H: He must have had a lot of athletic prowess also.

C: My family has spent a lot of time in sports--my brothers, myself, my cousins, the whole works.

H: It's a family tradition.

C: It has been. Competition was instilled in us at a very young age, and the desire to excel has been a part of our growing and coming into society.

H: So you derived the spirit of competition and motivation from your parents?

C: Yes. I think it's obvious, through my parents; and then through their sisters and brothers, because of their children. We also played a lot of competitive athletics.

H: Are your brothers engaged in education?

C: Well, yes, although my oldest brother, Mike, he's been with the Federal Government about 32 years now. He'll be retiring very shortly. But even though he has worked for the Federal Government, it has been related to instruction. My other brother, a couple of years younger than I am, his career has paralleled my own quite a bit. He has done coaching, he was in the Peace Corps, the same as I was. He is now Peace Corps director of Chile.

H: Really? Is he stationed in Santiago?

C: Right. He spent a lot of time in Latin America, the same as I have.

H: When you graduated from UTEP, did you go into teaching?

C: I did. I was coaching basketball, and teaching physical education at Bowie High School.

H: How long were you there?

C: A year and a half. And then with World War II, I entered the U.S. Navy, and served in the Navy for almost three years.

H: In the Pacific theatre?

C: Yes. But I didn't go into too much action. I guess it's understandable in a way, because I was in athletics also with the Navy.

H: Did you coach?

C: I played competitive sports in the Navy, and I coached. I more or less caught the eye of the higher officers, because they seemed to want to hold on to me. I didn't get too many transfers.

H: Where were you stationed most of the time?

C: I was stationed at San Diego, in Norfolk, Virginia, and Maryland. I took my bootcamp training at San Diego Naval Training Station. And I was discharged from Cambridge, Maryland, which is a naval station, a very historical place in the mountains of Maryland.

H: How long were you there?

C: I was there about a year.

H: Were you in inter-military competition with other Navy teams?

C: We competed against other armed services--Marines, Army, Coast Guard, and whatever.

H: Most of your duties were in athletics?

C: Special Services, and what also is called recruit training, more or less a teacher.

H: I see. And you travelled around the United States?

C: I travelled overseas, but not to compete with the firearm service; again, mostly with sports.

H: And on a recruiting type of game?

C: Yes. The emphasis is to do recruiting by visiting cities and other areas, and interest men and women to enter the armed forces. The draft was very strong then.

H: The Navy wasn't drafting too much in the Second World War?

C: No. The idea was that the Navy and other parts of the armed forces had emphasized competitive sports--I think the Navy more than the others.

H: When you were discharged from the Navy, did you go back to teaching?

C: Well, when I was discharged up in Maryland, I returned to El Paso with full expectations that I would be the basketball coach at Bowie High School again. But they had another coach, and he had done well. With great disappointment I left El Paso and moved to the Washington, D.C. area. I remained there almost from 1946 to 1964, almost 20 years.

H: What induced you to go to Washington?

C: It was the fact that while I was in the service, I married a girl from Rockville, Maryland. My wife saw I was frustrated in not returning to Bowie High School, and she knew people in the Montgomery County of Maryland, which is a suburb of Washinton, D.C. Through her contacts and efforts, I was able to get a teaching job in the system there.

H: Did you coach the first year?

C: I took a job in a junior high and I stayed in that system for 12 years, and I did football and basketball coaching. I enjoyed it, and considered that I would stay in that area.

H: How many years did you say you were at the junior high?

C: I was at the junior high for four years, and I was fortunate in...I guess it was a promotion, I went to a large suburban high school in Maryland, which is Montgomery Blair High School.

H: Your junior high team must have been very successful.

C: I studied my record as a basketball coach...I think I was at the right place at the right time. I had a strong record of coaching basketball in the junior high, senior high, and the university level, and also at the international level.

H: Have you compiled a won/lost record of teams you've coached?

C: I never really have, fully. The thing that I think is somewhat outstanding, particularly in the collegiate and university competition, is that I had for three years won over 22 games, and that is a very fine record. I have a very fine team. At American University, where I coached in Washington, D.C., this was the first university in that area that integrated. This was in 1956. So, we were able to bring into our university the outstanding black basketball players from the area. As you know, Washington, D.C. has put out some of the greatest basketball players of all time.

H: In racial composition, it is very heavily black, the Washington, D.C. area.

C: Yes. That was very helpful to my coaching career.

H: Then after you left high school coaching, you went directly and entered American University?

C: Yes, as Director of Athletics and basketball coach. They dropped football, so the big emphasis is on basketball. Football in the Washington area at the collegiate level had a very sad experience. Georgetown dropped football, George Washington University dropped football, Catholic University dropped football, and American University dropped football. It was difficult to

compete in that area with the Washington Redskins and to compete with the University of Maryland, which has a very strong football team. So, the emphasis in that area has always been in basketball.

H: This was in 1956? In regards to the point that you were in the right place at the right time, you must have done some good recruiting.

C: At that level of competition, recruiting is really the answer to whether you win or you don't win.

H: And most of your players were recruited from local high schools?

C: We recruited from the Washington area, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and a lot of your youngsters, student athletes and others, came out of New York. So we recruited in New York also. We recruited a lot of Jewish players, because American University has a lot of Jewish students.

H: That's interesting. You had a rather diverse athletic composition in your team.

C: Right, we did. One of the things that is interesting, looking back--I left there in 1964, this is now ten years--some of the men that I coached are now in very high positions as far as professions: teachers, doctors, and coaches, of course. Some of them are internationally recognized in sports and officiating. So I look back on the years of American University with great fondness and admiration for those boys that I coached.

H: That is a great satisfaction, I imagine. A coach is as much a teacher of values as an academic teacher. So you can probably credit yourself for giving very definite everlasting qualities to those men. I'm sure you left your mark on them.

C: I think in a way, maybe I did. It's a great joy to see what they have been able to accomplish.

H: You were there for eight years?

C: I was in American University for eight years.

- H: And from there you went to the Peace Corps, or am I getting ahead of the story?
- C: Actually, while I was in American University, because I spoke Spanish and I had previously competed in basketball throughout Latin America...I played for Chihuahua, as a matter of fact. The Dorados.
- H: Let's go back in time to when you were playing for the Dorados. Was this after high school?
- C: This was during the off-basketball season while I was playing for the Texas Mines, and then one year I coached at Bowie High School. When I got off, I went and played for Chihuahua. This was mostly in the summers. With a Spanish surname, I could easily blend into the line of the Chihuahua Dorados, which were internationally famous through Latin America.
- H: Going back to the '30s and '40s, the Dorados were playing quite a lot of basketball.
- C: They played quite a bit of basketball and it was, in those days, a lot of teams were from the U.S. They would come in and we would play in Chihuahua. So, my M.O., so to speak, was to leave here on Friday and hustle down to Chihuahua and play Friday night and Saturday night, and then play Sunday night and catch the late train coming into Juárez and get to work.
- H: I think you've had a real passion for basketball all your life, to have made those sacrifices. Basketball has been very good to you.
- C: It has, no question about it. So with this program--it was called American Specialists, and the State Department sponsored it--I went into Latin America when I was still in American University, during the summers, and I helped the local American Embassy in the various capitals of Latin America to conduct... we called them clinics and conferences in physical education and in basketball. So, I had the fortune of travelling considerably to Latin America before I

entered the Peace Corps in 1964.

H: You were with the State Department program, and this was concurrent with your coaching at the University?

C: Yes, in the summertime, I was able to go down.

H: In which countries did you conduct these clinics?

C: Almost throughout all of Latin America: México City, Guatemala City, Honduras, into Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Peru, Santiago. I feel fortunate that I had the opportunity to be in every capital of Latin America, to meet wonderful people, just the greatest friends that I still have there. I consider the highlights of my life to have been able to travel into Latin America, representing our U.S. Government.

H: You would go down with a group of coaches or assistants?

C: Sometimes I would go with other coaches, sometimes I would go by myself. My wife always went along also. She's seen more basketball games I think than any other female living.

H: Do you have any children?

C: I have one son and he's finishing his Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Chicago. I feel quite proud of his academic pursuits.

H: What is his name?

C: His name is the same as mine, David--David Lee. The Lee came from my basketball coach, whose name was Marshall Lee. Marshall Lee Pennington was my basketball coach, both at El Paso High School and at Texas College of Mines. So my son took my first name and took the name Lee from my coach.

H: He coached you six or seven years?

C: He did. He's a remarkable man, also.

H: He must derive great satisfaction from your success.

- C: Well, this coach that we had at Texas Mines stayed very strongly in the minds and hearts of the youngsters he coached.
- H: Then after American University, you were hired by the Peace Corps?
- C: I was hired by the Peace Corps, and I went to Ecuador. I served in the Peace Corps for three years, as the director of a youth development program. We took into Ecuador at one time...as a matter of fact, it had more Peace Corps volunteers than any country in Latin America.
- H: The government of Ecuador must have been very sympathetic to the purpose.
- C: The Peace Corps program, while it has diminished in emphasis, at one time was a fantastic arm of the Foreign Service and Diplomatic Service.
- H: You were in Quito, principally?
- C: We lived in Quito, and Guayaquil, and travelled all over Ecuador. The program that I supervised and directed, we had up to 60 volunteers under my supervision, and they were scattered throughout Ecuador. So I really moved around Ecuador.
- H: What year was this?
- C: This was from late '64 to '67.
- H: Just for my own curiosity, were you ever in contact with the people who run the facilities which the University of New Mexico has?
- C: Yes, they have a contract with the government of Ecuador to publish some books, actually, and to prepare teachers. These books were instructional books in the teaching of English and other subjects of the elementary and high school level. So we worked very closely with the University of New Mexico, and we worked also with the University of St. Louis, which had a contract down there.
- H: I've read in brochures by the University of New Mexico, regarding their campus, in which they chose Ecuador and Quito, especially, because they found it to be a microcosm of all Latin America, as far as ethnic ratios, language, cultures.

Would you find this to be true? And do you find a little of all Latin America in Quito?

C: You do, Tom. They call Ecuador the "Country of Contrasts". It is that because of its climate; its geographical make up; its snow capped volcanoes, running up to 2,200 and 3,000 feet. It has the Oriente with the deep jungles; it has the city of Guayaquil, which is tropical all the way.

H: I didn't know that it was that tropical.

C: It's unbelievable, because Ecuador is about the size of Colorado. So you can imagine the state of Colorado having tropical cities, and then having cities such as Denver and others.

H: Quito would be in the climate of the Andes.

C: Quito is about 9,000, almost 10,000 feet. Guayaquil is sea level, and Machala and other coastal cities are sea level.

H: That is quite a contrast. It must have been an enviable experience.

C: It was that. I was emotionally involved in the Peace Corps. I always was a great admirer of President Kennedy, who was the founder of the Peace Corps, along with Vice President Hubert Humphrey. He was a Senator, then, and together they founded the Peace Corps. I believed in its mission and its objectives, its goals and its aims. So I left American University, where I was an associate professor with tenure, to enter the Peace Corps.

H: At the American University, you were also conducting classes, in health, physical education, etc?

C: Yes, I was a member of the faculty.

H: It wasn't just a coaching job? You were also on the faculty?

C: Right. I really liked my years at American University, but I saw this Peace Corps as an opportunity to expand my horizons.

- H: And that was an exciting period. There was a lot of idealism in the U.S. at that time.
- C: There was. The volunteers that were in my group were very dedicated and devoted, most of them were college graduates, and they were very capable. They had a lot of ability, imagination, and they were just wonderful people. I refer to them as another phase of my life--starting with the youngsters that I coached at Bowie High, teaching in Aoy, and then high school in Maryland, and the American University, with Peace Corps in Ecuador. So there are many phases.
- H: I would think now, ten years later, it would be difficult for the emotional sacrifices and attitudes of idealism which were so prevalent in Peace Corps volunteers in 1964 to be recaptured in the future generation. I think it was a very special time, and you had very special people.
- C: Well, it was. The Peace Corps also had another meaning, one that I considered to be of great depth. That was that we were going into foreign countries with a new concept as far as the foreign service. The Peace Corps was never very popular with the established tradition of the Foreign Service, because the volunteers did not live in nice homes; they did not have money, they had very limited allowances; they lived in the poor areas, the barrios; consequently, they worked right with the people. In our case--I was the supervisor and director--I never frequented the plush hotels or theatres. My wife and I did have a nice home, but we spent our time with volunteers.
- H: Did you find that you weren't always encouraged to attend diplomatic functions or embassy functions?
- C: More or less under instructions from the director, who was Sargent Shriver--he was the national director of Peace Corps--the philosophy of Peace Corps

was, first, not to enter the traditional way that the diplomatic service operates; consequently we never were invited. So, we spent our time working with Ecuadorians.

H: And living in the areas that you were working in. You worked in the rural areas as well as the urban areas?

C: Yes, quite a bit in the rural areas.

H: More than in any other area?

C: Well, a combination, really. The instruction might have been in the rural area, but the competition was always in the big cities, in Quito or Guayaquil.

H: Were there special projects which were assigned to you for completion by your group?

C: Well, it was mostly teaching in youth groups, and teaching was relative to physical education, and competitive athletics in practically all sports. You know, Ecuador, like all Latin American countries, goes for sports and physical education.

H: There is a lot of enthusiasm for kicking around a homemade ball. You improvise and use whatever equipment can be fabricated at the moment, to start a game of one type or another.

C: There is that, Tom. One of the things that cannot be overlooked in Latin America, is that sports is a means to economic independence. Although it is in America, some, I think it started to be recognized with people of low economic incomes, with the blacks in our country. In Latin America, the reason why there is a desire to excell is because, if a person makes it in sports, then he is in a better position to earn money, to get a better job, more so than in Europe and more so than in the U.S. So for that reason, there's great desire for Latin American athletes to excell.

- H: They know if they can excell, no door will be closed.
- C: Of course, the Latin American athletes were hampered--in those years--by the lack of facilities, the lack of coaching, and the lack of good equipment.
- H: I recall that Pelé started playing soccer using a ball of rags tied into knots. That's the situation with a lot of prominent fighters in South America. They never put on a pair of gloves till they actually had a bout in the ring. And I think to be good in certain sports, you do need that toughening; you have to have that desire to break out of the cycle in which one's ancestor had been enmeshed for generations and generations; sports provide an escape. You left Ecuador in 1964?
- C: Well, I left for Ecuador in 1964, and then something very unusual and interesting happened. The Department of State determined that they should have a position in México City, and for lack of a better name, the position was titled Olympic Attaché. That was in connection with the 1968 Olympics that were given to México City by the international Olympic committee. So the State Department was looking for a person who had a background in sports, who knew Spanish, who was familiar with Latin America. This is fully a year before the Olympic Games even took place--I received a letter asking if I would be interested in this position. I was very surprised. This was from the State Department. I responded that I was interested. I received the letter on November 1966, and I was finally appointed in June of 1967. So you can tell all that went into the selection process. I was told that around 60 candidates were considered, and I felt honored to have been chosen as the Olympic Attaché. That's the first in the history of the State Department. Each country sometimes has the position of Olympic Attaché, but that person is picked one or two months before the Olympic Games, and really helps with the logistics of the individual

teams that are entered. This was a much more involved position.

H: When did you go down there?

C: I went in June of 1967, and the Olympics took place in October of 1968. And I left México finally at the end of the year. So, I was almost there a good year and a half--almost two years.

H: You took your family with you?

C: Yes, we lived right in México City.

H: Where did you live in México City?

C: We lived in the area of Polanco, not too far from the Embassy. But, you know, the traffic of México City is fantastic. So, getting in and out of the heavy traffic is quite an experience for anybody who visits México. But that was a fantastic job! The office was in the Embassy. When I first arrived there in June, 1967, there was the Attaché and the secretary. But by the time the Olympics arrived, the office had been expanded to include two officers, two foreign officers, in addition to myself. We had four or five secretaries, we had a chauffeur, messengers. It was a big operation.

H: What type of security was provided to your group, particularly during the upheavals in the Autumn of 1968?

C: México has a fantastic culture and just a remarkable history. I think if you look at it in its totality, the year of 1968 unquestionably will go down as one of the greatest in the history of México. So many things happened in México because of the Olympic Games. Things happened to México--student uprisings, students were expressing themselves. Regretably, in my view, some of the radicals were there only to take advantage. México was going to show the world that it was no longer an emerging nation, but an established nation. Before, the Olympic Games always took place in a strong, established, highly

industrialized country. And here, now, México had the Olympic Games.

H: To a degree, a third and emerging world power, as certain political sciences refer to it.

C: Many people in sports and diplomatic circles, economic circles, world wide, felt that México could not put on such a sport and cultural extravaganza as the Olympic Games. So, getting back to these students and others, I think they took advantage of the fact that México had the stage; so they had these uprisings there.

H: What type of concern was expressed at the Embassy?

C: Well, the Embassy was, of course, in a very delicate position, because the U.S. has always been a leading power in the outcome of the Olympics; we always had been the winners, although the Russians have challenged us in the number of medals. The U.S. has always won the most gold medals. So, we were under a tremendous strain. Talking mostly about Ambassador Fulton Freeman, I was special assistant to the ambassador and his advisor to all Olympic matters. So anything that had to do with the Olympics was channeled to my office; of course, if the matter was very delicate, the decision was made by the ambassador. In those crucial days, the world more or less was turning to the U.S. to make a decision, relative to our decision.

H: In your experience, knowing the country of México as well as you do, knowing the economics of the Olympics of 1968, do you think that the Olympics did deprive a large majority of low income Mexican citizens from greater public works programs? Do you think it took more from the lower economic classes than it gave?

C: Probably so, Tom. But that is not anything that doesn't happen in any country where the Olympics is staged. As far as the Olympic villages, those villages

are turned over to apartments, so there is no problem with that. Probably your point is well made in the huge stadiums; although the swimming pools are being used, the training centers are being used. Probably the huge sports arena is too large; unless you bring in a special extravaganza, it doesn't get the use it normally would get if it were smaller. In spite of that fact, money was not used totally in a wise fashion. The fact that México organized the Olympics, that they were a tremendous success, that México was able to show the world that it was really an orderly, strong, administratively speaking, nation in ability--I think the money maybe wasn't used wisely, getting back to my point, has to be overlooked.

H: There were some less obvious indirect advantages accrued.

C: The people say, "What good does the Olympics do the poor farmer back down the road here?" It have him an opportunity to feel pride.

H: I observed that, in my experience, that Mexicans did take pride in the Olympics being staged in México. I know that the students' objection was this basic one: that the benefits were going to be enjoyed by those who would profit from greater trade, by recognition of México, by importing power. It is a very complicated situation. In retrospect, perhaps it would be interesting to get impressions from those critics of 1968 who saw it as a totally needless expense and totally unjustified; it was taking money which could be used for roads, for transportation to benefit the lower classes. You left early in '69 for El Paso?

C: I did. I was transferred to El Paso still with the State Department, and I worked as a regional director of the U.S. Commission for Border Development and Friendship. It was a commission that was formed by President Johnson with Ambassador Raymond Telles as its chairman. I was returning to El Paso after

12 long years. I was very happy with that job.

H: Was your father living here?

C: My father actually lived in Japan for a long time following World War II, and my mother lived there. My dad was working with the armed forces. So, coming back to El Paso, my two brothers were no longer here. They also left El Paso with the service, and then did not come back like a lot of people did. A lot of people who did not live in El Paso moved to El Paso, and a lot of people that lived in El Paso move elsewhere. So this happened to many families.

H: Mobility and migrations.

C: So I came back and worked with the commission. Unfortunately, the commission was not funded; therefore, it lasted one year while I was with it.

H: This was a type of prelude to the Chamizal settlement?

C: Part of it. Right now in El Paso, there are a lot of problems with Juárez, with transportation, with border crossings. This is a bad thing certainly for the friendly ongoing relationships with the two nations. I feel that if we did have that commission still in existence, that these problems would certainly be minimized.

H: And perhaps the current problems would have been avoided entirely.

C: I feel so, Tom. The commission was established by President Johnson, and President Nixon just cut it right out.

H: It was established to mediate these disputes?

C: Yes, right, and to work in a very close fashion.

H: Was this bi-national? Was there a corresponding agency in Juárez?

C: Yes, and all along the border. It was a bi-national mission. We had our counterparts. It was a fantastic effort on the part of the Mexican foreign office and the U.S. State Department.

H: What type of problems did you deal with?

C: We dealt with all types of problems: education, commerce, agriculture, immigration, libraries, customs, health, the whole gambit of human relations, back and forth.

H: What was your position?

C: Regional Director. My area was part of Texas down to Del Rio, and New Mexico and part of Arizona.

H: Did you have various specialists on your staff?

C: Yes, these were specialists with the Department of Commerce, Agriculture, Labor, and other departments. We called on them to help us. I really enjoyed that work.

H: It's an interesting point you make, that perhaps many problems could have been avoided had that agency continued operation.

C: I think so, Tom.

H: It ceased to function at the end of 1969. It was disbanded for lack of funds.

C: I was in the foreign service, at the State Department. Then I went back to Washington, and I had an interest in returning to the Peace Corps. I was going to go as the director back to Latin America. Simultaneously, the Department of Labor was opening a corps center here in El Paso. They approached me, the Texas Educational Agency Foundation, which is the operator of this center and two other centers in the state of Texas. They approached me with the interest of asking me if I would be willing to take the job as director of the center here. So it was a question of deciding whether to return to Latin America, or to stay here in El Paso. My wife favored very strongly staying in the U.S., and I was very interested in this job.

H: Yes, it was a new concept. Junior ones had been more on the CCC style in the

rural areas.

C: In the rural areas and urban areas. They were called urban centers, but actually they were located in abandoned military air fields or veterans' hospitals.

H: So this was an entirely new idea.

C: I have to say this for the Nixon administration. They did cut down on Peace Corps, and they did do away with the commission for Border Development and Friendship, but they did start the Residential Job Corps. So it balanced out, as far as I'm concerned, as related to my interests.

H: The good effects of one more or less cancelled out the unfortunate repercussions of the other.

C: They do. This is the concept of providing a second opportunity to youngsters who are economically and socially disadvantaged, and it is just wonderful.

H: This type of work does have its satisfaction. I remember a little store here on Mesa, and a boy walked in the other day and he said, "Mr. Hoggan." I looked at him and didn't recognize him, and I said, "Hello, how are you?" "Don't you remember me?" Then I looked at him. "I believe I do, but I can't place where we did meet." "You coached me boxing at the Job Corps." And then I remembered. He told me that he had been working for a year for an apartment complex and was very very happy, and he was doing well; he was doing maintenance for a large apartment complex. The other day a student at UTEP was going to give a report on juvenile delinquency. She knew that I worked for Aliviane and for Job Corps, and she thought, "I'll ask Tom what he can tell me about how Aliviane and Job Corps handle juvenile delinquency." I told her that I certainly considered both institutions to be a force to keep potential delinquents from committing acts against society. And just seeing that fellow the other day somewhat reaffirms the truth of what I told her. When he was

here, he was one of those who had problems; he was a potential problem for society. Yet, a year later, he had completed his course; he was very happy; he had married; he had been working for an apartment complex. I derived a certain satisfaction that I perhaps had contributed to him finding a better life. I imagine in your position, you could attribute much more influence on the boys who graduate here and are able to break out of that cycle, and are able to find jobs and have families and become loyal tax payers.

C: Well, this is true, Tom. We were talking about all these phases in my life, and this is another one. We've been here for four years, and I can't really say this is the greatest, but certainly it has a lot of meaning to me. There are so many success stories, just like the one you mentioned, about youngsters who come through this program.

H: And I think they justify all the time, efforts, and monies which are dedicated to programs of this type. I think they redeemed one's efforts completely, when there are several who make it. I think even one person...to be able to give a better life to one person and his descendants justifies a lot of effort.

C: It does, Tom. The thing about our center is that we have the greatest number of completers, graduates than the other job corps centers in the U.S. So, statistically, we are very strong.

H: Yes, that's a very impressive detail.

C: Although the program is costly, returns in the form of income tax, being that the youngsters pay now...

H: That's one justification for the G.I. Bill. Because I know, if it hadn't been for the G.I. Bill, I probably wouldn't be getting an income tax form this year; they would just have forgotten about me. So these programs are good. We are coming to the end of the tape, and I want to thank you, because the interview

exceeded my expectation. I knew I was going to get a very interesting biographical sketch, but I wasn't aware of the various activities in which you have been engaged throughout your life. It's been a very interesting career and I trust there will be new phases.

C: I hope so, and I have really enjoyed talking to you.

H: Thank you, sir.