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Interview no. 700

Joe Aubin

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Joe Aubin
INTERVIEWER: Leslie J. Pyatt
PROJECT: Class project
DATE OF INTERVIEW: February 21, 1978
TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted
TAPE NO.: 700
TRANSCRIPT NO.: 700

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Male, Caucasian, age 36. After military service, Mr. Aubin joined the Border Patrol, Department of Justice. He served in Presidio, Texas and El Paso, Texas during the 1960s and 1970s. He is married to an El Paso Mexican American woman. They have three children.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Thirteen year veteran Patrol Agent relates his experiences along the United States-Mexican border in a candid manner. He describes the daily harassment by aliens, attempts on his life, and insults from Mexican Americans in El Paso, Texas. He exposes his inner thoughts in the interest of providing historians the day to day thoughts of a typical agent along the border in 1960 and 1970s.

Note: Edited somewhat by interviewer.

Length of interview: 55 minutes Length of transcript: 23 pages

Joe Aubin
by Leslie J. Pyatt
February 21, 1978

P: Joe, when and where were you born?

A: I was born in Fall River, Massachusetts in 1942.

P: What is your family background?

A: My father comes out of Canada, my mother...both sides come out of Canada. Until he was 22 years old, he worked in a factory after completing high school, and went in the construction business on his own, and to this day is still a home builder.

P: Was he a naturalized citizen?

A: No, he was born in the United States. His parents and Mother's parents both came out of Canada.

P: Where did you spend your early childhood?

A: I moved around quite a bit with him being in the construction business. I was born in Fall River, Massachusetts, raised in Rhode Island, spent four or five years in New Hampshire, where he also built and had a dairy farm for awhile. He tried that. We moved back to Rhode Island. But we moved several different times there.

P: Where and when did you attend schools?

A: All my schooling was in Warren, Rhode Island. I went through Catholic schools. First four years was in public schools, through the eighth grade in Catholic schools. Nine, ten, eleventh and twelfth in the Warren High School in Warren, Rhode Island.

P: What social activities did you participate in while in high school?

A: I was on the football team four years, basketball team three, the baseball team three. My last year I was in the Drama Club, my senior year. I did some work for the yearbook.

P: What jobs have you held prior to this one?

A: Going back in time, I was on the fire department here in the city of El Paso prior to the Border Patrol. I tried salesman for a few months in El Paso. Prior to that I worked for Coca Cola as a route salesman. I also worked in construction as a crane operator here in El Paso for Hugh McMillan, who is now deceased. Prior to that it was the military. Prior to that it was working with my father in the construction business.

P: When and how did you happen to join the Border Patrol?

A: I was here in El Paso and I had married a local girl. That's the reason I chose to make it my home. And, I looked around for a good paying job. My father-in-law many, many years ago had worked as a janitor for the Border Patrol. He told me about them. First time I saw a Border Patrolman I flagged him down on the street. We had a long visit. I decided I could probably do that kind of work and probably be interested in it. I applied and was selected.

P: The relative who worked for the Border Patrol, was that down here?

A: My father-in-law, who is a native El Pasoan.

P: What are your duties as a patrolman?

A: The primary duty is to prevent the undocumented worker, as

they are now called, from coming into the U.S. and to apprehend those guilty of violating the law. The duties I do here in El Paso, we have a rotation system where we change every couple of months. This is so you will not get bored and it is always a challenge. We work freight yards around the clock and we have what we call the line area, the river area; and, we have plain clothes which works the city. We have transportation check which is the airport, bus station and trains. We have our sand hills unit which is West of El Paso for about 45 miles. Anybody who tries to walk across the desert to walk around the city to come into the country, we have tracking units out there, along with the sensors. We have an agriculture unit when it is feasible, when they are planting and harvesting. We go out in the fields and check the people there. We have traffic check points, two check points leaving the city--one north toward Alamogordo 40 miles outside the city, and the other toward Carlsbad Caverns on 62 and 180 in the Hueco mountains. We rotate through these duties every two months so you won't get stale, stagnant in it, and to give you a new challenge. Some duties are very tedious. You get tired of them and you aren't as efficient perhaps as you would be just coming into the unit fresh.

P: Joe, you talk about the undocumented alien, is that the new term?

A: We referred to them as illegal aliens for many years. Also

they were referred to as wetbacks. But with today's civil rights they are not undocumented persons.

P: How can you tell the difference between persons in, say, a car? How do you know who to check?

A: At our check points, we check everybody. Today's day and age we have to be so concerned with civil rights. So many times in the past, I've had Mexican people stand by and see how, to check me, to see if I am checking everybody. They've created a stink figuring we've only picked on Mexican people. The traffic check points are pretty secure in that way. Getting to others, in agriculture, when we hit a field, we check everybody. There you are more apt to encounter counterfeit documents and altered documents and so forth. In reality just going by a man showing you something, from a distance it is not sufficient. Because this is in the U.S., 20, 30, 40 miles in and the man is employed. So we are checking for counterfeit and altered documents. The line watch of working the river area, again, it is pretty much cut and dry because people are crossing the river. We run into a problem in the Chihuahua area of South El Paso because there are some residents who have been there many years who don't want to move, which is referred to as Segundo Barrio. It is cheap rent and gives them more money to spend on beer on Fridays and Saturday nights.

There are several organizations that take a dim view of the Border Patrol. They call us names and insults are

written all over the walls, painted on. These people are checked more often. It is due to the fact they live on the border area, less than 100 yards from the border. There is nothing but a set of railroad tracks and a broken down fence in between them and Mexico. So they are constantly screaming they are being harrassed. In essence, we have no way of checking, no way of knowing who they are until we check these people in this particular area. Most are resident aliens, people who are born in Mexico, have come into the U.S. as a legal resident. It is about as close as they can move in the U.S. and still feel they are a part of Mexico. They really don't want to give up their citizenship. They use the residence to come in. Unlike a lot of other people, they don't try to, shall we say, in a sense they better themselves by being here but they still want to feel attached to Mexico. The city patrol and transportation checks, this is where we are really on touchy ground.

To give a reason why I check someone, we have to be selective, not to harrass the traveling public at the airport, the bus stations, so different things you have to look for. After 13 years of doing this, I can't really describe, it's a gut feeling, a hunch. I can walk downtown El Paso and walk by a lot of people and know they are legal. All of a sudden, one will be by me or passing in front of me, that I just know doesn't have documents. A lot of it is the way they look, the material things. They

may have Mexican shoes, clothes or a lot of times it is their fear of the Border Patrol. They become extremely nervous or they have this invisible look. If I don't look at him then he won't look at me. This has been demonstrated many times /here/. Like in a cotton field, they run and hide. As you walk up on one, you can literally kick the bottom of his feet and tell him to stand up and he won't do it because he has his head buried under a bush. He goes by that theory, if I can't see him, then he can't see me. He'll stay there until you reach down and pull him up. He realizes then he's been caught. It's little things like that you look for as you pass people.

The only way we know for sure is to get out and talk to people. I always start off greeting them very nicely and warmly. That's changed around considerably. I let them make the first move. If I come up and ask them, "How are you doing," something like that, and they come back with a curse word, or insult or make derogatory remarks, my method changes from that time on. I get paid to do a job, not to take somebody else's guff.

P: Would you relate some of the incidents that have occurred as you performed your patrol duties?

A: I spent my first two years at Presidio, Texas. Of the 13 years, the first two were there. We dealt with a situation where the population is about 800. There are a few thousand in Ojinaga, Mexico and they are all inbred with relatives on

both sides. Consequently we were not liked. They really shunned us and our families. They made life as miserable as possible. Just a few miles down river from Presidio, there is a place called El Mulato. Many years ago, it is my understanding, there was some colored soldiers deserted from the American Army and settled in Mexico there. You can see traces in the people of black heritage in them. Those particular Mexican people are very large. It is not uncommon for them to be 6' or 6'2" and muscular, whereas the average Mexican is 5'8" or 5'9".

Overall this little community is very large (people). And they are very mean. I have had cases when at Presidio, I've had a man pull a screwdriver and try to use it like a knife. I guess I could have shot him. But I've never shot anybody. I have had ample opportunity but I don't think taking a man's life just because I have a little justification is necessary. Each case as I'll relate in a few minutes, I had ample opportunity, and I have not /shot/. I've resolved the case some other way. The case with the screwdriver, my partner came up behind him and we subdued him that way.

I had a man at Presidio try to bury a cotton chopping hoe in my skull. I had a good sight picture on his head. He turned pale, put the hoe down and retreated back to Mexico. We contacted the Mexico authorities. Many years ago they cooperated more. They found out he was a wanted man

in Mexico. They assured us he was arrested sometime later. At Prsidio, I had a man come at me with a double bitted axe. He was chopping wood, illegally on this side along the border. I came up on him, when he saw me between him and the river, he came at me. It was just him and I, many miles from anywhere. As I started to draw my pistol, he sized up the situation quickly. He threw down the axe, clasped his hands together in a praying fashion. The problem was resolved. Here in El Paso, I've had people throw rocks and bricks at me from the Mexican side. I was hit in the head about two years ago with rocks. It all started when they took sling shots away from the Border Patrol. It was declared an unprofessional weapon. Prior to that time we had some control of the river area but since that time we have lost it. Now they have sling shots, David and Goliath slings, and we are bombarded with rocks and bricks on a daily basis. I imagine within a year's time here in El Paso we are losing at least one window a week in our vehicles. It's that bad.

P: This is from the Mexican side of the border?

A: Right. David and Goliath slings with half bricks and so forth. They just lob them over. When we are on the levy there are just a few places we get off. It is really like running a gauntlet. If you get 20 or 30 Mexicans with slings, chunking rocks at you, you got your hands full just getting out of there.

P: Do you have any cooperation from the Mexican side to try to stop that behavior?

A: They say, publicly, they want to work with us. But, only in rare cases when they can get something out of it themselves. For example, if we have problems with rocks, it takes 20-30 minutes. If you call and say there is a load of narcotics... I had a case where we had half the load here in the U.S. in custody and across the river there was another four or five bags of marijuana, they came just lickity split in just a couple of minutes then. Cigarette smuggling, I've watched cases and cases of tax free cigarettes on the U.S. side supposedly for consumption outside the U.S., they get halfway across the Stanton Bridge and then they are dropped down on the Mexican side. The Mexican police will not bother that at all even though it's against Mexican law because they are being paid off. We have cases where they tried to smuggle them back into the U.S. at some point other than Stanton Street. We call and they come right away and confiscate the cigarettes for attempting to smuggle them out of the country, or they'll be paid off. Whenever they have a change to gain something, they most certainly will be there. Just because somebody is throwing rocks at us, they take their sweet time about it.

Cooperation with the Mexican police, it doesn't hold water at the working level. If they want somebody, they were chasing him, then with hat in hand they are right over,

real nice guys, they'd like to have the "Gentleman" if we'd like to get rid of him. Unfortunately, we cooperate with them all the time. When they want somebody bad enough, with no worry about civil rights, if he's accused of committed a heinous crime, it is all over. No one ever hears of him again or a trial or anything else.

P: Have you had any experiences along the border you would characterize as good?

A: Yes, I've helped people out in the desert area. There was a case of a lady and an old man going to look at Kilburn Hole, 50 miles west of El Paso. They got stuck. The man decided to walk to El Paso for help. The following day the car was found with the lady, found the gentleman later that afternoon under a bush, dehydrated. They both lived. I got involved in that a little bit.

As far as directly involved, I work quite a bit with the Shrine Burns Hospital and Crippled Children's Hospital. There is a one legged boy here who... The story is, I got involved with this child quite a bit. He was brought here from Chihuahua to the border area by an 18 year old brother when the boy was 10 years old. When eight years old he had fallen under a freight car. It amputated one leg immediately. Being a very poor family, they couldn't care for him, they brought him to Juarez, figuring that someone on the border would take care of him. He and his crutch could outrun most Border Patrolmen as he used

it like a pole vault. I caught this boy many times because he was always over here begging or in trouble. I got a call one day from a Greek Orthodox Priest in Juárez saying he had a one legged boy who needed help. He asked if we could get him into the Shrine Crippled Children's Hospital and get him fitted with a leg. He came back to El Paso to Juárez. One time a couple months later, I was called into the write-up room at the bridge where a boy caught illegally in the U.S. is asking for me. I went in, sure enough it was him. He had a new leg on, we had a talk, and he's not been back since. It was rather rewarding.

P: What are your views on migration?

A: The cause is the poverty in Mexico. If I had a wife and five or six, seven, eight, nine, 12, 15 kids to support, and could only make a dollar a day in my own country, I would do the same thing. All they really want to do is come in and earn enough money to feed their families. Let's face it, families come first. I would do anything in the world for my wife and children. I am sure everybody feels the same. There, they are just trying to survive. There is no middle class in Mexico. You are either very rich or very poor. It is almost impossible to go from the poor to the rich without some rich person helping you. It is a terrible situation. There again, we have a job to do. I'm paid to do a job in the U.S. The U.S. can't take care of the entire world. We look at Mexico being close and a poverty stricken country, but I see pictures of other

countries where there are starving people also. If we tried to take care of every nation in the world... even Russia can't feed itself.

P: Do the other Border Patrolmen feel the same way-- those you've talked with?

A: You get right down to it, yes. There's always the hard nosed Border Patrolman, but I've seen so many cases, either myself or many others--you get a truly hungry person. I've bought them food and I know other Border Patrolmen who bought them food. Kids, you know. We always have coffee and doughnuts in the write-up room for the convenience of the officer to come in and while writing up the aliens, processing them, you have a cup of coffee and a doughnut. I've seen doughnuts given to kids and hungry people.

P: Do you take the aliens back right away or do they have to spend some time here?

A: It all depends on the circumstances. We have an alien detention facility. Now it's called the Service Processing Center. These are for the hardnose. The normal alien coming in who presents no problems is processed and in a couple hours he's returned back to Mexico. Normally we don't just let them go. We process at the Paso del Norte bridge. We have a large office there. Rather than having a great influx of aliens going out that door onto the bridge into the traveling public, they are removed by bus to Ysleta about five miles away. It gives us a couple

hours before they come back.

P: They come back that quick?

A: Yes. Especially the women. We have facilities for men but not women. I've seen prostitutes; we take them over and they come right back Friday and Saturday to work the Plaza downtown.

P: What solutions do you see for the alien problem?

A: There is no simple solution. President Carter is at the moment talking about amnesty. All he is doing is adding to the problem. We have a Commissioner of Immigration who is Mexican himself, ultra-liberal, whose motives are for peace and so forth. Again, it just adds to the problems. The people are coming because they want to work, most of them. We'll deal with the majority. We have exceptions. We have criminals who come in strictly to steal. The majority are coming in to work, to gain money, to go back to their country and support their family. Perhaps to buy a couple of acres of land, a house or something like this. So what they want to do is work. The Mexican people who are coming in are very warm people, family oriented, very religious. Religion is probably the strongest thing in their life. We don't have that much difficulty in fearing for our lives.

The person coming in from Mexico, if he was offered some opportunity to work a few months of the year here in the U.S., he will be thrilled to death. We had a program called the Bracero Program in the 1960's. It was stopped because the

labor movement in the U.S. said they were coming in to take jobs Americans could hold. Unemployment today is 7 percent. Regardless of what anyone says, Americans will not go in the fields and do stoop labor. Part of the resolution would be to go back to the Bracero Program. This will not displace American help. In the 1960's, Americans exploited the Mexicans in a big way--the ranch owners and farm owners, and so forth--mainly because we the Immigration Service were screening these people to make sure they had no tuberculosis and such stuff and that they were good people like they claimed to be. Then we were releasing these people to individual farm owners or ranchers, he was to pay them what ever he wanted. There were no controls or checks on this. Consequently some of these people came in and were forced to live in sub-standard, inhumane barns, no bathrooms, no washing facilities. They were charged ridiculous prices for their foods. Again, the Mexican was so happy to have work that, figuring he'd only be here six months, he'd get what he could. They'd double up, do without eating, double up in a particular room just to try to save money.

If we were to go back to a program of the bracero, we should have better safe-guards so these people would not be charged outrageous prices for their food or forced to live in outrageous conditions, and he should be paid a fair wage.

P: If the Bracero Program allowed the rancher or farmer to take advantage of the worker, what about the illegal alien or undocumented worker?

A: It would give us, the Immigration Service, a little bit better control because if a farmer could have all the workers he wanted out of this legal pool, the stipulation would be he not hire illegal aliens. We would run periodic checks on these people to make sure they had certificates or whatever it is we would issue to them to show they are on the Bracero Program. If we came upon some illegal aliens, we are not talking about one or two, if a man has 200 people employed and we came up with one or two illegal aliens, we know he can't screen everybody, we realize that. But if we run across a farmer, I can see it already if it was to go in, he'd stop us at his front gate and say, "All of mine are braceros." He may have 200 workers and only 100 braceros. The other 100 would be illegal aliens. In those cases we'd have to have something where that man would be punished by not being allowed to work braceros for a specific amount of time. I do believe, knowing several farmers and ranchers personally, that they'd cooperate. If I was a farmer with 1000 acres of tomatoes out there I would want to harvest them.

As example, this past year with cantaloupes. They had 800 acres of cantaloupe, and it's a touchy fruit. If it is ripe tomorrow it had better be picked tomorrow, next day

it may be too late. This may be oversimplified, there may be a couple days in there. It is touchy. The farmers in Presidio, and I know many of them, and they don't like the Border Patrol, they really tried advertising across the local west Texas area for help. They needed around 1500 workers to come in and harvest these cantaloupe. They promised top wages. They had less than 60 apply for the jobs. So they screamed to the government, and finally they were allowed 800 workers aliens to come in from Mexico. These were in a special category of HI on their visa. Means they have a specialty that is not available in the immediate area they are going to, and this is how they get around it. It is something like a Bracero Program but it comes under the H visas. They were melon pickers and so they were allowed to come in and harvest these crops.

P: You indicate the key to stopping the illegal aliens is the employer over here.

A: Yes, definitely. If we had a Bracero Program, I don't say it will solve the whole program. There are aliens now that have a taste of working in factories at \$5 to \$9 per hour. It is a big business in Chicago, New York, Detroit, Los Angeles. The west coast is full of aliens. My brother sent me a clipping from Rhode Island that 40 Mexicans were rounded up there last year. They are all over the country. They were shunned from working at the thing they understood, in agriculture, so they were

forced to learn other things. They are brick masons, carpenters. They are coming in the U.S. now as professional people. So they are still coming in. You'd get the true agriculture worker on a Bracero Program. This would relieve some of the problem. If we could get a bill through Congress where the employers could be fined, give him a monetary fine for employing illegal aliens. Right away everybody screams at that. But /if we were called to screen them, we could allow for some hiring of aliens by accident^u. /Close cooperation with the Border Patrol could reduce the screening and hollering^u.

The other thing we always get screamed at about is civil rights for Mexican /Mexican-American people. They say they'd not be hired due to their race or color, Spanish surname. That's not true. The Mexican people are good workers. They are in demand. They are a steady worker you can count on. So through the tradition of being a good worker and being in demand, they would still be hired. For the amount of discrimination that might occur it would be almost negligible, and not worth worrying about. When you hear these Chicano groups screaming bloody murder about it being racist, it is not. Also I might add in politics, Senator Eastland of Mississippi defeated that particular bill. He is in charge of the Agriculture Committee where the bill is acted on. The Rodino Bill just dies each year in Eastland's Committee. A side light, he has

several thousand acres of cotton in Mississippi in his home state and we know for a fact Bahama aliens pick his cotton.

P: What is your involvement in local El Paso politics?

A: Well, I know several politicians. I am friendly with them. We cannot, being a federal employee, be involved openly for any candidate. It is taboo. In fact they ask us not to even put bumper stickers on our cars and trucks because it might be construed the government was for this particular individual. We are not to participate in that activity. They certainly don't want us going to a political rally in uniform. The local community, I knew Mayor Henderson fairly well, and all the men who have been in a couple of terms. Dr. J.B. Jones I have hunted and fished with many times. I knew E.H. Baeza. We played racket ball three or four times a week. So I know several of the politicians.

P: Do you vote in all elections?

A: All of them. I do vote. I try to bone up on the issues. I try to look at the candidates. It upsets me that my only boning up is through the newspapers and at times that leaves something to be desired. I do make myself aware of the issues in the local community.

P: What's your impression of the border area as a place to live and raise a family?

A: I like it myself. I do not plan on ever leaving El Paso.

I have forgone a change to be promoted because I choose to live here in El Paso. El Paso is 52 percent Mexican surname. Mexican people are very warm, very friendly. I don't see many of them dying of ulcers. They way of life where I come from is Rhode Island. My brother's in business, with my father. They've both had ulcers. Have to watch what they eat. It's the type of life where dog eats dog: if the Joneses get a new car then the Smiths have to get one too, etc. Here in El Paso it is not. It's kind of relaxed. All people here are like that. If I went out and bought a new car my neighbors might come around and say it's nice, but they wouldn't try to out-do me.

The Mexican people in the El Paso area have a unique heritage, a blending of cultures. We have Juárez which is Mexico-Mexico, then El Paso with many Mexicans. There are parties, fiestas, etc. and there are Anglo traditions brought in by the GI's and military here. There are twists at a birthday party. Something from up north they may do something special at a birthday party and incorporate it with Mexican ideas here. Makes it rather unique.

P: Do you feel your job is important to U.S. interests?

A: Yes. Very much so. If you look at the humane aspect of the job, it's not too great. Here we have a poor, starving nation next to us. I'm really the go-between that prohibits this poor man from finding work to take groceries home. But to the national interest of the U.S.

with 8-12 million illegal aliens in the U.S. today. If 2 million working aliens send \$50 per month home, that's a \$100 million a month drain on the economy. It doesn't come back. Now \$50 per month is a small figure. I have caught people, a man from Chicago who was making \$7 per hour working for Zenith Corporation. He had \$15,000 dollars in a bank in Mexico. This man took a leave of absence from his job, had a brain tumor removed in County Hospital in Chicago, out of work seven months with all bills paid by the county and after getting well and working five or six months, he decided he had enough money to head home. So just one case of \$15,000. Take the eight million sending \$50 per month, etc., all this is a drain on our economy.

P: What does the word Chicano mean to you?

A: I have checked into that word. As near as I can come up with is Chicano is formed from two words. Many years ago in Mexico, the Chinese were allowed to come into Mexico and not allowed to come to the U.S. Mexico was as close as they could get to coming to the U.S. Mexico did not stop them, they welcomed them. The word Chino, meaning chinaman in Spanish, is what they were called. Mexicans have always been Mexicanos. If you take the two together, especially it was a term used for children. When a Mexican would marry a Chinese and have a child it was called Chicano.

P: When you hear that word used here on the border is that what you think of?

A: No. That is how the word came about. Now they use it for a militant organization: Chicano power, roll their fist up in a clench. It has become a derogatory word now. They say it like it's proud, "I'm a Chicano," when in essence they are a Mexicano, unless they have a mother or father that is Chinese, the other half being Mexican. Those kind of people are not the ones who say, "I'm a Chicano." It is used now as a militant name; like brown power, MEChA. They are trying to become militant.

P: What about the combining of the Border Patrol with the Treasury Department?

A: We are looking at this with mixed emotions. The Treasury Department, to start off with, seems to have unlimited funds. They don't ever seem to have trouble getting money. As far as the working aspect of it, we do; for many years we had custom authority, being the only ones on the border, we could arrest for customs or immigration violations. Then they came along with a Customs Patrol and took the authority away from the Border Patrol. They did so. The Customs Patrol never really proved themselves. They supposedly deal strictly with customs violations and narcotics, and the Border Patrol, and this is fact, catches more narcotics by accident than the Customs Patrol /does/ intentionally. They are just not

equipped for it, the combining of the two agencies. I foresee a big struggle between the Congressmen and the Justice Department side and the Treasury side. It is going to be a political football, a power struggle. As far as working on the border, I don't see any problems. I don't see any problem for the Immigrant Officer on the bridges, they would have to do secondary work of checking passports but I don't foresee any problems. I see a lot of supervisors losing authority and power. Perhaps lose some jobs.

P: Specifically, you see no direct change?

A: As far as the Border Patrol itself, I can see combining Customs Patrol, which works the area away from the bridges and the Border Patrol, which works other than the bridges. We are trained so much more than the Customs Patrol. We are required to speak a second language. The Academy is 16 weeks, where Customs is only 8 weeks. I don't know who will be the ruling agency. If we go under the Treasury, we may get stepped on. At the agents level, hand in hand, we work together quite a bit now. It is not publicized. The bosses frown on it. For many years, we just didn't talk to them.

P: Why is that?

A: Strictly a power struggle alone. Now since reorganization is being talked about, and with congressmen, etc., down to look us over, we are getting directions to work together

and help each other out. There now seems to be less help now than prior to these directives.

P: Would you recommend the Border Patrol as a career for anyone?

A: Yes, but it is not for everybody. If you look at the humane aspects, we are stopping starving people coming in to work, it is not pretty to look at. It requires a lot of self-discipline because with today's civil rights, ten years ago if someone swore at you, you could hit them [but not now]. I personally have been cursed at by 200 aliens on one Presidential visit. I had kids eight, nine, ten years old calling me every dirty name in the book, words I would never mention. They were gross and trying to provoke me. So it requires a lot of self-discipline. You have to believe you are helping your country, yet you can't take it [the job] too seriously because you can work 24 hours per day, seven days per week and still not make a dent in the problem. It is going to take more help than what we have on the Border Patrol. You can take it serious nine or ten hours per day, but when it comes time go home, everybody on the street becomes a citizen, you don't care who they are or what they look like.

P: Thank you for your time.