

HISTORICAL MEMORIAL CENTER

Pennsylvania State Police

Oral History Interview of:

CORPORAL CHARLES LUTZ

November 14, 2006

INTERVIEWER:

This is the Pennsylvania State Police Oral History Project. The date is November 14, 2006. My name is Corporal Bob Mertz (ph), State Police retired and I'm interviewing Trooper -- or Corporal Charles Lutz, PSP retired. The interview is being conducted at Corporal Lutz's home in Jeanette, PA. Corporal Lutz, do I have your permission to videotape this interview?

MR. LUTZ:

Yes, you do.

INTERVIEWER:

Welcome, Trooper Lutz. This is tape one in our series. Okay. Corporal Lutz, give us a little bit of your biographical background; place of birth, family structure, civilian employment prior to your military service, if any.

MR. LUTZ:

All right.

INTERVIEWER:

You were born where?

MR. LUTZ:

In Lycoming County, Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. And your father was?

MR. LUTZ:

Charles H. Lutz, Sr.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. What did he do?

MR. LUTZ:

He worked for Endicott Johnson (ph) Shoe Store, Shoe Company. He managed a shoe store.

INTERVIEWER:

And your mother?

MR. LUTZ:

My mother, her name was Anna Cecilia Waltrot (ph). She was a housewife when she first got married. Then as my dad progressed through the company, she at one time in World War II managed her own store and she retired from Endicott Johnson.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. How about your siblings; sisters, brothers?

MR. LUTZ:

Yeah. I had one brother and he was named Eugene. I think he was born in 1925 or thereabout in Williamsport, Pennsylvania and he died about three months later.

INTERVIEWER:

I see. Any sisters? Any other brothers?

MR. LUTZ:

Yes. I have a sister who was born on Easter in the early '30s and I had a brother that was born in I believe November. I don't know what the year would've been, but that would've been in the early '30s, too.

INTERVIEWER:

Uh-huh. Okay. And your wife's name?

MR. LUTZ:

What, do you want her maiden name?

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. Well...

MR. LUTZ:

Okay. Her name is Angela Marie Stoltz (ph) Lutz.

INTERVIEWER:

And what was Angela's occupation?

MR. LUTZ:

She was a registered nurse.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. When were you married, Corporal?

MR. LUTZ:

In May of 1954.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Children?

MR. LUTZ:

I have three children. The oldest one is Deborah Ann (ph) Lutz and Donna Lee Lutz and Joseph Michael Lutz.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Where did you go to high school, Corporal?

MR. LUTZ:

I went to high school in a small town in Pennsylvania known as Matamoras, Pennsylvania. That's located in Pike County up in the northeastern part of the state.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. And prior to your enlistment in the Pennsylvania State Police, what was your occupation?

MR. LUTZ:

I was a student going to a business college, Churchman's (ph) Business College in Easton, Pennsylvania.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. You made mention of -- to me of being a baseball player in a spring training event. Would you like to elaborate on that?

MR. LUTZ:

A little bit. I was always enthused about baseball. I wanted to pursue that as a career, but unfortunately it wasn't meant to be. But I got a contract from Detroit, Michigan, the Detroit Tigers and I signed it and they sent me to spring training in Nazareth,

Pennsylvania and I think that would've been in 1947 or '48. But it never materialized. I just didn't have it.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. So what did you go on to do after that?

MR. LUTZ:

Well, I worked on the Erie Railroad for a while. I went to selling shoes for my dad. I worked for Abadasher's (ph) selling clothes and I finally went to Churchman's Business College in Easton, Pennsylvania and while there, the State Police -- I had made application for the Pennsylvania State Police. And while in Churchman's Business College, my mother called me one day and said the State Police want you in Hershey Monday morning. So that was the extent of my extra schooling.

INTERVIEWER:

What made you want to become a Trooper?

MR. LUTZ:

I don't know. I always liked -- I thought it was helping people. I always got satisfaction out of doing something for somebody, from changing a tire along the road, taking somebody to the hospital, whatever. As long as it was for an individual, I enjoyed that.

INTERVIEWER:

I see. How old were you when you first applied?

MR. LUTZ:

Twenty-one.

INTERVIEWER:

Twenty-one. Where did you have to go to sign up at that time?

MR. LUTZ:

I went to the Milford substation in Milford, Pennsylvania and the trooper there asked me a couple of questions and he said we'll be in touch, and then they came to the house one day and Sergeant James -- I had to take my shoes off and stand up against the door and he measured me for height and weight and had to have a diploma from high school.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. What kinds of -- what kind of tests or interviews did you have to take to get on the job? Were there any written tests at the time?

MR. LUTZ:

I took an oral interview and I don't remember if I took a test to get on the job or not. But I do know going through the Academy, you had to maintain a certain average to graduate.

INTERVIEWER:

I see. What was the -- was there a background investigation done?

MR. LUTZ:

Oh, yeah. Sergeant James made a background investigation on me. He came to the house one day, made me take off my shoes. He stood me up against the wall, marked it with a pencil. I thought my mother was going to flip and he says you're all right, kid. I thought well, good.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. LUTZ:

But I never heard anything for a while and then I went to Churchman's Business College and while in college, my mother called me on a Friday afternoon. She said the State Police were here and they want you at the Academy Monday morning.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Go ahead.

MR. LUTZ:

So I checked out of school right away and I headed for Harrisburg, Pennsylvania via 22 and my thumb. I hitchhiked. I had no car, so I hitchhiked to Harrisburg, stayed at the YMCA that night. I called the Academy and they had somebody come

over Monday morning and pick me up, and from that day on I've been in -- with the State Police.

INTERVIEWER:

Here's a story. Back in 1916, President Theodore Roosevelt wrote that no political influence or other influence avails to get a single, undesirable man on the force or to keep a man on the force who has proved himself unfit. Now that statement -- do you feel that the statement held true while you were with the Pennsylvania State Police?

MR. LUTZ:

Yes, sir. I do.

INTERVIEWER:

Did politics play any role in your hiring process?

MR. LUTZ:

No, sir. You had to have three letters of recommendation. I had one from the priest and you know for the love of me, I don't know who the other two would've been from anymore. But I don't think they were -- no. They weren't -- I didn't know any politicians.

INTERVIEWER:

Did any commissioners you served under have a particularly strong impact on your career?

MR. LUTZ:

All of them did.

INTERVIEWER:

All of them.

MR. LUTZ:

I thought they were good leaders.

INTERVIEWER:

What was your first assignment after graduation?

MR. LUTZ:

I left the Academy I think in June of '49, came to Greensburg as an extension of my education of this training, which was three more months. And I came out here, served my three months here and I met the girl I married from -- while I was out here then. I think in September, I got transferred back to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

INTERVIEWER:

When -- during your -- the extension of your training period that you mentioned, did you have a coach assigned to you? An older trooper that you had to ride with?

MR. LUTZ:

When I came back to Harrisburg, yes. Now if you went out on patrol, you always -- even in the Academy, I remember one time we were down there. They had a bank robbery in Hershey and

they utilized all the personnel at the Academy and the students and everything. You always had a senior man, an experienced policeman with you and I found all of them to be very knowledgeable of the job.

INTERVIEWER:

How about when you came out to the troop, did you have a -- do you remember who you rode with...

MR. LUTZ:

No, I don't...

INTERVIEWER:

...for...

MR. LUTZ:

...because we rode -- we worked different shifts and we would get different people working with us, but they were always a senior trooper and they all seemed to have that spirit décor, the pride and that sort of rubbed off onto me.

INTERVIEWER:

I see. Were you on any kind of probationary period?

MR. LUTZ:

Yeah. There was a two-year probation period.

INTERVIEWER:

Two years. What was your starting salary?

MR. LUTZ:

Twelve hundred dollars, I believe.

INTERVIEWER:

That was...

MR. LUTZ:

That was gross.

INTERVIEWER:

That was annual. Is that correct?

MR. LUTZ:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Is that correct?

MR. LUTZ:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

You didn't have any automatic pay raises or...

MR. LUTZ:

No. All we got was a place to sleep and three meals a day.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh. Were there any perks at all that came with the job at that time?

MR. LUTZ:

Any park?

INTERVIEWER:

Perks. Like...

MR. LUTZ:

Perks.

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. Like traveling the turnpike for free or anything -- any perks. Anything that might've been a plus -- on the plus side for you to make it...

MR. LUTZ:

Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

...convenient?

MR. LUTZ:

Yeah. I would travel the turnpike at times and that was accessible by displaying your badge. Of course at that particular time, you were a State Policeman 24 hours a day, seven days a week and if you were on the turnpike, you were there for the availability of enforcing the law if it was necessary.

INTERVIEWER:

I see. Were you permitted to work any off-duty jobs to supplement...

MR. LUTZ:

No.

INTERVIEWER:

...your income?

MR. LUTZ:

No second income.

INTERVIEWER:

What was your -- tell me about your typical work schedule in those days, like how many hours a day, days off.

MR. LUTZ:

Sixteen hours a day, six days a week. That was eight hours on the road and eight hours on the desk and if there wasn't anything to do, if you weren't on the switchboard or doing reports, you were cleaning the barracks.

INTERVIEWER:

Were there sleeping accommodations available...

MR. LUTZ:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

...at the barracks?

MR. LUTZ:

They were available. Room and board was provided.

INTERVIEWER:

How much sick and annual leave did you have, if any?

MR. LUTZ:

We got 15 days a year annual leave and I don't remember the sick days, if there was any.

INTERVIEWER:

Did that work schedule, the 16-hour a day work schedule impact on your family life at all?

MR. LUTZ:

Yes, it did at first. You were just never home and there would be incidents when something would occur that you wished you could've been here, but it didn't always work out that way.

INTERVIEWER:

Back in -- when you first came on, what did your uniform look like and what types of equipment were you issued?

MR. LUTZ:

We wore britches with puttees. Of course, I switched over to boots later on. We wore knickers or britches. We had a wool shirt. We had the campaign hat and we carried a shoulder strap holster, 38 Smith & Wesson.

INTERVIEWER:

That would be a Sam Brown?

MR. LUTZ:

Sam Brown.

INTERVIEWER:

Were your uniforms provided at no cost to you?

MR. LUTZ:

Yes, they were.

INTERVIEWER:

And...

MR. LUTZ:

In fact, a tailor would come out of Philadelphia to measure us for our uniforms.

INTERVIEWER:

And if something was lost or damaged, how was it replaced?

MR. LUTZ:

By going to the quartermaster.

INTERVIEWER:

And every troop had a quartermaster?

MR. LUTZ:

Every troop had a quartermaster.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you ever have to use your weapon while on duty?

MR. LUTZ:

I've never fired it, but I pulled it.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. What other kind of weapons were available to you at that time?

MR. LUTZ:

Just a 38 Smith & Wesson, six-inch barrel. Every substation or every station had an arsenal...

INTERVIEWER:

I see.

MR. LUTZ:

...of different calibers. You know, machine guns, rifles, et cetera.

INTERVIEWER:

Patrol cars; how were they equipped? What color were they?

MR. LUTZ:

They were black -- I think they were black and white. Maybe -- I'm going to say black and white.

INTERVIEWER:

And that's back in the days when you had first enlisted?

MR. LUTZ:

Yeah. When I first enlisted, yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Which would've been in 19...

MR. LUTZ:

That would've been 1940.

INTERVIEWER:

Forty?

MR. LUTZ:

'47, '48, '49, when I got into the cars.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Were there motorcycles or helicopters or airplanes or any other...

MR. LUTZ:

There were a few motorcycles, but I -- they weren't used too much.

INTERVIEWER:

Uh-huh.

MR. LUTZ:

Maybe for parades or something special.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Okay. When you were on patrol, was it a two-man patrol all the time or did you ride singly?

MR. LUTZ:

It -- when I graduated from the Academy and went to Hershey -- or Harrisburg, daylight hours we rode single. Well, you rode double when you first went to your station so you could learn the area and the townships and where the banks were and where the hospitals were, where the post offices were. You learned where the schools were at and you also learned where the

judges lived in case something happened, you could -- you knew where you were going.

INTERVIEWER:

By judges, you mean the...

MR. LUTZ:

Elected officials, like the sitting judges.

INTERVIEWER:

...Justice of the Peace?

MR. LUTZ:

No. I -- we knew where the -- they worked out of their home. I'm talking about you -- more or less like a county judge today.

INTERVIEWER:

I see.

MR. LUTZ:

Where he resided because I -- that was -- I always thought that would -- you always -- not that you stopped, but you always had a presence to go by his house. Whether it was on U.S. Route 22, a main highway, or a street through a city, you went by his residence or their residence.

INTERVIEWER:

The communication system back then, what was it like on a scale of one to ten?

MR. LUTZ:

Oh, I'd say about a five.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you want to...

MR. LUTZ:

We -- I can remember the flag stops along the road. Of course, they weren't used that much. Calling by telephone.

INTERVIEWER:

Was that a flag -- you called that a -- you referred to that as a what?

MR. LUTZ:

Flag stop.

INTERVIEWER:

Oh, you had flag stops?

MR. LUTZ:

A flag stop was a building selected along a patrol area and if the barracks needed you -- this was before the influx of the radio now. They would go out to the mailbox and hang a red flag or some kind of a flag up on a mailbox and as a trooper was coming down the road, he'd see this and he knew he had to stop and call the barracks.

INTERVIEWER:

Uh-huh. I see. That's interesting. That's interesting. When if you remember did the radio system finally become something that was halfway functional?

MR. LUTZ:

Well, when I joined the State Police Force in '49, they had the radio system then, but there seemed to be a lot of kinks in it. But they were worked out and it eventually became a wonderful thing.

INTERVIEWER:

This next question is kind of personal, but how have you felt -- I'm sure you've known troopers that were killed in the line of duty. What was your feeling when you had -- or have you lost over the years a close personal friend in the line of duty?

MR. LUTZ:

It hurt. I mean, it could've been anybody in the State Police Force and you always -- I always felt sad when a fellow trooper got killed. The first trooper that got killed while I was on the job I just happened to remember. His name was Ditkosky. At that time, they -- we were privates first class and second class. He was a private and he was killed along Route 30 or 22 east of Harrisburg. A truck was going down a highway, semi job and

apparently Ditkosky was too close to the edge of the road and apparently the truck hit him and he was buried up near Scranton, Pennsylvania somewhere. I'd gone to the funeral.

INTERVIEWER:

Did you know him personally?

MR. LUTZ:

I sure did. I worked with him.

INTERVIEWER:

I see. Getting back to the lighter side of things, the reporting system, what was it like at that time in the earlier years conducting accident and criminal investigations?

MR. LUTZ:

You mean the reporting or recording?

INTERVIEWER:

Reporting.

MR. LUTZ:

Oh. We had quite an extensive form for the incident that you were working on. We had an accident report. You had a criminal report. You had a special report and they all covered different areas and no matter what you did, to -- there was an investigation, you had to submit a report.

INTERVIEWER:

Were they lengthy in the early days as compared to when you left the job in '82 or...

MR. LUTZ:

I -- it would depend upon the crime, I guess. We'll take an accident, a fatal accident. Fatal accidents sometime had maybe six, seven pages to them.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay.

MR. LUTZ:

And then by the same token, if you went out on a little old fender-bender, you probably got by with just filling in the forms.

INTERVIEWER:

How about inspections? Did you have routine inspections?

MR. LUTZ:

At first every Saturday.

INTERVIEWER:

Every Saturday?

MR. LUTZ:

Every Saturday at first.

INTERVIEWER:

Who would inspect you?

MR. LUTZ:

One of the officers.

INTERVIEWER:

A lieutenant or above?

MR. LUTZ:

Lieutenant or above.

INTERVIEWER:

I see. And if you were gigged at an inspection, what would the punishment be, if any? If something wasn't exactly right, what would...

MR. LUTZ:

I don't remember. I never had a rejection or a time when I didn't pass inspection.

INTERVIEWER:

Were you afforded annual update training back in those days, like in Vehicle Code, Criminal Code?

MR. LUTZ:

Yes. Regimental headquarters always supplied the field with the new laws and that kept you up to date. Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. And did you have a troop training officer of sorts to hold classes to bring you up to date, or was it pretty much on your own?

MR. LUTZ:

No, no. When I -- if I remember right, we had -- first sergeants used to teach us or tell us about the new laws and then (inaudible) came down through the sergeants and then later on I guess they have regular men assigned to that work. I don't know.

INTERVIEWER:

On promotions, when were you promoted from trooper to corporal? Do you remember?

MR. LUTZ:

That happened to me twice.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you want to expound on that?

MR. LUTZ:

Yeah. I can't remember the first time. It would've been in the early '60s, I believe. I was promoted to corporal and sent to Punxsutawney. From Punxsutawney, I went to Kane. From Kane, I came back to Punxsutawney and I missed my family. My boy said to me one time, he said Dad, why don't you stay home and play with me once in a while. So I went back to Punxsutawney and talked to the captain up there and he explained to me what would happen and how I should go about it and he says you want to make sure. And I says yeah, and so I

submitted a letter and eventually I surrendered the corporal stripes and came back to Greensburg and I was given the safety education officer's job, which I held before that and I worked for Captain Dusha (ph), who I admired very much.

INTERVIEWER:

For your promotion, did you have to take a promotional test?
What was the...

MR. LUTZ:

It was a competitive test. It was based on how many years you had, service and efficiency rating and your score on the test.

INTERVIEWER:

I see. And back when you had your -- took your promotion, what did the rank structure consist of?

MR. LUTZ:

Corporal, sergeant, the first sergeant and there was lieutenant captains, majors and the commissioner.

INTERVIEWER:

I see. If you were to ask for a transfer, how would you go about that then?

MR. LUTZ:

You'd have to submit a letter through channels to Harrisburg stating why you wanted it and they would act upon it when it

come due or when it was up and when it was available and you were -- your request was put in abeyance with anybody else that may have wanted the same thing.

INTERVIEWER:

And then did the promotions take -- or the transfers take place as they were submitted? In other words, if you submitted one before your fellow trooper, you were the first to be transferred? It was evaluated that way?

MR. LUTZ:

I don't remember that.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. And was there a discipline system of any sort back then?

MR. LUTZ:

A what?

INTERVIEWER:

Discipline system.

MR. LUTZ:

Yeah. I've -- remember a couple of court marshals.

INTERVIEWER:

They had court marshals?

MR. LUTZ:

Now the particulars or who they were, I don't remember. But it would've been something to do with the State Police and its function, its orders or its rank or whatever. I don't know.

INTERVIEWER:

But if you were -- if you had performed something that didn't go down well with your captain, could he transfer you as a disciplinary procedure back in those days? Could you transfer you from troop to troop or out of the troop or station?

MR. LUTZ:

No. They never transferred out of the troop and I don't ever recall the captain going that far. I worked for some pretty good guys and I don't remember anything like that.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Okay. They -- you were promoted to corporal and you were assigned a special-duty assignment sometime after that. Do you want to tell us about that?

MR. LUTZ:

You mean when I was a safety education officer?

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah.

MR. LUTZ:

I was a safety education officer before my first promotion and that's when I would go around to the schools and give public speaking on safety. I would go to different service organizations, speak on safety. That would've been about it.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. You said that you were -- this was after your first promotion?

MR. LUTZ:

No. I started that before I was promoted the first time. I'll tell you what. I started that under the Commissioner Purdy. Was it E. Wilson Purdy? I think. When he was in Florida as the chief of police down there, he had a person who did a program for him with puppets, animated-type thing. And when I came up with the idea of magic for safety, I put a program together -- that as an idea. I laid it out on paper how I could go out and do a safety trick and relate it like to a stop light. Briefly for an example, I had three cards; red, yellow and green. I'd fold them up and put them behind a mat. Pull out the red and throw it away, pull out the green and throw it away. I had one more left, the caution one, and I would get a little humor going by showing the edges of the card behind the mat. And I asked the kids what card was it and they said caution and when I dropped the mat, the word wrong

would be written across it. They'd say turn it over. And I'd turn around. No, you -- turn the card over. This is childish, I know. But when I would turn the card over, it would say wrong again, and then I would take a couple of minutes to expand on traffic lights. "Kids, they're there for a purpose and you can get hurt real easy if you're not careful."

INTERVIEWER:

Well, you have kind of a reputation at least in the western end of the state with these magic shows and your safety education presentations. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us? Any outstanding incidents or shows or...

MR. LUTZ:

Yeah. I was privileged a couple of times to work with our local group, singing group called The Vogues. The last time I worked with them, I think it was at the Churchill Country Club if I'm not mistaken. That was years ago.

INTERVIEWER:

You were still a State Policeman at the time?

MR. LUTZ:

Oh, yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

And...

MR. LUTZ:

Oh, wait. Was I a State Policeman at the time or did I -- I don't remember. It's been so long.

INTERVIEWER:

And The Vogues were a local...

MR. LUTZ:

They're a local -- well, they were internationally famous.

INTERVIEWER:

...singing group. What did you do for them? Did you -- were you sort of like a warm-up for their show before...

MR. LUTZ:

I opened a show up and this was -- this had nothing to do with safety, nothing to do with State Police. This was an adult presentation of a magic show, a silent magic show done to music. I worked with doves. I would produce them, make them disappear. I had the -- part of the magic where it was just strictly magic. I interjected comedy magic and then I had audience participation. It would've been a 20-minute show.

INTERVIEWER:

What prompted you to become interested in magic?

MR. LUTZ:

I was the safety education officer in Greensburg and I went to a school one day. I can't remember the man's name. He said Joe, why don't you get something different. We get films all the time on safety. Isn't there something else you can do? So I went home one time on vacation and I was talking to my dad and my dad always fooled with magic. He reached in the dresser drawer and pulled out a book, a catalogue on magic tricks, and that was it. I went through that book and I selected some tricks and enough that I thought would take me through a 20-minute to a half-hour show and then I got the tricks, put the show together and they thought it was -- the State Police thought it was all right and the rest is history.

INTERVIEWER:

I want to go back a little ways. Back in 1966, you said you were part of a detail down in the central part of Pennsylvania, north central in the Shade Gap incident. Would you like to talk a little bit about that?

MR. LUTZ:

Well, I don't have too much to say about it. I was there. I had left here to go back to work one day up in Kane. When I got to Kane, the corporal told me I was going to Altoona I think is where it was. Shade Gap anyway is the name of the town. So I went

over there and I was there for a while and my duty was to stand along the road with a rifle with the other policemen and just be on the lookout for this guy.

INTERVIEWER:

You told me something that was a little -- about a -- the truck coming down the road that was carrying a...

MR. LUTZ:

Oh. It was...

INTERVIEWER:

...pastry?

MR. LUTZ:

...about three o'clock in the morning. It was dark, lonely. It was cold. The motors in the cars were running, the headlights were on and we could see from one car to the other. And I look up the road and here come the Salvation Army with their donut truck passing out donuts and coffee. I was amazed.

INTERVIEWER:

I see. Were -- was -- were you -- on that detail, where did you sleep or did you sleep?

MR. LUTZ:

We didn't sleep. We drove from Kane to the scene of this incident and when we were through, we drove back to Kane and

I don't know who I rode with. I know there must've been four of us in the car.

INTERVIEWER:

How long were you there?

MR. LUTZ:

I don't know. I would say maybe 12, 14, 18 hours. We got down there. We pulled this nightshift and the next morning I think is when whoever it was caught him or shot him or whatever the -- we were released the next morning.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you recall the outcome of that situation at all?

MR. LUTZ:

The guy that they were looking for, they -- he was fatally wounded.

INTERVIEWER:

Was anybody else wounded or killed in that incident?

MR. LUTZ:

Not that I can recall.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. You told me when I talked to you earlier about a little boy on a paper route had been killed. Do you want to relate that story?

MR. LUTZ:

Yeah. I've wracking my brains after I -- you were here and I can't remember too much of the incident anymore. I was working a second trick. That would've been 3:00 to 11:00 or 4:00 to 12:00. And up above Derry, Pennsylvania a young boy 14 years old I believe was delivering the newspaper and a man coming down a highway -- he'd been drinking. He hit this bicycle and he -- the impact was so great that the boy went from one telephone pole and through the air to the next telephone pole and I think they're about 100 feet apart. He was apparently killed instantly and the driver took off. He never stopped. So we went out and -- I don't know who was with me anymore. Can't remember the kid's name. Fourteen years old. And I -- we went up on 22, Route 22 and we pulled into a service station. The investigation at the scene was done. I was just looking for other information. When I pulled into the service station, a young man came over there and said the State Police are looking for a guy and I says yes. He said the service station up there just called me and told me if he comes in there to let them know or call the State Police. And apparently we got there right after he left, so fortunately he knew who the kid was. So we went up to the service station and he gave us the kid's name and told us where

he lived and that's how we were able to solve that. But that was, good Lord, 60 years ago maybe. No. Fifty. That boy was knocked out of his paratrooper shoes, the Army military shoes. And I can't remember the -- we went to court. He was arrested for two charges and I don't know if I told you what they were or not, but I don't think I can remember. Hit and Run and I don't know if there was drinking -- he was drinking, but whether he was arrested for it or not, I don't know. And whatever the sentence was anymore, after the trial, I'm walking out of the courtroom and this woman is crying. She walks up to me. She puts her arms on my shoulders and she says Officer Lutz, is that all my son was worth? And the guy driving the vehicle got one year in jail for it and I -- that's about all I remember. When he hit this bicycle, the bicycle wedged underneath the front bumper and the pavement of the road and he went the distance of two telephone poles, from one pole to the other.

INTERVIEWER:

But after all these years, you remember his -- the statement from his mother, is that all my son...

MR. LUTZ:

At the end of the courthouse. She cried. Oh, did she cry.

INTERVIEWER:

That's amazing.

MR. LUTZ:

And you feel like did I do enough?

INTERVIEWER:

Yeah. Okay. What were some of the -- if you recall, some of the duties or working conditions that elicited the most complaints among the troopers? Things that they did that they didn't like, duties they didn't like.

MR. LUTZ:

Oh, God. I don't know.

INTERVIEWER:

Would -- back when the State Police were doing driver's exams, would that be one of the favorites that...

MR. LUTZ:

Oh.

INTERVIEWER:

...the men would be assigned?

MR. LUTZ:

Yeah. You know, one day I was giving a driver's test and Sergeant Lockner (ph) was the guy in charge of the examination point and I saw this car pulls up to the starting point and two elderly ladies get out, and I mean they were elderly. If I'm not

mistaken, the one taking the test, she didn't drive in. Her friend brought her in, but she walked with a cane. I came back from the -- giving the test and Sergeant Lockner said Charlie, take care of that driver out there, that elderly lady. I looked out and said are you sure you want me to give her the test. He says yeah. So I went out and I got into the car, the right front seat, and I have this cardboard file like and it's -- you write their name and address down and they have to sign it. So I get in the car and close the door and I look at her and she looks at me and she said Officer, I'm scared and I says so am I. I says sign your name here on this piece of paper. She reaches over and she's shaking, you know, and I start to shake and with the two of us shaking, her trying to grab the damned paper, I started to laugh and she yanked it out of my hand. She took the pencil. She laid it on the steering column and she scribbled down her name and I got it back and I filled the rest out and I said okay, go ahead. We're going up of course from the starting point and there's a stop sign. I don't know what the hell gear she started out in, but when she -- she didn't step on the gas pedal. She stomped on that gas pedal and I had that big campaign hat on and it went right off the back of my head, the strap caught my nose. I'm

going to tell you something. If you ever have a -- one of them hats go off of your head and the wind is blowing and it gets under your nose, it hurts. So I was reaching over the back of -- reaching over the seat into the back, get my hat. And while I'm half in the backseat, she stops at the first stop sign. She stops. She didn't slow down and stop. She stopped. She hit the brakes and stopped and I had a hold of the hat and I come out of the backseat with the hat on my head right off the front seat up underneath the dashboard. Now I'm sitting on the floorboard and I've got that hat in my hands and she looks at me. She says Officer, did I fail. Needn't say anymore. I bet you it took me oh, a good five minutes to get up off of that floor. I didn't know how I was going to get out of the car. I -- never been in a position like that. So I left and -- well, she went down and she didn't pass, needless to say. And I think this is the time when we were -- I said to Charlie Lockner, I said I got to -- get me out of here. I can't handle this. So that afternoon, I'm coming into Greensburg and I get behind this car with these two oldies in it and I look and I recognize that car. I think I recognized these two women and I thought to myself oh, my God. Not this. This woman goes down the road about a block and I get this. She rolls the window down

and she puts her hand out the window to turn left. Now what -- turn signals weren't mandatory, but hand signals were. Now she's pointing to the left. Now that's all right. Then all of a sudden she drops her arm down alongside the door and starts swinging it up and down and then she points this way like she's going to go ahead. I -- I'm dumbfounded and I said to myself I'm going to stop her. And I walk up to the car. She looks at me and this old gal, she smiles at me and said hi, Officer Lutz. I says hello. I says good Lord, what is all this stuff out here? You're pointing left, swinging your arm down and pointing straight ahead. She said I'm awful sorry. She says I wanted to turn left but my arm -- wristwatch slipped up on my arm, so I shook it for the watch to fall down. Then I was beyond the intersection and realized what was going on, so I just erased the sign and pointed I wanted to go straight ahead. I tell you another one. I was riding with Trooper Poladora (ph) one time. I'm telling you, being a State Policeman can be exciting at times. I'm going out Route 30 and just beyond Mount View (ph), it's a four-lane highway. It was just opened up. There's a black Pontiac or a black -- it's a black vehicle going westbound and boy is that guy going and we look over and all we could see is a man in there with a white

collar around his neck. And Nick said to me, he says do you see that and I said yeah. Nick did a U-turn on that four-lane highway and we come up on 30 past Mount View and that car is leaving us and Nick -- good driver and he's chasing him. And we're coming down 30 and I'll -- honest to God, I never thought this was possible that telephone poles would go so -- passed you so fast they looked like the size of a toothpick. I looked over at Nick and I says how fast are we going and Nick's got both hands on that wheel. He's looking straight ahead. He looks down and he says she's on the peg (ph). I says slow this damned thing down. He says what's wrong, Charlie? Are you afraid? And I said hell, yes. He says repeat after me. "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." We come flying (inaudible) Greensburg and we never did catch that guy we thought was a Catholic priest. Oh, Lord. Did we fly. And today yet when I see Nick, that's the one of the first things we talk about. I never traveled so fast in my life. Saturday afternoon.

INTERVIEWER:

That's a funny story. What -- we've talked about the humorous incidents, some of them. I'm sure you have many more. How about the more serious incidents you were involved in?

MR. LUTZ:

I'm trying to think of one. The -- I had a case -- oh, that's the one I believe with the guy on the motorcycle -- or the guy -- newspaper boy and that driver was a military man and I had arrested him for hit and run -- I don't know. I -- multiple charges against him. And when the trial was over with, I forget what the sentence was. It was real minor. Very minor and I -- we were -- I was walking out of the courtroom and she was there. Excuse me. She walked over to me. She looked up at me in my eyes and put her hands on my chest right here and with tears coming down her eyes, she says is that all my son was worth. And from that day on, I was a completely different person because I just couldn't believe that all he got was -- what he got which didn't amount to too much at that time, not for what I investigated and found out. But I still have respect for the judicial system.

INTERVIEWER:

In your mind, what are some of the most noteworthy changes that occurred on the State Police during your career? Some of the milestones, changes. Were they better?

MR. LUTZ:

Oh, they were always for the better, no matter what they were. The vehicles were different. They're better equipped. The radios are up to date. They were better equipped and keeping

up with the training. The seminars they would have were always good. They're always promoting education and I think this is one of the greatest factors the State Police has going for it.

INTERVIEWER:

How about working conditions?

MR. LUTZ:

Working conditions were tough; 16 hours a day when I first joined.

INTERVIEWER:

And when you left?

MR. LUTZ:

When I left, it was 40 hours a week, five days a week. Never -- when I first came on, you never got a Saturday or a Sunday off. It was always during the week. You never got -- you got -- they'd give you one week off in the summer for vacation. The rest of the time, you took it when the -- they went by seniority and that -- I always accepted that as a way of life because that's the way it operated at that time.

INTERVIEWER:

Benefits I'm sure became much better the...

MR. LUTZ:

Better. No matter how you look at it or what it was, the benefits are different. They're great today. When I first came on, we had hospitalization. I believe we paid for our own at first, then they took it over, the state took it over. Vacation was reasonable. With any other organization -- 15 days a year. Of course, you took it by rank, time on the job, and usually we got ours in the spring or the fall or in the off-seasons when the old-timers didn't want it, which I always looked at it someday I'm going to be an old-timer and it worked out that way.

INTERVIEWER:

Is there anything you'd have done differently in your career as a State Policeman?

MR. LUTZ:

Not that I can recall right now.

INTERVIEWER:

If you had it to do all over again, would you still join the State Police?

MR. LUTZ:

Definitely. Definitely.

INTERVIEWER:

You retired as a corporal. Is that correct?

MR. LUTZ:

Yes.

INTERVIEWER:

How old were you at that time?

MR. LUTZ:

Let's see. Twenty-seven, 37 -- I think about 52.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. What kind of retirement benefits did you get then?

MR. LUTZ:

Not too many.

INTERVIEWER:

Really?

MR. LUTZ:

No. To be exact -- I would just be more or less guessing. I don't remember. It's not the -- what it is today.

INTERVIEWER:

I see. Have -- since retirement, have you had any involvement with the State Police?

MR. LUTZ:

Very little.

INTERVIEWER:

How about friends? Friends that you worked with? Do you still communicate and stay in touch?

MR. LUTZ:

With some of them, yes. Right now, I'm really enjoying life. I like baseball and I'm a season-ticket holder with the Pirates. I'm with a group of guys and we get to get down for so many games a year and I have extra tickets and I've been known to call some of my friends and take them down with me.

INTERVIEWER:

Friends from the...

MR. LUTZ:

Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Your old...

MR. LUTZ:

Oh, yeah. From...

INTERVIEWER:

...days with the State Police?

MR. LUTZ:

...the job. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay, Corporal. Then in closing, is there anything else you'd like to add?

MR. LUTZ:

No. I appreciate you taking the time out to come down here and talk to me.

INTERVIEWER:

Thank you.

MR. LUTZ:

I've enjoyed the job.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay. Corporal Lutz, that concludes the interview and thank you
for your time.

MR. LUTZ:

Well, I thank you, sir.