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Dan Powell interview for the Lest We Forget Collection of Oral Histories

Dan Powell

Jeff Moyer

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WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY
Lest We Forget Interview Project

Interview date: May 23, 2003

Interviewer: Jeff Moyer

Interviewee: Dan Powell

Jeff Moyer: Ok. Well this is uh interview number five, is it?

Mark Lyons: Correct.

Judy Leasure: Yes.

JM: Number five. In the Les We Forget project. The date is May 23rd, 2003.

Dan Powell: Right.

JM: And I'm interviewing Dan Powell. How are you Dan?

DP: I'm just fine. How are you?

JM: Good. I'm very glad you could join us today. You know Dan what we're doing is we're putting together a story that we're going to make a cd--

DP: Yeah.

JM: And also a video about uh what happened when people were at Orient.

DP: Yeah.

JM: And uh I understand that you have a...quite a story to tell.

DP: Yeah.

JM: And so what I'd like to begin with is just why don't you tell me about, do you remember what--do you remember when you went to Orient?

DP: Thursday May 14th 1964.

JM: Was it May 14th?

DP: Yeah.

JM: 1964. How old were you then?

DP: 17. Not two months and 19 days less than 18.

JM: Uh-hun. And what um you know why you went?

DP: Mmhmm. Is--is--is...D-daddy was a personal problem. Get on my nerves a lot and kind of a bad influence and I don't know (unintelligible). It was upsetting. It was upsetting me. I was climbing the walls so to speak. And I was...g-getting upsetting. Hittin' Mother and getting into fights with the other kids when (unintelligible) turned their cheek and hittin' teachers and saying something personal to them and stuff. And then in case you're wondering what happened or anything.

JM: Ok so you-- you were having trouble... at home--

DP: Yeah.

JM: And your dad wasn't doing well so--

DP: I did pretty good most of the other places but things at home and school kind of got on my nerves and there was the two places that I acted out.

JM: Ok. Do you remember what it was like the first day you went?

DP: Went?

JM: To Orient.

DP: No. I was, I was. The first morning, that first day was kinda remember that when (unintelligible) was on TV (unintelligible) Holy Mary Mother of God that night Christ was guidance and there was a bunch of little kids and I kinda loved them little kids had the spirit of Christ (unintelligible). The evening news kinda got on my nerves (unintelligible) and then the next morning went to the bathroom and um needed to use, needed to use sitting down wanted to wash my hands for me and I cussed him up one side and spit on them and said something personal to them about four eyes and wanted a place called C5 (unintelligible) a place called C5 for bad boys (unintelligible) including 23 times home and uh--

JM: Ok, let's stop for just a minute. Let me understand. So you said that you were in the bathroom and you wanted to wash your hands?

DP: Yeah, they washed my hands for me and--

JM: Wash your hands for you?

DP: And I got upset.

JM: You got upset about that.

DP: And anyway so then I was in a place called C5 for bad boys for 4 years and 18 days to pay cost in all this. (unintelligible) former jail of the Lima State Hospital (unintelligible).

JM: So you were in C5 which you said is a place for bad boys?

DP: Yeah.

JM: Uh-hun. And you were there for over 4 years?

DP: Yeah, four.

JM: What was that like?

DP: Kinda rough and the guys, the guys had homosexual intercourse called mooning with each other. A couple other sins. Sex sins that we don't talk about inside with other people I guess. Then we had--

JM: Now let me, let me, let me see if I understand what you said.

DP: The guys, they guys had sex with--the guys, the guys and gals weren't allowed to see each other until 1971 with (unintelligible) became governor. All the guys had sex with each other.

JM: And did they force it? Did they force people?

DP: I uh usually I said no to them when they wanted to sex moon (unintelligible) they told me. Say the bench called the low grade bench that they put (unintelligible) that the superintendent (unintelligible) five times in 1964 for it being spitting purposes. (unintelligible) January 24, 1964 I caught him being spit on and used a plunger stick on my jaw and gave me about 72 hours on low grade bench and--

JM: Ok let me, let me hear this again. So you, this was an attendant?

DP: Yeah.

JM: And he hit you with a plunger?

DP: Yeah. He used a plunger stick on my jaw and then--

JM: Hit you in the face?

DP: No, right over here I think (points to cheek) and--

JM: Then you made to be go and sit on a bench?

DP: Yeah, that was the punishment bench and sometimes you spend a week. Last time he had me on those on the 13 days--

JM: For 13 days you had to sit on the bench?

DP: Right. And then--

JM: Could you get up?

DP: Yeah, you could get up and go to the bathroom. Uh it was a positive exper--I worked at a place called Sunny Side and worked with severely handicap--there was handicap low grades--that you had to move bowels in the cells and had to be fed and I helped take care of them--

JM: Now this was in Columbus at Orient?

DP: Yeah, and then it was about half a mile away and I mopped floors in dormitories. We basically mopped the floors and moved the furniture. Mopped the floors in the classroom, like big living rooms on my days off. I did stuff like that and helped mop in C5 where I lived and I helped move, mop...then I helped uh and I'd help in the dormitory on my days off with the beds--

JM: Ok, so you were in C-5 for over four years?

DP: Yeah.

JM: And how many people lived in C-5?

DP: 50-something. 56 was the most we could have I believe and then uh let's see, then uh--

JM: What, what when you--there were 56 beds in one room?

DP: Yeah, there was a dormitory below the classroom where we lived. And then uh--am I speaking ok to you?

JM: You know what, you're doing a wonderful job and I want to tell you something Dan.

DP: What?

JM: I know that this is hard to talk about--

DP: Yeah.

JM: And the reason we're making this video and this cd is so that we never ever again let this happen. I mean your memory is very--

DP: In the past was excellent. When I was first up there in '64 and early '65 an excellent doctor from (unintelligible). He was a black man whose first name was John and last name was Smith-Inkus. (burps) Excuse me. And he took me off of the Barbitone and stuff. Put me on (unintelligible) and I seemed to do a little better. In 1965 James Allen Rhodes governor of Ohio put at the time a prosperity program through and started making it so he couldn't be good to his patients anymore. He was a single man. He had a bicycle. Anytime day or night when his patients needed anything he was there. In '65 when governor James Allen Rhodes, the governor of Ohio at the time put a prosperity program through and we couldn't...and we couldn't have uh and so he couldn't be good to his patients anymore so he went to Columbus and set up child guidance and um I had ground privileges behind the car--

JM: So, so let me just stop for a second. I want to stop you just because I want to make sure that we understand the importance of what you're saying. So there was a doctor John?

DP: Dr. Smith-Inkus. His first name was Jime.

JM: John Smith-Inkus.

DP: Not John, Jime.

JM: Jime?

DP: Mmhmm.

JM: Smith-Inkus. And he was a very good doctor to you?

DP: Yeah.

JM: But then he lost his job because of a--

DP: He quit because Governor Rhodes--there was a doctor Brown in there for a month. Was ok I guess. Then they hired a Hungarian doctor (unintelligible). In 1967 he restricted all the Thorazine. I was on Thorazine to keep my nerves under control. In June of '67 he restricted all his Thorazine patients to the cottage and mother was very angry about that. Mother was the arts and crafts teacher over at (unintelligible) of Dayton. When (unintelligible) 1967, Mom's friend Miss Stuart took me back to Orient for the few days. Mother wanted to (unintelligible). Listen here, these aren't hogs, these are human beings. I want my kid released and I want everyone else's kids released.

JM: So you were on Thorazine then?

DP: Yeah and--

JM: Do you remember what it was like to be on Thorazine?

DP: I was allergic to the sun. That may be Catch-22 (unintelligible). I was allergic to the sun on from what may be...less child and first fight and trouble and gaff and stuff. The intentions to stay off of it. And the criticisms and stay off of it.

JM: But when you were on Thorazine. Do you remember what it felt like? Was it--were you able to think?

DP: Sure, sure. I remember the old counselor for retarded children down on Bronson Street had a scout troop. It was in '61, '62 when I was in school. From again, in '66 to '68 last couple years I was at Orient in '67, '66 and '67 when I went to a scout reservation in Canton when I came home from Orient and I burned real bad in '67. First the council from '56 to '81. First the council started showing day camp. '67 went to that for the last time. I got nosy, the week after day camp the ones that was in scouts we wanted to walk the trails of the scout reservation and I burned real bad.

JM: Ok. When you were in Orient, you were in Orient from 1965 you said?

DP: '64.

JM: And what year did you get out?

DP: '68. (unintelligible) June 2, 1968.

JM: So you were--just those years? Did you go back to Orient?

DP: No, I went back to visit but never went back to--

JM: You--you lived there during the '60s?

DP: Yeah, for them four years.

JM: Four years. And all that time you spent in C-5?

DP: Yeah. Yeah. And then I lost my ground privileges behind the cottage (unintelligible). There used to be a nice (unintelligible) Ruth Lyons 50/50 Club in Cincinnati and had TV stations in towns. Indianapolis and here in Ohio and stuff. She got playground swings and stuff for behind the retarded schools like Gardendale at that time and behind (unintelligible) institutions like Orient at that time and Sunnyside. At that time I worked for free and didn't get any pay and then--

JM: But Sunnyside, was that why you were at Orient?

DP: N-n-n-n-n

JM: That's when you came back?

DP: No that's where I worked. That was my detail job where I worked.

JM: At Orient?

DP: Yeah, I was--are you understanding me ok?

JM: Yes, but I don't, I don't know what Sunnyside is.

DP: There was a co--There was a cottage where there was another cottage a mile away where some of us patients in C-5 worked.

JM: Ok, and that's where you cleaned up?

DP: That's where we worked with severely handicapped. Mop the dormitory in the morning, classroom after lunch and in the afternoon.

JM: Uh-hun.

DP: And, and them severely retarded low-grades that take a mop and mop up the urine with they wet through their slacks and move bowels. We'd take 'em to the bathroom and clean them up with green buckets and green rags. And then also, another thing--In 1967 my friend Ralph Grey was on the evening shift at Kuntz. Liked to get upset a lot says and being mother so and so. Like used to mother and (unintelligible) his bald head draw some blood and wake him up. Wake him up a little (burbs) excuse me.

JM: Now so let me--I just want to go back on this. So there was someone there with a bald head named? What was his name?

DP: Ralph Grey.

JM: And what--he was--he lived in Sunnyside?

DP: No, C-5. That's--

JM: In C-5. And--and what happened to him? His head got bloody?

DP: He got upset (unintelligible) being mother so and so. And (unintelligible) being stubborn. Mention how Derrickson used to (unintelligible). When he was bald headed. Drew--

JM: He--so the attendant would hit him on the head?

DP: Yeah.

JM: With what?

DP: That was back when he was string strapped.

JM: Oh restraining strapped?

JL: The buckle on--

JM: The buckle on the restraining strap. He hit him on the head with that?

DP: Yeah.

JM: Was that when he was trying to restrain him?

DP: No, no he's just making--getting discipline mainly behavior abuse. And so then Pearl Harbor night Dec. 7th, 1967, my friend Eddie Powell flew off the handle insane like and I turned to Bob Hummell used a ball bat on his head and that was--that was a no no. Bob got fired and wasn't allowed to be the attendant anymore--

JM: He came and--he hit the man in the head with a baseball bat?

DP: Yeah and then--then uh Eddie went--went to the hospital then went to a place, bad boys place called Cottage 4, I believe it was and wasn't allowed to be in C-5 anymore for acting up and earning it on that. That was a big no--and then uh on Saturday August 13, 1966, (unintelligible) tease me called me dumb and a dummy. And--on Wednesday morning September 28, 1966 uh well I'm trying to think. I didn't start to come up, up from breakfast right when the warden on Thursday morning October 13, 1966. Got a little (unintelligible) and my chin wouldn't (unintelligible) he used a leather strap on my head called (unintelligible) and on Sunday--

JM: So, so let me stop there. Because you were slow coming up for breakfast they beat you with a leather strap?

DP: Yeah, these three instances. This--when Russell Haney used a leather strap on my head called Hickory T to make me behave and--

JM: Called a hickory?

DP: Hickory T they called it.

JM: Hickory T.

DP: And then on--on uh Sunday February 19, 1967 uh my friend John Parker and I got into--between Howard Steeple and did that to me but not to him and I was on Wednesday August 2, 1967 I was going to be 21 and wanted to give my heart and life to Lord Jesus Christ and be Christian before I was 21 so this Haney man not need to use a leather strap on my head called Hickory T after I was 21.

JL: Hickory T?

DP: That was--that was a name for that and then--then and then--

JM: So he called the leather strap Hickory T?

DP: Yeah b--

JM: And he hit you in the head with it?

DP: Yeah. And then--then uh we on Tuesday August 29, 1967 they sent a group of us to The Ohio State Fair with 50 cents. And I had--I had money--I was allowed two dollars at the time. Mother--Mother had money in my-- in my account, little account up there and they encouraged us to take some of that out. I may have had some other money. I don't--I bought with it--I bought my lunch and 50 cents went a lot further in 1967 than it does now in 2003 and uh--

JM: So everyone was sent to The Ohio State Fair and you had 50 cents to spend and that was all?

DP: Yeah and there was a nice blender there and I wanted to buy it from 'em but I didn't have the money and then uh I used to go up to the commissary little state store and buy myself--might give me two dollars and buy myself--every day--and by myself some twist ice cream and some pizza and a bottle of root beer.

JM: Mmhmm. But when you were--when you were on the C-5 it sounds like the attendants were not very kind.

DP: No. I was--but anyway so then 19--

JM: When--when--let me ask you a question. When you were hit with the leather strap, when you were hit with a Hickory T, what happened to the man that hit you?

DP: Well he--he--he's--he's--he's--that was considered legitimate discipline and he stayed till about summer of 1968 right after he came home for good. And then he went to the institution (unintelligible) police and became an attendant, I believe.

JM: So, he--he didn't lose his job over that?

DP: No. No just that one lost. Just that Bob (unintelligible) lost his job over the ball--over the ball bat incident. That's the only one lost--

JM: Did you--did you see him hit the man with the ball bat?

DP: Yeah. I believe--I remember seeing that night (unintelligible)--

JM: Did he hit him more than one time?

DP: Uh, I think just once.

JM: Did he knock him out?

DP: Uh...hurt him bad enough that he needed to go--I think he might have needed to go to the hospital--

JM: Needed to go to the hospital?

DP: Yeah, and then he got transferred to a place called Cottage 4 and wasn't allowed to be in C-5 anymore for acting up and (unintelligible) I believe.

JM: Well, you know he didn't--he didn't earn that beating. That was something that was terribly wrong.

DP: Yeah.

JM: It was not--it was not right.

DP: I know.

JM: You know what happened to you there and what happened to the other men who lived there was--was wrong in every way, you know that.

DP: And then this homosexual intercourse called mooning, if the guy the behind belonged to, the guy--the front you don't talk about (unintelligible) homosexuality was--that was a forbidden normal sin (unintelligible) it was just a big sin but if you got behind too many times it could make you severely ill or mentally ill or severely retarded and I remember there was a guy named Jay (unintelligible). A little guy named Jay (unintelligible) up there was higher function like me and sing (unintelligible) at concerts and stuff. And the guys had the--he was the guy the behind belonged to, too many times and the older guys gave him that and he became severely retarded. And about late May 1967, and my Pentecostal friend George Davis who had been there 29 said, so and so (unintelligible) and so and so and so and so f-word him that way and what happened to so and so (unintelligible) and so and so and so f-word--

JM: So--

DP: (unintelligible) and so and so and so and so f-word him that way.

JM: So--

JL: I have a couple things too. I thought that when he talked about Sunny he--

DP: Sunnyside.

JL: Sunnyside. I thought that he mentioned--did you say something about that in the cells?

DP: No, it was--

JL: Did I misunderstand?

DP: No, it wasn't--my head stopped. Am I talking ok?

JM: No, you sounded fine.

JL: Turn back around Dan.

JM: You sounded fine, Dan. You sounded great, Dan.

JL: The other thing was I thought Dan mentioned Farm View.

DP: No, there was a farm--a bad boys (unintelligible) called Farm View. I didn't--oh yeah I did mention (unintelligible) timber tam first morning but anyway-- there was a cottage called Farm View and there you went for and my friend Louis Bedford used to be up there and said they told what to do one time and at the same time bust you up side the jaw.

JM: At Farm View?

DP: Yeah. I was never in Farm View but that's what I heard and--

JM: That--that's what you've heard about what happened there?

DP: Yeah but from my friend Louis Bedford.

JM: Louis Bedford. I want to go back to what you were saying about Jerry? Did Jerry want to have sex with the other boys?

DP: No, no the other g--the men, the older guys had sex with.

JM: They'd--they'd make him do it?

DP: That's true. He had sex with them and became severely retarded from it.

JM: Mmhmm. But he was--this was not something he wanted? They made him do it?

DP: I'm not sure what he wanted or not and some of the guys... in 1966 some of the--some...on Sunday April 17th, 1966 my friend Stuart took me out to (unintelligible) a pastor at the time, at 10:30 church service and wanted off at 11:30 and then went and ate for an hour and a half at Green Gables restaurant in Columbus and then 1:00 Billy Graham's Hour of Decision came on back when Eastern Standard Time was the time yet. And uh Billy--he mentioned immorality and they--they and in the summer of 1966 some guys wanted to have this homosexual intercourse called mooning which was a new thing Billy Graham's complaining and my friend

Harvey (unintelligible) said uh well you're going to hell anyway and so on and so on. Let's see about Monday August 22, 1966 I said that to a nice Christian attendant up there a Mr. Omentrout who in the evening shift, afternoon shift and he had uh uh and he kept me from--I liked to borrow my friend William (unintelligible) dad's bible and read it and Mr. Omentrout put a check mark below, beside the verse Hebrews 22, "you shall not lie with mankind as womankind is an abomination", King James and revised standards as homosexuality as a normal sin and--and--

JM: Well it's--look I know--I know that this is hard Dan, but--but I want to get just a little more information about what you're talking about here.

DP: Yeah.

JM: When you were living in C-5.

DP: Yeah.

JM: Up to fifty-six men at a time.

DP: Yeah.

JM: And you had no privacy.

DP: No.

JM: No. What was the bathroom like? What were the bathrooms like there?

DP: Uh--uh--uh they kinda stunk and black friend Jimmy Bronson said one time when we came back from eating down in the dining room, we'd have to come back to this stinking bathroom, I heard him say. Although there was two--in C-5 there was a urinal and two toilets and a sink and a slop sink where you worked with the mops to mop the floor and stuff with. And then--

JM: So two toilets and fifty-six people living there?

DP: Yeah, and--

JM: Were there showers?

DP: There were showers downstairs in the basement between C-4 and C-5 and we showered everything. If you were detail I'd say you had to be clean and take showers and be clean or you'd end up on the low-grade bench. (unintelligible) that's one thing we'd put you on the low-grade bench for was not being clean.

JM: The lowgie bench?

DP: The low-grade bench.

JM: Low-grade bench. When you--in the showers did you control the water?

DP: Uh...I'm not sure. I don't know--we had the (unintelligible) how war--how hot or cold it was. The thing we might--I think we might have been a handle we could adjust.

JM: You could adjust it yourselves?

DP: I think. And then uh there were two bathtubs there in the front of the room too and then uh-

JM: When you--when you were a--you talked about the low-grade bench, did they use restraining straps for the low-grade bench?

DP: They usually wouldn't tie you but sometimes there was a guy named (unintelligible) bust out a window and they put him between two--I think he was messed up in this homosexuality called mooning and the guy behind belonged to it maybe too. Ralph Grey was too I think and they put (unintelligible) between two benches under control and (unintelligible) and put uh uh uh a uh a pretty big strong guy on each end of the bench to make sure they didn't move, they kinda stayed up in the air like (demonstrates this by standing up) hanging up in the air like this to make sure you didn't move. Discipline and then--

JM: Ok now, because we're--we're making a sound recording we can't see what you just did and I'm blind, I can't see it.

DP: Oh.

JM: They would--they would--did--could someone explain about the--what Dan demonstrated?

DP: Uh.

JL: He's saying that someone--there was--

DP: (unintelligible)

JL: two benches and two men stood on the ends and--

DP: They sat on the ends of the benches so (unintelligible) couldn't move anymore. Be more comfortable I think.

JL: Mmhmm.

JM: The bench was pushed up against his legs?

DP: No. No, I don't think it was that, he just kinda (unintelligible)

JL: Did he sit beside him?

DP: Yeah, beside him on the bench and he was hanging from the restraining strap. Then--

JM: He was hanging from the restraining strap--

JL: Ok.

JM: between the two benches.

DP: Yeah.

JL: And then you'd sit on the benches. Did his feet touch?

DP: Uh...no. I don't know if his feet touched the floor, but anyway--

JL: Dan kind of crouched down...

DP: And then Friday January 19, 19 uh 68 my friend--

JM: Now, Dan. Let me--I just want...to have you say so--why don't you just say...because we--this was all this back and forth. We can't hear this on the tape. We're only hearing you. What I'd like you to do is say what was the gentleman's name that was being punished?

DP: Troy Eugene Stockwell.

JM: And what happened to him? How did they punish him?

DP: They--they put him--they put a restraining strap on him. Put the two guys sitting on the bench and kinda hung him up in the air like I was talking about.

JM: They hung him up by restraining straps?

DP: Right. And then--then--then they...then uh there was a young man, Charles West Jr. Jr. A little younger than me and he--he--he was kinda criminally insane 'cause on Friday January 19, 1968 in the morning Mr. Haney cleaned out his pockets in the morning and Charles West goin' mine and Charles West got upset and they did the same thing with him, they put him in--toward the front of the class. He put him in between the bench--in between the benches like the guys (unintelligible) such and such and shitty ass (unintelligible). I forget what the such and such was and he kept saying it and I kinda plugged my ears up and stuff.

JM: So they suspended him between two benches?

DP: Yeah.

JM: Where were the straps attached? On his legs and his arms?

DP: Yeah, on his legs and his arms a bit.

JM: And it must have been painful.

DP: Yeah, I don't know if it was or not.

JM: And that was in a classroom?

DP: Yeah, that was in a classroom like a living room where he lived.

JM: Oh, the classroom was the living room where he lived?

DP: Yeah.

JM: So he had the bedroom and the classroom.

DP: The--the dorm (unintelligible) a big dormitory right below it.

JM: The dormitory and the classroom?

DP: Yeah.

JM: What was in the classroom?

DP: Uh...Just--just--just us guys in the benches and stuff. We went and got a bunch of bibles in the front room. A lot of them were broken and torn up and stuff. All the acting up and stuff. On Friday August (unintelligible) 1966, I took my...my friend...my friend Ralph Grey that I've been talkin' about, got upset and said G.D. real bad and I took him and showed him where the ten commandments were at. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. He knocked the bible to the front of C-5 and broke and my friend Charles Lemon said, oh curse on you now, to me.

JM: How many uh...how many attendants were there?

DP: Mmm...let's see...it was--it was two in C-5 at a time with the morning shift and the afternoon shift and the night watch, third shift 10 at night to 6 in the morning was called the night watch. We had a morning shift from 6:00 in the morning to 2:30 in the afternoon. Afternoon shift from 10 and...from 2:00 in the afternoon to 10:30 at night. Night watch from 6:00...from 10:00 at night to 6:00 in the morning and then--

JM: So there's only one--one attendant on night watch?

DP: No, there was two I believe.

JM: Two during all the times.

DP: On Wednesday September 16, 1964, just my friend Mr. Ward Reid was there and my other attendant, Haney was all (unintelligible) and Hicks was all spatial and there was a tough black guy named Larry King and I laid on his pillow and he--he got intense and he beat me up and left a puddle of my blood on the floor of C-5 and one in the--Beverly Hillbillies. The other Beverly Hillbillies--the old TV program came on 9 or 9:30 and he beat me up for the half hour and I stored most of my (unintelligible) and he said do you want some more? Do you want some? And he beat me (unintelligible) and that he wanted to kill me and Louis didn't think too highly of me but he liked Larry real well and he talked and said, no don't Larry. You'll go to prison later. I thanked--I would have thanked Louis for talking him out of it.

JM: So you're saying that--that Larry King beat you up--

DP: Kennedy.

JM: Larry Kennedy beat you up for a half hour?

DP: Yeah.

JM: With his fists?

DP: Yeah and left a big puddle on the floor of C-5 and--

JM: A great puddle of your blood, huh?

DP: Yeah.

JM: Where--where was he beating you?

DP: Not far from the TV. Behind the--right by the TV, a little ways in front of the TV area I think.

JM: I mean was he hitting you in the head?

DP: Yeah, yeah. He's beating me up in the head I think.

JM: And you were bleeding from your nose?

DP: Mmhmm. From my face I think. And--and--

JM: Did you go to the doctor, then? Did you go to the hospital?

DP: I think maybe a tooth got loose Tuesday (unintelligible) went--

JM: He knocked your--while he was beating you up he knocked your tooth out?

DP: No, just loosened.

JM: Loosened. Mhmm.

DP: Mmm.

JM: After he beat you did you see a doctor?

DP: Uh, Tuesday October 6, 1964 we were going to the hospital--in other words by the tooth being loosened up a little (unintelligible) and I think maybe I uh--by the tooth being loosened up a little and...positive on the sw--sw--swing set. We used to love to go out and swing. On Wednesday October 4, 1964 we went and swung all day a lot on the nice swings Ruth Lyons got me.

JM: So you enjoyed the swings?

DP: Yeah and uh... (unintelligible).

JM: Ruth Lyons sounds like she was a nice person.

DP: Yeah she was and--

JM: Did you know her?

DP: No, she had 50/50 Club in Cincinnati. That TV show.

JM: Ahh.

DP: And then when she retired in '60--well Bob Braun turned over to '84 when he went to California.

JM: Uh-hun.

DP: And anyway, so uh and what else--and uh then there were low grades in both C-5 and Sunnyside and you'd have a regular meal for the rest of--for us better-- more higher function guys. Then you have a low grade--a second meal for the low grades and the ones in C-5 could go to the bathroom and use the urinal and the toilet and I think feed themselves the low grade meal.

JM: So there were two different kinds of food?

DP: Uh probably same kind of food but two different kinds of guys and so two different meals.

JM: Two different meals? The high functioning people ate separately and the low grade functioning people ate differently--separately?

DP: Right. And they used to call--used to call us high functioning guys bright boys and the lower functioning guys and the low grades dummies, I remember.

JM: What was the food like?

DP: It was pretty--pretty--the only--pretty--ate some squash at Sunnyside and it didn't agree with me. I couldn't stand to look at squash for sev--for few--for few years after that. Now that stewed chicken on Sundays--some of the guys up there got tired of stewed chicken after church and stuff on Sundays there in Cottage C.

JM: Did you like the food there?

DP: Yeah. Yeah, it was pretty good I think.

JM: Was it? Do you remember what that--what it was like in the dining hall?

DP: It was a long dining hall like the dormitories and classrooms and it was nice--anyway a nice matron in C-5 named Mrs. Smiley, Faye Smiley that'd been there since 1921. And twice--in 1921 she'd be--she's probably dead now---she'd be about 102 now if she was living I think. And--and--and...where--

JM: She was a nice matron on C-5?

DP: Cottage C.

JM: Cottage C.

DP: And C-1 was now--now all Orient was all bad like that and C-1 was privileged class and we had pretty good--it was a place--a couple places in there called D-4 on Elmwood. There were open cottages and D-4 was the main building I think. They were pretty good I understand and--

JM: Did you--all the time that you were there you were in C-5?

DP: Yeah, and then there was a nice cottage--school cottage next-door to--to--cottage--called cottage G that was a nice school--I was with--the grade kids went to school--oh and on Thursday (unintelligible) 1964 they gave me the choice between uh working at Sunnyside and uh...going to school in occupational therapy. It was the summer time and I chose working at Sunnyside and maybe should have chose school instead. Might have been better off. Oh and I was always nervous and upset, couldn't take teasing and sometimes being in the way and stuff. So Thursday May 23, 1968, 10 days before I came home for good, uh a nice attendant at Sunnyside took me to show me how the medicine cart works. And I remember this and he said look, Daniel (unintelligible) 'cause Sunnyside was giving me three Barbitone for my late morning pills might have been winding me up. And then after James Allen Rhodes prosperity program in 1965, so uh I uh so I uh--

JM: So--so you--he showed you what medicines you were getting?

DP: No, he just told me--you know he just told me uh uh how I just a nice Christian guy showed me how the medicine cart worked. Told me what I was on over there and just commenting I think. And then I was on (unintelligible) still seen 'em off. And Thorosine up there. There--there--there--I only took one pill at Sunnyside. The rest I took at C-5.

JM: Mmhmm.

DP: And--

JM: How did you feel after you took your pills?

DP: Felt fine I think. But anyway, I went and talked to Smith-Inkus. A good doctor and one thing on Wednesdays he was giving--he gave us Epson salts for early in the morning medicine instead of water and on Wednesday September 16, 1964, a few hours before the beating, I was outside in C-5's bad boys class and it was locked and you had uh I was--I was ground person uh I insisted on being and I knowing I had diarrhea all over the little...porch and he said--and my attendant--the morning attendant (unintelligible) said--called (unintelligible) said to me, Attendant number 1 and I called a guy that does (unintelligible) I saying look in his own pants and they said low grade don't you Albert? And they took me down and cleaned me up in the shower and cleaned me up and--and--

JM: They gave you Epson salts?

DP: Yeah, and oh and...

JM: So it was--it sounds like those years you spend at Orient were uh--

DP: Yeah.

JM: were awful.

DP: Yeah, and Mother came and took to a 19...my friend Susie (unintelligible) was in...oh in school cottage D 'cause (unintelligible) Mother--her mother Norma would come up on Saturdays or Sundays and take us out and take us to Green Gables Restaurant in Columbus in 1964 and '65 and after Daddy died my friend Miss Stuart (unintelligible) they'd come and take me out. When that first happened my--my friend Miss Stuart and Norma and Susie went and so when Daddy was first sick and died, Miss (unintelligible) needed to work and Miss Susie needed to work and mmm...

JM: When you would go out with your family and with your friends--

DP: Yeah?

JM: were you glad to get out?

DP: Yeah, yes I was. And--

JM: You know, Dan what I'd like you to say is--you know just tell me how you felt when you had to go back.

DP: Well I was...I think--I think I was worried sometimes when I came home, I didn't want--I didn't want--I wished I couldn't go back after company. I think I was--had--was going back again and on--

JM: So you'd go home for vacations?

DP: I was home 23 times. One--one had been Daddy's funeral so--

JM: And you didn't--but you always felt bad about having to go back?

DP: Mmhmm I kinda--my last time home I thought I had Orientitis and I got--I kinda got sick. Mother let me stay home a second week. Mother thought I might have Orientitis and wouldn't go back. I--I--and the last couple years I was in scouts down at the council for retarded children and wanted to come home and be in scouts and stuff, I think and--

JM: Were--were you afraid to go back?

DP: No, I don't think it was--no...

JM: Even though it's a place where you'd been beaten so badly?

DP: Yeah, and then--the--then--then there was a Pentecostal in '67 and '68 I had a Pentecostal friend named George Davidson, C-5 who'd been there since 1929 and he--he uh he and I used to talk about God and Christ and the Bible a lot. We were both kind of Christians and we'd talk about God and Christ and the Bible a lot and--

JM: Mmhmm.

DP: And Tuesday oh and on Tuesday morning, September--late on Tuesday morning or afternoon, February 13, 1968 I got--I got him (unintelligible) cause Haney--and Haney got on my nerves and I got upset with him (unintelligible) sassing and yes sir and sassing, yes sir to him. He put me on the wall for a few hours for punishment and kinda got...yeah--

JM: What do you--what does that mean, put you on the wall?

DP: He put me on the wall and he kinda got the tension out of me that was for discipline. And then--then uh--

JM: Make you--did he make you stand by the wall?

DP: Stand on the wall and--

JM: Stand with your back to the wall?

DP: Yeah and my hands--my hands on Saturday May 4, 1968 was here we come home from the '68 May Dance in our group. He did--there was my friend Robert Jeffries for masturbating with a woman so he put--he put some water under his--under his feet for discipline.

JM: He'd make him stand in cold water?

DP: Yeah, make him stand. Did the same thing to me. Stand in water on his feet because he did such a nasty thing.

JM: So, he--where--he'd be standing in a bucket?

DP: No, just water under his feet on the floor, I think.

JM: Bare feet on the floor?

DP: No, I think maybe he had shoes on. I'm not sure.

JM: But he would have to stand with his back to the wall?

DP: Yeah.

JM: His face to the wall?

DP: Like this to the wall (gestures that hands would be up against the wall) his back--

JM: Back to the wall?

DP: No, his face to the wall.

JM: His face to the wall.

JL: His hands on the wall. Yes.

DP: I had my face to the wall, too.

JM: So his hands up on the wall, facing the wall?

DP: Yeah.

JM: Ok.

DP: Mmm...and--and let's see....from 1964 for--through '65 Mother used to come up every week and then I was doing better and she made a New Year's Resolution in '66 to come up--from '66 to '68 she came up every two weeks sometimes three.

JM: How um...what happened if you moved, if you were standing by the wall?

DP: I-I think in the right circumstances...moved too much they might have gotten rough with you, I don't know.

JM: When they got rough with you, what did they do?

DP: Well maybe--maybe--maybe gave you a little Hickory T with a strap or something.

JM: They hit you with a strap?

DP: Yeah.

JM: Where would they hit you?

DP: Oh anyplace on your body, I think.

JM: Any--across your back sometimes?

DP: Um...

JM: It must have been very painful.

DP: Um...and.

JM: Do you know that--did they treat--you said that they called the people there that had severe retardation, called them low grades?

DP: Low dummies and low grades.

JM: Dummies and low grades.

DP: And they called the high functioning bright boys.

JM: Bright boys.

DP: And we were all--we were--in Orient you were patient. And if you worked outside the cottage like I did you were also called--you were also on D-tail and it was pronounced detail, not detail, like you'd go on every little detail about something. And--and uh and there were guys--there were people who worked--guys worked at the laundry and--and some worked at a place called Cottage 5 next to that Cottage 4, with--that was the detail--nice detail job at Sunnyside and

uh...at Sunnyside we had breakfast at the cott--at Sunnyside and the rest of the details ate theirs in Cottage C, not that it matters. And--and then...

JM: Did they punish the low grades more than they punished the bright boys?

DP: Uh...I'm not sure if that happened, no. It was probably equal and...but if you were bright boys and--and on Thursday September 23, 1965 there was a guy named Harvey Doejohn on the chair for foul-mouth (unintelligible) up front and I and I (unintelligible) Jimmy Fry was ornery and acted like he...when--like God when he um killed his patients love of the staff (unintelligible). Hicks, he got a (unintelligible) and Hicks said, ok if one more crew moves, screw us, screw us at Farmview. In this case the jail, not the school where we went for education and uh and I was on--I--I was a little late getting up from the shower to take my medicine and they--they put me on the chair on the floor and Harvey Doejohn would be on the chair for the foul-mouth was the only one who agreed with me. I think--I think maybe Jimmy Fry's situation or my situation kinda got on my nerves a little, but I didn't--I didn't tell him that.

JM: So they made you sit on a chair on the floor?

DP: Or the floor.

JM: Or the floor.

DP: Maybe the floor. And--

JM: And this is because you...

DP: A little late from getting back--

JM: You were a little late from your shower.

DP: Yeah gettin' up from--you get up out of the showers, medicine.

JM: And they told you if you moved that if you were moving they were going to send you to--

DP: No, that was--

JM: the schoolhouse.

DP: J--J--Jimmy Fry that did.

JM: Jimmy Fry.

DP: In the morning, and that was Farmview, not the schoolhouse where you went...to school.

JM: To study, yeah. Do you know what happened to people that went to Farmview?

DP: Some--some--some of them just went to Farmview and they got to stay there (unintelligible). Some went to Lima State Hospital for the Criminally Insane.

JM: But when they went to Farmview what happened to them?

DP: Yeah.

JM: Do you know?

DP: Some of 'em--I think--they say it was a bit rough and I--I--I told Hicks when I'd never been to Farmview and he said you don't want to be either, Hicks said.

JM: If you went to Farmview would you come back to your...or would you--would that be where you lived from then on?

DP: S--Sometimes--sometimes you'd come back maybe and sometimes maybe just stay there indefinitely. I think sometimes you'd go to Lima State Hospital for the Criminally Insane, depending on the circumstances.

JM: So they could send you to the Lima State Hospital for the Criminally Insane--

DP: Yeah.

JM: if you acted up?

DP: Yeah, if you got too bad. You wanted to behave to be at Orient.

JM: But they would--

DP: There was a ornery--ornery black guy named Leron Jones once when I was first up there in '64 and '65 and a tough ornery black guy named Harry Gordon called Kingfish. Then there was this kid in C-5 Friday November 10, 1967, it was Veteran's Day. Haney was white and he was black. Haney asked him to mop he acted prejudice and said, you think I'm going to mop for you white trash, you got another thing coming. He was about ready to take mops and clobber me. Haney went nuts and he was impatient with kids when his patients didn't do as we were told. And--and--and then on Wednesday January 24, '68 he threatened ni--nice attendant woman, 24, named Richardson, 24, and Richardson wouldn't share and Haney, I better get the SB out of here and put him in Farmview. Haney--later heard Haney say, that before he came over, he'd stayed...might probably taken a--a chair from one of these tables...one leg on one of these tables and chairs and use the corner on his head. If he'd stayed in C-5. Kingfish was so ornery.

JM: He threatened him? He didn't really do it?

DP: No, he didn't. No, he was gone--he was gone. That was if Kingfish had stayed. That was after Kingfish went to Farmview that Haney said that.

JM: Why--why did Kingfish have to go to Farmview?

DP: 'Cause he threatened the attendant Mr. Richardson with a chair.

JM: He threatened him with a chair? Was Mr. Richardson...nice to Kingfish?

DP: I don't know. I wasn't--I didn't see it happen.

JM: You didn't see it happen?

DP: Am I communicating with you ok?

JM: Yes you are.

DP: Ok.

JM: You're giving me a lot of information and I'm just trying to keep up with you. Your memory is wonderful.

DP: Thanks.

JM: You have a very clear memory of everything that happened. What was the worst thing that you ever saw happen?

DP: Probably--probably the ball bat on the head. And when they used the ball bat--when Bob Haney used the ball bat on my friend Abe Powell's head like I was telling you about.

JM: Yes. Did he hit him very hard?

DP: Yeah, yeah. I remember I told you he--Abe went to the hospital.

JM: Yes. Yeah that's a--why did--was the baseball bat always there or did he bring it in?

DP: No, no they played baseball behind the cottage in the summertime, sometimes. During recess and there were ball bats in the front room there.

JM: I see...so what happened when you got out?

DP: Came home for good you mean?

JM: Yes.

DP: Well, Mother and my friend Mrs. Stuart had--had always liked to travel. We went on a big 10,000 mile trip to Grandpa Powell's. Daddy died in '65 and his 89 year old dad in Indianapolis and his sister and brother-in-law headed to Wisconsin. Mother's brother and sister-in-law was in Milford, Nebraska, that's the last year he lived and then up the Oregon...up the Oregon Trail,

North the Vancouver, British Columbia and Canada and down that little 1/8 of Washington, Oregon and California. Part of this fall in the ocean now, Mother says. And then down South of Juan and Mexico up and across the South of Mexico three times where Tijuana was and (unintelligible) and up through the Smokies and home. We were gone 55 days. Just nice leisurely trip.

JM: What a wonderful trip. And you did that when you got out?

DP: Yeah.

JM: Well, that must have been a great experience.

DP: May-may I go to the bathroom please?

JM: You sure may.

DP: Thank you.

JM: Are you ready to start again Dan?

DP: Yeah and then...now Monday January the--

JM: Wait a second we have to get all our cameras and everything set up.

JL: Dan, you want to put your Coke down behind your...here put it down behind the chair. You get it?

JM: Okay, Mark are you going to let us know when we're ready to go again.

JL: I'm ready.

JM: Ok. Alright. Well Dan we--we talked so much about what happened at Orient and I want to talk to you now about what happened after Orient. You've done some amazing things.

DP: Ok, on Monday September 21, the workshop. On Wednesday September 4th, 1968...then on Monday March 3rd, 1975 became a (unintelligible) Goodwill. And then Friday morning...then on...I was home for eight weeks. On Monday December 8, 1975, became one of the food service training programs, we used to have in the program. On Friday March 5, 1977 (unintelligible) from that after--two weeks after not getting a job at the (unintelligible) now. Monday, then on Tuesday April 18, 1977, went back to the workshop and then Monday November 6, '95 I became a--started workshop enclave at the downtown Marriott. Stayed until Friday May 31st, 2002. Through June--June 2002 I started worked at Fairfield Commons Marriott and they wanted my friend Doreen Hobson to work weekends and we didn't want to and then I--I was in scouts. My scout troop wanted to put--on Monday September 3, '68 and I started to join a scout troop of all handicaps and (unintelligible). November 20, '69...got star and life and eagle. Got star and life and Protestant God and Country Award and (unintelligible) and

(unintelligible) Bearclaw and Paw and (unintelligible). The Order of the (unintelligible) and...and then on--and when the 75 National (unintelligible) comes then that we (unintelligible) and on Monday May 24th--on Tuesday April 27th, (unintelligible) United Church of Christ (unintelligible) and I got--I went to Philmont Scout Ranch somewhere in New Mexico in '77. (Unintelligible) scout in '79 and went to four National Scout Jamboree's (?) in '67--in '89, '93, '97, 2001. And--and all the National--all the old conferences of the '90's and 2002 and then on Monday...Monday I got about nine eagle poems and on Monday--Tuesday November 4, 2002, that (unintelligible) and United Methodist Church was scout troop #45 and I....and my friend Miss Stuart (unintelligible) and Mother and I went on that in '79, three years after he died--five years after he died and I went to the...

JL: Sneeze there?

DP: Hope so.

JM: (laughs)

DP: (blows nose)

JM: Well it sounds like you've achieved every award the Scouts had to offer.

DP: On Saturday night after '81 and she had the vigil (?) on the house (unintelligible) scouting and I...in '77 then I...on Saturday December 14th I got the Founder's Award and the Order of the Owl for kinda going around and offering to help wherever they might need and stuff and I--and we been--June we went to Passion play of the Christ and went to Jimmy Olsen's (unintelligible) and Lichtenstein. '8--Catholic trip to Dayton--University of Dayton and UD and Savior and University of Cincinnati and another in Indiana and we saw the Passion play The Lord Jesus Christ (unintelligible). He was (unintelligible) Adolf Hitler and (unintelligible) Germany. And--and then '84 took a trip-- boy's trip called the Heart of Europe for two weeks in England, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany and Holland. We've been to most of Canada.

JM: So when you traveled to Europe you traveled with your mother?

DP: Yeah.

JM: Mmhmm. Well it sounds like you've had a very exciting life.

DP: Thank you.

JM: And congratulations on all your awards.

DP: Thank you.

JM: That's hard work.

DP: Thank you.

JM: Tell me about the uh spaceship?

DP: Oh yeah. In 1989, Judy Leasure got me inducted into the Hall of Fame. Developmental Disabilities Hall of Fame and then to the--then I got nominated and got to the State Citizenship Award. And then I got nominated for the National Citizenship Award, didn't get that and then she--she had--then she got I think she got the (unintelligible) and NASA to see if they could--if I could get the (unintelligible) for wake up call. It was two--that was against their rules but they gathered the astronauts and one was a life scout and two of 'em were eagle scouts. The two highest ranks in scouting and so this lady--this lady astronaut (unintelligible) called--she even called Sunny uh the green team Eagles the visual drama with the old sash in scouting with him so um (unintelligible). So Saturday September 20, 1989 I...we...uh we took a sash out to Wright-Patt and he got--and he got an--we gave it to him on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday November 22nd, 1982 and the spacewoman brought--came back Monday November 27th and gave back to the National of the Owl Council. Monday August 13, 1990, I think some--I think 13,000 men and boys. Maybe 7,000 boys.

JM: So you had your eagle sash--

DP: That was--

JM: Taken--

DP: No, that was my visual drama with the old sash...

JM: Oh, your old sash was taken?

DP: Yeah. Oh it was the Scout's National Honor Society Scouts guys get elected to the best example of the scout's principles.

JM: So you took--your Order of the Arrow Sash taken into space?

DP: Yeah.

JM: That's remarkable.

DP: Thank you.

JM: Well you have uh you've had a very very interesting and successful life. Have you been on television?

DP: Uh yeah I was on--on the news when--when that--on the news when Sunny came to get the sash that night.

JM: Mmhmm.

DP: They came during the day that night there on the news (unintelligible) boy scout--a special boy scout they said. I was--the only thing that got me eagle in '79.

JM: '79? How old were you when you got your eagle?

DP: 32.

JM: Uh-hun. Well that's really to be commended. Congratulations.

DP: Thank you.

JM: You know we--we asked you some pretty tough questions and you were telling us memories that were very...very strong, very painful I'm sure. Do you have anything else you'd like to tell us about--if you were talking to people that didn't understand what it was like and how--how we've changed? How things have changed for people. Anything else you'd like to say about what happened?

DP: Well, I...mmm...I don't know. I'm trying to think. Oh, in 1971 the g--the g-- governor John Joyce Gilligan had given Ohio pro-humanization programs in them institutions. The guys and gals were allowed the see each other, other than the dances and then. And...

JM: So for the first time in 1971, men and women could see each other?

DP: Yeah. And--and--and--and...

JM: Was that better then?

DP: Yeah, maybe. Well--well uh the--the--the thing they said that they had to pay the--the--the only thing they had to pay... the detail guys would--what'd I say--cottage minimum wages and they didn't have the money to do this. It just sat in the cottages. After I came home for good the scout troop at Orient uh but they didn't go on the nice camp--they just had wooden building with a pool and a stand that they--that was after my the--the--the went camping and they didn't go to the regular scout camps or anything.

JM: What do mean scout camps? There was a scouting troop at Orient?

DP: Yeah. And they went through Ohio State Fair and participate I think. 1981, I think.

JM: Mmhmm. 1981.

DP: Mmhmm.

JM: Well, you uh you've been very very helpful. Thank you so much.

DP: Thank--

JM: And I'm going to be--we're going to be stopping by your house tomorrow and talking to your mom.

DP: Yeah. No--no I'm--(unintelligible) going to build my United Methodist Church and we're going out and hmm...decorating...and putting flags on the National Cemetery, so I won't be there then when you go talk to Mother.

JM: Oh, you'll be decorating the cemetery?

DP: Yeah.

JM: Ok. Well you know what, it sounds like your service work just continues doesn't it?

DP: Thank you.

JM: You know I'm so--you were talking about when you were living at Orient, even then you were helping people?

DP: Yeah. Then--then...then uh...uh...what I'm trying to...mmm...oh yeah I got--on Friday March 1, 1991 I got the Ohio Public Images Award in Columbus, also.

JM: Oh. What uh...what do you want to do next? What's your next goal?

DP: Well--well I think I just--I want--want to go to summer camp this summer. I got the money to pay for it I just need to get somebody to take me to the doctor and get my physical going and maybe earn a pulp and paper merit badge and maybe enjoy and swim and stuff.

JM: Uh-hun.

JL: Yes. (unintelligible)

Man: Dan, you might want to mention that you got on our Board of Trustees about 2 years ago.

DP: Oh...oh yeah--yeah in 1999 he called and they wanted to draw on stable consumer on...for--on their board on Choice and Living Community Trustee, and they chose me. And I'm also on the Programs and Services committee now.

JM: Well, well. Do you--do you enjoy that work? Being on the board?

DP: Yeah, I think so.

JM: Do you--do you--do they ask you how things should be and you tell 'em?

DP: No, we just kinda all vote on things that I think.

JM: Uh-hun. Well, it sounds like they have the right man for the job with you.

DP: Thank you.

JM: Mmhmm. Do you like music, Dan?

DP: Oh, yeah I like...mmhmm basically just simple Country and some Gospel and Church and Patriotic and stuff like that.

JM: Uh-hun.

DP: I don't--I don't--don't like Rock & Roll and Heavy Metal and one's like the cuss words, the f-ing music and stuff.

JM: Yeah. Right.

JL: (laughs)

JM: Well, I'm just thinking I've got a CD of my songs that I'll send to you.

DP: Thanks.

JM: I think you'll like it.

DP: Thank--

JM: There's no cussing, I promise.

DP: No.

JL: (laughs)

DP: Is it just regular music or Rock & Roll?

JM: I write music about disability--

DP: Oh.

JM: and how we're all the same and how we're all equal.

DP: Oh, neat.

JM: Well, Dan you have been a--you've been a wonderful man to talk to and I'm very proud to know you.

DP: Thank you.

JM: Congratulations on all your many successes.

DP: Thank you.