

## Oakland, Milo-7-17-00-1of2

[Speaker 1]

July the... 17th. 17th.

[Speaker 2]

Year 2000. This begins the interview with Milo Oakland at his house in Atlanta on July 17th, 2000. I'm James Rasko.

Alright, so if you don't mind, Milo, how about you carefully start talking about your parents?

[Speaker 3]

Sure.

[Speaker 2]

Alright. Where were your parents born?

[Speaker 1]

I was born in DeKalb, Illinois. And my parents were... My mother was born in DeKalb, my father was born in a little town called Lee.

Approximately 10 miles from DeKalb. DeKalb is in northern Illinois, about 60 miles west of Chicago, and about 40 miles from the Illinois-Wisconsin line. My father was a college professor in the college in DeKalb, which is now called Northern Illinois University.

And he was a professor there for about over 40 years. So he was a professor when you were born? Yes.

I guess what you would call would be a middle-class family. I graduated from high school in 1939. I was 17.

The... The times were so different then. 1939 was right in the middle of the Depression.

I know the...

[Speaker 2]

That's when you graduated high school?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah, I know the crash was in 1929, but the difficult times were all of the 30s. And it got worse and worse and worse. I know it was a difficulty for my...

Looking back, for my parents to send me to college, because I say we were a middle-class family. My father, you know, was employed during the whole period. And our life...

Their life centered around playing golf. They loved to play golf. They were one of the first couples to play golf in that area.

[Speaker 2]

So what did your father teach? What was he...

[Speaker 1]

He was head of what was called the Industrial Arts Department. And his schooling was at that college, and he got his master's at Ohio State. So my only trip away from DeKalb was we spent a year in Hummus, Ohio, at Ohio State.

That was the furthest I'd ever been away from home. That was during my... grade school.

Maybe 7th grade.

[Speaker 2]

And he was going to... He was going to Ohio State. He was going to Ohio State.

And your mom was always at home?

[Speaker 1]

Mother was always at home. She did... Well, no.

She was a... She'd gone to college, and she was a elementary school teacher up until... I was in the 2nd grade and contracted the measles, and I went into pneumonia.

And I was out of school then for my whole 2nd year. 2nd year of school. And that's when she stopped teaching and worked with me for that year.

And... taught me, so I stayed with my class, but I pretty never went. So she was...

an educated kid. Where did she go to college? She went to the...

that college in DeKalb, which was the... which was first of all a teacher's college, and then became a... university.

[Speaker 2]

Is that how your parents met?

[Speaker 1]

No, they met in high school.

[Speaker 2]

Oh, really? So, and then they both traveled to the University of New York?

[Speaker 1]

Uh-huh. But you see, people didn't travel in those days.

[Speaker 2]

Oh, yeah, I understand.

[Speaker 1]

Yeah, I know... I remember that we had a car, a nice car, but it hardly ever went out of the garage. And, of course, during the rationing period, the car...

it just didn't go anywhere. A big deal would be to get in the car and ride in the... around the country just a little bit to cool off in the summertime.

Uh-huh. So I went to college then at the University of Illinois, and... I guess the highlight of...

I'm skipping over a lot. I don't know how much you asked me the question.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah, I want to ask you a question about that. Your parents... Yeah.

You said they were really interested in golf. Yes. And so they were some of the first to play golf.

And became championship golfers, really. What?

[Speaker 1]

In the local area.

[Speaker 2]

How did they get interested in playing golf?

[Speaker 1]

My father was a charter member of the newly organized Kishwaukee Country Club. And... my father was a very fine athlete.

He... a real good basketball player and a good baseball player. And even at the college, he was the athletic director at the college beside his...

his teaching responsibilities. And coached basketball and for a time coached both basketball and baseball. So he was a good athlete.

As I say, a charter member of golf. And they... would buy golf books and study them.

And... golf was very new then in 1920.

[Speaker 2]

So... I know you play golf now, but did you play any other sports in high school or before that even?

[Speaker 1]

He played all sports in high school. And all sports in college. He was a very fine athlete.

I mean, you, not yourself.

[Speaker 2]

Oh, did I? Did you play in high school?

[Speaker 1]

No. I... was interested in basketball, but...

but... but... I couldn't excel.

You know, I was pretty small. And... was not interested in football.

And so my only sport was playing golf. So you played a lot of golf. I was...

on... what was the beginning of a golf team in high school. Again, not many people again played golf in those days.

[Speaker 2]

What was the name of that particular name of that high school?

[Speaker 1]

Do you remember? My high school? Yeah.

DeKalb Township High School. DeKalb Township High School.

[Speaker 2]

And... you said you graduated there in 1939?

[Speaker 1]

Oh, yes. Yeah. And...

[Speaker 2]

I've got the yearbook if you want to take it home and look at it. Yeah. And...

so... did you ever have like a job with the golf club? No.

[Speaker 1]

My summertime jobs... consisted of working in my uncle's gas station. Working at DeKalb Hybrid Corn which was a...

they grew seed corn or corn for seed. And... we would de-tassel the odd stock of corn so they would get cross-pollination.

We got 35 cents an hour. And... that was a good summer job.

Another summer job was... Del Monte had a canning factory for peas and corn. And I think we got 30 cents an hour for that.

[Speaker 2]

And...

[Speaker 1]

so those were my summertime jobs. DeKalb was a farming...

[Speaker 2]

pretty much a farming other than college. So... most of your friends, their fathers were farmers or...

[Speaker 1]

Almost. As I say, we were middle class and... lived in town.

And most of my friends' fathers were in business in DeKalb. One was a Ford dealer. Interesting thing about DeKalb was that...

barbed wire was invented in DeKalb. And there were... U.S. Steel had factories for barbed wire. When you think of barbed wire, you don't think of that as much of an industry or you don't even think about it. But it was a... it was a dramatic change that really...

for the western part of the United States, the western part of the United States was all open land, open grazing land. And there wasn't any way to control the cattle. And barbed wire became it.

It changed. So... you go to school throughout the week.

So I did have a friend, John Elwood, whose father was the one who made the most money, I guess, with factories and so on.

[Speaker 2]

His family invented barbed wire. His family invented barbed wire. And that was...

mid-1800s, early-1800s, or when was that?

[Speaker 1]

I guess maybe... mid- to late-1800s.

[Speaker 2]

And... I would think even in the 70s or 80s. Okay.

You didn't have any... a job during the school year? No.

So mostly just...

[Speaker 1]

No, there wasn't any work. There wasn't any work for anybody. No one worked.

None of my... no one in the whole high school. There weren't any...

there weren't any jobs in there.

[Speaker 2]

So... you spent most of your afternoons playing golf, or...

[Speaker 1]

I guess... those would be...

[Speaker 2]

my summer activities would be playing golf, I guess. Really? And so...

in the afternoons, during the... Afternoons...

[Speaker 1]

I can't think of anything outstanding we did that kind of thing. We didn't go to the mall. We didn't...

went to each other's house and played games and that kind of thing. Like what kind of games? Do you remember?

[Speaker 2]

Nothing outstanding. So you said... 1939 was the...

the depression. And... you said that pretty much affected your family, because...

you didn't take the car out. I understand that was because of the depression, or because... you just...

you didn't need to, or... Yeah, I didn't need to.

[Speaker 1]

I didn't have any place to go. I didn't want to spend the money for gasoline. My dad worked hard.

He worked long hours. Besides his teaching... commitments, he was also...

he also designed pianos for the Wurlitzer... piano company. We've got a manufacturing plant in DeKalb.

He also... designed houses for... for France.

So... now he can play piano as well? He was a...

He wanted to be an architect. His family... were farmers.

And then they made investments. And... in a...

factory. His father was secretary treasurer of this factory. That...

developed a coating for steel. Again... for barbed wire and for fencing.

It was not... and he lost a great deal of money in that. He really lost...

his father lost two fortunes. And it was when dad was in... going to the University of Michigan and had to drop out.

He was... he wanted to be an architect. And...

he had to fall back on teaching.

[Speaker 2]

And... I got into that. So...

So you just... you go back into teaching and then... My mother...

[Speaker 1]

my mother's... father... had the...

meat market... in DeKalb. Which...

his business did the... butchering and... selling meat too.

Which... which was an individual... another business other than groceries.

Groceries was another business. And... and meat...

[Speaker 2]

selling meat was a different business. So did that help you out at all during the depression?  
Did you have more food because of that?

Or more meat? No, I don't think so. I don't think so.

It was just... it was uneven. So...

Do you... What were your... What were your earliest memories of depression?

I don't know if you remember 1929 or... I don't know.

[Speaker 1]

No. I guess I don't have any... really memories of the depression.

We seemed to... go along fine. We had plenty of food.

It didn't... it didn't seem to curtail... our activities in this small town.

Uh... You... You as a family or the whole town?

No, me... We as a family. Me...

as a... teenager. I don't really think...

it hit us as severely as it probably would have...

[Speaker 2]

as many, many other people. Uh... Do you...

Do you remember any conversations that... your parents might have had... about the...

possibly the Spanish Civil War or... I don't know. I don't remember anything.

No, no. Um... What were your parents' political views?

What did they think about Roosevelt? Did they say anything in particular? Yeah.

[Speaker 1]

My father was... very much opposed... let's see...

that would be the election of 1932... against Smith. Uh...

Because of the closing of the... banks... in which he froze...  
all the activities of the... of the bank... of the banks...  
most of the banks went under then... and uh... and didn't pay any...  
any of... any of the depositors back... back, at least the banks...  
that my father used. And that was his... main reason I remember.  
I think... both for Roosevelt.

[Speaker 2]

So, um... what else was... what else was lifelike in DeKalb?

Did uh... did... back on the weekends, did you...

did everybody go to church? Did uh... Yeah.

Yeah.

[Speaker 1]

Uh... Church was a major activity. We went to...

all along to the... Methodist church in DeKalb. Yes, we...

I remember going to Sunday school. Religiously. Probably stopped by the Sunday school...

about a freshman... in high school. So, uh...

But we continued. We...

[Speaker 2]

belonged to the church. Did uh... on Saturdays...

on Sundays you go to church, on Saturdays... would you... go to the park for a picnic?

Would you go to a movie? What...

[Speaker 1]

Oh yeah, movies. Movies were my activity during the... certainly during my...

up to my... up from... maybe 7th, 8th grade up through...

up through high school. That was our major activity. So, uh...

what kind of movies did you watch? Uh... My best friend...

uh... father had invested in the... theater in DeKalb, so he got in free.

I had to pay... 10 cents. And finally I did...

25 cents. So I could go to all the movies that he did. But...

the... movies changed... so you had to have a...

one film on Mondays and Tuesdays, there was another change. There was another one on Wednesday. And Thursday...

Friday I guess was the same film. And Saturday was always a... Western.

With a cereal. Which was a...

[Speaker 2]

So, uh... So yeah, movies were a big activity. Major activity.

Do you remember... do you remember any other actors like Charlie Chaplin? Or...

anyone's being, uh... any of your favorites in DeKalb? No, I guess not.

[Speaker 1]

We just... You just went to Western? Yeah, movies were a...

were a major activity all over the country. In those pre-war years.

[Speaker 2]

And, uh... pretty much would everybody go to the movies? Would, uh...

just the... the youngsters? Or, uh...

Yeah, I'd say everybody went to the movies. Not as much as the young people. So, was that, uh...

a day... did you ever take a day to the movies, or...

[Speaker 1]

Oh... hmm... Didn't really date a great deal.

Until, uh... senior... junior, senior year of high school.

And then really not that much. Okay. Alright, so...

None of us did.

[Speaker 2]

It was boys together, it was girls together. Really? So, not a lot...

not even in groups, like, you would go together, like... No. No, two and...

[Speaker 1]

two and three of them. It would be a large group. It would be the group stuff.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah, um... How about the, uh... school dances?

Were there dances?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah. Okay, now you're into high school. Yeah.

Yeah. There were proms. And, uh...

uh... two or three times a year. Junior prom, uh...

[Speaker 2]

senior prom. And was that a... was that a big deal in the days, or was it just a...

[Speaker 1]

I guess it might have been a big deal for the girls, I don't think it was much of a big deal for the boys. And, uh... after the...

after the dance, it was strictly... you were with a group... with a group or another couple, and you'd go out for Coca-Cola and that was it.

So where would you go? Much, much different.

[Speaker 2]

Where did you go for Coca-Cola? Drug stores. And there was a lot of...

in DeKalb, or just a few? Yeah, just a few. Alright.

So... uh... you graduate in 1939.

Was... did you have any special type of diploma, or was it just a... did you take any special classes in high school?

Just the regular?

[Speaker 1]

Just the regular. I was involved in lots of the activities that would... would look at that, uh...

a year ago. But I was involved in many, many things. I was, uh...

I gave the speech at Commence... Commence... Commencements.

The highest... boy. I was the, uh...

lead in the, uh... senior play.

[Speaker 2]

What play was that? Uh... senior play in high school.

It was called Spring Dance. So you did a senior lead? Did you...

was that a musical? I was in the band. It was a musical.

So... I was one of the spring... uh...

the... your play was a musical I heard... sang.

So, uh... that and, uh... and Golf of the Horse.

Any other... I don't think...

[Speaker 1]

Oh, I was on the yearbook.

[Speaker 2]

You know, all those things. I was pretty active. Really active in high school.

So, uh... what was a lot of people... were there a lot of people in your high school active or was...

to be active? Our class... we had 213.

You had 213 people and out of those... In our class. Out of those 213 were there many as active as you or were you, uh...

pretty active? I guess I would be enough for 10% or so.

[Speaker 1]

I was active.

[Speaker 2]

I was actively involved in everything. So, you said you were, uh... you said you were a fellow Victorian?

Oh, the girls kind of hired me. They were right to hire me. Yeah.

So, uh... did your parents stress school a lot then? Uh-huh.

That was a... a big deal. Yeah.

It was a big deal. So, uh... did that mean you had to study much at home or...

Yeah, I did study a lot. So, and, uh... compared to your friends, I guess...

It didn't come easy until my junior and senior year.

[Speaker 1]

And with, you know, better results.

[Speaker 2]

Alright, uh... So... In 1939, you graduate and...

you head off to the University of Illinois?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah, that was a big... big thing to me. Uh...

going to college. Again, it was 150 miles from home. Uh...

The way I remember now is that, uh... you know, when did you leave home? To answer that question.

I left home when I started college. You may feel about the same way when you look back now on your life. You left home...

right now. Uh... Uh...

Illinois... Going a little bit to the military, uh... Illinois...

was a land-grant college, which meant military in those days was compulsory. You were in ROTC? No.

I didn't think there was... that the United States was going to be in the war. I was on the debate team in high school and our debate topic, the national debate topic, was that, uh, resolve the United States should impose sanctions against Germany.

Economic sanctions against Germany. And I was on the affirmative. I thought that, you know, convinced myself that that's all that was necessary.

Uh... For the, you know, for the rest of the organized world to stop supplying them with... with anything.

And I had absolutely no idea that there was going to be a war. What were your... When I got down to Illinois, you know, they advised me do everything you can to get out of military service.

And one way to get out was to... Did they advise you? Not everyone, no.

It just takes... Wastes all your time. Um...

And, uh, I joined the fraternity, I guess it was some of the fraternity brothers joined. I joined Phi Gamma Delta, which has a pretty good chapter, I guess. And, uh, one way to get out of the military was being a band.

What it was was a military band.

[Speaker 2]

So that's what I did. And this is... Is this the fall of 1939?

Yeah, fall of 1939. September of 1939.

[Speaker 1]

And I had absolutely no idea that we would be involved in a war. And I don't think anybody else did. Very many other people did either.

They got a little bit acclimated, uh, you know, by being in the basic... You had basic military for your freshman and sophomore year. You know, I was in the band then.

In Illinois, I had a good marching band, and, you know, I turned right. Uh, if you had a good rating in your, uh, in basic, well, you could go into advanced military. And, uh, I don't know.

I don't think more than 10, 20 percent probably of people ever took advanced military. Uh, and then you graduated as a second lieutenant in all the land grant colleges. Um, Illinois had, uh, had a wonderful cavalry.

You know, a wonderful cavalry. And they had a good polo team and, you know, everything. That was the ideal thing to be in.

And they had, but they had field artillery and major branches. And, uh, the way it turned out is everybody in the cavalry, when they graduated, found out there wasn't a cavalry. So, regular army.

But I had absolute, you know, idea. The big story was Pearl Harbor. And, uh, that was the absolute change in everybody's attitude.

Uh, I remember Pearl Harbor. I remember it was on a Sunday and we were in the, uh, library of the fraternity and heard that announcement. And I was just shocked.

We just looked around the room and, you know, within a few seconds recognized it. It was going to be war and, uh, who was going to fight the war? Because, uh, you know, we were all your age.

uh, just absolute shock. Of course, Germany declared war a couple days after that. That absolutely changed things.

It changed the whole university. The attitude was, Illinois was not a party school. But, uh, again, a lot of movies.

That was the thing for your activities. And fraternity dances and so on. Absolutely no drinking.

We didn't even allow it. In the fraternity art, even at dances, we had a \$25 fine for any drinking in the fraternity. Not in the fraternity, but any of the brothers.

[Speaker 2]

It was really severe. How many people were in your fraternity? We had 39 in the house.

So 39 all lived there?

[Speaker 1]

They all lived there. 10 or 15, which we called, anyway, their home was Champaign Urbana and lived at home. You could turn your member and live outside the house.

Okay. Unless it was your home. Okay.

Cowboys. That was the big change. I recognized that what in the world would I do?

Nobody wanted to be drafted. So everybody then started looking over their own situation. What in the world am I going to get into?

I want to get into something that, you know, I don't want to be in the regular army. I don't want to be drafted. That was everybody's.

Let's see. Pearl Harbor was December 7, 1941. I enlisted in 1942, just within a couple of months.

The Army Air Corps, which was called in those days, had a program. The Navy had a program in which if you enlisted right then, immediately, in the Army Air Force, you could stay in school until you graduate. Well, I was in pre-law, and my major, I guess, was political science, and I ended up in law.

Also, two other things toward the Army Air Corps. First of all, it was the most popular program in the American boy wanted to be in either the Navy Air Corps or the Army Air Corps. Didn't know what it was.

Most people had never been in an airplane before, but it was the prime service to get in. Second of all, my father was in World War I, was in what was called the Signal Corps, Army Signal Corps, which was the Air Force, the Air Corps of World War I.

[Speaker 2]

Didn't go overseas, but he had completed his training. Yeah. How old was he then?

Eight plus seven, twenty-five. Did he keep flying after that?

[Speaker 1]

Wanted to, but no way to make any, make a case for him. However, the fellow next door, who was an Elwood back in that barbed wire fortunes that were in DeKalb, had an airplane, and he would fly with him in a plane, and he airplane.

[Speaker 2]

And he would fly with him in that airplane and that was his main he had to do was fly with him in was World War I.

[Speaker 1]

I thought there'd be a war. I mean, there was a war, a lot of war ones that started, I guess, in 38. Probably you'd trace it back earlier than that, but no, no, the attitude that's gotten, the isolationist factor in the United States was tremendous.

We had a summer resort, and the city of Chicago was Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and the mansions, the wealthy people, people had homes around there. Well, my friend, my best friend, still my best friend, still living, had a cottage up there that actually Dad designed. And I had a date with a girl, her last name was Wheeler.

Well, if you look in the history books, Senator Wheeler, from I believe Nebraska, was the head of the isolationist group, which was just a tremendous, I had a tremendous following in

the United States. It wasn't black and white that the United States would be involved in an overseas war. But Roosevelt had a big, big challenge to try to convert, and Pearl Harbor did.

[Speaker 2]

Do you think he was involved since Pearl Harbor?

[Speaker 1]

I don't know. I don't think he did directly. But he had more, I think he had more knowledge of it that could still come out, yeah.

[Speaker 2]

Was there any talk after Pearl Harbor that Roosevelt might have been in? No, no. Nothing like that?

No. Okay. So you said you enlisted two months into, so February of 1941?

Yeah. February of 42? Uh-huh.

[Speaker 1]

Everybody was scurrying around for their position. The Navy had two offers. They had a deck officer proposal, and they also, which was V-12 and V-7s for the Navy Air Force, the Navy.

[Speaker 2]

Navy Air Corps. Navy Air Corps. So before 41, were you...

It turned out that it wasn't automatically that you could get into those things, but those were the attractions. So in your fraternity, you were involved in the fraternity. Were you working with anything else with the school, a school newspaper or anything like that?

[Speaker 1]

I was more involved in the fraternity itself than any of the school activities. And then also I was, until I got into law school. Well, anyway, the attitude in the schools was completely different from Pearl Harbor on.

Did it change the extracurricular activities? Yeah. People in the fraternity, I guess that was a capsule of everything, is less interest in college classes.

[Speaker 2]

Did most of your fraternity brothers try to get into the Army Air Corps?

[Speaker 1]

Both of us went over to the closest Air Force base and enlisted. He was enlisting to go in and jail just as soon as he graduated. I was looking for a deferment, but we took the oath and we were in.

So you say that a lot of... I'd say a lot more people went into the Navy than anything else. I only know two out of our 39 or 40 people.

But it was the one that everybody wanted. I can't quote it, but we got to give it a try.

[Speaker 2]

So, do you remember the actual air, you said you went to the closest Air Force base, do you remember? It was Cheney Field in Danville, Illinois. And you enlisted for a year to deferment that you wanted to get?

Yeah, I wanted to be deferred until June of 1943.

[Speaker 1]

And did that work out? No. In February, a year later, I got my telegram, too, which would have been in 1942.

So February 1943, I got my telegram, gave me seven days to report to Chicago. And not bring any clothes or anything. And go to basic training in Shepard Field, Texas, which turned out to be on the train.

I think it took a week to get there.

[Speaker 2]

So you said that you took the cards in college, correct?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah, we weren't supposed to. We weren't allowed to have cars in college. Only people who had cars in town, people who lived in town.

Our transportation in college was buses. And if you were with a group of people, you'd get a taxi. I had a car because I was on the golf team and had to get to the golf course.

[Speaker 2]

So you were on the golf team in college, wasn't you? So was that in 1941? Oh, yeah.

So before that, did the golf team travel around? Or did it play just people, colleges and schools?

[Speaker 1]

I wasn't on the first team. I mean, I wasn't in the first six. There were six people who would travel.

And the rest of the group would need to try to get to be one of those six. I stayed on the golf team. It was interesting.

[Speaker 2]

So then in February... I made the traveling group. So then in February of 43, you took the car home.

Did you drive home? Did you see your parents before you left? So you just drove the car home and then you left from there?

[Speaker 1]

It was a 1931 Chevrolet Roadster. No windows.

[Speaker 2]

So did you have to... When you went to Texas, is that where you took your tests? Or did you take those?

No.

[Speaker 1]

No. That's interesting. Basic training was rough.

First of all, the location was horrible. The sand just blew back and forth, back and forth. Everybody would get a sore throat.

What it was, they called it silicosis. It was what it was, a swallow in the sand. And a lot of diseases.

And a disease would just infect the whole barracks. And they were quarantining the barracks. And it was the first time a group from all over the country had come together.

But these weren't all people that were going to try for the Air Force. Or the Air Crew was what it turned out to be. What you were really making a commitment to was being in the Air Corps.

In some fashion. Former fashion, not. You weren't going to be a pilot.

The attraction was to be a pilot. But nobody told you. You were going to be a man if you became a pilot.

[Speaker 3]

That's right.

[Speaker 2]

So the next place then was to go to San Antonio, which was the Air Force classification center. So how many days did you spend in the first place before you went to San Antonio? I think we were there about four weeks.

It was basic training. Which was horrible.

[Speaker 1]

Was this just marching? Oh, marching, marching, marching. And then February.

And Texas is in the... Sheppard Field is in the... Northwestern part of Texas.

It was panhandling. Terrible winters. Cold.

Didn't have the proper clothes.

[Speaker 2]

And they made it miserable for you. Just miserable. So what time were you waking up in these four weeks?

What time did they wake you up? Before daylight. It was March, March, March.

Did you ever fire weapons? No. Never saw a rifle.

You had wooden ones and stuff. And you'd carry those... The United States was not prepared for this kind of stuff at all.

So was it... They had a lot of men that could get that, but they didn't have the equipment. How about...

Did you have bayonet drills or anything? So when you woke up, what would you do? They'd wake you up and they'd get you together?

It was just... It was marching most of the time. Most of the time it was marching.

Did they ever teach you? Did they ever sit you down in a classroom setting and teach you anything? These four weeks...

And what did they feed you?

[Speaker 1]

Just meat and potatoes. The food was okay. Because you could march to everything.

You couldn't be by yourself. I guess they had a club or something. PX or something.

[Speaker 2]

Everybody was miserable and made it worse by talking about it. There was no going into town on Saturday night. That's an interesting observation.

So we were at a...

[Speaker 1]

Well, the Shepard Field Group were people from all over the United States, from all walks of life. Just a splattering of everybody. All people.

It wasn't that group that was sent to San Antonio. It was those that were in the... Could be the pilots.

So what San Antonio was, was a big classification center. And we had tests. Many, physically.

Everything. Everything, you know. Teeth, eyes, ears.

Like medical exams?

[Speaker 2]

Yeah, just...

[Speaker 1]

But very... Most comprehensive exams I've ever had, physically. And then they got into the mental stuff.

And you had all kinds of intelligence kind of tests. And then, interesting enough, they had all kinds of psychological kind of tests, which was the first time I'd ever gotten involved in that. These doctors would just shoot questions at you, just...

Unrelated to... I've never experienced anything like that. And not one, it would be a number of doctors.

I read recently how they did that. They did it on a ten-point system. And they claim now that it was...

It just worked out better than they had planned. And it was... A ten was perfect.

And I think it was nine and ten or something like that.

[Speaker 2]

Do you remember a test called STAT 9? No.

[Speaker 1]

No, I don't. I don't. I just read this recently.

And it was the top ones. There were the pilots. The next was the navigators.

The next was the bombardiers. And... It had to be over a five or six or something like that to...

To be in that group. And then it was the press website. They were still trying to get you on the air.

So they became the... Next was the... Gunners.

Well, radio operators was probably the highest. Flight engineers, maybe the highest. And then the gunners, yeah.

It was amazing how that... They claimed it was amazing how it did.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah, I believe that was the STAT 9. STAT 9, STAT 9, something like that. It was a play on words with two words.

One meaning statistics, I think. And the other one meaning not. Or something like that.

I don't know what the exact word is.

[Speaker 1]

There were also things you did with your hands, too. Things to figure out. Figuring out things working with your hands.

Was that in the psychological test? Again. Kind of puzzles and things.

[Speaker 2]

Did they ever...

[Speaker 1]

Very intensive. It went on for at least two weeks. They show you ink blots and stuff like that?

[Speaker 2]

Yeah. Oh, man.

[Speaker 1]

This is amazing now for the second of the year. This is 60 years ago.

[Speaker 2]

And so did they ever...

[Speaker 1]

I learned later that I qualified for a pilot or navigator. Which gave me a little feeling about... If I watched a pilot training, then I could go to the navigation training.

[Speaker 2]

It made me feel a little bit better. So did they ever do any tests? One test I read about where they actually held a metal sheet or a metal pan above a person's head and dropped marbles into it and made them hold the pan inside a ring.

And they thought they did this and were yelling at them. Did they ever do anything like that? No.

So basically it was mostly written tests and the psychological tests were with word association type things. Yeah, and dexterity kind of math kind of things. So you were there for two weeks?

[Speaker 1]

I was there probably longer than that. But there were two weeks of these tests. You'd go off both morning and afternoon.

So it'd just be all day?

[Speaker 2]

Would there be marching in between? No, no. Basically...

It was completely different.

[Speaker 1]

Let's see. I was then sent to Mustang Field, Oklahoma, for primary. And from then on, what I want to call your attention to is it was a different group of people.

Remember what these people were. When I was taken out in February then of 1943, they cleaned all the colleges and universities out. At that time.

They cleaned them out so that they didn't have room for them for the people in the fine schools. So I was sent for two months, eight weeks, to Arkadelphia State Teacher's College, which was really to kill time. And they had classes for us and so on.

All they were doing was putting me in a holding pattern until I could get into a fine school. But the class of kids, we were all alike. And a wonderful group.

It was from the Ivy League schools and everywhere.

[Speaker 2]

So when you were in Arkansas, what kind of classes did you take?

[Speaker 1]

Mathematics. Using their teachers. English and regular stuff.

[Speaker 2]

Interesting, but... Did that make you maintain a certain grade? Yeah.

[Speaker 1]

Yeah, from then on, including that part of it, and also in every one of the schools, the pressure was on. And the pressure was on the individual and with a fear of washing out all the way through. And many, many, many people washed out.

For the classroom studies, code was a big washout. Class, I mean a group. Code meaning ability?

Of course. People just couldn't grasp code. Da, da, da, dit.

You can't count the da's and the dit's. You're up to almost a 20-word speed that you have to recognize. And it's that recognition that goes beyond memory or physically counting it.

You gotta get the sound. That was a big washout thing. So it was that, plus flying, and then the military.

Those washout things. The way they did that in every one of the flying schools, basic, I mean primary, basic, and advanced, you were there for 16 weeks at each one of these things. The first eight weeks at each school were a red tag.

And that's the lowest of the lowest. You're doing everything. For the upperclassmen, you have to start their airplanes, and some of them you had to crank them.

And you did all the lousy details. The second eight weeks, you were now graduated to the advanced part of it. You were a green tag.

So you were at that... And then ready to go to primary. Primary.

[Speaker 2]

Tell me something about this school. Did you have any fun here, or was it all just a... Oh, no.

[Speaker 1]

Yeah. In fact, you asked about getting off base. I never got off base from the time I went in the Bureau until I got my wings and graduated in April of 1944.

[Speaker 2]

Never went off base?

[Speaker 1]

Never got off base. Really? Our group...

They had it all figured out in the planning forces. This is the group they had to get through. This is the group that was like the war and end the war in whatever fashion.

It's why they pulled them all out of college at that time. There was no exception. This was the group that had all the pressure on them.

And... As I say, the competition was really, really tough in primary, basic, and advanced. They ran it like we think they probably ran West Point.

With discipline. Did something wrong. You walked tours, they called it, in whatever kind of weather.

If you ever had any off time. They lasted how long? About two hours?

Well, how many demerits that you had. If you had too many demerits, of course, you were washed out anyway. But the pressure was on.

And this was the group that the pressure was really on. See, I graduated in... in...

April of 44. So you can see, this is right in the middle of things. D-Day was what?

June. June of 44. The bombardiers and navigators, their training wasn't that long, so they had graduated maybe out of their disciplines.

January, February or something like that, 44. This was the group. Looking back, you can see how they just had it planned.

[Speaker 2]

You were just on base the whole time? On base the whole time. Never got off.

So was there any time to relax? Oh sure, you had some time to relax. In the evening.

[Speaker 1]

Did you go to the officers club? Well, it wasn't an officers club, but it was some sort of a little club. And they would have movies on the base.

Yeah, movies, movies, movies. Training was all movies too.

[Speaker 2]

What kind of movies did you... training movies did you see too?

[Speaker 1]

Oh no, training movies. Training movies on the engines, on the fuel system, so many of them. Yeah, just so many of them.

The VD movies. There's movies, movies, movies. There was nobody talking to you.

They just showed you a movie.

[Speaker 2]

You had movies every day. Cartoon characters?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah.

[Speaker 2]

Did you see any Bugs Bunny or anything in the movies that you saw? Oh, but they were training movies. Yeah, they were training movies with Bugs Bunny.

You remember that you mentioned the VD, but how about Gold Break or anything like that? I'm sure. Lots of them.

Did everybody that watched these movies, they really watch them? No, they go to sleep. Lights off, go to sleep.

[Speaker 1]

But also there were recreational movies too. That was the recreational. You know, not very much drinking.

Only beer. And that was that low, three beers, low alcohol content beer.

[Speaker 2]

Did they have, was there a baseball diamond? Or had a football field or something that people played on? A lot of sports going on?

And card playing, I guess?

[Speaker 1]

I never did play cards.

[Speaker 2]

Not very much. Same for rolling dice, I guess. No, we didn't do that.

[Speaker 3]

Really?

[Speaker 1]

You know, this was an unusual group. But looking back, well, of course, I don't know. I never met a pilot that didn't have less than two years of college.

Not so with the bombardiers and navigators. But pilot, co-pilot was... Whether that turned out to be a requirement, college being a group, I don't know.

I don't know what happened earlier. We know that the group that I was with was... We were all alike.

[Speaker 2]

Really were. When you, you said from Arkansas you went to primary school. Yeah.

[Speaker 1]

Mustang Field in El Reno, Oklahoma. Again, yearbook.

[Speaker 2]

For our class. Was this at Mustang Field? Was this just pilots at Mustang Field?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah. The Army had contracted with private operators to build a field. They furnished the...

And the instructors were civilians in primary. And using Army Air Corps second lieutenants as the check instructors. But just for our class, we were there 16 weeks, they come out with the yearbook.

Again, running it like high school, I guess. Or whatever, college. So this was just our...

The airplanes were... Looked like that.

[Speaker 2]

What airplane is that?

[Speaker 1]

It's a Fairchild.

[Speaker 2]

All tail draggers. Yeah. So when you first got there, you said you were a red tag.

And... A red tag, and I pretty much meant that... What did you do as a red tag?

[Speaker 1]

In red tag, they got you up to... Through solo. Through solo.

So... No, it didn't take eight weeks, but... But they built you up.

So you would end up at the end of that eight-week period of solo.

[Speaker 2]

So you get to camp. You find your place where you're staying. And what was that like, the place where you stayed?

[Speaker 1]

It was a brand new kind of a facility built. I guess similar to, sort of like a... They had barracks.

But, you know, new looking one-story buildings. In the middle of nowhere. You know, El Reno, Oklahoma.

And... I guess there was a town around there somewhere, but I never saw it. I think they might have had one dance for the local girls who came out.

To come out and dance. That's all it was in one room.

[Speaker 3]

In the cafeteria room. Oh, no, no, no, no.

[Speaker 1]

Not even beer. They confined everybody to one room. The dance rooms against the cafeteria.

[Speaker 2]

Okay, so... You wake up that first morning, and you go out to the end of the...

[Speaker 1]

I don't believe we even had a theater. I think we were leaving the theater. You could read.

I guess that was the biggest single activity all the way through service. They had these little paperback books. All kinds.

Do you remember any particular title that was your favorite? I just read everything whenever I could find a book. Everybody had a book in their backpack.

[Speaker 2]

Um... So, what was it like the first morning or afternoon that you walked out to the airfield? What did you do?

[Speaker 1]

Of course, the airplanes were flying around all the time. And they were being flown by the green taggers, the people who... The second eight weeks of training.

Also, during this first week, to get these things started, they didn't have a battery. That's why you had to crank the magneto, I guess. And the red taggers would be out there on the flight line with the crank in their hand.

And the green taggers just loved it. Some of you over there, you'd run over there with your crank. Got them started and get them off.

There weren't any runways. You went where you could on the field. Bad house.

So, uh... Well, it was a big thrill. Everybody wanted to do that.

[Speaker 2]

So, what was your first trip like with an instructor? How many students were there on your instructor? Each instructor had four.

And how was your first flight?

[Speaker 1]

Oh, he just... He demonstrated, and at the last part, did some aerobatics. See if he could get you sick or whatever.

[Speaker 2]

And did you pass?

[Speaker 1]

I had an instructor, though, that had a bad habit. The student flies in the front. The instructor there in the back.

So you can't see. And you can't hear him. There aren't any...

They called a... Well, it was just a rubber tube that went to your ears. And he calls for this rubber tube.

There's no power on it. There isn't anything on it. So you could hardly hear.

Also, it's awfully nice. And, uh... He would tell you to do something.

Right in the back. The instructor. Tell you to do something.

And, uh... If you didn't do it right, or couldn't hear the first one, he would take his stick back there, and just... And that just killed your knees.

[Speaker 2]

I'll never forget that guy. You remember his name?

[Speaker 1]

I checked with other people. He did it to all his four students. But I never heard of another instructor doing it that bad.

[Speaker 2]

So... You got it in your picture, or...? No, no.

[Speaker 1]

I did. There he is. That's a good one.

[Speaker 2]

And he had five students. And he was a civilian? Yeah.

J.J. Goodwin is his name? Yeah. The instructor at Mustang?

Yeah. He was a civilian. Yeah.

And he's still there.

[Speaker 1]

This guy, Chapin. Mulder, Mulder made it in there. Park Avenue, New York.

I looked him up in Who's Who. Recently. He's had a...

distinguished career. He's a benefactor, giving family money away and stuff. Anyway, it's...

I said we're all alike. Well, he sure wouldn't like this, but... I think it was just a regular guy.

So...

[Speaker 2]

So... You're right there. But that's the way we lived.

[Speaker 1]

We had an open cockpit airplane. But we were good on... aerobatics.

[Speaker 2]

So... you advanced in training, I guess. We flew at about 1,500 feet.

As you advanced... your first solo?

[Speaker 1]

We had one cross-country.

[Speaker 2]

After advance. What was your first solo like? Did you make the landing?

Did you... You turned the circle?

[Speaker 1]

Turned out a bit. But it turned out all right.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah.

[Speaker 1]

We'd go to... you could get to another field that they had. Just to do this and get out.

So you got it. Oh, he had it so impressed on me... that I could just about hear him in the back there...

telling me what to do. Yeah, it was a thrill. I guess the biggest thrill, though, probably to me...

was soloing in Basic. Basic was a much... Basic, again, was Oklahoma.

In and out of Oklahoma. It was a much bigger airplane. It was a night solo.

[Speaker 2]

This is after Primary? This is after Mustang or before Mustang?

[Speaker 1]

No, this would be next. This would be the... Yeah, this is the next step.

Again, done in three-week... I mean in eight-week components. And the second eight weeks...

was the night flight. And you'd had some instruments... in these light trainer things.

You'd get in the light trainer... and it's connected to this desk down here... and this guy would tell you what to do.

And then he'd give you his own paper record...

[Speaker 2]

of what you're doing in here. So it's a very elementary flight simulator, I guess. That's right.

[Speaker 1]

And the... navigation, only navigation made the head. To me, the biggest flying now...

is navigation. And all you had was the beam... you had to fly the...

[Speaker 2]

the A-N... or the dot-N beam. Would it be quadrants of four?

[Speaker 1]

That's what you'd be doing in here. It's trying to find the beam. He'd give you this map.

And you'd have to find yourself... where you are on that map. And then come into the...

central... the midpoint. And then get out of wherever that airfield is.

Flying either on the A or the...

[Speaker 2]

If you're flying 45 degrees... is it just a straight line? Is it straight noise?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah. But you don't know where you're in that. Which quadrant?

Because all you're hearing is this... straight line. Either in the A or the N.

Is it this way or this way? Yeah.

[Speaker 2]

I understand.

[Speaker 1]

And then this guy controls the... the volume. Because all you can listen for is the volume.

If it gets... Are you going away from a... from a door...

from the beam or... from the beam? Yeah.

Night flying was by... you know, tough. And they would put you in layers.

Stack you up. And basically... I don't know.

Whether they'd really catch up... keep up with you or not. But you would hear an airplane...

swish right by you. And whether... It was terrible.

[Speaker 2]

And this was at... this was in Oklahoma?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah, it's in Enid, Oklahoma.

[Speaker 2]

And what did you fly in Oklahoma? Oklahoma. Oklahoma.

[Speaker 1]

O-T... O-T-D... Consolidate.

Consolidate, O-T-D. See it?

[Speaker 2]

Yeah. It's a... Very good picture.

Very, very...

[Speaker 1]

We got involved...

[Speaker 2]

It's similar to the... Navy... What do you call it?

[Speaker 1]

A barracks. A barracks. Outstanding thing, I remember.

Barracks is a two-story affair. With the... One great big room and one little room.

I guess the little room was made up for the sergeant or whatever who was... in charge of barracks. But in our case, we used the whole barracks.

And we had six people living in this little room up here. Six folks. Maybe eight.

And we got a lousy room inspection. Uh... Our fault.

The bulk of our flight was in another barracks. And it was a... real rainy night.

And they called us out at nine o'clock at night. To go over... We were behind or some people were behind in code.

To go to the code room. And take tests. And we didn't hear...

The other... Our... Our whole...

Our flight moved out. And we were just six people. The rest of the people in the barracks were in others.

So we were out here by ourselves. And we missed... We missed that formation.

And the way they got it... They wouldn't believe us. That we...

That it was raining and... They believed it was raining and we didn't want to go. So they gave it...

I had a room inspection. That... Oh, we got about...

Each one of us got about 25 of us. To... To...

To... Walk on these... On these tours, you know.

Each one of us. And... That was during...

When was it? It was over Christmas. And there was snow on the ground.

And there was snow on the ground. That's when we had to do these tours. We had to walk these things.

And, of course, what's that going to do to our record? But... And we never did finish.

Never did get our 25 of us. How many did you get? It's half of us.

Not enough. Before we left, yeah. But anyway, I guess they didn't write it down.

I guess. So... That's my memory.

That place was... We were... They thought it was unfair.

What they did to us. Did...

[Speaker 2]

I guess you flew a lot of airbags at this point, too.

[Speaker 1]

Oh, yeah. Yeah. The airplanes, they made an off-button noise.

That... That shook, you know.

[Speaker 2]

Okay. So... So from there, you went to, I guess, multi-engine school.

[Speaker 1]

Yeah. That was your first choice... Your next choice.

Did you want to go to single engine? Or do you want to go to a motor engine? You do everything by the numbers.

I mean by the alphabet. Alphabet. You have...

So you really get to know the... You know, I knew the... N's...

O's... P's... And...

And each place you went by the group that narrowed down. Maybe there were... Maybe there were 200...

With your initials pretty close to each other. And then it narrowed down each place you go. So I had a good...

A friend that I was with all the way from the start. I didn't realize I was with him all the way from the start. But we ended up...

Don Newell and myself ended up right together. So... And we talked it over.

I talked it with him. What do we want to do? Single engine?

Motor engine? Well, he was a great big fellow. He wanted motor engine.

And... I guess he talked me into it more than anything else. But I think it was the best thing I ever did.

Because all of the single engine graduates... The graduate of the next school became co-pilots. This was the big group.

They had to get their... Put their crews together. And...

They didn't need any more fighter pilots. What they needed was the bombers. So...

Anyway, we... And... And...

We wanted this thing called Liberator. Of course, all we heard about was flying fortresses after that. But we wanted the Liberator.

Uh... So, that meant... We had wanted to...

We wanted to go to motor engine school. And motor engine school was... We went to...

[Speaker 2]

How many... How many people made it from... From the original time when you went to Texas?

I don't know. I just can't...

[Speaker 1]

I don't know. How many... There isn't any way you know.

You know... You know when... When somebody in your...

Close to your... Initial... Last name...

Was gone. How about... But you never heard the details of why.

How about in your...

[Speaker 2]

In your...

[Speaker 1]

And we... Of course, we had people killed in each one of these places too.

[Speaker 2]

In particular... In your particular training... When you said there was five people to your instructor, correct?

Four or five?

[Speaker 3]

Yeah.

[Speaker 2]

Do you remember... Did every single one of those make it? Or...

I don't know. You don't know? I don't know.

So, you couldn't get to see... You couldn't even... Yeah.

All right. You said there was... About four or five.

[Speaker 1]

I... You know, I lost a few more.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah. The... People were killed.

It was...

[Speaker 1]

Airplane accident.

[Speaker 2]

What was the most common?

[Speaker 1]

Sometimes with the instructor.

[Speaker 2]

An instructor?

[Speaker 1]

Oh, was it common? It was three or four out of each one of them. Each one of the schools.

Because you get an in... In memoriam... In each one of these schools.

And that's all... All you knew about it. You know, you don't know any of the details.

[Speaker 3]

So...

[Speaker 1]

You know, that's the killing part. But it was more of the washouts. So, it's...

They just didn't have time... To... Give people more flying time.

Or give them... Retake tests or whatever. It was just so much easier.

You know, I guess. Look at that. Washout, you mean?

All... You know, just... You know...

They... They wanted to get you through. But they didn't make it any easier to get you through.

[Speaker 2]

When did you graduate from being a cadet... To being, I guess, a second lieutenant?

[Speaker 1]

At the end of... At the end of my... Let's see if I have my engineer, yeah.

See, I'm doing these books for everything. This was the aircraft we flew. That is a Curtis.

Called an 18-9. A lot of instruments. A lot of instrument training.

And they did it by covering... Or putting a hood over the pilot. And...

Another cadet... Observing over here.

[Speaker 2]

So you'd have a hood over your head? Mm-hmm. So you could see.

All you could see is the instruments. So you were a second lieutenant after your first school?  
No.

Another eight weeks. I mean, 16 weeks. So you had to...

16 weeks in each place. So you had to go all the way through multi-engine school?  
Mm-hmm.

Until you were a second lieutenant? Mm-hmm.

[Speaker 1]

Wow. So how long was that? I remember I went in in February of 43.

And graduated in... As a second lieutenant. I was in the class of 44D.

And D would be April. February, March, April. April of 44.

And that's when you got your wings?

[Speaker 3]

Yeah.

[Speaker 1]

That's when I got my wings. And ALF is Oklahoma. Oklahoma the whole time.

And that's the time I got my first wing. I got 20 days. Turned out to be a little more than that.

Turned out to be 30 days. Because they changed the... school that I was to go to for B-24.

[Speaker 2]

And now you have to go to B-24 school. So multi-engine school, basically, what did you learn? What did you learn?

[Speaker 1]

To mainly instruments. And first flying a twin-engine airplane. This was the first time, now, without a landing gear.

[Speaker 2]

Oh, yeah. Was... Were these...

I don't know the technical term.

[Speaker 1]

I would say once I got to this place, whether it worked or not. This was... I mean, you got here, you got here.

You've got to make... We didn't realize it, but we did. It was a lot easier on me.

With the pressures. With all the pressures. You pretty much knew you were going to get through.

You went to the PX and got fitted for your uniform. And your officer's uniform and everything. And they gave you \$250 to do that.

So, you know, we thought, Oh, we're not going to take this back now. It was the first time the pressure came on. The whole operation.

Otherwise, it was just... When it could have been so nice, they made it pretty much unpleasant, the way we thought.

[Speaker 2]

Were these... These engines on these twin engines, were the props the turn? Or were they the...

No, the... I don't know the type of turn.

[Speaker 3]

No.

[Speaker 1]

No. In both cases, both in basic and advanced, you adjusted them.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah, I understand. That's what I was asking.

[Speaker 1]

This is a full aircraft. One of the countries that were using this is their prime fighter.

[Speaker 2]

Variable pitch. Is that what it's called? Variable pitch.

Variable pitch. So, even the single engine that you had was variable pitch? Yeah.

Okay. So, you were here for 16 weeks? Mm-hmm.

16 weeks.

[Speaker 1]

Then a 30-day leave.

[Speaker 2]

And you went home for that?

[Speaker 1]

Went home, won a golf tournament. And told to report to... Fort Worth, Texas.

For a VTOR transition. Hello. Hello.

So, you won a golf tournament on... during that time that I was home, which I guess had been in June, April, May. I guess it had been in May.

May of 1944. Not quite D-Day yet. But, you know, there were some people ahead of it.

Other people graduated a couple months ahead. You know, the timing, you can just see how somebody really knew what they were doing.

[Speaker 3]

Yeah.

[Speaker 1]

And the overall planning. The B-24 transition was in... I think it was only about 8 weeks.

[Speaker 2]

I have one more before we go on. How were your parents at this day? By the way, did you have any siblings?

Well, I had a brother. I got a brother that's 8 years younger than I am. So, is he excited to see you home?

Yeah.

[Speaker 1]

Well, I never was very close to my brother. It was too much, too many years. If I could be close to him, why not?

I was away at college for 8 years. Parents were fine.

[Speaker 2]

Still concerned, you know, what was going on. Was your mom or dad involved in a war job?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah, my dad did. He fell into Calvary. He got involved in...

It was just a wiring city. Always was. He got involved with working at night.

I think it was more of a forum involved in testing. Electrically. Cables to see if they were sound electrically.

And they had some tests when they did that. And they all got along real well. One of the fellas had set up the type test equipment.

I think they had more... as they did at work. And they thought they were doing something, too.

[Speaker 2]

So, in the big barbed wire area, were there a lot of people involved in actual barbed wire for the military?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah, but they were also making copper wire for communications. It was a wire-making city.

[Speaker 2]

I ended up in the wire business, too. Uh-huh. Okay.

So, then you go off to liberator school. Yeah.

[Speaker 1]

And that was a concentrated kind of a course. But there was a lot of time. You could go off the base.

You were an officer. You could do... One of my friends, again, the last name beginning with an M, again, we were...

been aware of each other, but then you become closer friends. This list, you know, from 200 narrows down to half a dozen, was from Texas. And he got in his car.

Our car sent over there, over. And we could get around from Fort Worth, go to Dallas, and go to the... Oh, they had some outdoor plays, musicals, and things like that.

[Speaker 2]

He said he had a car sent over from his parents?

[Speaker 1]  
From his parents.

[Speaker 2]  
Okay.

[Speaker 1]  
From Tyler, Texas to Fort Worth. Model A4. And it gave us a little...

[Speaker 2]  
So what kind of plays did you see? Like a...

[Speaker 1]  
Musicals. You know, New York musicals that started to go on the road. Local productions or whatever.

[Speaker 2]  
Any New York musicals that you remember the name of?

[Speaker 1]  
But it was pretty much a pleasant experience. The instructor, again, had four students. And he would take out the four students at one time, and then we would just alternate flying.

Looking back, not getting very much experience, more just more of the viability. Uh-huh. We had some courses on the airplane itself.

You know, the engine, transferring fuel, those kind of things. Which you better pay attention to.

[Speaker 2]  
Yeah. Did you ever have to land while in training? Did you ever have to land with engines?

No. They never made you do that? No.

[Speaker 1]  
We just flew in the local area. We got one cross-country to Pittsburgh. And that was because our instructor's home was Pittsburgh.

From Fort Worth. That was a pretty long trip, wasn't it? That was a pretty long trip in a B-24.

B-24 would stay up, I don't know, if you weren't flying in formation or anything. Well, it wasn't increased. It got 170 degrees of speed.

That's about it. Well, then from then on, it was, uh, we went someplace very where I thought.