

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center

Transcript of an
Oral History Interview with
WILLIAM H. COZINE
Photographer, Air Force, Korean War.

2006

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Cozine, William H., (b.1931). Oral History Interview, 2006.

User Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 54 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 54 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Transcript: 0.1 linear ft. (1 folder).

Abstract:

Bill Cozine, a New York City native, describes his Air Force service in Headquarters Squadron, 3rd Air Base Group, as a photographer in Japan and Korea during the Korean War. He tells of taking the GED to get his high school diploma, working in a delicatessen, and signing up in 1950 when the Korean War broke out. He talks of starting basic training at Lackland Air Force Base (Texas) but, after living in tents for two weeks because the barracks were not finished, being transferred to hot and dusty Sheppard Air Force Base (Texas). He portrays learning to take orders, KP duty peeling potatoes, and being taught not to call his rifle a gun. Cozine discusses taking aptitude tests which recommended him for photography and of going to Lowry Air Force Base (Colorado) to train at the photo lab. He talks about going to George Air Force Base (California) to work in special services, doing publicity as a photo lab technician. He relates stories about the weeks spent photographing John Wayne and Janet Leigh as they were filming *Jet Pilot* on the base. Cozine remembers being sent to Misawa (Japan) on boats and everyone getting seasick. He explains his job taking photos of Russian supply ships from onboard B-26 planes. He describes his lucrative side jobs as a night projectionist, a black market profiteer selling cartons of cigarettes to the Japanese, and an investor giving start-up money to a Japanese fellow projectionist for a brothel. With his extra money Cozine remembers buying a big 1944 Indian Chief motorcycle, which he once used in a race and had to leave in Japan. He also mentions buying kimonos, china, and pearls to send home to his mother. Cozine remembers visits to Hachinohe, a fishing village that had racks of dusty dried squid and fishing junks that trained cormorants to catch fish, and he talks about being invited into a Japanese home and eating rat and raw octopus. Cozine discusses going to Kunsan (Korea) as a photo lab chief, though he had only three stripes, and his job loading gunnery cameras, developing pictures, and making mosaics for bombing runs. He remembers his first experience in Korea—getting infection in his feet from sand fleas and having difficulty healing after deciding to get circumcised. He describes B-26 strafing runs that bombed North Korean trains at night and the steel cables the North Koreans strung across valleys to hit planes flying under the radar. Cozine talks about a deal the photographers and cooks made to exchange developing pictures for special food and ingredients that the lab crew secretly used to make home brew in thirty gallon hypol cans. He describes his relationships with his commanding officers. Cozine remembers the peace talks in Panmunjom being mistakenly bombed by his own side. He recalls a saboteur sneaking onto the base and setting off a chain-reaction of B-26 explosions. He also recalls a man in his crew threatening him with a pistol and demanding to be let out of the service. He discusses returning to Laughlin Air Force Base (Texas) and his job photographing the pilot remains as the result of training flight crashes. He says that after finally being discharged, he left all his stuff hanging in his closet and just left. Cozine talks about seeing an Air Force woman come into a café and how he knew he would marry her, which he did four days after his discharge (now married for fifty-two years and counting). He talks about his later work in sales for Rohan Company, testing solid rocket

propellant with the Phillips Petroleum Company, and his career with commissions selling. He discusses Levitt factory homes built for returning servicemen.

Interviewed by John Weingandt, 2006.

Transcribed by Becky Berhow, Wisconsin Court Reporter, 2007.

Transcription edited by Susan L. Krueger, 2008.

Interview Transcript:

MR. W: We have here on the 17th of August Bill Cozine who is with us from Arena, Wisconsin and Bill, can you just tell us briefly, I know you've got a whole book on your childhood here. We'd like to pick up really where you joined the Air Force. Can you in words say anything about your childhood, what influenced you, I know you had an MOS in photography, did you have any prior experience?

COZINE: No, I didn't. Didn't have any --

MR. W: So the Air Force did a wonderful job of giving you something to do that you didn't know anything about?

COZINE: Right.

MR. W: Okay. Well, tell us about your early years just in a few words.

COZINE: Well, I was born on Long Island, New York.

MR. W: I could tell that.

COZINE: You could tell by the way I talk? Been out of there for a good many years, since 1969. But at any rate, I moved to Long Island. I was born in Jamaica, and I tell people that and they say no kidding, you're not an American citizen?

MR. W: I happen to know where Jamaica is -- yeah.

COZINE: Yeah. Okay. But at any rate, we moved out to Long Island. My dad was a substation operator, which was electrical generating plant for the Long Island railroad and we had our childhood there, of course. I was always in trouble in school, for some reason I wanted to be the center of attention. And as we grew up it was really interesting to watch, when I came back from the service Levitt had started building his homes. I don't know if you ever heard of Levittown?

MR. W: Sure did.

COZINE: But it was all potato fields.

MR. W: Pennsylvania or New Jersey?

COZINE: No. That was Long Island.

MR. W: Long Island? -- was the first one he had.

COZINE: When he went to Pennsylvania they went broke trying to do the same thing.

MR. W: I see.

COZINE: He realized that after the war there'd be a lot of people, servicemen that would want to get homes and so forth for their kids and they couldn't afford them. So they arranged with the Government to no down payment and the Government gave them a five and a quarter percent interest and the homes ran from \$8000 to \$11,000, depending on what they wanted on it. But they were basically slab homes. The slab had all the heating in it, pipes ran in there and of course, that was really a good heating because when the heat rises and it come up through there and your feet were always warm. And when I first went up they thought this was going to be a slum in ten years from now because -- but Levitt was pretty smart. He did everything in sections. The walls came in with all the plumbing and electrical part in it and I remember one time --

MR. W: They were all factory built homes?

COZINE: Pardon me?

MR. W: Factory. We call them factory built homes.

COZINE: Oh yeah, they were factory built homes. But, I mean, there were thousands and thousands of them. They were on a plot about 50 by 75 feet and no garages on them, just straight houses. And I remember going by one time and it was just all slabs there and these trucks were there and workers were like ants. (laughs) And you -- was watching them. They had all the sections in the trucks ready to go and I'd go by in the morning and there'd be just a slab there and I'd come home at night the same day and they'd be putting shingles on the roof of those houses. (laughs) Those houses when I left Long Island were selling for \$190 to \$250,000.

MR. W: What?

COZINE: Yeah. They put dormers on 'em and they put garages on 'em.

MR. W: But they're still that same little plot of land?

COZINE: And those homes are just unbelievable.

MR. W: Well, you were having some trouble in high school?

COZINE: High school? No. In high school I quit in the tenth year.

MR. W: Okay.

COZINE: I -- honestly I went up to school and I got a part-time job and I felt I was wasting my time. The teachers fooled around in class. Seriously they did. And then they'd give you, you know, three or four hours of homework and I figured I don't need these

people. I can cut out the middle man and when I went in the service, I got a GED test, took me two hours and I got a high school diploma. So I quit with my mother's permission at 16 from school.

MR. W: So what did you do then?

COZINE: Well, then I started working for supermarkets. I had a job in a place called (unintelligible) Delicatessen, which was quite a place. All kinds of beautiful smells. You don't see delicatessens anymore. You know, where they did everything, sliced the meat. We -- a fellow and I worked in there and sitting in the freezer room, it was cold. They had all the cheese and everything in there. Of course, they had beer in there and when we had our break we'd go in and take a beer out of the bottle and drink part of it and put the cap on and put it back in the box again. Boss finally found out and he didn't let us take breaks together anymore.

MR. W: How old were you then?

COZINE: How old was I?

MR. W: Let me rephrase that. What year are we at?

COZINE: Well --

MR. W: After World War II?

COZINE: Yeah. It was World War II. I remember when I was a kid hearing on the radio Roosevelt saying this is the day that will live in infamy and so forth. And it was one day before my tenth, -- one day, yeah, because I was born on December 8th and this happened December 7th, 1941 and I would have been 10 years old the next day. I was so mad. All I could think of those dirty Japs, let me get in there and kill them, you know, and I was 10 years old. And so when the Korean War broke out, then I was really serious and I went in in '50.

MR. W: 1950? And your age?

COZINE: My age was 18.

MR. W: 18. Okay. So you went in right away?

COZINE: Right.

MR. W: How did you happen to get into the Air Force?

COZINE: Well, I didn't want to be an infantryman and walk around with the boots and everything. So I figured I'd be a fly boy, you know, and I was vastly mistaken because when I went into basic training, we started out at Lackland Air Force Base.

The barracks weren't even ready and walked around in my shoes and finally when we got our boots, when I went to Sheppard Air Force Base all we did was march all the time and I thought I'd still joined the infantry. It was terrible.

MR. W: Uniform was a different color but you did the same thing, right?

COZINE: Did the same thing, yeah.

MR. W: I'm interested in how you got into photography?

COZINE: Well, during the basic training period they gave you a battery of tests and I did show better in technical and that sort of thing and they determined that was where I belonged in photography. And they had sent me to Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado, which was the photo lab. They also had a gunnery school there, but they taught us everything there 'cause our basic camera was a Speed graphic. They taught us how to, you know, load film, develop film, gunnery cameras, great big cameras that took like 9 by 9 pictures, surveillance cameras as they go over the -- very fast speed.

MR. W: Were these pictures that you received, were they stereoscopic, 3-D?

COZINE: No.

MR. W: Okay, so just flat --

COZINE: No. They didn't even know what 3-D was in those days. No. Not that we -- **[two-second gap on the tape]** not that we did.

MR. W: You didn't do it anyway?

COZINE: We didn't do it.

MR. W: Okay.

COZINE: We took all of these 9 by 9 prints, we printed them up and then you feather the edge and then you --

MR. W: Mosaic.

COZINE: -- them down With rubber cement and make a mosaic.

MR. W: Overlap and --

COZINE: Right.

MR. W: Did you get into air photo interpretation or was that somebody else?

COZINE No.

MR. W: You were the technical guy?

COZINE: Right. We did film loading and the developing and so forth. And, you know, they taught us everything on air, how to enlarge pictures, but --

MR. W: Basic in Texas, Lackland?

COZINE: No. That was in Lowry Air Force Base.

MR. W: Lowry. Okay.

COZINE: In Denver.

MR. W: All right.

COZINE: That school doesn't exist anymore. I think there's a big shopping center where --

MR. W: Yeah, I don't know. Yeah. Okay. Let's see, Lackland Air Force Base and Lowry?

COZINE: Yeah. I went to Sheppard after Lackland, Lackland and then with Sheppard, which I had, because the other one really wasn't ready yet, Lackland, so --

MR. W: Still training?

COZINE: Oh, yeah.

MR. W: Okay.

COZINE: That was a total of seven weeks training. Did I mention to you that some -- one of the things that -- of course, I had to learn in the service was to take orders, which was hard for me 'cause I was a pretty independent guy. But one of the things I remember, boy, that corporal that was a flight leader, boy, he was -- he was tough. They'd wake you up at all hours of the morning. I went -- one time they wake us up for KP. They rap you on the feet, you know, you get up and first time I was in there, me and another fellow had a mountain of potatoes, and we thought we'd never get through those suckers, just the two of us, you know, and we were peeling them and just taking forever. So we started taking great big hunks. We'd take some that was the size of a baseball and be the size of a golf ball by the time we finished. And the mess sergeant came in and what is this? Look at all that stuff and he made us peel the peelings. And besides that, after we finished that, then we had an extra day of cleaning dirty, greasy pots because of what we had done. Pretty different. But they were pretty rough, you know. We would call -- if we'd call our rifle a gun --

MR. W: Oh, no --

COZINE: Oh, the guy got real mad. He said, "My rifle, this is my gun." Yeah. Pull that thing out of there and say, "This is the rifle," and he said, "that's your gun," and he'd jam the barrel down in somebody's crotch, you know. "This is for duty and this is for fun." Yeah.

MR. W: That's the other part of it. I don't know, if you got into it. [Inaudible] Okay. This was at Lackland?

COZINE: That was -- no, that was at Sheppard.

MR. W: Okay. I missed that, where that came from. Sheppard came after Lackland but before Lowry?

COZINE: Correct. Went from Lakeland to Sheppard where I really got the basic training. The other one was, we didn't even get issued any clothes. We lived in tents for two weeks because the barracks weren't ready and so they finally transferred us. I was trying to think where Sheppard Air Force base is and it actually is Wichita Falls. It's about six miles from Wichita Falls, Texas.

MR. W: Okay. What time of year?

COZINE: Well, it was --

MR. W: Was it hot or cold? It's one or the other.

COZINE: Oh, it was hot and dusty. I mean, you would clean the barracks up, you know, for an inspection and the sand storm would come up and just drive that stuff right through the window sills and you'd have an inch of dirt on the window.

MR. W: It was summer. Okay. Okay.

COZINE: We didn't have bad winters down there.

MR. W: Now things kind of get interesting, right? You're going to graduate to George Air Force Base? In California?

COZINE: In Victorville.

MR. W: Victorville, California. Tell me about this place?

COZINE: Well, it was a --

MR. W: I don't know the name.

COZINE: George Air Force Base probably doesn't exist anymore.

MR. W: Okay.

COZINE: But, it was interesting. We went in now and of course, I was a photo lab technician, A photographer.

MR. W: Right.

COZINE: And the big interesting thing that happened while I was down there, I was assigned, me and my best friend Leroy Larson, we were assigned to Special Services. And Special Services did all the publicity and so forth and when we got there we found out that what was happening was we were gonna be taking pictures of John Wayne and Janet Leigh, and Howard Hughes was making what turned out to be his last picture there called *Jet Pilot*. And they -- we had Saber jets there and they used those in the pictures, but we took a lot of publicity. We followed them around for weeks and took all kinds of pictures, got to know them real nice. I remember I used to call John Wayne Mr. Wayne and one day he came up to me he says, "Look," he says, "My friends call me Duke, no more of this John Wayne business, or this -- (hand on my shoulder with the public?? unintelligible)"

MR. W: Good guy.

COZINE: But it's amazing how tall, you know, you don't realize it in the films, but he was about 6'5", 6'6", he was big. If - I got some pictures that show me standing next to him and I was about 6 foot and he's still above me.

MR. W: Do you have the originals of these photos?

COZINE: I do.

MR. W: You do?

COZINE: Yeah.

MR. W: You didn't bring them, did you?

COZINE: I didn't bring 'em because these are actual replicas. My wife has got stuff written on the back of 'em and she wants to keep 'em in and the kids want 'em, you know.

MR. W: These are from the original negatives ones you left?

COZINE: No. These are copies of the actual prints and the prints back on there say "Georgia Air Force Base, Victorville" stamped on the back.

MR. W: That's good.

COZINE: Yeah. So --

MR. W: You mentioned Janet Leigh, was she in the movie too?

COZINE: Oh yeah. Janet Leigh was the star against 'em. She was supposed to have been a Russian spy pilot that came over here and they fell in love. It was a really hokey movie. But it was really interesting to watch how it -- how it was made and so forth. And it wasn't released until 1957. This was fifty -- '56.

MR. W: Saber jets were pretty old by then.

COZINE: Oh yeah, but, you know, but it didn't matter with Howard Hughes. He made wood planes, so it didn't matter to him.

MR. W: That's right. Did you meet him, Hughes?

COZINE: No. He never was there. Never was there.

MR. W: Kind of a recluse even back then, I guess?

COZINE: I guess. Well, he was probably, you know, last movie he ever made, he probably was by then sitting in there somewhere with his long fingernails.

MR. W: Yeah. Long hair?

COZINE: Some hotel.

MR. W: Kleenex.

COZINE: (Laughs) Don't touch me.

MR. W: Did you interact with Janet Leigh at all? Did she --

COZINE: She was just a wonderful person. I remember one time I had the flight chief come up behind her, she was just a wonderful person, and he came up, I told him, grab her from behind and pull her up, you know, and I snapped a picture of it. And that picture never got released. She liked it, she was a good sport about it, but she said, "Please don't release that picture for publicity, it makes my butt look too big."

MR. W: I've seen it. I didn't think it did, but --

COZINE: Well, that's the way she was. She was just a doll. And then, you know, of course, her most famous picture, I guess was that one where she gets stabbed in the shower.

MR. W: That's Janet Leigh? Hitchcock.

COZINE: Yeah. Janet Leigh. And then of course, she died and I had these photos and I brought 'em down to the local newspapers and they printed them just because, you know, it just seemed like I couldn't believe she was gone.

MR. W: Yeah.

COZINE: And I'm still here. She was older than me.

MR. W: How old were you at this point?

COZINE: 20.

MR. W: Must be knockin' up to 20.

COZINE: Yeah, going on 20.

MR. W: Going on 25! You do say that you grew up real quick as soon as you got into the Air Force?

COZINE: Yeah.

MR. W: Okay. George Air Force base is in Victorville, California and I don't have a date on that, but you go to Korea in '52 as I recall?

COZINE: Yeah, but I went --

MR. W: -- Japan first --

COZINE: Japan first, to Misawa, Japan, I remember --

MR. W: Tell us about Misawa.

COZINE: Well, it's on northern Honshu, way up on the northern tip and some of the towns that were near there, let's see, it was called APO 919, northern Honshu. And going over there I guess the pilots and stuff took the planes over there, flew 'em over and we went over by boat, which was quite an experience too. We was kind of stuck on the bow of the boat and we were on hammocks that were about three foot apart. When a guy got on it you had about, you know, 12 foot clearance and when at rough seas, those hammocks was swinging and everybody was getting sick, of course.

MR. W: You're talking about this trip from the United States to Japan?

COZINE: To Japan.

MR. W: Okay. So you're on this ship for quite a while?

- COZINE: Quite a while. I forget what it was, ten days or something like that and --
- MR. W: Ever get seasick?
- COZINE: Well, a lot of them did. I remember one time they used to have barrels in the companion ways in the corner but -- for those people that couldn't make the railing, and I remember going up there one time and I saw this young kid and he had his arm down in that barrel of vomit, I couldn't believe it, you know, it was up to his elbow. I said, what in the world are you doing, and he said, well, I had to throw up and he said, "My false teeth fell out and I'm trying to find them." So, you know, I was feeling pretty good but now I just about made the rail that time. But I did find something that was good. I showed most of the movies at night. They taught me how to operate a 35 millimeter projector and so I got a projectionist license and then when I went into Misawa we were able to be a projectionist along with a Japanese fellow who was a chief projectionist, and made extra money showing movies at night and so forth.
- MR. W: You got to see all the current movies?
- [one-two second gap on the tape]**
- COZINE: Yeah. Saw all the movies, but it was really interesting, you know, the way these old things used to go. -- You'd see [Static] a dot and you'd start the second camera going because it was meaning it was getting to the rest of the wheel and then when The second dot came you made the switch over and turn it off. (Inaudible)
- MR. W: Was that manual back them?
- COZINE: You manually rewound the film.
- MR. W: Rewound the film on the first projector?
- COZINE: And that's still going. And had automatic arc lights that kept them pretty good but sometimes they would burn the film. We were still using nitrate film at the time.
- MR. W: I can remember that happening a couple times when I was a kid and I paid a dime to see this and the film burned up.
- COZINE: Exactly.
- MR. W: What was the mission up there, this was way up in the northern part of Japan now?
- COZINE: It was basically keeping surveillance on the Russian shipping through the Hokkaido.
- MR. W: And those ships were going down to North Korea?

COZINE: Correct. Yeah. They was supplying them and so forth and we used to take surveillance pictures of those.

MR. W: And what was your job?

COZINE: Photographer. I took pictures of those and we would sit back where the --

MR. W: So you're up in the plane?

COZINE: Oh yeah.

MR. W: Okay.

COZINE: In the back part, the tail section of the thing. If you ever had to bail out you were dead because where I was sitting there, if you went to go out, the stabilizer would cut you in half.

MR. W: So they didn't bother to give you a parachute, huh?

COZINE: No. But they --

MR. W: Now, what are you using, a Speed Graphic for this type of thing?

COZINE: No. We used other cameras that we had on there.

MR. W: What kind of cameras, do you remember?

COZINE: Boy, honestly I don't. It wasn't Speed Graphic though. But they used to fly so low that they would be on -- just a few inches above the water flying below the top deck of the ships. And I remember one time I took a picture, we were about maybe a hundred yards away, three hundred feet and there's the Russian guys yelling and smiling at us.

MR. W: Take my picture?

COZINE: Take a picture.

MR. W: What were they carrying on these ships, war materials?

COZINE: War materials, yeah. See, they were -- Honshu and then you had Hokkaido, which was another island above was --

MR. W: Help me on the geography here. You're on the -- not the furthest north --

COZINE: Honshu is the biggest island.

MR. W: That's the biggest island?

COZINE: And on the northern part of that and above that is Hokkaido and we did have weather stations there and radar and so forth watching and then above Hokkaido was Sakhalin which was Russian right between Hokkaido and Sakhalin, which we called the Hokkaido Straits, that's where those Russian ships would go through.

MR. W: And your job was taking the pictures from the plane low level, what kind of plane?

COZINE: B-26s.

MR. W: 26s, okay. They come into play in Korea now?

COZINE: Yeah, well, they were --

MR. W: Bombing run?

COZINE: Yeah. They were really low flying planes. They were pretty good. When I went over to Korea they used those to bomb the railroads and so forth.

MR. W: We'll get into that. Okay. In fact we're about ready to the year in Japan, my notes. So what, '52?

COZINE: '52.

MR. W: Yeah.

COZINE: Yeah.

MR. W: Then you graduated to Korea?

COZINE: Right.

MR. W: And my notes say you were a photo lab chief.

COZINE: I was and I was only three stripes and of course, it required four or five stripes to be a chief, but the career field was frozen. I couldn't get a promotion, but I had the job and the responsibilities.

MR. W: Why was it frozen?

COZINE: I have no idea. They just told me -- I don't know, there had to be so many positions to be filled and if there's nobody, you know, leaving or dying, there was no way you could go, and it was great, but so I had all the responsibilities and I didn't have the stripes --

MR. W.: Or the pay.

COZINE: Exactly, the pay to go with it. But I remember my first experience in Korea, I was only there a few days. We were walking over from the lab to the mess hall and oh, my feet started burning and itching so bad and I didn't know what was happening, but my feet swelled so bad that they had to cut my boots off and they found out in the hospital and I was in there for about 10 days, it was all infected. I don't know what (unintelligible), but they were sand fleas and so anyway, while I was in there I decided, I had never been circumcised, so I decided I was going to get circumcised and of course, they did the job on me and they -- as it was healing, it would itch and of course, being a young fellow a little thing like that would make an erection come up and I'd tore all the stitches out. So they renewed me up and the same thing happened again. So they figured this time we'll fix him. And the second time that they sewed it up, they put these tongue depressors, three of them around it and wrapped it up with adhesive tape and then when I started getting itchy they shot me full of Novocaine down there and I kind of -- I finally healed up.

MR. W: They call you "Stitches"?

COZINE: No, they didn't call me "Stitches". I had the guys in stitches though laughing about it.

MR. W: Yeah. I'll bet they --

COZINE: -- but it wasn't a funny matter to me.

MR. W: You're probably wondering if it was ever gonna function properly, huh? I won't ask you how you found out.

COZINE: I figured I always had the splints.

MR. W: Yeah. I was reading some of your own notes here, I was interested in this motorcycle you acquired.

COZINE: Yeah.

MR. W: How did you come across an Indian motorcycle in Japan?

COZINE: It belonged to an officer who was on his way to Korea and you weren't allowed to take anything like that over there. And of course, he had this motorcycle and it was a 1944 Indian Chief, and I didn't know it at the time, but there was another fellow that had this little Triumph that he rode around. I figured this is a nice big bike for me, it was 650 bucks and I bought it from him.

MR. W: That's a lot of money for --

COZINE: It is. But I was making extra money as a projectionist and selling cigarettes in town for ten times what I paid for them. So I had some money on that. But it was -- from the history that I've been able to find out because of the war they weren't manufacturing the regular production motorcycles during that time, but the history on this was that it was manufactured for the police chief in Indianapolis, Indiana. I don't know if Indianapolis had anything to do with Indian, or what, you know, but it seemed strange to me.

MR. W: Where were they built?

COZINE: I don't know where they were built at the time. Maybe they were built in Indianapolis --

MR. W: Is that a U.S. manufacturer?

COZINE: Oh, yeah.

MR. W: Okay. I'm not, if it's not Harley, I don't know what it is.

COZINE: Well, they just had a movie on it, the fastest man I guess on a Harley, popular picture, goes back from the '20s, anyway, but it was quite a bike. It weighed 1200 pounds. There's no way you could spin donuts on it. The front fenders were about, I don't know, quarter to a half inch thick and it was just heavy.

MR. W: Did you ever dump it?

COZINE: I dumped it and it took three guys to pick it up.

MR. W: I was gonna say, you can't get it back up again.

COZINE: Yeah. That's why I say it wouldn't -- it wouldn't get up. I did come in one time --

MR. W: I would think.

COZINE: Well, I imagine.

MR. W: Your 650 bucks is peanuts today. It was a lot of money back then I'm sure, yeah.

COZINE: It was. When I finally left in Korea I'll tell you about a race we had. This fellow that had that Triumph I was telling you about, he challenged me to a race and I know that a Triumph they (unintelligible) gear ratio, boom, boom, boom and they're fast and he challenged me to a race one time and I told him it would have to be a long race, it couldn't be a short one, obviously with a big cycle like that. And we got permission to use one of the long runways that are very seldom used and big crowd gathered. They were betting on us and everything and finally took off. Of course,

from the signal came, he was 100 feet ahead, you know, just boom, boom, boom. And I'm just creeping along and I finally got started, about three-quarters of the way down there I caught up with him and I beat him.

MR. W: You must have had a big engine on that, thing.

COZINE: It was monster. Here's -- a picture of it, and you can see --

MR. W: I saw it, yeah.

COZINE: And finally this same fellow when I had to go to Korea I was faced with the same thing, I couldn't take it with me. And I was trying to sell it. And he told me, "These guys aren't offering you enough money. He says, "Give me a little time and I'll sell it for you and I'll send you the money." Well, you know, fool and his money are soon parted, because what happened with me is I never saw that cycle again, never saw any money. He wanted it ever since I beat him.

MR. W: Sounds like you're well on the way the sales career, though. Well, let's get you into Korea. You don't have a bike?

COZINE: Don't have a bike.

MR. W: All right. What's your first assignment?

COZINE: First assignment was a photo lab chief.

MR. W: Okay.

COZINE: And our --

MR. W: Where are you in Korea?

COZINE: Kunsan.

MR. W: Tell me where that is?

COZINE: It's on the eastern side of Korea.

MR. W: China Sea side?

COZINE: China Sea side. And it's about the 36th parallel. And our job was, of course, to load all the gunnery cameras and all the surveillance cameras. They would take pictures and bring them back and we would develop those pictures and we would make again mosaics for the bombing runs for the information for the pilots meetings, of course everything was secret and top secret and we were cleared for that, and was quite a thing. We got -- and then they would the next day after they

finished the bombing they would go back and take another shot and they could see what the damage was. That's what you're talking about, (unintelligible – both talking) to interpreters.

MR. W: Yeah. Right. You didn't do that?

COZINE: I didn't do that. We just made the mosaics and we made the map showing thing done and somebody else interpreted it. -- separate --

MR. W: Were these strip, the large areas more or less a strip?

COZINE: Strips basically, yeah.

MR. W: What kind of cameras are they using to take these pictures, do you know?

COZINE: Honestly I -- seems to me --

MR. W: Were you or any of those -- you were back at the lab?

COZINE: I wasn't on any of the -- I was back at the lab, I wasn't in the planes shooting pictures --

MR. W: So you weren't involved in that?

COZINE: No. But they were automatic cameras. When they set 'em going, like I say, they were 9 by 9 and they just ran the whole strip and then they'd make another run and you'd put all the strips together after it was developed.

MR. W: The planes went back and forth like a tractor might do in a field?

COZINE: Or could be two or three planes going one shot all the way down. One -- you know, one next to the other, whatever the coverage would be on these cameras. They got quite an area.

MR. W: Hopefully they all overlap?

COZINE: Yeah. We were able to put 'em together and made nice maps. Gallons of rubber cement. (laughs) We loved to sniff that.

MR. W: I don't want to go into that. What kind of runs, you mentioned B-26 before?

COZINE: Yeah.

MR. W: Now, this is 1952?

COZINE: Right.

MR. W: So there's jet planes and then there's still prop driven planes?

COZINE: Yeah. They had 'em because they were good for low flights and the North Koreans would move all their goods with the railroad at night with all their lights off so we couldn't see them.

MR. W: Okay.

COZINE: And these B-26s would find a pair of railroad tracks and they had a spotlight on the front and they would fly at tree top level and along the tracks and the engineer of the locomotive would say what's that coming down the track at me and he'd turn his lights on, and boy these --

MR. W: Oh, he's thinking it's another train?

COZINE: He's thinking it's another train. Sure. So these guys would go right over there and just bomb the hell out of these trains, just knock 'em to pieces and they couldn't pull up in time, you know, like a jet and they'd come back with all kinds of damage in the fuselage and the rings and some of them were missing rudders and everything. The other thing the North Koreans did was, to get under the radar they used to fly in the valleys between the mountains, and these North Koreans knew that.

MR. W: B-26s?

COZINE: Yeah.

MR. W: Okay.

COZINE: And they knew that and so they strung big steel cables across there and of course, flying along there sometimes they didn't see it 'til too late. Some of them never made it. Some came back without, you know, rudders and four foot section of a wing missing, a guy tried to get out of the way at the last minute, but they got back to the base. A lot of maintenance there.

MR. W: How long did that keep going? I would think that we'd catch on to the cable thing.

COZINE: Well, we did, but, you know, they still wanted to go there and get out of radar so they wouldn't get shot at.

MR. W: Yeah. Did the North Koreans ever catch on to the fact that these floodlights or these headlights coming at them?

COZINE: Well, I imagine.

MR. W: It was on planes?

COZINE: But not while I was there.

MR. W: I see. All right. Well, that was, that's a year.

[End of Tape 1, Side A]

MR. W: You were in Korea now and you're developing these pictures shot by, is it the B-26 that's doing the strafing that -- are these photographic runs are separate?

COZINE: No. These photographic runs are separate. That was where they were gonna get the targets. The other ones didn't have any photographs, except they knew where the railroad tracks were --

MR. W: Well, that's pretty easy.

COZINE: -- like find the railroad tracks and --

MR. W: So these are two different missions? Okay.

COZINE: And then we had 16 millimeter gunnery cameras that were operated in (Inaudible)

MR. W: Well, that's a different story, right? Did you -- were you involved in processing in 16 millimeter?

COZINE: Right. Everything, we did it all. Anything that had to do with photography. In fact, we lived pretty good over there because the cooks over in the officers mess hall, they, of course, they had a lot of pictures and any time they could get any pictures developed to send home was when they went on R and R, which was maybe four or five months down the road, and we had a deal with them where we'll solve your problem, we would like some steaks and shrimp and beer and things like that. They even supplied us raisins and yeast and sugar and we used to cook in our thirty gallon crocks that we used keep hypol and hypol is a chemical that to stop the development of film and we would have one of those filled with raisin jack. Some of the guys --

MR. W: What came out of that then?

COZINE: What came out of that?

MR. W: Yeah.

COZINE: A lot of diarrhea, because the guys couldn't wait until it really got good and (laughs) they would drink and get the diarrhea from it.

MR. W: You'd do a home brew in the hypol cans?

COZINE: Yeah, big hypol crock thirty gallons. It would be under the sink, look like it, the captain would come in, he didn't know stuff was brewing under there. We had some fun too because the captain was pretty good. He only showed up once in a while, but I remember one time he came up, of course, we kept all our film in the refrigerator to keep it nice and fresh, and he opened it one time and was loaded with beer and a can come out and hit him on the foot. He says, "What's this?" "Well, we're just cooling some beer, sir, you know, to have when we go off duty." He said, "When is that?" I said, "Five thirty." He says, "I'll be back for some of it." Then we got our second lieutenant in. And he came in and was gonna tell us, he's fresh out of school, you know, we're over there, we've been doing this stuff, we knew what we were doing, we didn't need anybody to tell us what to do. We knew our job and we did it good.

MR. W: He's probably younger than you are.

COZINE: Yeah. Well, yeah, he was, I would say he was about 25 years old, and fresh out of school, second lieutenant. He comes in and had a meeting oh, yeah, we're going to do this and we're going to do that and everybody was looking at me. You're the lab chief, what is this guy doin'? So I figured all right. I told him yeah, I said, "Sir, you know, if you take off those bars and that shirt," I said, "we will go behind here and settle this thing." And when he took off his shirt I knew I'd made a mistake because he had muscles on him like you wouldn't believe. Anyway I couldn't back out then. We went back there and the fight lasted about four minutes and I picked myself up off the ground, he says, "I'm a weight lifter," like I didn't know, you know, too late. And he says, "Come on, let's go in, we'll have a beer." We got along (unintelligible). He didn't screw with us too much but --

MR. W: He cut back off a little bit?

COZINE: Yeah, he backed off and, you know, I showed him.

MR. W: (Unintelligible) You're still in Korea, you met your wife to be, is that still -- was that in the states?

COZINE: No, that's when I went back to the Air Force base in Del Rio, Texas.

MR. W: Okay. Before we do that, is there anything else you want to tell us about Korea?

COZINE: Well, Korea, we had --

MR. W: Where was the war at, excuse me, Bill, but where was the war?

COZINE: The war was above the 38th parallel. We were up at the 36th parallel.

MR. W: And it was still actively pursued. You weren't in armistice yet?

- COZINE: Exactly. In fact, one of the things that we got famous for was they had peace talks in Panmunjom, which was just below the 38th parallel, and --
- MR. W: But further to the west from (unintelligible)?
- COZINE: A little bit. A little bit, but not too much. If you look at a map you'll see it's not too much west. It's still right there.
- MR. W: Okay. Give us a sense, 10 miles?
- COZINE: Oh maybe, I don't know, 100 miles west or something like that, but at the 38th parallel. And during the peace talks and it hit all the international news and everything else during the peace talks, they were bombed.
- MR. W: Who was bombed?
- COZINE: The peace talks in Panmunjom. They were bombed by us and it was one of our guys that did it.
- MR. W: Mistake, I assume?
- COZINE: Mistake. And the navigator made a mistake and he bombed the thing and it finally blew over, but I thought we'd never hear the end of that one, and --
- MR. W: That had to get an awful lot of brass that you didn't want.
- COZINE: It wasn't, they wouldn't, following our maps if they had --
- MR. W: (Laughing)
- COZINE: And then -- but we had South Koreans that were guarding the gate. And it wasn't every week or so there would be one of them with his throat slit, somebody's trying to sneak on the base and I guess one time they made it because we were in -- it was during the day and we just heard tremendous, just like we were being bombed, you know, which was a shock to us. But we went out on the flight line and we used to line those 26s up wing tip to wing tip, and there'd be thirty or forty of them just lined up just like that. And some saboteur would come in and started them going and they went just like dominos. One blew up, another one blew up, another one blew up and finally about five or six planes down a flight chief came in with tractor and pulled a couple of them out, which ended that domino situation.
- MR. W: What was going off, were they loaded with bombs?

COZINE: Well, the first one was loaded with bombs and I don't know if the second one was but I think the explosion from the first one, they were all loaded ready to go, with all that fuel.

MR. W: So there was plenty of fuel on them?

COZINE: So it just was like a domino effect.

MR. W: Okay.

COZINE: And so we lost eleven planes there. We didn't lose any personnel. But that fellow, I think the flight chief, if he didn't get himself a silver star he deserved one.

MR. W: Yeah, I would say so. You mentioned you had a run in with a fellow

COZINE: Yeah --

MR. W: A drunk, he wanted to get out of the --

COZINE: Right. He was one of my crew in the photo lab, and I was on duty one night waiting for some film to come in and I was sitting there reading and he -- door opened up and slammed open and he shoved the .45 pistol in my face, and I tell you that thing looked as big around as a cigar, that hole on the thing and I thought I bought it. He told me, he says, "You get me out of the service or" he says, "I'm gonna shoot you." And I told him, I said, you know, "You've been trying to get out of the service." He tried to get out on a Section 80, he acted crazy and everything, but -- he was just -- he didn't belong in the service. It just disrupted his whole life, you know, there's some people like that I guess that just couldn't take it. And whenever he had -- he went over the fence, he slept with these Korean girls, which was forbidden (unintelligible) they had diseases they didn't even know what they were, you know, and no cure for them or anything, he got some of that stuff and drugs. It was terrible and so finally I calmed him. He was just so drunk, you know, he was slurring everything and I finally calmed him down. I was looking over there behind me there and by the file I could see my M3 .45 caliber grease gun, but it was too far away and I finally calmed him down and I got the gun away from him. He finally got out on a bad conduct discharge, so he was -- he was happy and I guess we were all glad to see him go because you know, you get

MR. W: -- trouble--

COZINE: -- somebody in trouble like that it's not too good.

MR. W: Okay. Where we at now, we're still in Korea. Anything else you got on Korea?

COZINE: Not too much.

MR. W: Let's see --

COZINE: Then I went to Del Rio, Del Rio, Texas.

MR. W: All right. So you're leaving Korea now and you're how many years you have been in now, must be 1952?

COZINE: Yeah it was about a little over -- about three and a half years, three and a half years.

MR. W: Total years that you were in?

COZINE: Three and a half total years that I was in yeah 'cause it was toward the fall of '53 and I was discharged in July of '54.

MR. W: Okay. So '53 you came back to the states?

COZINE: Yeah. Toward the latter part of that 'cause I remember I only had about six or seven months to go, so it must have been the latter part of '53.

MR. W: Okay, and you're a projectionist when you got back, running movies?

COZINE: No. I didn't run any movies at that base because when I came back, you know, I was a lab chief over there with some stripes, and when I came back it had a, of course, a captain, a tech sergeant and a staff sergeant and they were -- the tech sergeant was the lab chief and his assistant was the staff sergeant and I was a peon.

MR. W: Back to being a peon.

COZINE: Yeah, going from a lab chief to a peon. So I pretty much didn't do anything. I was a base photographer, we took pictures, the base was Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, was real hot down there, right across the boarder from Villa Acuna, Mexico. And they trained pilots from all over the world. Their own pilots and I think they were using F-80's, but they -- every week or every ten days one of them just splatter, you know, if they make a mistake, they're going so fast, you know, you can't correct it in time and there would be pieces of a person hanging up in the tree, you know, and those things hit the ground they -- just pieces all over and my job was to go out and take pictures of all the pieces and all the remains that were up there, so it wasn't a very good job, you know, but we did it. And of course, I was drinking quite a bit and weight lifting, so that was my thing. I couldn't wait, you know, to get out of the service and I remember I was interviewed by a major, I don't know how many months I had left, maybe three months left and he said, you know, "We'll give you \$3000 bonus and an upgrade in your rank to reenlist," and I said, "Sir, I wouldn't reenlist if they made me a full bird colonel." So he said to me, he said, "I take it you're not interested in Air Force career," and I proved him right because when I finally was discharged, I had a little duffel bag with some socks and underwear in it,

change of pants, and left everything hanging in the closet, all my military, my boats, my medals everything still hanging in my closet and I just went out, left.

MR. W: When did you meet your wife?

COZINE: Well, it was about -- let's see, probably around April of 54.

MR. W: So you're a short termer by then.

COZINE: Oh yeah, I was a short termer. I was just waiting to get out, I couldn't wait. So down in Del Rio, Texas they had this cafe that was a favorite one of ours, it was also a bus stop. But you go in there and they had all the scooners in the freezer, and it would be real hot out, I mean, it gets hot down there, 105, 110 degrees, you know, in the desert, so we'd pick up these mugs and take them over and they'd fill them with Lone Star beer and we'd sit there and drink. It was really nice. It was the highlight of the day. Of course, was nice and cool in there. Air conditioning going, it's so hot outside. And this was also a bus stop and I remember sitting with my buddy at the bar and I glanced over there and I saw this woman come in the door. She had a suitcase in each hand, she had her Air Force blue uniform on in this heat, you know, and she just was gorgeous and I nudged my roommate, I said, "Bob," I said, "You see that WAAF that just walked in here?" He said, "Yeah." I said, "I'm gonna marry her," and I hadn't even met her, I hadn't even talked to her. And a few days later I was in the lab and she walked in the door. I couldn't believe it. She said she had just come from Lowry Air Force Base and got assigned to this photo lab. And I thought this is the best day I ever had in my life, best day. And I finally got a date with her. At the time I had some muscles, you know, from all the weight lifting and I wasn't a bad looking guy, I guess. But anyway, she -- I got a date with her and I told her on the date, I said, "I'm gonna marry you," and she told me "You're crazy."

MR. W: First date?

COZINE: First date.

MR. W: You -- really put a move on, don't you?

COZINE: I did. But this woman, she was something else. And I told her, I said, "I'm gonna marry you." She told me "You're crazy, I don't like you, I'm never going out with you again." But eventually we got together and she got transferred out before I got discharged, and she went to, trying to think of the name of that base that she was on, it was in San Antonio. Yeah, let me see what --

MR. W: But you were about ready to go back to Long Island, right?

COZINE: Oh, yeah. Conley, James Conley Air Force Base in Waco, Texas is where she was.

MR. W: Okay. But you're about ready to go back east, right?

COZINE: Yeah.

MR. W: And she's there?

COZINE: And she's there.

MR. W: Now what?

COZINE: Well, I talked to her on the phone a few times and, you know, told her again I wanted to marry her, and finally I was discharged on the 18th of July and on the 22nd we were married.

MR. W: Well, you didn't waste any time.

COZINE: No. I went up there and we got a justice of the peace and I hadn't seen her yet, but I was at the justice of the peace, she was gonna meet me there. And she came in with two black eyes and a broken nose. And what had happened, she'd been in a softball game and she lost the softball in the sun, it hit her right between the eyes, blacked her eyes and broke her nose. And she come in like that to get married, and the justice of the peace gave me a funny look and he married us anyway and to this day she says the only reason I married is you beat me up and forced me to. --

MR. W: She told the justice that?

COZINE: She told me that. She keeps reminding me that.

MR. W: That's cute.

COZINE: After fifty-two years of marriage, you know.

MR. W: Fifty-two?

COZINE: Fifty-two.

MR. W: Congratulations, that's great.

COZINE: Yeah. People said we wouldn't last a year, all of our friends in there said this was just an infatuation.

MR. W: Well, I talked to her on the phone, I think it's more than that, she's a very charming lady.

COZINE: Yeah. She also, when she was at the base there, they -- the headquarters air base group asked her in the service club to sponsor a beauty contest and she was the -- she came in second, but she's always first with me.

MR. W: That a boy, good. Okay, Bill, let's go back to Japan here. There's a couple of thoughts I think you wanted to inject here about your life there.

COZINE: Well, it was --

MR. W: You're 20 years old now, right, at Japan, 20, 21?

COZINE: Yeah, in that area. Of course, we had, you know, all the genes were raging, but --

MR. W: I don't have to know everything, you understand.

COZINE: No. You're got going to either. (both laugh) But at any rate, we had some interesting times. There was a fishing village that was a little further north and west from us called Hachinohe.

MR. W: Hachinohe?

COZINE: Hachinohe. Yeah. In fact, when we were up there we used to drink a lot and of course, in northern Honshu in the winter time it got really cold and we made up a song about Hachinohe. "When the ice is on the rice in Hachinohe and the Saki in Osawa starts to freeze, that's the day that I'll say sayonara dozo before I turn into a Japanese." Used to sing that one when we had a little too much saki or Asahi beer. But it was an interesting village because it was -- you know, they had no roads. It was just dusty dirt roads going through. And it was a big fishing village and they used to get these squid and I remember they would put them out on these big racks, wood racks and hang them down there the squid, and let them dry in the sun. You know, that they would have this dried squid and every time a truck or car would go by on these dusty roads, it'd be just all full of that stuff. It reminded me when I went to Greece later on, they had open meat markets and you couldn't see any beef on there, you know. You'd look and you'd say well, where is the beef? and a guy would smack the hanging carcass and when all the flies went off it you could see it. So I'm thinking all this dirt you know, going on there and people are eating this --

MR. W: Well, the dust from the roads.

COZINE: Yeah. Dust and people are eating this stuff, so I never ate any dried squid. But I do remember one time where I was invited into a Japanese home. They didn't speak any English and I didn't speak any Japanese. And I had met this fellow somewhere, I don't know one of the resorts and he wanted to take me home and show his house. And they -- when they feed you they want you to make slurping noises, you know. More noise you make, the more it means you're enjoying it, and he brought out one time a little thing with a toothpick in it, it looked like a pickled cucumber rind to me, and he tells me, so I put it in my mouth and I started chewing on it. It was like rubber, and the more I chewed the fishier it got, the fishier it got and I didn't know what to do and they were watching me to get my reaction, you know. I swallowed

that thing just about whole, a big hunk of that stuff was rubber tubing and I found out later it was raw octopus, and, you know, when he said "Oh, yeah? More?" "No, thank you very much. I appreciate that."

MR. W: That was so good, I don't want --

COZINE: My eyes were tearing already, you know.

MR. W: Was it highly seasoned too?

COZINE: Was just like rubber. It was like raw fish, but you know it had that kind of thing that looked like a watermelon rind, the top was hard of the hide and so forth and it was --

MR. W: Part of the tentacle of the octopus?

COZINE: No. It was part of the body, I mean this is -- but anyway --

MR. W: I'm glad you had that experience.

COZINE: Well, yeah, and then the other one was we were trying to figure out what I was eating there, and there was some kind of meat in there that was pretty tasty, you know. I was trying to figure out what it was, you know, and I said "Is it a cow, you know, sheep?" "No. No." "Was it a dog or cat?" "No. No." I found out it was a rat and I'd eaten it. I'd eaten rat. So it was quite an experience. But anyway, in this Hachinohe, to get back to that, they did their fishing from boats but they used cormorants. I don't know if you ever have heard of them. It's about a three foot tall bird, big neck and --

MR. W: We have them out in Lake Wisconsin?

COZINE: There's a hooked bill notorious fisher birds, they -- that's what they eat.

MR. W: They're great swimmers, yeah.

COZINE: And they would have these great big, I don't know what they would call them, junks type ships, they'd be maybe ten sailors or so in each one, and they'd be anchored about 25 feet apart at night and over the top they would hang these lanterns and it would attract these fish in by the schools they looked like smelt. You know, they were maybe, I don't know, 4, 5 inches long. And they would put a ring around the cormorant's neck.

MR. W: Couldn't swallow?

COZINE: So he couldn't swallow and then they'd put about a 100 feet of line on that thing and this cormorant will go out and fill up his gullet and then the guy would go and pull

him in and he'd start at the bottom of his neck and go up and regurgitate all the fish into a bucket and they'd send him out again. It was just amazing.

MR. W: Didn't the lines cross?

COZINE: Yes. I was amazed that they didn't have more, you know, --

MR. W: You said close to each other about 100 foot line?

COZINE: I was salmon fishing one time and the guys are lining up three foot apart, and one guy gets them on and ten lines get tangled up. But once in a while they would, but they somehow they got around and they, you know, the bird's still flying around, you know. But they untangled lines and brought them in, but I was surprised that they didn't have more of that.

MR. W: That's interesting.

COZINE: It is, yeah. I didn't know and then when I looked in the encyclopedia on cormorant it said that they're used extensively in the Orient for fishing.

MR. W: Have to try that up at my place.

COZINE: Yeah. (unintelligible) --

MR. W: Probably catch more fish that way than I do.

COZINE: A lot of interesting experiences. We did have an opportunity to buy a lot of Japanese goods at the time, which were pretty cheap. I mean, I bought a set of Mikimoto pearls, matched pearls that today are probably worth two or three thousand dollars. I sent them home to my mom. I think they cost me 50 bucks, and I -- this was really profits from the cigarette trade. Like I said, we'd buy them in the PX for a \$1, the exchange rate then was 700 yen to a dollar. And we would get 7000 yen for a carton of cigarettes. So we'd get --

MR. W: That's a Pretty good mark up?

COZINE: Ten dollars. Yeah. If they didn't limit us to how many we could get we'd be rich today. (both laugh) But I think it was one carton a day per person --

MR. W: You're selling these to the Japanese?

COZINE: Selling them to the Japanese on the black market.

MR. W: Sure.

COZINE: And then we'd take that money and buy silk kimonos. I bought a set of Cutaneee (??) China that I gave to my mom and sent home a whole big set of that and those pearls and when my mom passed away she passed them on to my wife and then --

MR. W: So you still have them?

COZINE: I still have them, except my oldest daughter said "They're mine," and she's got them now. She just picked them up a few days ago.

MR. W: Still --

COZINE: Broken and chipped some of the parts, you know, some of the big parts are missing, but she says I don't care, that's family, I want those.

MR. W: That's nice.

COZINE: So what are you gonna do?

MR. W: Hey, that's good. Okay. Anything else from Japan, Bill?

COZINE: No. That's about all I want to talk about.

MR. W: Okay.

COZINE: Oh, there was one other thing, this fellow I mentioned to you was a senior projectionist.

MR. W: Yeah.

COZINE: And we were at the theater showing pictures and he asked me one time, he says, "Do you want to, you want to make some money, legally?" I said, "Yeah, how?" He says "Well," he said, "I need \$500 to start a brothel. He said, "I need six girls and, you know, a month's rent, and all that will get me started." So I put up the money for him, and he used to give me some of the profits and it was pretty good investment, because I used to get pretty good profits from it as he increased. When I went to Korea the payments stopped, of course, and just like the --

MR. W: Motorcycle too?

COZINE: Yeah. That's about all I can think of.

MR. W: You sound like you did pretty well in Japan.

COZINE: Yeah.

MR. W: Okay. And since then you've been discharged, you said you've been in sales all

your life?

COZINE: I have, yeah.

MR. W: Talking about civilian life now, just touch on it?

COZINE: Well --

MR. W: What brought you to Wisconsin? Was that recently or --

COZINE: Well, when I got out of the service, as I mentioned to you, in Waco, Texas, I was digging ditches on the bases because there was no jobs down there and then I got a job with Rohan Company, which was a municipal water works supplier, all these big cast iron things and I used to tag them and get them ready for shipment and I remember I hated -- we sent great big valves and stuff to Truth and Consequences, New Mexico and I had to make the labels up and --

MR. W: That's a lot ---

COZINE: Fifty valves and you got to handwrite Truth and Consequences --

MR. W: Oh Lord.

COZINE: -- New Mexico, but finally I got a job at Phillips Petroleum Company and I tried to get into the photo lab. I still wanted to go into photography. I could get into portrait photography, but I didn't want that. I wanted, you know, different type of photography because people are never happy with their portraits. They want it to look like somebody else. And so I had this fellow that was looking out for me at Phillips Petroleum Company. What we were doing, I was working in the lab and, you know, what they were working on? Solid rocket propellant that they use in these Saturns and so forth today.

MR. W: In the photo lab?

COZINE: Well, it wasn't a photo lab. I got this job temporarily and we used to mix up these chemicals and then we'd test small swatches of them and see how fast they burned and how the burning rate was, if it was even or so forth.

MR. W: You knew you were into something, huh?

COZINE: Yeah. And then it was all secret, you know. They wouldn't tell you exactly what it was, but that's what it was. It was for the solid rocket propellant and then this -- my brother-in-law was in Long Island, he was a mechanical engineer. He was -- worked for construction companies, he operated rollers and Barber spreaders and all for road work and he told me he had a job for me and I said, okay, I'll go back and I told the wife, you know, we'll go back and that's just about a week before I had already made

up my mind, you know, and was already on my way, this fellow come out and said I finally got a job in the photo lab and I told him I have to resign because I've already got a job in New York. So I sent my wife and baby Bridget, that's the one that got the china -- she didn't get the pearls yet, my wife's still wearing them.

MR. W: Ah, okay. All right.

COZINE: She got first dibs on those, but I drove up and I was in -- I remember Mario, Arkansas. I had this Dodge Wayfarer 1950 Dodge Wayfarer. It was the kind that if you lifted your foot off, it would automatically shift the transmission. It wasn't an automatic transmission, but it had --

MR. W: The fluid drive, but you had to take ---

COZINE: Exactly.

MR. W: It was kind of slow --

COZINE: So coming back there, there was a --

MR. W: Still had a clutch pedal, as I remember.

COZINE: Yeah. It had the clutch, had a clutch pedal on it, but it was Chrysler's --

MR. W: Wasn't fully automatic, but when you --

COZINE: Right. That fluid drive. It was quite a -- it was a good, dependable car and then coming back in Marion, Arkansas apparently I found out later it was like a speed trap. When times was slow the store keepers and all that would be deputized and they'd just see anything with a foreign plate on them, boom, you got a ticket. And they -- I got into that situation and a guy told me "Well," he said, "you were speeding," and I said, "No, I wasn't." Well, he took me to jail and a guy in there said -- he asked me if I had a cigarette and I said, "No." So he said "Whatever it is," he says, "don't plead not guilty." He says, "Because they'll keep you in here. " He says, "I've been in here three months and they're charging me a dollar a day for my car out in the parking lot." He says, "I don't know how I'll get out." So anyway, I went up to the judge. The judge was coming in on Tuesday and, and he said, "How do you plead, guilty or not guilty?" I said, "Well, sir." He said, "How do you plead?" And I said "Guilty." So he got my wallet, which they had taken away and he laid everything out, all the coins in my pocket and he threw a quarter at me, he says your fine is what's left here. He gave me a dime. He says you can make a phone call and I had to call my wife and she had to use the money that we had set aside to buy a baby crib down to me so I could get the rest of the way home and I drove twenty-nine straight hours. I remember waking up one time seeing the yellow lines on the Pennsylvania turnpike. One of the --

MR. W: That's not good.

COZINE: No, but I pulled over about an hour, but anyway, we got in there and it was, you know, got my job in construction and worked my way up. I finally got into sales. The reason I got into sales I went and answered an ad. There was no jobs and the fellow said, "Here's an interview, you know, you don't need any experience, we'll teach you everything." Are you running out of tape there? Okay. So anyway, he gave me an evaluation test and when he finished he said "No, our evaluation is you'll never be a salesman." So I went home to my wife and she said, "Well, how did you make out?" I said, "The guy says I'll never be a salesman." I said, "Well, I am going to be a salesman," and that's what I ended up with and that was my whole career, so then I sold years and years. I made as much as \$120,000 a year of straight commissions selling.

MR. W: I think you proved this guy wrong, didn't you?

COZINE: Yeah, I did.

MR. W: Good for you.

COZINE: I just was determined. I just, you know what it is, you've been in selling yourself. But we had all kinds of trips. We went all over the world with my wife. I won one trip to Denmark and she was 9 months pregnant and they wouldn't let her on the plane. So I sold two round trip tickets with all expenses paid for ten days for \$500 to somebody. They got a good deal.

MR. W: Good for you, Bill.

[End of Interview]