

**Wisconsin Veterans Museum  
Research Center**

Transcript of an

Oral History Interview with

CURT FAUST

Carpenter/Motor Pool, U.S. Air Force, Korean War

2012

OH  
1518

**OH  
1518**

**Faust, Curt.,** (b.1929). Oral History Interview, 2012.

Approximate length: 57minutes

*Contact WVM Research Center for access to original recording*

**Abstract:**

Curt Faust, originally from Cross Plains, Wisconsin, discusses his military service with the 51<sup>st</sup> Fighter Inceptor Wing, his deployment to Japan and South Korea during the Korean War, and his involvement with veteran's organizations. Faust describes his reasons for joining the Air Force and his time at bases in San Antonio, Texas; Cheyenne Wyoming; Panama City, Florida; and Montgomery, Alabama. He mentions racial tension among the soldiers during desegregation. Faust outlines his time spent on Okinawa, Japan; at Kimpo Air Base [Seoul, South Korea]; at Tsuiki and Itazuki, Japan; and Suwon, Korea. He gives anecdotes about typhoons, interactions with indigenous personnel, and his duties there. Faust describes his life after being discharged in 1952 including work life, marriage, and involvement with the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars [VFW], and the Korean War Veterans Association. He mentions working as a security guard in Madison during the Vietnam War and discusses reunions with the 51<sup>st</sup> Fighter Inceptor Wing.

**Biographical Sketch:**

Curt Faust (b.1929) joined the Air Force in 1948 and was deployed to Okinawa, Japan in February of 1949. He served overseas in Japan and Korea, including at Kimpo Air Base [Seoul], Tsuiki and Itazuki, Japan and in Suwon, Korea until he was discharged in February of 1952.

Interviewed by Sam Driscoll, 2012.

Transcribed by Linda Weynand, 2014.

Reviewed by Claire Steffen, 2015.

Abstract written by Claire Steffen, 2015.

## Interview Transcript:

Driscoll: You are Curt Faust; I am Sam Driscoll.

Faust: Okay, Sam.

Driscoll: It is February the 3rd, 2012 and we're interviewing you for your experiences in the Air Force during the Korean War.

Faust: Okay. I can handle that, sure.

Driscoll: That is all the preliminary, I think, that we need. So you can tell us anything you want to say about your experiences. Maybe it would be a good thing to start with just a few words about what you were doing before you entered the service and how you entered the service and why don't you just take it from there?

Faust: Well, I was born in Cross Plains in 1929; I don't know if that was important. But then when I was a senior in Middleton High School they were drafting. Did you know that: the drafting?

Driscoll: I was drafted, yes.

Faust: The Army. The Army come in there and I didn't want the Army; I wanted the Air Force cuz I was a big Air fan. I built a lot of airplanes out of model balsa wood, you know, and stuff like that. So I left the classroom there and I told the Army guy, "I'm going uptown and join the Air Force." He said, "Okay, you go ahead and do that." So I joined the Air Force in 1948. Then I went to San Antonio for Basic. Then after Basic they sent me to Cheyenne, Wyoming for several months there. Then in December of 1948 I got a break: they sent me to Panama City, Florida. So that was nice; they got nice weather down there. You have to sign up what kind of work you're familiar with, see. So my whole family were carpenters so I put down carpentry, you know, and painting. So I went through the carpentry training in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Then after three months there, it was good that in December it put me out of there. I was sent to Panama City, Florida. I went down there and they didn't pick up my carpentry. I got in the motor pool. [both chuckle] I loved that. So I was in the motor pool through the winter months down there and I got with--I was with two brothers from North Dakota. They were there, too, but--I'm going back up to Cheyenne--and then one guy from California and one guy from Louisiana; so the five of us got to be buddies. We went all over together. One nice thing about that, we went to Panama City, Florida together: us five guys. Then we spent time down there in the motor pool. Then they decided after that, about three months, they sent us up to Montgomery,

Alabama. Well, we had a car--we bought a car--because we were buddies and we chipped together and bought a car. So we drove up there. We had R&R [Rest and Recreation] and you know so we drove up there to Montgomery, Alabama. So there's a little place in Montgomery it's called Gunther. You ever heard of Gunther? It was a little, small--I don't know if it's used anymore--just south of the big Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery. Maxwell is a big place. We went to this little place-- Gunther--way off to the side down south; southwest of Montgomery. We spent a year there--a good, whole year. Right from a little after Christmas in December up until about the first of '49: the whole year of '49 there. Then one of my buddies fell in love with a girl there and us guys weren't going to let him get married. "No, no, you ain't getting married." [Driscoll laughs] So what he did--we didn't know that he was going to do this--but he did this on the sly: he signed us up for overseas duty so the four of us went overseas. He got rid of us. He got married and married an Alabama girl. [Driscoll laughs] He's from North Dakota. So his brother, Pete Taglin [sp?] went with us. So we went overseas at the end of '49. We went to Okinawa. They sent us to Okinawa. They call it The Rock, you know. Oh, jeez. You ever see Okinawa? I could tell you: exactly thirty miles long and fifteen miles wide, that's what it is. We come in in Buckner Bay. Well, we went to the West Coast and got on a ship, you know. They took us over on a ship. I said, "We're Air Force. Why aren't you flying us?" No, went by ship so that took a couple weeks to go over there. We got on Okinawa. Then I got a nice job there, too. I was in the motor pool and then we buzzed around there. We went to pick up officers and haul them around where they wanted to go and stuff like that. Then I got on the Air Force refueling line, driving refueling trucks. We had tents, you know, cuz the war was going on, you know. We didn't have barracks and have it nice; we had tents. We had pot-bellied stoves in there. I got pictures of it. I had a camera with me; I carried a camera everywhere I went, all over the United States and I got a huge book, big book that's full of pictures. It was nice to carry a camera. I got all that stuff and memorabilia; it was nice to have. So on Okinawa I drove a fueling truck and filled up the barrels around the guys' tents and kept that going. I was there when the Korean War broke out. So then they said, "Well, we're at war!" Right away they issued us weapons and stuff like that and put us on alert. We had to stand guard at the airplanes on the air strip and stuff like that through the night. Somebody said, "What the heck do you mean, we're at war? We're all right here." "Korea!" "Never heard of it; where's Korea?" [Driscoll chuckles] "Not far from here," they said. "Not far." It wasn't, neither, because South Korea is not far from Japan. So it was about a month and half or something like that, they shipped us over there by ship again. They said we're coming into Pusan, you know, southern part of South Korea. No, I take that back. We went up to Inchon, Inchon. Pusan is way south. Inchon is up on the left side.

Driscoll: Right next to Seoul, yes.

Faust: Not far from Seoul, yeah: Inchon. Got out there and they buzz us up there by vehicle up into the Air Base at Seoul. It was in Seoul. So I spent a lot of time at Seoul. I bet it was a crappy picking whole year of 1950. Yeah, '50. I got there in February of '50, if I remember right. Yeah, February of '50. We were fifteen miles from the North--the 38th Parallel--the North Korean border, there. So we had to keep supplies. There was different soldiers from different countries. Did you know there was twenty-two different countries involved in the Korean War? You know that?

Driscoll: Yeah.

Faust: That was the right number, right?

Driscoll: Well, I'm not sure on the number but I know there were a bunch of them.

Faust: Yeah. We talked to a lot of different--.

Driscoll: There were a lot of nations.

Faust: Yeah, they really come in there and helped out. I talked to a lot of different Australian guys and other different foreigners, you know.

Driscoll: Greece.

Faust: Yeah, Greece and, oh, I don't know how many. I can't name them all but I remember visiting with these Australian guys. They were fun to talk with and they were ready to fight. They said, "We want to fight, fight, fight." I said, "Well, that is good. I'm glad I'm Air Force. You Marines and Army guys do that. We'll make a path for you and clean it up for you."

Driscoll: Right behind you. [both laugh]

Faust: Yeah, right behind you. Then we spent the whole year of '50 there. Then it was time for my time of service coming up to get discharged. I had three months left to go before I was ready to get discharged. So I got called in to headquarters and I said, "Oh, I'm getting my paper to go home, huh?" "No. Harry S. Truman did an honor, he extended ya another year. Well you're gonna stay there". So I had to stay again. So I spent two years. Of my four years I spent two years from 1952--February '52--stayed at Seoul. Wait a minute; I got to first back up a little bit. When we first got there, you know, I found out we didn't have enough power--military personnel--over there. Those Koreans were coming down just by flocks, just thousands and thousands of them, to push us out. They pushed us out. We got shoved out of there, all the way down. We had to go back over to Japan and gather

and get together again and push them back up. Did you know that happened?

Driscoll: I was there.

Faust: Oh, you were there?

Driscoll: I was there.

Faust: Well, you remember that?

Driscoll: Very clearly! [laughs]

Faust: Very clearly? Well, we got out of there.

Driscoll: Incidentally, while it's on my mind: if it were not for the Air Force we would never have stayed on that peninsula.

Faust: Oh, yeah?

Driscoll: You guys gave us full air support and if it had not been for that we would never have been able to hold that. You guys--we were glad to see you come.

Faust: They come in with napalm, too. Remember napalm?

Driscoll: Yup, yup.

Faust: That cleaned a lot of them out, didn't it? Well, anyway, they all left and they left--they were going on so fast, they were coming so fast, that everybody left. And they left twenty-five guys behind to destroy everything on that air base because we didn't have time to take it out of there. I was one of the twenty-five guys left behind because I had equipment there that I was running, you know. So we stayed there and we blew everything up and got it all out of there and that. We had a C-47, you know, stashed there.

Driscoll: Yup.

Faust: They were so damn old from World War II you'd barely see them together. Well, we got that all done. It was time to go; we got on that. They left two fighter planes behind for protection for us, you know. So we got on the plane ready to go--twenty-five guys--and one engine wouldn't go. We'd get one running, couldn't get the other engine started. We're looking around, looking out—oh, holy crapes! They were getting close; we could see the son-of-a-guns. So the jets had to get doing and get to work

and do something. I said—nobody else—I run up by the pilots and I says, "Can you taxi this thing with one engine?" "Yeah, we can taxi." Well, there's Highway 1," you know, right down the middle of South Korea--right down the middle. "Let's go. Start taxiing down cuz we ain't going to do nothing here." Our carbine was 30 rounds; it was a joke. "Get it going; let's go." So he started going. He thought that was a good idea; let's go, let's get out of here cuz otherwise we're dead ducks. Well, he started going down there. Before he got to the end of the strip to go over to Highway 1 the jets got up in the air and started pulling them back a little bit. We got them F-86 Sabre jets but before that we had them T33s or F80s. Remember them?

Driscoll: Yup.

Faust: Well, they couldn't compete with the MiG-15s that the Russians had. But when we got them F-86 jets--we got a hundred of them at one time. Oh boy, was that a beautiful picture to see them come in. Stand at four abreast and they landed. But we got out of there; he got that engine going and we got out of there. We went to Japan. So I was on Japan for a long time. That was a nice country, Japan. I had a good time over there. That's Tsuiki: Tsuiki, Japan and Itazuki, South Japan. So I did a lot of stuff there. There was a lot of stuff. That country of Tsuiki was a nice little town. There was a lot of Japanese people: small place, small town. They had a few theaters there. So we come in there to rebuild that airbase and rebuild that hangar and that and put new glass in the windows of the hangar and repair and all that stuff. I had the Japanese--I called them gooks, you know, [chuckles], right?

Driscoll: Yeah.

Faust: Well, in Korea I called them gooks and when we got to Japan I was so used to that called them gooks too and they didn't like that. They said, "No, Boy-san," you know. I said, "Okay." They helped us repair it and put that air base back together in southern Japan at Tsuiki and did all that there and that. Then, in Korea, when they got them pushed back up in Korea we come back up. We went into Suwon. Ever hear of Suwon?

Driscoll: Oh, yeah.

Faust: About half way up. So we went to Suwon and spent time there and stayed there until it was time to go home. I was just back in the refueling and stuff like that. The pilots--we had tents and so I was in carpentry work so I found some pieces of plywood. You know, we had no bars or nothing to drink, you know, so everybody was thirsty for something to drink. You know how that goes. So I got some plywood and I put a plywood floor over the mud in their tents. Boy, the pilots liked that and they thought,

"Well, we gotta take care of you guys." Once in a while they'd take a flight to Japan. They'd come back from Japan with some drinking stuff for us. That went real good. [Driscoll laughs] But oh, god, we had some scares. We seen a lot of airplanes--a guy could come back, the airplane could come back shot up, you know. We seen a couple crash land. The Army and the Marines had big mounds along the edges of the strips, you know, for protection--to keep the enemy away from our air strip. That's the only protection we had because we were Air Force; we weren't Army and Marines, you know. We had to take care of the flight line. I was refueling those planes when they come in. These pilots would bring us some drinking stuff come back from Japan to help us, you know, feel good [laughs] and stuff like that. [both laugh] But it was quite an experience being in that Korean War, you know. At nineteen years old, right out of high school, and twenty, twenty-one--I spent four years in the Air Force. We did our thing. I don't know, it was really some experience for being a young person. Fixing up all these tents and getting acquainted with all these pilots; it was nice. They weren't just doing it; they were just like another person with us. Spending all that time in Korea. But that was a close call there when we got that--I thought that was the end. "We're going to get killed right here," when we couldn't get that C-47 going. That was scary. I thought, "Well, this is going to be it." I took a lot of pictures. Then on Japan: got around Japan a lot fixing up and rebuilding that air base over at Tsuiki. The Japanese people were really nice. I was wondering when I got to Japan--what was in my mind--I was thinking this was five years later, another war, "Do the Japanese people like the American people yet?" But they do. It was a different group of people that weren't involved and so they liked the American GI. I was glad of that because I was wondering if they weren't going to like us or not. I spent a lot of time in Japan until they got the enemy pushed back up at Suwon and then I ended up at Suwon, like I said. I got out of there--I was in Korea from February, '50 until February, '52 over there at war time. So I had two years of back and forth, well, mostly in Korea, not much in Japan, being in the war two years. Then I got out and I got home. I got my orders to go home and back to the U.S. in February, '52. And they flew in-- our replacements flew in by airplane and they put us on a ship. [Driscoll chuckles] So to go home we had two weeks on a damn ship to go back to San Francisco, you know. I thought, "What the heck is this? We're Air Force. You fly our replacements in and you put us on a ship. That's not fair, huh?" But being in the war at a young age it really was scary. You know how it is, too, don't you? How'd you feel about it?

Driscoll: I was scared. Anybody in war who tells you it's not scary is either lying or is nuts.

Faust: Mmm-hmmm. I got an older brother who was a Marine. He was in World War II. He was on Iwo Jima. He was Marines. Anyway, at his age--he's



seven years older than me--he was on Iwo Jima. He says to me when he come home and then we were both home and living at home with our parents yet. But boy, he got married, you know, before I got married. We were still at home. And my younger brother--I got another brother--he was in the Vietnam War. So it was three of us. Out of eight kids in the family--three boys and five girls--we were all in different wars. He was in World War II, I was in the Korean War, and my brother was in Vietnam. We all survived it. But he, he thought, "Well, there's no other war with you. You're just over there with pop-guns. It wasn't a real war." I said, "What do you mean? They weren't shooting BB guns. What are you talking so screwy?" A gung-ho Marine, you know. I thought, "Well, that don't make sense." [both chuckle] Huh? But that is some of the experience of being in the war. I had other plans when I graduated from Middleton High School but service took care of that. But then I got out of high school. Do you want me to tell you about what I did after that?

Driscoll: Sure.

Faust: I got out of the service in February of '52. From '48-'52: I spent four years. Then I come back. I was living in Cross Plains at the time but now I'm a Waunakee resident. Then I started painting; I become a painter. At that time there were building homes and everything had to be painted. The outside was wood, not like vinyl now, vinyl. Everything was wood. So I worked with a paint contractor from Madison. It was called Statz and Harrop; I don't know if you ever heard of them. They had a business on University Avenue over there by House of Pancakes, there. I painted with them. Then I thought there's no career here; there's not much of a retirement being a painter. I got a friend that was a Dane County police officer. He married a cousin of mine and we were buddies. We were classmates in high school. So he become a Dane County police officer up off the Square. Across the street from the City-County Building was the post office. So I went up to talk to him. He said, "I can get you a job. They're gonna need a guy at the post office for security guard." So I got the job as security guard cuz at the time--you remember the bombing? David Fine and Armstrong killed the person at the bombing at the university?

Driscoll: Yeah.

Faust: Okay. I was a security guard. I got the security job then. So that was great. There was seven of us. We had around the clock duty. I liked that job. We had to carry live weapons, ammo. I had the night shift from four in the afternoon until eleven or midnight, something like that. That went on for a long time, a good year or more. Then the Posse Comitatus, they were going to come and try to rescue David Fine and Armstrong from jail. You ever heard of the Posse Comitatus?

Driscoll: Oh, yeah.

Faust: So there was seven of us security guards and then there were the county police officers. Between there, that was Wisconsin Avenue--I think it was; I think it is.

Driscoll: I'm not sure.

Faust: Up by the Square, there: they were going to come down. We were going to have a--I thought we were going to have a shoot-out. They thought they were going to come and rescue them but too many for them. It didn't work for them; they were outnumbered. We kind of backed them off. Boy, oh boy. Then the sit-in--oh, protesters had something to do with that. A whole group of people--they had a group of people in the state here--they had filled the post office lobby. People sat down and sat in there. Then people couldn't come in and mail stuff or use the post office and pick up the mail and that. So I said to the officer in charge of us other security guards, "We're going to get 'em out of here. Get 'em out of here. These people out there got a right to use the post office." "No, no. We don't want to start any trouble." He didn't have any guts; he was gutless. I said, "Come on, what's the matter with you?" "Well, we might start something, might be some shooting or something like that going on." I said, "We don't have to. We can just shove 'em out of here, get 'em out of here; use our clubs and get 'em out of here." They had no right to do that. But we didn't do it. It took a while before they finally got them out of there and got that cleared up. But then after that, as security guard I spent quite a while with that. But then they said, after that all settled down and that then they started doing away with security guards. Judge Doyle--what was his first name? Anyway, Doyle was the judge on the second or third floor. We had to stand guard there when there was trials going on. We had to protect him so we were guards on that. And his brother become--I got to know both of them. His brother took over after--like I say, I can't remember his name--but there was two Doyles. Then when he got out of office his brother stepped in in his place so I got to talk to the other, the original first Judge Doyle. I had a nice talk with him and he was a pretty nice guy for a federal judge, you know. After that all was over with--I got out of the service like I said and went with a paint company and painted homes and stuff like that: '52. Then I met a girl. A lot of us guys would go to Sauk City, to Riverview Ballroom, every Saturday night and dance. We'd go by ourself and then we'd meet girls there cuz we knew girls would be coming from all over. [chuckles] So we danced with all these girls, and pick one--who you wanted to dance with, you know. So me being from Cross Plains I met this girl, which is my wife now, Dorothy Reisen [sp?] from Mazomanie. So we took a liking to each other, you know. I didn't have a car; I went with a guy that had a car, a buddy. One of my good buddies

that had a bar in Cross Plains; his name was Tubby Kelter. So Tubby and I would go to the dance. He didn't pick up a girl. I picked up this girl that I married now. I said, "Want to take her home? I want to take her home to Mazo from Sauk City." "Well, I'm game." So we sat in the back seat and he drove. [both laugh] He didn't have a girl; he didn't take a girl. I don't know if he cared or not. We'd take her home. I said well then I'd take her up to the door, a screen porch there by her mother. Her dad died; she didn't get to know her dad. He got killed on a job. He was in carpentry and he fell off a roof and it killed him when she was a young kid. See, she didn't get to know him. But her mother--she had a nice mother; her mother and I got along good. So I took her home and then we started dating. Then I finally got a car. We dated a lot and went a lot to Sauk City. We were doing that for a little over a year before we finally got married. Then we decided to get married because we cared a lot for each other.

Driscoll: Ah, good.

Faust: Then we got four children. It was about five years before our family started coming. So we got three girls and one boy. Living in Waunakee. Moved to Waunakee because two other people moved to Waunakee that we wanted to--well, they said, "Come on to Waunakee." Well, Waunakee's a good town. I like Waunakee. Lot more going on in Waunakee than there was in Cross Plains. I'm still glad I didn't stay in Cross Plains cuz when I get to Cross Plains it seems like a dead town pretty much. It ain't.

Driscoll: Back to your Air Force service: when you were in Okinawa, what was your best and worst recollections of being in Okinawa?

Faust: I didn't like the place at all because it looked like--they call it The Rock, you know. There was just not much going on. The Okinawan people--I didn't get a girlfriend there, you know; didn't do much with them. We'd talk with them and that. There was no place to go dance or anything like that. We took a tour up to the north end of the island to Kadena. Naha was the southern part of Okinawa. Then way up in the northern end of Okinawa--thirty miles up the road--there was the Kadena Air Base. So we took a bus tour. Somebody got it together and we took a tour and went up to Kadena Air Base up there. We took sack lunches along and stuff like that. Looked that over just to do something. Then there was--they had all these here yet what they called bunkers--big mounds of dirt during World War II where they'd go in there and hide for protection.

Driscoll: Bunker would be a good name, yeah.

Faust: Yeah, they were still there, bunkers. They weren't using them anymore but they were all still there. Took a tour, looked the island of Okinawa over

and I thought, "Oh, I hope I don't stay here long." [Driscoll chuckles] I was going to be there eighteen months! So I say it's a good thing something happened to get off of that. Eighteen months for a tour! I said, "I don't know if I can take eighteen months on Okinawa." Jeez. After a couple of months we were all sick of it already. Well, so then war broke out, you know, and we then got over there quick and ended up in the Korean War. Oh, Japan was a great country when I got there; seen a lot of Japan. We toured around Japan. Of course I got a steady girlfriend in Japan. You didn't have to stay on the air base. We could stay in with the girls and they had nice little places, you know. So we got a steady girlfriend. [both chuckle] I got a picture of her. I got her in my folder book at home. Glad I got all these pictures. I got pictures everywhere I've been. Oh, I've got a book that's--it's an Air Force book. It's this wide, that long there, and about that thick.

Driscoll: Incidentally, if you would want to contribute any of those pictures to the museum I'm sure they'd be glad to get them.

Faust: Oh, yeah?

Driscoll: That's just a thought.

Faust: I don't know if I did some or not. I gave them something on a glass panel down here. I don't know if it's still there. Is that Korean flag up down there?

Driscoll: I think it is.

Faust: I was in here a few times a while back. It's been a long time. I wanted to see if my flag was up. I contributed a huge flag: Korean flag. You know what it looks like?

Driscoll: Yeah.

Faust: And it wasn't up. I said, "Come on, somebody put that flag up." I went in the wrong door. I went in that door but I didn't get to look and see if it's there. Between you and me, now, if it ain't up I don't know where it is. I think they have a place to put that flag up. I'm pretty sure they can put it on a wall because I said, "You got a lot of stuff here from Vietnam. You got a lot of stuff there. But you ain't doing much for the Korean War veterans," which I didn't like.

Driscoll: Yeah, I agree.

Faust: So, I don't know. We'll see once.

Driscoll: If it's there; we can look.

Faust: See them and get that flag up. They should have a place to hang that.

Driscoll: Oh, sure, they should have. Well, they have one section set aside for the Korean War.

Faust: Maybe it's changed then; maybe it's changed, huh?

Driscoll: I've not been in there for some time so I don't know.

Faust: Me either. It's been a long time.

Driscoll: Well, we can check when we go downstairs.

Faust: Now, on Okinawa again: well, there were different people there. They didn't seem--we had, oh yeah, a Colonel in charge of our, well, it was the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing I was in. It started at Naha Air Base. 51st Group: that's what the name of the air strip group was--the 51st. Now, after that and we got home, we have a reunion every year: 51st Fighter Interceptor. We got a heck of a group. We got a lot of guys. So each year it's up to each individual in their own home state to put on a reunion. So we've been at many different cities throughout the United States. I put one on in 19--, what year was that? In '07, something like that, in Middleton, it's called, west Madison. Middleton and Madison come together there--Greenway Cross--at the Marriott Hotel.

Driscoll: Oh, yeah, sure.

Faust: Everybody get rooms reserved for the guys coming and I sent out all the literature and I had to get memorabilia stuff together and send it to all to all the guys. And then together a whole day, Saturday, of entertainment. Where do we go? Take them, on the day. We got them all in; we had a nice turnout. They all got their rooms and showed up. Then we had our meetings, you know. Saturday night we'd have a banquet. We went up to the Wisconsin Dells and took them on a Dells boat ride and we got to see a lot of stuff. Oh, that was really neat. Spent the whole day and we had a nice meal on the boat; treated them good there and had that set up. They all had a nice dinner. Two level boat: up on top and then down in there. I seen a lot up on the Upper Dells than the Lower Dells. The Upper Dells was the best deal. Then took them in town and let them--we had to get a couple of Badger busses, two Badger busses. Had to line up that to get the Badger Bus to come by the hotel and everybody would load up and go up there and spend the day. We had a good kitty. We had officers. The 51st Fighter Group: we went all over the United States and different individuals had different groups every year. So it started getting where

everybody was running out of personnel. Just recently I got something at home not long ago; I got a letter from a guy in Indianapolis, Indiana. He said, "We know we're running out of people and running out of reunions." But he wants to do another reunion. It's always in September; we always had it in September. So this coming September we're going to have a reunion at Indianapolis; he's going to do another one a second time. He wants to kind of keep it going again: who can come, who can come, who can't. So got stuff in the mail recently and we're going to get more.

Driscoll: Well, great.

Faust: They're going to let us know again what hotel he's got. We don't have to get it yet. What hotel and rooms and then you send in your money and get your reservation. So we'll get back to it one more time. I think we'll do it one more time.

Driscoll: Back to Korea: you mentioned spending quite a bit of time in Suwon, Suwon, Korea.

Faust: Yeah.

Driscoll: Is that one of the larger based in Korea?

Faust: Well, Seoul was.

Driscoll: Seoul was.

Faust: Seoul and then Suwon. There's Taegu, also, but Suwon was big. Oh, yeah.

Driscoll: Was that a fighter base?

Faust: Kimpo Air Base, Seoul. Kimpo, Kimpo, like, north of Seoul close to the 38th. Then you come down and Suwon was a big one because we had a lot of personnel. Then Taegu was not, I don't think, was a big as Suwon.

Driscoll: I think you're right. But Suwon: was that bomber base, fighter base, little bit of everything?

Faust: Little bit of everything, yeah. Because they had some of those old WWII bombers yet, you know. Yeah, they'd use them until--what they'd get now after that? I don't remember what come up after that. I was out of there before they got the big new bombers in. Well, we got the F-86 Sabre jets; them were nice. But they got faster ones now. You ever see the F-22 Raptor?

Driscoll: I'm not familiar with it. I've heard of it, but I'm not familiar with it.

Faust: Well, we was at a reunion in Atlanta, Georgia; that's where they make them. At our reunion in Atlanta, Georgia, that's where they make the Raptors. They took us on a tour to watch them make them Raptors. But they didn't continue them. They just couldn't keep it up, but boy, that was such a fast plane. Oh. But see, they didn't pursue that. I don't know why they cut that off. Then they come up with—what'd come after that, the 86? I don't know; I was out of there then. I didn't keep up with it.

Driscoll: What kind of duties did you have in Suwon?

Faust: Suwon: I was in carpentry and then I was a refueler. Refueler oil truck; I drove an oil truck. Most of the time I got off of the carpentry and at Suwon I was refueling truck. Then I got up to refueling the air planes, too. I got a step up and I enjoyed that: the open cab refueling truck. I got pictures of it. I had three guys would ride with me and do the work: the gooks. [both chuckle] They did the work; I just drove the truck. They were my chief honchos, you know. [Driscoll chuckles] They did that; three guys did that.

Driscoll: Officially, they were not gooks. They were indigenous personnel. [chuckles]

Faust: Oh, okay, well, we used the other word. [chuckles]

Driscoll: Well, I'm sure we did too. [chuckles]

Faust: That was quite an experience, you know, after being a young guy. You know how it is. You get going. You didn't expect to go to war, you know, and things like that. I don't know, in a way it was a good experience for a person. You think back--it was something good in your life, too, right?

Driscoll: Yup, yup.

Faust: I'm sorry the war had to happen but it kind of changed a person's life, too. I don't know what would have been all involved if I didn't have four years in the service, if I didn't go to war. It was quite an experience. Once in a while it comes--like now we have our reunions and we still get together, got a regular organization: officers. There's a KWVA, too, in Madison: Korean War Veterans Association. You ever hear of that?

Driscoll: No.

Faust: We got a group there, too, and get together every so often, too. A separate group--not attached to my 51st Group. Korean War Veterans Association.

Driscoll: Is that anybody that served in Korea regardless of Army, Navy, Marines?

Faust: Yeah.

Driscoll: Anybody, huh? Okay.

Faust: Sure. KWVA. I can't think of the guy's name that heads it up. But anyway we have a get together once a year, too. A gathering, you know, over at-- we pick a place to do it usually at a VFW club. We go to 7591 on Cottage Grove Road, 8483 up on the hill by the airport. You heard of 8483 and 7591? That's where we usually get together: mostly at 7591 on Cottage Grove Road. That's the VFW club there. That's where we have our get-together. That's once a year; been doing that many years. That's good there's still a bunch of guys around yet, you know, Korean War veterans.

Driscoll: Well, okay.

Faust: Okay, was I?

Driscoll: Very good, you did very good. Any last thoughts?

Faust: First when I got back we did get a chance to go to high school schools and talk to kids at schools. I did that. I was in Cross Plains at the time when that happened. There was Prairie School on Airport Road. I don't know if you've heard of it, going to Airport Road, the back way to Middleton. It's not the Highway 14 to Cross Plains.

Driscoll: Yeah, I think I have a grandson who went to school there.

Faust: Prairie View. Went over there and we gave a talk there, some of us veterans. And we did in Cross Plains, talked to the kids. That was interesting. They just sit here, listening, you know. I built model airplanes. I got model airplanes hanging all over my ceiling. I got some at O'Malley Restaurant; I'd hang some there when O'Malley was there yet but he's out of there now. And I got some hanging in our legion hall in Cross Plains. I belong to the Cross Plains Legion because I was born and raised there and sixty years as a member. I belong to the VFW organization in Waunakee and I hung some up above the bar in Waunakee. I built everything that Guillow's Company made and hang them up by fine fishing line string and hang them up. Oh, I had fun building them, them little fine pieces of balsa wood and then you coat them with paper and you do a little piece at a time and glue it on. Then painted them all and put the wheels on them and propellers and made all by hand. Oh, I built so many and I got them hanging all around. Up in 8483, I hung a few of them up there. I don't know if they're still there, if they still got them or not; I never get up there.



7591. But that was fun doing that. Okinawa--well, if you want to know about Okinawa.

Driscoll: Sure.

Faust: Well, I don't know. Oh yeah, I heard from others a while back this was that they said, "You ought to see it now." It's really fixed up nice and built up good and they got rid of all these--. Oh, typhoons. You ever been in a typhoon?

Driscoll: No, never have.

Faust: Oh. Well, the wind got up 170, 175 miles an hour. We had Quonset huts, the service guys. The gooks had little old shacks, you know. So they knew two weeks ahead of time that a typhoon was coming. That was one of the worst typhoons. So I was in charge of a--we had quarter-inch cable over our Quonset huts to hold it down for these storms, but there was a big one coming. They said one of the worst ones coming at the time when I had to be there at the time. So I got these foreigners, these Okinawan guys, dig holes and put in another half-inch cable over that with the other to hold the Quonset huts down. The storm was coming. So we dug big holes and put cement in there and the cable and really anchored them down. Then we got that all done and here comes the storm. We spent three days and three nights in there. It was coming; it was just blowing and boy, our places stayed together but it was scary. Oh, my god I can remember that. Good thing we put extra cable on and anchored them down and went pretty deep. Lot of those poor Okinawans' huts blew away but we said, you know, "You ain't going to stay in your huts; you come in here with us. Stay with us." But you know, at the time, too, I want to tell you--in the early '40s, even in '48 when I was down in Montgomery, the black and the white didn't get together. That was terrible. The Southern people didn't like us guys from the North. They could tell us when we talked, you know, we were from the North. "You damn Yankees," you know. We got in fights, regular fist fights. I says, "You Southern people: no wonder you never won a war. You're so damn stupid. You're too prejudiced." We leave them alone; we leave the black guy alone. We didn't have no problem with them. But they--well, we got in regular fights right in our own barracks! I said, "You guys, we're in the same service together. Get off of it." And we walk downtown in Montgomery and with some of my friends were Southern guys. I happened to get together with them; we got to like each other and that. And they come up to a black guy and said, "Get off the--get out of the way, nigger!" I said, "You don't talk that way. Leave them alone. Cut that out. What's the matter with you Southern people?" They were terrible. They just hated the black. Then our commanding officer, Colonel--I can't remember his name--but he got threatened cuz they found out he was a Yankee and they wanted to get him

out of there. But, you know, down in Montgomery they had compounds. They had barbed wire, you know, a wood and wire fence around there and that's where the black were. So who was it? Was it Truman or someone? I think he was the president that decided the integration; you know, integrate and give the black their freedom.

Driscoll: It was probably either Truman or Eisenhower.

Faust: Truman, I believe it was.

Driscoll: Truman probably, yeah.

Faust: And I was on the group to take them fences down and bring them in--bring the black in to integrate with the white. So they come in our NCO [Non-commissioned Officer] Club and started dancing with our girlfriends, our white girlfriends and that. They thought they had the right, just the same right as the white people did and we had oh, we had stabbings and stuff going on there. That was a mess. That went on for a while.

Driscoll: Now, what year would that have been?

Faust: '49.

Driscoll: '49.

Faust: Yup, '49 in Montgomery. Oh my god was that a mess. I was lucky. I just got away. I got out of there. I wasn't going to tangle them. The whole year.

Driscoll: I spent some time in Alabama and Georgia so I know what you're talking about.

Faust: Well, they finally got over that, I think. They had to. But they just took over; they thought they could go anywhere they want. And then some of these--we had a lot of WII guys there just sitting around and waiting for discharge and doing nothing. They had no duty. In our Quonset hut they put a wall. You could walk from one end to the other--all the way through, you know. Go in on the side and walk through. Well, these old WII guys--white guys again--they put a wall in between there and said, "You blacks are not coming through here." They had-- they let them get away--; they had power, they had authority, these white, big time sergeants, you know. So they said, "You come in here," calling me. "You come over on this side; you ain't going to--." I said, "Doesn't bother me. I ain't having no trouble with them." "Oh no, the niggers ain't coming through here. We're keeping them on that end." Oh Jesus. [both chuckle] "Okay, okay. I ain't

going to argue with you guys. I'll go along with that." [chuckles] I tell you that was quite an experience. How much time did you spend on Okinawa?

Driscoll: Oh, I wasn't--no, I wasn't over on Okinawa. I was in Korea, but not Okinawa.

Faust: In Korea: where were you at in Korea?

Driscoll: From Pusan all the way to within seventy-files of the Yalu and from the east coast to the west coast. We went all over the damn place.

Faust: One of my hometown buddies--he was a cousin of mine, too--he was down at Pusan. I went down and looked him up. I went on R&R. You know, we could take an R&R. Could you take one, too?

Driscoll: The reason I was in Pusan was I got hit with some shrapnel and I went back to the hospital.

Faust: Oh boy.

Driscoll: It wasn't R&R. [chuckles]

Faust: We got to take an R&R cuz spent a lot of time in there and then they started to come up with the R&R, you know, and so we could go to Japan. But then I stopped off at Pusan, looked up my buddy, and spent some time with him. Then when I come back--a lot of the guys just go back in and go on their duty. I signed up for R&R right away: every six weeks. Every six weeks I was gone. Every six weeks I'd go on R&R for a week.

Driscoll: Did they fly you over there?

Faust: No, no; took a boat--wouldn't fly. Oh no, wait a minute, I take that back. Yeah--when we got there--I take that back. A cargo plane: if you could get in on a cargo plane and sit in there amongst all the other stuff. It wasn't comfortable but that's the way we got to Japan. Yeah, and then come back on a cargo plane, not no ship.

Driscoll: Well, okay, any last thoughts?

Faust: That was pretty good?

Driscoll: That was good. That was good.

Faust: Yeah, it was a good experience. I ain't saying I'm glad--I ain't glad when any war started out--but I tell you. I talked--it's nice we have our group and get together yet and that, still. Talk over old times and old buddies get

together and some of them passed away. We do now a meeting with the VFW and the Legion. I'm a chaplain now for the VFW. I was a chaplain; I had twenty-one years as chaplain at the Cross Plains Legion post and do military funerals. I'm still involved in a lot of military funerals; in Cross Plains I am and in Waunakee. So I got double jeopardy. [both chuckle] Belong to two different organizations. I can't belong to the Waunakee Legion. I'm not a member there; can't be. Like I say, I joined the American Legion in 1950; my brother seen to that I joined it before I went overseas. I was ready to go overseas, you know, in '50 so I signed up there. So I got sixty-one years now; I got the membership card.

Driscoll: Wow.

Faust: Sixty-one years in the American Legion. And the VFW: I wonder when they organized in Waunakee. Well, I would say since they organized in Waunakee. It's been a lot of years already now and I'm chaplain there, now. So I'm just a member in Cross Plains. But we have our meetings once a month--each of them.

Driscoll: I don't know whether your cousin Gordy is a member of the Waunakee--

Faust: Yeah, he's the Waunakee Legion.

Driscoll: Legion, yeah.

Faust: And the VFW. We just had our meeting last night, the VFW. So we do a lot of good there. We do stuff for community, you know, and help out in a lot of ways. Like you say, the right way a veteran should be buried with the right rights, you know: military rights. And we get a firing squad. We all get a firing squad and that. And I help out with the ceremonies, you know, and present the flag and do that. It's an honor to do that, you know.

Driscoll: Yeah, you bet, you bet.

Faust: And the people all appreciate that. Then after that they go on and have a dinner somewhere--at the Legion Hall--they have a nice dinner for all the people that were there and for the veterans. So we continue to do that. How was that? Okay?

Driscoll: You did very good, very good.

Faust: Well, thank you. It's an honor to do this. It's an honor to do this.

Driscoll: I had one form here I have to ask you to sign. This is a statement of release of rights for the recording of this: a formality.

Faust: Oh, I see. I ain't going to go to jail for it, am I? [both laugh]

Driscoll: I certainly hope not.

Faust: Down--oh, here, yeah. Want me to print it too, huh?

Driscoll: Yeah. Not quite sure why, but they ask you do.

[Forty-five seconds of silence 55:04- 55:49]

Faust: What's the date?

Driscoll: The third.

Faust: February--oh, yeah. Is there anything else down below? No?

Driscoll: No, somebody else signs that. Okay, Curt, thank you very much.

Faust: Nice to meet you.

Driscoll: You did a good job.

Faust: You're name is what?

Driscoll: Sam. Sam Driscoll.

Faust: Sam. Pleased to meet you, Sam. I'm glad I could help.

Driscoll: Okay. Glad to have you.

Faust: Okay.

Driscoll: Would you like a copy of this interview, this tape?

Faust: Oh, could I?

Driscoll: I'm not quite sure when but yeah, we'll report that you want a copy of it and we'll see if we can't get them to send you a copy.

Faust: Oh, that'd be nice because it goes with my memorabilia stuff. I'll put it in my photo book and keep it. Oh, yeah.

Driscoll: Well, let's go up and see--Anything else that you want to do while you're here in the museum?

[Voices become inaudible as both walk away]

[End of tape]