

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center

Transcript of an
Oral History Interview with
STANLEY E. REINHOLTZ
Budget and Fiscal Specialist, Army, Korean War

2006

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Reinholtz, Stanley E. (1930-2010). Oral History Interview, 2006.

User Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 38 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 38 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Transcript: 0.1 linear ft. (1 folder)

Abstract:

Reinholtz, a Madison, Wisconsin native, discusses his service as a budget and fiscal specialist in the Army during the Korean War. Reinholtz touches upon his education; he graduated from Madison East High School in 1948 and the University of Wisconsin in 1952 with a bachelor's in business administration. Reinholtz states he was drafted into the Army in October 1952. He briefly covers his basic training at Fort Knox (Kentucky) and his advanced training at Fort Benjamin Harrison Finance School (Indiana) as a budget and fiscal specialist. Reinholtz implies his college education led to his MOS in the Army. Next, Reinholtz was stationed briefly at Camp Atterbury (Indiana) before he was shipped overseas in December 1953. He recalls none of the troops knew whether they had been assigned to Japan or Korea. Reinholtz states he was among a lucky group of 300 soldiers based in Japan. Reinholtz remembers that the Red Cross provided the troops with games and Coca-Cola because they arrived in Yokohama (Japan) during New Year's. Next, Reinholtz was assigned to Camp Otsu near Kyoto (Japan). He describes at length his duties as budget and fiscal specialist, which involved balancing the Army's payroll, sending out W-2s, and auditing supply posts. Reinholtz comments that although he was only a corporal, he and his audit team were treated well by the posts they visited; they were given quality lodging, good meals, and private cars. Reinholtz shares his method of doing inventory, which involved going over his report with the commanding colonel before he submitted it to his superiors. He comments that this method earned praise from his superiors and proved effective in his civilian career as an accountant as well. Reinholtz also touches upon the chain of command, explaining it was difficult to stand up to angry colonels he was auditing but that he knew his superiors in the budget and finance office would "back him up." In addition, Reinholtz discusses tourism and travels in Southern Japan in 1954. He visited Kyoto, Sasebo, and Tokyo as well as smaller villages, traveling on the weekends. He describes learning to like Japanese food and discusses in detail the difference between cold and hot sake. Reinholtz addresses interactions with Japanese civilians and mentions that prostitution was commonplace. He also discusses occupational currency, special paper money issued by the Army in lieu of U.S. greenbacks. The Army would "call in" all occupational currency once a month and reissue bills in a new color to prevent counterfeiting and keep U.S. greenbacks off the black market. Reinholtz recalls missing one of these call-ins after a payday and being stuck with \$90 cash that was worthless because it was the wrong color. In October 1954, Reinholtz's term of service expired. He states he turned down an offer to return to Japan as a civilian employee because he had been offered a job as an accountant in Milwaukee. After the war, Reinholtz got married and had a long career as a CPA with several firms in Milwaukee and Madison.

Throughout his life, he maintained a love of sake and an interest in cultivating bonsai trees, joining a Bonsai Club in Madison.

Biographical Sketch:

Stanley “Stan” Reinholtz (1930-2010) was born in Madison, Wisconsin and graduated from Madison East High School in 1948. He earned a B.A. in business administration from the University of Wisconsin before he was drafted into the Army in 1952 during the Korean War. Reinholtz attended Fort Benjamin Harrison Finance School (Indiana) and became one of only fifty budget and fiscal specialists in Japan during the war. He served at Camp Otsu, Japan from December 1953 until October 1954. Shortly after his homecoming, Reinholtz met his future wife; they were married a year later. He had a long career as a CPA, working first at Arthur Anderson in Milwaukee (Wisconsin) and later in Madison with White, Reinholtz, & Pfefferkorn. Reinholtz briefly retired from Ernst & Young but was convinced by local clients to keep working for Hought. Eventually, Reinholtz retired from RSM McGladrey due to health problems. His time in Japan led to a lifelong appreciation for sake, Japanese food, and bonsai trees.

Interviewed by John Weingandt, 2006

Transcribed by Cheryl Hoover, 2007.

Transcription edited and abstract written by Darcy I. Gervasio, 2010.

Interview Transcript:

- John: Okay. Here we go. The current date is the 22nd of August, and we're at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stan Reinholtz. And we're doing an interview of Stan, who gracefully invited us to his house. And, Stan, let's talk about you a little bit. In fact, that's what this is all about.
- Reinholtz: Okay.
- John: You just tell me roughly what went on in the early years, where you went to school and so on.
- Reinholtz: I was born in Madison. I've lived on the east side all my life. I lived with my parents until I graduated from Madison East High School, at which time I went to the University of Wisconsin.
- John: This would be when, Stan?
- Reinholtz: Would have been 1944 to '48.
- John: Okay.
- Reinholtz: Graduated in 1948. And because I was in school, of course, I didn't have to go into the service as long as I went to the university. So I went to the university from 1949 to 1952, at which time then I was drafted into the Army and went on from there. And so I graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1952 with a bachelor of business administration, and then I had my career of being a draftee up to that.
- John: Okay. You were drafted, then, in 1952?
- Reinholtz: Yeah. October of 1952.
- John: Korea was going on at that point?
- Reinholtz: Yeah. Korea was going on.
- John: In fact, it had been going on for some time.
- Reinholtz: Right. Right.
- John: And you went in as a buck private —
- Reinholtz: Yes.

John: — and went to basic training. Where was that?

Reinholtz: I went to Fort Knox down in — and then after Fort Knox I was assigned to Fort Benjamin Harrison Finance School because of my — I assume because of my background at the university in accounting. So I went through budget and fiscal specialist in Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.

John: One of my fraternity brothers followed you.

Reinholtz: Oh, yeah?

John: You didn't happen to know a Rob Asnerall, did you?

Reinholtz: Oh, yeah. From Madison, right?

John: No, no. I'm not talking about the guy in the athletic office.

Reinholtz: Oh.

John: This guy was an accounting guy— went into finance. Now, you're going to go into the Finance Corps, is that correct?

Reinholtz: Just an MOS with a budget and finance specialist.

John: Okay.

Reinholtz: In the Army.

John: All right. So you're not in the Finance Corps, though?

Reinholtz: No.

John: What branch is it?

Reinholtz: Just regular Army branch with a budget and fiscal specialty.

John: Well, somebody paid attention to the fact you had a college degree.

Reinholtz: Right.

John: We ought to put this guy to work.

Reinholtz: Right. And I was very fortunate because then, after we graduated, we picked our spot where to go from after we graduated. And I was

assigned to Camp Atterbury down in Indiana, which was a mistake, because I was actually at camp where you're supposed to — when you're coming out of the service you're supposed to go through and I was — so they sent me to Camp Atterbury and said “you're all screwed up there.” So they put me on a hold and I just sat there until I got reassigned to go overseas. Well, at that time they didn't know if it'd be Japan or Korea. We got on a ship shortly thereafter in December of '52 or I guess it was the next year, '51— yeah. '53.

John: '53?

Reinholtz: '53. And then —

John: You embarked from what port?

Reinholtz: We went out of San Francisco.

John: Okay.

Reinholtz: And we went on the ship with 3500 troops, and they told us 3200 people were going to Korea and 300 were going to Japan. But they wouldn't tell us who because they didn't want problems on the ship as to who between them was going where.

John: [Laughing.] I'm assuming that Japan was the preferred assignment. You wanted that.

Reinholtz: Everybody wanted that, of course.

John: Yeah.

Reinholtz: Of course, on the way over, it was over at Christmas and New Year's. I always remember at Christmas they gave us a little gift from the American Red Cross which were some little games to play with. Then at New Year's Eve we stood in line for over an hour and a half to get a Coke so we could have a little drink at New Year's Eve.

John: [Laughing.] Coke?

Reinholtz: Coke, yeah.

John: I see.

Reinholtz: Then, when we got into Yokohama, they named off the people who were getting off there, and I was one of them, fortunately. So I got

off in Yokohama, and we immediately had trains to take us down. And I went down to Camp Otsu, which was by Kyoto, Japan. That's my home base. And so that started my Japanese career in the Army.

John: Now, your MOS is finance or —

Reinholtz: Budget and finance.

John: Budget and finance. What's that mean?

Reinholtz: Well, it means —

John: It strikes me as kind of catch-all.

Reinholtz: Well, it is, but it was — there's very few people in the service with that. In other words, what you did is you worked on very high level budget and keep track of records for very high level, camps, usually at the headquarters. And I was at southwestern headquarters in Japan. And, of course, when I came in there, this was in December, and so they put me to work balancing all the payroll records of all the employees, the Army and the U.S. citizens that worked in Japan, balancing their payroll records to get down to W-2s. So I spent the whole month of January getting all that balanced out. And that was one of the reasons I won this honor later on that they gave me, because we spent probably all of January working night and day just getting these records balanced out so we can make their W-2s out.

John: It sounds like a huge order for a guy fresh out of college —

Reinholtz: It was.

John: — and a buck private.

Reinholtz: It was quite a job because I had never really — I don't know how many hundreds of, you know, records there were to balance out and make everything, but fortunately it all came out eventually. So everybody got their W-2s to file their tax returns on time. And then after that I was assigned to the audit team. And I spent my time on a seven-man audit team to travel all the different Army posts over in Japan that were sending supplies to Korea.

John: Okay. Stop you right here. I'm sorry to do that. Okay. You're on the audit team.

Reinholtz: So I started traveling. Every month we would go to a different post, and we'd go out and audit the supplies and make sure that their

records were such that whatever supplies they had on hand, whether it be guns or munitions or anything, they could account for 'em. So if they got a call from Korea they could pack 'em up and ship 'em to Korea. And so that's how every month I got — and as I was over there with a seven-man team, as people would leave us and go home, we got less and less — they wouldn't replace us. Pretty soon — of course we really didn't work that hard yet for some of those. We used to go in there, and we'd have a lot of time to go through each camp when we arrived. We were very fortunate because they treated us like — because we're an audit team they'd send out cars to meet us at the train and bring us in. And as we come into camp, everybody wondered who these people were here. I'd step out and all I was was a corporal, but here — we'd be a corporal and PFC [private first class] coming off, and they would think they were getting some big general or somebody showing up.

John: Getting out of a limousine or a staff car?

Reinholtz: Right. Staff car. Oh, we had a really good time because —

John: Well, these COs have to — they want to show you a — they want you to give them a favorable report.

Reinholtz: Exactly.

John: So they don't want to get the guys tee'd off right away, right?

Reinholtz: That's exactly right. So they'd make sure that we were treated real good when we came in the post.

John: Did you get special lodging?

Reinholtz: Yes, we did. We'd get special lodging, quite nice lodging. And instead of staying with all the troops, we were able to stay in some pretty nice quarters. And, in fact, we had pretty good mess halls to eat in, too, so it really was not what you'd call Army living. It was pretty nice.

John: Was this what — now, you said 300 guys were parceled off for Japan.

Reinholtz: Right.

John: Were they all doing what you're doing?

Reinholtz: No, no. Only about six of us.

John: Wow.

Reinholtz: The rest were all — I don't know who they were; just different places in Japan they were sent. But, see, because the budget and fiscal specialist was so — there was probably only 50 of them in the whole Army at that time.

John: Okay.

Reinholtz: They only had two schools at Fort Benjamin Harrison every year and they only turned out 35 graduates twice a year, so there were only 70 graduates once a year that came out of school that did the work that they taught us to do.

John: I don't want to jump ahead, but I have a feeling this had a great effect on your career once you left the Army.

Reinholtz: Absolutely.

John: I want to touch on that, but let's keep going.

Reinholtz: Wonderful start.

John: Yeah.

Reinholtz: In fact, just a sidelight of that: As my turn got up over there, they wanted me to take my — resign over there and take a thirty-day leave and come home and then come back there and work as a civilian, as a civilian auditor, which they had civilian people take —

John: That's a very, very high compliment.

Reinholtz: Right. And, let's see; at that time I was a corporal, and I was probably making — they wanted to give me the sergeant but I didn't have enough time. I was probably making \$120 a month.

John: Yeah, but you got meals.

Reinholtz: Yeah, I got meals. But if I'd come back, I think I would have started like \$600 a month as a civilian. So that was definitely —

John: Well, it gives you an idea what you're worth.

- Reinholtz: Tempting, because I came back to work — I came back to work for Arthur Anderson at the time and I ended up starting at \$250 a month, so that was quite a drop.
- John: I would say. Well, that's a high compliment, Stan.
- Reinholtz: Yeah.
- John: Okay. Are we into 1954 now?
- Reinholtz: Well, yeah. '53, actually.
- John: Okay.
- Reinholtz: '53, end of '4, yeah. Then I started '54. Right. January of '54 is when I spent most of my time traveling in Japan in 1954, getting out in October of '54.
- John: Now, I'm curious. In these budget reviews, and you're really doing inventory, too, are you not?
- Reinholtz: Right. Absolutely. We'd go out and have to count the stuff, physically count what was on hand.
- John: You must have found some discrepancies and problems?
- Reinholtz: Yeah. Big ones.
- John: Can you tell us some?
- Reinholtz: Oh, yeah. One thing that I got an award for over there, I was one of the first auditors — as we would go out and count all these warehouses full of Army stuff, whenever I got done counting I'd go in and sit down with the commander of that base at that time and go over my report with him before I wrote it so he knew what my report was going to be. So if he objected to it, I could talk back and forth with him and he could either agree or disagree. And I went through some hot disagreements at that time, but, you know, I knew I was right at the time. So I won all of them because they always would send back and said it was the first time in all that the auditor would sit there and go over their report personally before I'd submit it in to the headquarters.
- John: Now, are you talking, what, about bird colonels?

Reinholtz: Yeah.

John: Corporal?

Reinholtz: Probably.

John: Corporal?

Reinholtz: I was – yeah. Let's see. Most of these guys were colonels, you know, in that area that you'd sit down with. But I always remember that I would do that, that I would make it a point to meet with the —

John: Oh. This is you're idea?

Reinholtz: It was my idea.

John: I see.

Reinholtz: The audit team ahead of me had never done that. They'd rather just ship out of there and then write their report and then send it back to 'em.

John: Send it upstairs and let them deal with it.

Reinholtz: Right. Let them deal with it.

John: Sure.

Reinholtz: But before I'd draw —

John: I hear what you're saying.

Reinholtz: Yeah. It was a very, very good way —

John: A very fair thing to do.

Reinholtz: And I learned from there when I got out and started auditing with companies, you do the same thing. Before you wrapped up your audit, sit down with the president of the company and others and go over it. That was a big thing I learned. Don't try and hide anything. You might as well sit down right there on the spot.

John: That's funny. I walked in here, talk about Enron. Ironic. I mean, you would —

Reinholtz: That's just what I was thinking about. If those guys sat down at the time a little more, they probably could have saved themselves a hell of a lot of grief.

John: Well, the [unintelligible], the thing you try and sweep under the table [unintelligible].

Reinholtz: Yeah. Yeah.

John: Tell me about some of these discrepancies you might find. Items that weren't there that they said should be?

Reinholtz: Yeah. You'd have to inventory records and you'd have to check those inventory records for what was in the warehouse.

John: Uh-huh.

Reinholtz: And you just go out there and, for whatever reason, then they would have to figure out if there was a shortage, what happened to the shortage. Was it stolen? Did it not get there? That was their problem after I pointed it out to them there were these discrepancies. There'd be everything from, you know, all kinds of supplies. Just everything.

John: Vehicles? weapons?

Reinholtz: Vehicles, weapons, you know, clothes.

John: Now, I'm a colonel and this is my outfit, and I'm short twenty M1 rifles and a couple of tanks, and here comes this corporal and he says, "Colonel, you've got a problem."

Reinholtz: "You're short here."

John: Yeah.

Reinholtz: And at first he'd go, "You don't know what you're talking about."

John: "You're just a corporal."

Reinholtz: Right. And I'd just —

John: Did they ever say that?

Reinholtz: Oh, yeah. You'd have to stand your ground and say, "All right. Here's what I'm going to write up. You can do what you want with

it." And then they would either run over there and check themselves or —

John: I bet they did.

Reinholtz: Oh, yeah. I'm sure they did. But I took the guff of doing that right there on the spot which, again, I had a nice comment from them when I left the service because I had done that and had so many of these people out in these various posts that would write in or call in and say, you know, thank him for going over this stuff with me.

John: Well, you must have got a lot of self-assurance to do that.

Reinholtz: Well, yeah.

John: A lot of people would duck the bullet.

Reinholtz: I can't even remember now what gave me the guts to do it.

John: Yeah [laughing]. I'm curious about your superiors— people you answer to— what they would say, why do you bother going to these colonels and putting up with all their guff? They're going to have to answer for it anyway.

Reinholtz: I can't actually remember, but they certainly were very good about congratulating me and thanking me for doing it—

John: So you were looked upon as “that's a bright idea.”

Reinholtz: Right.

John: I like that. Okay. Let's move on here a little bit, Stan. You've got something else here —

Reinholtz: No. I don't think so.

John: — on these teams. I'm curious. You said your seven-people teams, when they first started to whittle down a little bit —

Reinholtz: When I first went out there was a captain, a master sergeant, and then there were five of us, younger —

John: Enlisted men.

Reinholtz: — and everybody else. As the captain left [unintelligible], these guys were — all had been there for the way home, and pretty soon I

was in charge of the audit team, you know, and as a corporal, they couldn't get me to sergeant because you had to be in the service so long before you could automatically go from PFC [private first class] to corporal. They wanted to get me the sergeant so bad, but they couldn't do it because I didn't have enough months as a corporal to get the sergeant.

John: Well, if you're offered a job which, if you'd done it, would have been \$600 a month rather than \$150 or so as a corporal, you obviously did a very good job. Okay, so that's the budget teams, and you were a budget specialist. And how long were you in Japan?

Reinholtz: Actually, from October or December through October '54. So December of '53 to October of '54.

John: There you go. Okay. Anything you want to tell us about Japan, other than the fact that you were —

Reinholtz: I was very fortunate because I had Otsu, my home base, but from there I traveled all the time. So I'd go in there once a month, turn my papers in, and then I'd be back out on the road again to another post someplace. And I must have hit everything from Tokyo all the way down to Sasebo in southern Japan. I didn't go north at all; I went always south Japan. And I went to, I don't know, about eight, nine, ten. And that Japan, southern Japan, was just wonderful because I was able to go into these posts and work during the week and then I'd get my weekends off. And I'd go off base someplace and just go off in some nice Japanese resort or something to see the country. fAnd I had some wonderful experiences. I think there's a scrapbook I have in a frame; I gave it to Bill Brewster. And it has all these pictures of these various posts I happened to find downstairs. I forgot I even did that. I have pictures of each one of these posts that I had —been to.

John: You don't happen to have any newspapers or publications, Army publications?

Reinholtz: Oh, yeah.

John: Were there some in the scrapbook?

Reinholtz: Yeah. There's some other stuff that I gave.

John: Good. We go nuts about that stuff.

- Reinholtz: I have some nice pictures.
- John: Yeah. They're really a treasure.
- Reinholtz: I remember another time I was over there in one of these hurricanes, and another time they had an earthquake. But this hurricane, I was living in a little — call them Quonset huts at the time, and they made sure that we didn't go off post because it was, you know, 80-mile-an-hour winds.
- John: Where were you when this happened?
- Reinholtz: Well, I can't remember the name of the post, but I remember the picture I had. I was sitting in front of the Quonset hut writing a letter or something, and they had a picture of me — this Quonset hut, and the wind was just coming right straight across. And we had to stay in our post at that time because the wind was going to be so bad. So we had to stay on post for a couple of days while this hurricane went through.
- John: Typhoon?
- Reinholtz: Typhoon, probably. Right. Then the other thing I remember about Japan was they had the — what was I going to say. It'll come to me. Oh, yeah. When they had — over there you didn't use greenbacks for money. You turned it in for Japanese or American little paper money that we used.
- John: They called it occupation currency?
- Reinholtz: Occupational currency. And, of course, once every so often they'd call that in so that the black market wouldn't get ahold of our greenbacks. And so if you didn't turn your greenbacks in on payday, they'd get —
- John: — the occupational money.
- Reinholtz: — the occupational money. It'd be worth some money to go out and buy black market stuff, Japanese goods on the black market. One time I —
- John: The Japanese wanted the greenbacks?
- Reinholtz: Right.

- John: What was the counterfeiting?
- Reinholtz: I can't remember. 360 to 1 for Japanese yen to our dollar at that time.
- John: Yeah.
- Reinholtz: And then we used to have to turn that in. I got caught off base one time, so I was off the post when they called it in. They just give you overnight to turn it in, and you've got to get it in the next morning. That night I was caught. I just got paid, so I ended up having one month's pay, which was only 90 bucks, so I had that much money on me. I couldn't get it in, so I had to go in and explain why I had so much money on hand because I didn't get it turned over till I got back to my base. I turned it in at that time, but it was kind of a unique experience when you haven't been through it. And you had all this money that was worthless. The next day it's worthless because they change the color and give you new occupational money. And if you've got any old money, it's worthless the next day.
- John: Well, what do you do with it?
- Reinholtz: Well, I had to go explain why I still had it on hand and get it turned in. They finally believed me, but if you happen —
- John: If you still had some occupation — excuse me. If you had some occupational —
- Reinholtz: The old stuff.
- John: — of the previous month.
- Reinholtz: That you turned in.
- John: Now I get it. Okay.
- Reinholtz: Yeah.
- John: Okay. And they changed the color so that the counterfeiters couldn't run off?
- Reinholtz: Couldn't run off with it.
- John: Well, they weren't as convenient, okay?

- Reinholtz: Right.
- John: Huh. Okay. What else you got in Japan here?
- Reinholtz: Well, let's see. Just very interesting, really. We had a lot of travel, lot of hotels. One thing I did, I went to off limits places to eat, so I learned to like Japanese food. In fact, I was telling her maybe we should have some Japanese food tonight. I could go in — if I went to the regular hotels and stuff that the Korean R & R people came over and used —
- John: Oh, sure.
- Reinholtz: — they would run, you know, the weekend would run you a hundred bucks. I could go in these dives where mama-sans would run them way up in the back alleys. I could stay overnight for twenty bucks — I mean two bucks.
- John: Two bucks, U.S.
- Reinholtz: U.S. And then I could eat all kinds of Japanese food for a buck a day, where if I went to the R & R places, these guys would be in there drinking beer and —
- John: — getting ripped off.
- Reinholtz: Yeah. Twenty cents a bottle or twenty-five, and I could buy it for a nickel a bottle.
- John: Nickel a bottle for beer?
- Reinholtz: Right.
- John: Was it any good?
- Reinholtz: Oh, Japanese beer is very good.
- John: Really.
- Reinholtz: Kirin, and what was the other one? There's two good beers there. You can still buy them here. In fact, my buddy Russ Smith was over there, and he was coming over from Korea for his R & R, rest and recuperation, for a month. And then he came over and met me. I had him picked up in my limousine at the airport.
- John: I like that. Your limousine; you're a corporal [laughing].

Reinholtz: Yeah.

John: This guy is something else.

Reinholtz: So we came back, and he and I went to a restaurant that night and we were going to get a room there and sleep. We started drinking beer and we're going to see if we can get a beer all the way around the room.

John: Different bars?

Reinholtz: We didn't make it.

John: Didn't make it?

Reinholtz: No. In our bedroom.

John: Oh, I see.

Reinholtz: We didn't make it. We only got about halfway around. That was it.

John: [Laughing.] How was the sake?

Reinholtz: Wonderful.

John: You developed a taste for it?

Reinholtz: Oh, I still love it. Only I developed a taste more for cold sake rather than hot sake. It was always hot over there. If you get cold sake, it's much better and much tastier. So I'd been drinking hot sake for quite awhile that way. Mostly cold now.

John: Get it over at Steve's or local?

Reinholtz: Yeah. Well, actually, we had trouble getting it.

Mrs. Reinholtz: Would you like to share a little bottle?

Reinholtz: Sure.

John: I think that would be a wonderful idea.

Reinholtz: We used to enjoy hot sake, but then I got — and then I found a lady over on Park Street that goes to Chicago all the time, and she would bring me back some. Technically it's not legal because she was

buying — you know, she wasn't supposed to buy it for somebody else. So she'd bring it back from Chicago for herself and I'd pay her.

John: Where'd she get it in Chicago? Steve's liquor or one of those downtown — large ones, do you know?

Reinholtz: I don't know where she got it.

John: Maybe you don't want to know.

Reinholtz: Well, no. There's one place in Milwaukee we could get it. I've got a nephew that lives in — or niece that lives in Milwaukee. And there's a big liquor store right near her house that's got it. We can go there and buy it too. It's not easy to find cold sake. You can go into Japanese restaurants here in town and find it.

John: Sure.

Reinholtz: So you can buy —

John: And pay through the nose for it.

Reinholtz: About nine bucks a bottle compared to four or five for hot sake. It's much more expensive.

John: When you say "hot sake," educate me here. Are you talking about temperature or the flavor?

Reinholtz: No, no. Both. The flavor is not as good as cold sake. And to make it hot, they warm it up and pour it in a little cup. And this is — you see the bottle here. See, these cold sakes come in very small bottles.

John: From the sound, I'd say you're opening a Micky's Big Mouth. It looks like it. It has a green bottle. Just a little; that's fine.

Reinholtz: You're going to have to drink it because I'm going to drink the little. You're not; you can have all you want because I don't dare drink much.

John: Well, I'll say this. This is the first time I've done an interview where I got a drink [laughing].

Reinholtz: [Laughing.]

John: Normally you do this at the museums or something.

Reinholtz: You're probably —

Mrs. Reinholtz: I'm sorry. I was trying to find a sake glass but I —

John: Oh, come on. This is just fine. Thank you.

Mrs. Reinholtz: — but I think they're downstairs. My daughter took 'em. One daughter likes sake.

Reinholtz: This is a good drink, I'll tell you.

John: All right, sir. I'll tell you in a second.

Mrs. Reinholtz: How much alcohol — what alcohol content was that?

Reinholtz: That's about 18 percent.

John: Whoa.

Mrs. Reinholtz: Are you sure?

John: That's almost double what wine is.

Reinholtz: Yes.

John: This is 15 [percent].

Reinholtz: All right. 15.

John: Still.

Reinholtz: Still, for wine.

John: That'll be just fine.

Mrs. Reinholtz: But aren't those cute little bottles?

John: They are. They are.

Reinholtz: Should give us one —

John: Now, this is cold.

Reinholtz: Should've put one ice cube in there.

Mrs. Reinholtz: Do you want an ice cube?

Reinholtz: Yeah.

Mrs. Reinholtz: Do you want an ice cube?

John: Yeah. If Stan says I need an ice cube, I need an ice cube. You're the expert.

Reinholtz: Well, you've got to keep it cold.

John: Okay.

Reinholtz: But see, now, you don't heat this up. You drink it like this.

John: I understand. So you would buy — does it say on the bottle it's cold sake, or are you supposed to know that?

Reinholtz: Well, you know it but — what kind is that?

John: Shoshiku?

Reinholtz: Siku.

John: Siko.

Mrs. Reinholtz: This is not —

John: You don't mind if I stay for dinner, do you?

Mrs. Reinholtz: No.

John: [Laughing.]

Mrs. Reinholtz: [Unintelligible] but you warm this up, you know, when you have warm sake.

John: But you don't warm this sake.

Mrs. Reinholtz: We've got a couple people that really get pretty tired from the time they drink a little of that, you know. I think this is not quite so — doesn't hit you quite so much. You like that?

John: I love it. I'm a wine drinker. It's a wine but it's —

Reinholtz: If I could get sake for wine, I'd never drink other wine. Serve it chilled and enjoy every sip of this —

John: There you go. Okay. In a hot sake, say warm it, but sound's like you're also saying that a hot sake has a flavor of its own.

Reinholtz: Right. This says it has a flavor that is fuller and fresher than any regular sake. So it's fuller and more flavorful.

John: Well, I've learned something.

Mrs. Reinholtz: You never drink that cold over there?

Reinholtz: No, I didn't.

John: Well, Japanese have hot sake to start with.

Reinholtz: Right. I don't ever remember being served cold sake over there.

John: Uh-huh. Is it served as a cocktail?

Reinholtz: Oh, yeah. You always had to — at night when you ate you'd have beer maybe first. Then you'd have hot sake with your meal.

John: I would interchange it with how we use wine?

Reinholtz: Yeah. Right.

John: Well, you have quite an experience. Now you're what, 23 or so?

Reinholtz: Yeah.

John: Man of the world, has a limousine, he's a corporal, a limousine at his disposal.

Reinholtz: That's true. I was —

John: You've got a lot of colonels who probably would like to salute you..

Reinholtz: I grew up real quick, I'll tell you that. And the only reason I didn't stay there was I was single and I had a job waiting for me with a CPA firm. And I thought, well, if I stay over here another year or two I will really enjoy it, but to waste another year or two of my life because, you know, I wasn't going anyplace there. It was wonderful. I was getting experience. But it was really — well, I could have

stayed my career as a federal employee, I suppose.

John: You could've come back to that \$600 a month federal employee job.

Reinholtz: Right. Right.

John: That would have gone on at a minimum.

Reinholtz: Right. I could have done that, but I decided because I had a good CPA job —

[End of Tape 1, Side A]

Reinholtz: I got home in October; that's right. That's right.

John: '54.

Reinholtz: '54 October. Then I met her and we must have fell in love, because we were married the next year in October.

John: Good for you.

Reinholtz: She mentioned bonsai. One of the things I did do over there— Kyoto is one of the towns that has more shrines and bonsai than almost any place in Japan. I was very close to Kyoto at my home base. So I'd just go in there and look at bonsai, you know, stuff over there, 2000 years old. Beautiful stuff. So I started a — there's some out on my porch and you can go take a look.

John: We'll look when we get done here.

Reinholtz: And some here. These here. Those are pretty poor examples. Those are pretty poor examples, but I had about thirty of them out here. And because of my stroke my daughter took all of them. But I used to — there's a nice bonsai club in town, and they, you know, take some nice bonsai, and I used to have a wonderful collection.

John: You belong to that club?

Reinholtz: I did, yeah. Well, I still do, but I —

John: You know Neil Ford?

Reinholtz: No.

John: I was just doing an interview with — Neil Ford lives next door to us.

Reinholtz: Oh, yeah.

John: [Unintelligible.]

Reinholtz: Does he have some?

John: He's got a lot of bonsai.

Reinholtz: Does he?

John: Yeah. We get to take care of — they travel a lot; he's a UW professor. And we get to take care of it while he's gone.

Reinholtz: Yeah. He's in the club.

John: Yeah. I've had some experience in it. Well, let's get back to what I want to know here. You're nearing the end of your career now. You've decided not to return [as] a civilian, even though they offered you a very lucrative job. So you would have come back to, in Japan, \$600 a month, and you left to come back here to the States to work for whom, Arthur Anderson?

Reinholtz: I started with Arthur Anderson in Milwaukee. And then when we were getting married I had an opportunity to come back to Madison in a very small, local firm, White, Reinholtz & Pfefferkorn.

John: I've heard of the name.

Reinholtz: And then we were there — spent my career there, and then we merged eventually with Arthur Young, who then merged with Ernst & Young. So I ended up retiring as a partner in Ernst & Young, which was kind of enjoyable because I started with a big firm and ended up retiring out of this big national firm as well. I had some very nice experiences there, so I really enjoyed that. And then we — when I retired they — I had a bunch of clients in Madison they really didn't want— so they gave me six employees and a bunch of clients and I started up again. And then I ended up merging with Hought [??] who ended up merging with RSM McGladrey. So I claim that I had the record in Wisconsin of being a partner of more CPA firms than anybody that ever lived.

John: Keep all the names straight.

- Reinholtz: Right. Because of mergers and changes, that's right. But it was a good experience. I'd be working yet if it weren't for my health problems. I had a bunch of local clients I used to work with and I'd been a personal rep for about twelve, fifteen estates, you know, people that I knew who would name me as their personal rep, settle their estates and so forth, which was very enjoyable career. I was very good at it.
- John: I can imagine, yeah. You're one of the few people I've interviewed that has had a career starting with a college education and really persevered with it.
- Reinholtz: Yeah. But I was very fortunate to always — you know, my Army service contributed to —
- John: Certainly.
- Reinholtz: Because I got just meeting with the people, as we were saying, meeting with them before I'd leave, and that all helped my background, I'm sure.
- John: I'm sure if you'd had the opportunity you would have talked to Robert Lay [probably means Robert Bryce or Kenneth Lay of Enron] and said, "Hey, look, fella, you're really getting in trouble here and it's getting worse."
- Reinholtz: I think that's right. I can't believe what they —
- John: Yeah. I truly mean that. As a corporal you were confronting colonels and say, "Hey, colonel, you're missing a tank."
- Reinholtz: I would agree. And you'd take the swearing and the cussing and, you know, "I'm gonna run you out of the service," and stuff. Well, they'd always say it, but I knew I had the backing of my home post. Those guys would back me up so —
- John: You were there by the order of the Pope, somebody in the chain of command. Somebody that supersedes them, I know.
- Reinholtz: Got some of those orders someplace in the stuff that —
- John: In the book that Brewster got?
- Reinholtz: Yeah.
- John: Okay. I think that'd be important to see.

- Reinholtz: Yeah. He's got some of that [unintelligible] stuff.
- John: Well, give the Army credit. They'd never send you out to do something. They watch your back, at least. That's my experience.
- Reinholtz: No. I agree.
- John: Which is great. Doesn't always happen in civilian life.
- Reinholtz: Right. That's right. Got too many people that either, for some reason, they won't back you.
- John: Stan, anything else you'd like to add to this?
- Reinholtz: Not that I know of. I'm just —
- John: What I'm going to do is just turn this off for a second.
- [Pause on tape.]**
- Reinholtz: As civilians they'd come over and take jobs on post. And I also met some nice Japanese ladies who worked on post. And we'd go out on the weekends and go to these Japanese restaurants and have our sake and our good times and, you know, we had some good times there. And I'd show you some of those pictures — they're in that book — of these people. And I wrote to them. There's one — what was her name? I can't find her right now. But for years she and I would always send back Christmas cards back and forth. She either got sick or something; I kind of lost track of her.
- Mrs. Reinholtz: Clemitis.
- Reinholtz: Oh, yeah. Clemitis.
- Mrs. Reinholtz: Nell Clemitis.
- Reinholtz: Clemitis. That was one name in particular that I remember, for many, many times we used to go out on the weekends and stuff. Of course, they lived right on the post, but we did in the dorm so, you know, they were close by, and we could go meet with them and stuff. Oh, [unintelligible] Brewster took my little book about [unintelligible] baby-sans. That's what they used to call all these people that were — baby-sans were all the girls in the streets, you know, that were selling for a buck. You can find them all over, of course, in Japan. You could buy you one; you'd have ladies all over

you if you had the money and wanted to spend the night. And I had a [unintelligible] and a couple nice ladies I met on the post that worked on the post as secretaries and stuff. We had some, you know, we'd go out and have just like a date here, have us a good time, and they'd take me to all the Japanese restaurants and such.

John: You did pretty well for a corporal.

Reinholtz: Right.

John: [Laughing.] Well, I'll have to ask Bill if I can take a peek at that scrapbook.

Reinholtz: Look at the scrapbook, yeah.

John: Yeah. I'll try to track it down. I see him probably once a week.

[End of Interview]