

Interviewer: Izzy Keene

Interviewee: Edward Whatley

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Keene: Could you start with telling me about your childhood? Like where you grew up and your education, your hometown, your family?

Whatley: Okay. As I said earlier I was born down the street at the corner of University and Hackberry, which was the old hospital, and uh grew up on my family farm where I live now. And uh, I, uh, went to grammar school in um Moundville, two years in Havana, and the remainder in Moundville. And then I went to highschool in Greensboro, and I went to The University of Alabama here, and then skipped a number of years and I went to seminary at The University of The South-- at Sewanee.

Keene: What did you study at Alabama?

Whatley: Majored in English and minored in History.

Keene: So you went from there and then--

Whatley: Went from there and then I joined the peace corps, 2 years, '64 to '66.

Keene: Okay.

Whatley: And I taught English at the University in Kabul, Afghanistan and you already had all that.

Keene: Yes, so I had a couple questions about that.

Whatley: And then I, uh, when I got out of the Peace Corps I went to the Air Force.

Keene: Okay. Perfect. So, um, going back a bit-- after college-- did you have a job before you went to the peace corps or did you [go to Afghanistan] just right after seminary school.

Whatley: Uh, I didn't go to--I went to the peace corps and the air force before seminary.

Keene: Oh okay. Okay perfect.

Whatley: I went to seminary in '75.

Keene: Okay, that helps me a lot. Okay um, so was your time at Alabama limited to you going to the peace corps?

Whatley: Um, what do you mean?

Keene: Like, did you leave going to school to go to the peace corps.

Whatley: Oh yeah, went from straight from here to the peace corps.

Keene: Okay, then what prompted you to join the peace corps?

Whatley: Well it was quite an interesting afternoon, a friend of mine lived at the same place I did, and I was going to a movie at the Bama theater. And the movie had changed when we got down there, and I said "Hey, I saw peace corps tests are being given at the Union building, at the student union, let's go and take them". So we did and uh I got accepted to go to Afghanistan.

Keene: (inaudible) Okay. So were you able to choose where you were sent to volunteer or?

Whatley: I could of rejected Afghanistan but I didn't put in specifically for Afghanistan.

Keene: Okay so there was like a section where you could say-

Whatley: Where you would like to go but that didn't guarantee anything.

Keene: Okay and then um when did you start volunteering in Afghanistan? Like when were you sent there?

Whatley: Uh, I was, '64 to '66.

Keene: Okay.

Whatley: We had three months of training in uh, Vermont uh, Brattleboro, vermont.

Keene: What was that like?

Whatley: Oh, it was nice, I mean we studied Afghan (tape interruption) history and
(tape interruption)

Whatley: and afghan culture, and uh, we uh and took a concentrated course in Persian. And got the point in a way that we could converse and read and write. And then we did some other things in uh, related to Afghanistan and the middle east

Keene: Okay and so uh when you taught at Kabul university you taught English?

Whatley: Yeah.

Keene: Okay and what was the age group you taught?

Whatley: Well I taught at the college of engineering, and they were probably late teens,

Keene: So like freshman, sophomore age?

Whatley: Yeah late teens, and some of them were probably when they came in, some of them in their thirties. So that a range was pretty...

(tape interruption)

Keene: And then, so do you have any memorable students or like memories or coworkers that you recall while working there-- at the university.

Whatley: Oh I've kept up with two or three of them

Keene: And are they students or were they-- did you work with them?

Whatley: You mean were they at that point?

Keene: Yes.

Whatley: Okay, they were students. And then here were two American co-teachers that, you know, co-workers that I've kept up with.

Keene: Okay. And are there like any memories or any interesting stories about your time teaching there? That you want to share?

Whatley: Not particularly. I enjoyed it. Afghanistan-- because we're not talking about Vietnam right now, Afghanistan was quite different then than what it is now. It was relatively progressive country, the king had brought it into the 20th century, and the women for instance could go to college, they could drive--.

(tape interruption)

Keene: So you were saying that the king was bringing them into the 21st century?

Whatley: Yeah and wearing the veil, the chadri, was optional women didn't have to do it. They were right on the cusp of driving-- in fact a couple of them did drive-- made history; and there were women in the parliament. And it was just, it was just very... much-- it was ahead of some of the other countries over there. And of course while I was there it was the beginning of the Russian revolution, when the Russians fomented the discontent in Afghanistan and the prime minister was thrown out, and several years after I left the Russians actually invaded the country but anyway, as I said, I enjoyed it. It was very...

Keene: So did the draft for the war affect how long you were there? (Whatley shakes his head)

Whatley: Had nothing to do with it. Two entirely different things

Keene: Okay so you left working there and went-

Whatley: And went almost straight into the Air Force

Keene: Okay is there any, like, anything you learned, like any important lessons that you learned from the peace corps?

Whatley: Well sure, well they, we learned from life and i'm sure that had I not gone i'd be quite different from what I am now, but as far as putting a finger on it-- I don't have anything to compare it with because I did go, but we all learn from experiences.

Keene: Okay. And then into the war-- so did you enlist or were you drafted into the war?

Whatley: I enlisted.

Keene: Okay. Why did you want to enlist?

Whatley: Well I think everybody 'out to.

Keene: Okay and where were you living at the time?

Whatley: That I went to the-

Keene: To go enlist.

Whatley: I was living back in Greensboro.

Keene: Okay.

Whatley: I got out of the Peace Corps, came back to Greensboro, that's where I lived and I guess several months later I signed up for the Air Force.

Keene: Okay and then before you served in the war did you have any preconceived ideas about like fighting in Vietnam or just went-?

Whatley: No I just knew that it was a war that we were very much engaged in, and as I said I think everybody needs to do some military time-- and so I did. Spent I guess three months perhaps, in basic training at Chanute Air Force base in illinois, and then got a (inaudible) assignment to Brookley Air Force base in Mobile, and I was there for two and a half years. And then... it was-- let's see-- it was during that time I got married, while I was stationed at Brookley. And then so, so I had a whole different perspective on going overseas, but I had to so I had no choice. And then i, my next assignment after Brookley was Nakhon Phanom [spells out Nakhon Phanom], you may have it down there.

Keene: Yes I do.

Whatley: Okay, air base in Thailand in the northeast part of Thailand on the mekong river where it borders Laos and I spent my time at Nakhon Phanom and at Ton San Nhut in Vietnam-- just outside of Saigon. That's [spells out Ton San Nhut].

Keene: Okay so first you were stationed in Nakhon, is that how you pronounce it?

Whatley: Overseas-- I was stationed first at Brookley.

Keene: Yes and when you went overseas?

Whatley: Nakhon Phanom.

Keene: And that was 1969 to 1970? Or how long were you overseas?

Whatley: About a year.

Keene: About a year? Okay.

Whatley: And I was in both of those places.

Keene: Okay then what was your job *stutters* and assignment that you did?

Whatley: I was in weather.

Keene: Okay. So what was that like?

Whatley: I mean it was just pretty straightforward you went into to the weather office and you observed the weather, and you set up balloons, and you made it--got, developed the weather information for the forecast for the pilots to fly.

Keene: Okay so did you see any combat during your time overseas?

Whatley: No I wasn't in a combat situation, I was more in a backup situation. Did I see any tragedies? Yes, but that was, we weren't actually directly involved with that.

Keene: Yes, behind the scenes kind of. Okay and then could you share any experiences, good or bad, that have really stuck with you?

Whatley: No, I formed some good friends there, saw a lot of things that are just part of war and so... you know you see, you see things that just happen-- and you can't question, you just do it. You don't question...

Keene: We read a book that said it was like two completely different worlds, like living in the U.S. versus serving overseas, do you agree with that? I'm sure you do but--

Whatley: Yeah they were two different worlds just Afghanistan between there and here, and between here and the far east. And between, of course it was different-- there was unrest here too, with protestors and so forth and the--- we were aware over there of what was going on here, and it was disconcerting. Because when you join the military you fill out a blank check essentially, and make it to the us government and sign your name, and fill in whether your life or not so...

Keene: Yeah, okay and then so when you [were] at the base in Thailand did you-- were you able to see the people that lived there, like the thai people? Or were they kind of-

Whatley: We could see them, we-

Keene: Or interact with them?

Whatley: The village of Nakhon Phanom was close and when we had time off we'd go into the village and uh Thai beer is very good [both laugh], and eat and socialize, buy things on the bazaar, and what have you. Because they've been-- Nakhon Phanom had been there a good 15 years or probably between 10 and 15 years when I got there, it was established in the early fifties as a one of those bases that was there for gathering intelligence, and then as the war escalated it was expanded and became a staging base for activities in Laos and Cambodia and Vietnam.

Keene: And then what about your time off in Vietnam? Did you do the same thing where you would go, like what you did in Thailand--?

Whatley: No it was a bit more restricted. It was, it was-- you were pretty much on the base.

Keene: Yeah, so you never really interacted?

Whatley: I mean there were Vietnamese working on the base, but not-- did not go into the community very much.

Keene: Okay, was it a completely different feel between the two-- I mean i'm sure it was--

Whatley: Oh yeah I mean the war was going on there, the war was not going in Thailand. We were supplying in Thailand and actually doing it in Vietnam.

Keene: Okay so you, in Vietnam you were in-- in both places you were in the weather office?

Whatley: Yeah, mhm.

Keene: So what was the difference like? Or just very similar?

Whatley: Just much busier there.

Keene: Okay, okay and then is there anything else like-- do you have any like important life events that happened or things that, like good or bad, anything--

Whatley: No, you know you form friendships and then when your friends don't come home one day-- it's disheartening.

Keene: So you said you had gotten married when you were in Mobile?

Whatley: Yeah, uh huh.

Keene: And so how did you stay in touch with your family and friends and you wife?

Whatley: Well I had-- we had because we didn't have email it wasn't there then, and letters took awhile, we didn't have cell phones, so mainly through letters.

Keene: Do you still have them?

Whatley: Oh yes, I've got nearly everything from Afghanistan to Thailand-- to and from. And the-- because we had-- I could keep up, we did have, our weather-- we did have weather satellites and so forth, so I could keep up with hurricanes as they came up through the gulf and that type thing.

Keene: And then so did you meet your wife prior to going to the peace corps?

Whatley: Oh we knew each other at the university here. She was a, I was a phi, and she was a KD.

Keene: Oh! I'm a KD.

Whatley: Oh! are you?

Keene: Yes sir.

Whatley: Well okay, my wife's--

Keene: What's her name?

Whatley: She was Natalie Holaman.

Keene: Okay, I will look at the--

Whatley: Yeah. Her family was KD forever.

Keene: Really? Yeah it's fun.

Whatley: And of course the fraternity and sorority system now [laughs] is the difference between-- you know y'all are businesses now.

Keene: I know.

Whatley: You're not communities like they used to have. How many-

(inaudible 0:45)

Keene: And you were a Phi Gam?

Whatley: No, Phi Delta Theta.

Keene: Okay Phi Delt.

Whatley: Yeah and-- but we knew each other and her cousin and I were best friends so I started dating her after I got down there actually, she taught over in columbus, georgia and would come down to mobile so we started dating and the got married and bought a house on the water down there and so.

Keene: Okay so she stayed in mobile while you went overseas?

Whatley: Yeah.

Keene: Did you, she was a teacher you said?

Whatley: She had moved and was teaching there.

Keene: Okay so at the public school there?

Whatley: At Murphy, yeah.

Keene: Okay, okay. So what were the living conditions like, and like the food-- just like everyday life? on the base--

Whatley: You mean living with my wife in my home or living over there? [laughs]

Keene: Over there.

Whatley: Over there we had of course we had a mess hall. We got a standard fare and we would go out on break,-- you know when we were not working we would go into the village and eat. I mean we just had-- I don't know how to say standard military food, but that's what it was.

Keene: Yeah, so y'all had plenty of supplies on the base?

Whatley: Oh yeah.

Keene: Okay and then, I know you were not in combat but did you ever keep anything with you-- beside your necessities-- good luck or something for good luck or did you do anything like that? Because there are stories of people carrying a photograph or-

Whatley: No I wasn't in any combat but I did a number of things over there that, I'm an episcopalian--

Keene: Oh so am I.

Whatley: So I Lay Read in Afghanistan and in Nakhon Phanom, and I taught english and GED (inaudible) classes for--

Keene: At Kabul?

Whatley: No this was in Nakhon Phanom.

Keene: Okay so you taught there as well?

Whatley: Yes, I taught at the University in Kabul but I taught GED courses at the-

Keene: To the soldiers?

Whatley: To the soldiers, yeah.

Keene: Oh wow. What was that like?

Whatley: Well, it was it was good. You felt like you were doing something worthwhile, and they appreciated it.

Keene: Yeah, i'm sure.

Whatley: And so, and you know there were interaction there.

Keene: Did you teach people older than you? Did you ever teach--

Whatley: Oh i'm sure. I was older than average when I went in because I had done the peace corps thing, so i'm sure some of them were older than I was.

Keene: Okay so then while you were there, it asks, how did people entertain themselves or like-- so in your free time you said you just like-- like what would you do besides like going into the villages?

Whatley: Well, I read a good bit and but we-- going into the village was interesting and we'd go down and there were certain restaurants we would go to and, and so forth.

Keene: How did you interact with the people there? Were they nice-

Whatley: Oh fine-- they were nice yeah. We, you know, I'm sure some of them were nice to our faces but would have shot us in the back if they had the opportunity.

Keene: Yeah. Okay and then so did you, can you recall any humorous stories or unusual events that occurred or was it just pretty--

Whatley: Pretty, pretty straightforward I was anxious in getting finished and getting home. and my tour was cut short, i'm an only child--

Keene: Okay.

Whatley: And my mother developed cancer and so uh they they brought me home for that.

Keene: Oh I'm sorry.

Whatley: She was a fighter she lived 35 years with it.

Keene: Really?

Whatley: And so I got, the commander sent somebody in to locate me and they said “pack your things, your headed home” and so...

Keene: So you were home when the war had ended?

Whatley: Oh yes

(inaudible 0:10)

Keene: Okay so do have any photographs from your time overseas? (Whatley nods) You do? I should've asked you to bring them, dang it. [both chuckle] So you said you became friends with people you worked with, so what did you think of the fellow soldiers and officers?

Whatley: I, you know, they were like I-- I mean they were over there doing what they were supposed to be doing. I Mean we were, we were friends and a couple of them i've kept up with.

Keene: Do you still--do you know any still?

Whatley: No, no two of them have died and I'm out living a lot of people.

Keene: And did you keep like a personal journal or-?

Whatley: Part of the time I did

Keene: You did.

Whatley: Part of the time.

Keene: Do you still have that as well? (Whatley nods*) you do? That's so interesting. Um so your last day of service before they let you go home to your mother, do you remember that day?

Whatley: Uh, I don't remember a whole lot about it

Keene: Just normal--

Whatley: I mean they sent--they located me and said you know go get your-- mainly get your passport and all your paperwork, and said we'll have your things packed and shipped. The air force took care of packing my clothes and all that and shipped and those and I just took _____

Keene: okay so when you got home-- were you just mainly with your mother?

Whatley: Well I mean I was with her and I was seeing friends again. Of course we lived, my wife and I in Mobile, we bought a house there, and my mother was in greensboro so we were back and forth between there.

Keene: And then when did you start school at Sewanee?

Whatley: In '75.

Keene: Okay so did yall move there?

Whatley: We had moved in '72-- we had moved back up to the country to the farm, where I live now; and we had restored the house and lived there-- and then I actually got students to live at there in the house and look after it while we were at Sewanee, and when we were up there.

Keene: How many years were you there studying at Sewanee?

Whatley: I was up there a year and a half.

Keene: Okay so you got to seminary--

Whatley: And I came back and finished reading the Holy Orders under the rabbi and the chaplain.

Keene: Okay so your career was [as an Anglican Bishop, what was that like]?

(inaudible 1:00)

Whatley: Bishin' is Bishin-- you confirm people, you ordain people and that type of thing.

Keene: I remember getting confirmed in the episcopalian church. Um, and so how do you think your military experience influenced your thinking about war or the military in the future?

Whatley: Well I mean war is-- as long as we have two people on this earth there's gonna be a strife, and so of course war's not good and we all wish we didn't have it, but we do and the important thing is being on the winning side. And so it's pretty straightforward

Keene: Yeah, okay and then you were appointed to serve on the Alabama State Board of Veteran Affairs to represent Vietnam veterans, what was that like?

Whatley: Oh it was it was good we did some I think some important things-- the five years I was on. We built the veterans nursing home in Alexander City and we got the groundworks started for the cemetery over in Montevallo and we did other things and so...

Keene: Were you able to see people you knew while you served whenever you went to like meetings and stuff?

Whatley: Oh no no, each veteran's organization-- Vietnam veterans, Korean War veterans, World War II veterans, and what have you--each had one spot on the board.

Keene: Okay

Whatley: And I filled the spot for the Vietnam veterans-- and so we just got together the state, the state has money set aside, veterans are budgeted into the state budget and various things. And what we did was administered that that money and we would-- we would try to raise other money.

Keene: Okay and then so how did, this kind of a broad question, how did your time and experience at Vietnam affect your view of life overall?

Whatley: Well I think any time you see people brought back in a traumatic situation its gonna affect you and with various limbs missing and blood and what have you-- it's gonna affect you. And I saw that not only there but I travelled a good bit when in Afghanistan and went into india and travelled around india and particularly in Calcutta and it wasn't through war but it was through homelessness, poverty, what have you.

Keene: Yeah and then, hmm-- is there like anything else you'd like to add or like any stories or anything?

Whatley: No I am, as I said I have been very interested the last couple of days watching the president and Kim Jong Un and, and looking-- because they're in Hanoi, I was never in Hanoi I was in saigon; but it's still you've got two major cities in Vietnam and seeing the difference now and what it was then and it is it is just very interesting that we have reached a point where we, going to these places, I mean the fact that the president will sit down with Kim Jong Un is to me very significant. And that not only sit down with him once, but set up the second meeting and i, i, this is something I think is extremely worthwhile and I think it's significant that its being held, a peace conference, you know, as it were-- that's being held in Vietnam. One of our sworn enemies during a part of our history and see how things have evolved.

Keene: Yeah, that's interesting.

(tape interruption 0:10)

Keene: And then was there like any-- on your base do you recall-- were there nurses there or anything?

Whatley: Oh yeah.

Keene: So what was life like-

Whatley: They were very large bases.

Keene: Yeah they're large. Oh okay. I'm not really familiar with like all the military stuff, so like at a base would it be like the army, the navy, and the air force all in one?

Whatley: yeah and some no but generally each had its own but there was interaction between all of them-- we had some marines on our base. But generally each part of the military does specific things. Any of your family in the military?

Keene: Yes my grandfather was in-- a coast guard in I believe the second World War

Whatley: One thing that--

Keene: He passed away but he was a coast guard.

Whatley: One thing that is happening now, that I think was precipitated by me having been over there, because I was on the board in montgomery and I am a life member of the Vietnam veterans association, but two years ago I started working with a group of veterans on campus here.

Keene: Oh okay

Whatley: I'm involved with international students

Keene: Oh wow

Whatley: And my wife and I started doing that 45 years ago.

Keene: Oh really

Whatley: And we have international students-- service host families for some of the internationals. We did then and I do now, my wife is dead.

Keene: I'm sorry.

Whatley: Started doing that again 4, 5, or 6 years ago but that's a little side track but--

Keene: No you're fine

Whatley: But getting back to where I was going with the veterans and remembering how it was when I was a veteran, because when I got out I flew in through san francisco. Fortunately, I had a friend there who met me at the airport, but all sorts of things were going on against veterans returning-- you know yelling things, obscenities at us, spitting, throwing things at us and--

Keene: And you experienced that?

Whatley: Because Ron was able to meet me I didn't have to get out and where the taxis were and so forth. Some of the taxi drivers would not pick up a veteran.

Keene: Really?

Whatley: And I remembered how that was so several years ago and I started thinking about international students thing, and wondering how something like that would translate into the veteran community. And so I developed a repertoire with a veterans on campus here and I have four veterans that are sort of my students. But what I am trying to do, and I think we've got our (inaudible) pretty well drawn up and we've got some people who've said they'd be on the board and what were aiming at is establishing a-- we've chosen a name Community Friends for Campus Veterans CFCV, and what we want to do is get people in the community to be host

families for some of the veterans. Particularly the veterans who are from distant places. Because they get here-- a lot of them come straight out of the war, and straight to campus and they have all sorts of problems arise and so that's what we are working on now but that kind of translates back to I think my experience.

Keene: And transitioning from war back into civilian life, what was that like?

Whatley: Well that's the thing we are trying to work on here, it is very difficult. Very difficult. Uh and it was easier for me because I had a home situation setup.

Keene: Yes.

Whatley: I had a home, I had a wife, I had friends just we both had lots of friends in mobile and of course she's from union town and we had our friends here, and friends still at the university in various capacities. So it was easier but there was still a lot, are you familiar with PTSD?

Keene: Yes sir.

Whatley: All right there was still some of that and that's one of the things we did on the board of veterans affairs worked to have PTSD recognized as an official condition

Keene: Yes it is

Whatley: And not just "he's crazy", "he's weird"

Keene: I'm a psychology major, so yeah.

Whatley: Yeah and we got alabama to do that-- to recognize and so i'll continue to build on the military period of my life with the veterans, in fact I'm having lunch with one of them today, and one of them lives down on my farm.

Keene: Oh really

Whatley: Yeah he didn't get along with his roommate which i'm sure had something to do with their, both of them recently came to campus, they had conflicts and things and so he bought a camper and he's a marine

Keene: How old is he?

Whatley: Hes 27-28. I'll show you something here, i'll keep talking

Keene: Oh you're fine

Whatley: And i, I keep pretty close touch with what's going on over here and we're, we will at some point over the summer and get it. Get it i'm ready to go public next first semester of fall, first fall semester, but uh I kid my marine i'm gonna have the sign printed up on (Shows photo of poster that reads "Beware a Marine Lives Here")

Keene: (Both laugh) That's so funny and is he, so he lives with you--

Whatley: Well he lives in his camper outside.

Keene: In his camper outside your house and he studies here?

Whatley: He studies here.

Keene: So he just comes from Greensboro.

Whatley: No a little bit in between, a little town called havana junction

Keene: Okay

Whatley: And he drives in everyday

Keene: Oh okay, and what is he studying?

Whatley: Um some form of business.

Keene: Oh okay

Whatley: I'm not sure what the specialty is...

Keene: Yeah. How many veterans have stayed with you?

Whatley: Oh this is just the first one.

Keene: Oh okay.

Whatley: And um the others come down, you know we cook down there for them and that type thing.

Keene: Okay hmm-- is there anything else you recall or want to share?

Whatley: I can't think of anything, some things you don't wanna share

Keene: Yeah.

Whatley: Can't think of anything else.

Keene: Did you ever experience any post traumatic stress anything

Whatley: Yeah, yeah but mine was not chronic but it there were certain, it affects your emotions and your personality and what have you and-- as I Said what I Had, I think was just the periphery of not anything like

Keene: Some.

Whatley: Like some

Keene: Did your wife ever mention that you seemed different anything or right when you returned it was just kind of like--

Whatley: No it was, well I experienced something when I went to Afghanistan when I returned from Afghanistan, but the term then was culture shock that was the term.

Keene: They used.

Whatley: That was used. So I experienced when I came back was a culture shock, which today I think would probably translate to PTSD.

Keene: And just because like two completely different

Whatley: Well getting from a situation where the life was regulated for you into a situation where you were free to make your own choices

Keene: In Afghanistan where did you live? Did you live on campus?

Whatley: No I lived in the community I had a house there and

Keene: Was it just you or were other-

Whatley: No it was just me. I was one of the few that had a private house and it was about probably a mile from the university and we rode bicycles there.

Keene: So was it, I've never been to the middle east, but um is it-- I doubt its industrial-- were there not many cars um like

Whatley: Oh there were cars in Afghanistan, but the peace corps could not have cars

Keene: Oh really

Whatley: Yeah we couldn't own a car

Keene: Okay, okay

Whatley: So the peace corps supplied us with bicycles

Keene: Okay hmm. Oh! Were you awarded any medals or citations? From your service?

Whatley: The greatest citation I ever got was my DD214 which were my discharge papers [laughs].

Keene: Yeah, hmm well if you don't have anything else, I feel bad it was a little short. I feel bad if the interview went pretty short.

(inaudible 1:30)

Keene: Oh its at the end of year, we had to do research over what you did. There was a peace corps magazine, I don't know if you've ever heard of that but I have a copy. (Keene pulls out magazine and hands it to Whatley).

Whatley: The National peace corps?

Keene: Yeah these are, these are them and this one is about-- I went to the government document basement--

Whatley: Oh okay this is interesting

Keene: For a pretty long time.

Whatley: Let's see what's the date here--

Keene: That one is from--

Whatley: '64.

Keene: That's right when-

Whatley: I was there '64 to '66.

Keene: And than this one, I was wondering if draft affected your time there because of this article, but yeah.

Whatley: Cause this right here um-- he was our peace corp director when I was there

Keene: Oh really!

Whatley: Bob Steiner.

Keene: Oh wow.

Whatley: and he, Sherry his wife has died--I still keep up with him and his-- he has alzheimers and lets see--Robert pearson that sound familiar, um. (pauses) Okay. (Points picture out in magazine) this is the Kabul River here and this is the (inaudible) here, and there's the university and the (inaudible) come on across here, and I live right in that area right in there.

Keene: Oh okay, yeah I um went through there are two basements and one in gorgas one is just normal book and one is just government documents, and it's really scary [laughs] but I went through it all

Whatley: some of these people (inaudible), some of these ring a bell but (inaudible). If you had it for the next year that might--

Keene: I know they only did each place about once like each place everyone served and I went through all of them from '64-'68 and that was the only one that focused-

Whatley: This is the only Afghanistan one?

Keene: Yeah, so some like this one focuses on, lets see,

Whatley: When id go to the university id ride right by this type thing

Keene: Oh really.

Whatley: Gettin over there [laughs] that type thing. (inaudible) that name sounds familiar.

Keene: Yeah that basement is really interesting, there's a lot of stuff.

Whatley: Well that's interesting. Seeing this right here, one thing, one thing um with regard-- is that still on?

Keene: Yes.

Whatley: When I left um Kabul I went and I went and spent some time in pakistan and some time in india when in Burma where I was immediately arrested.

Keene: [Laughs] What? How? why?

Whatley: Oh because the, our government and the bernese government were at odds Burma's always at odds with somebody, and uh so I got off the plane and there were they felt that peace corps people and CIA were one operation.

Keene: Oh okay.

Whatley: So they got me and that was the second time I was arrested. The first one was in Islamabad which was the new capital in pakistan and we were-- three of us were put under house arrest.

Keene: Oh okay.

Whatley: There the same thing but driving through, but when I left there for hong kong and spent some time there and then I had a friend who was a helicopter pilot, but he was the generals aid in Korea-- up on the DMZ.

Keene: Oh yeah.

Whatley: Up in the demilitarized zone and I went up there and spent some time. And on the way up one of the things I remember was very distinctly the the farmers, they would have to get their pigs to markets, so they tied the pig on to the back of the bicycle, and pour rice wine down

his through and get him drunk so he'd just stay there and they ride their bicycle into market. That reminded me that picture there reminded me.

Keene: So they put the pig--

Whatley: On the back of the bicycle

Keene: On that back of the bike. So this is why I was wondering whether or not the draft affected how long--

Whatley: What's the date here, see this would be when I was leaving.

Keene: Yeah.

Whatley: The-- I would've had when I got out of the peace corps I knew I was faced with the military. I didn't wait to be drafted though, I went ahead and joined the air force.

Keene: Oh okay, because it was inevitable kind of.

Whatley: Yeah you had to do your military, so I wanted to um do the air force thing rather than army.

Keene: I'm glad, because I was looking for-- I was in that basement for overall five hours over the course of the month-- but I found this one and I was like "I wonder if they have any over the university" and then this one said "Afghanistan at the university" and I go "yes!" and everyone in the library was like, she's crazy. And then well that's interesting

Whatley: What's that?

Keene: How you got arrested and your time travelling, so did you travel for how long around that area?

Whatley: Well I went to pakistan and india a lot. One of my friends whom i've kept up with and he just died about three months ago and he and I travelled an awful lot he was with one of the contract teams from Notre Dame and he taught engineering there at the faculty, and he and I just got to be friends. And so we went to Cashmere several times, we went to Iran, around Pakistan, and then over into India and did a bit of travelling

Keene: Did you have a favorite place out of all of those?

Whatley: Oh Cashmere by far

Keene: What was it like?

Whatley: Oh it was just very idyllic, peaceful, incredibly beautiful. It was also a period where the indians, like the bernese, were always fighting somebody. The indians and the pakistanis were always fighting. They are at war again now, it cranked up about 3 or 4 days ago.

Keene: Oh really?

Whatley: Pakistan has shot down to Indian planes last night and I Keep up with is stuff pretty closely and so..

Keene: Well I should probably keep up with that too.

(inaudible 1:30)

Whatley: That's how I quit smoking, I used to smoke--

Keene: Did you start smoking while-

Whatley: I Started smoking in college and I got over there and I smoked Kent cigarettes and they were shipped in through Karachi--

Keene: And where was this?

Whatley: In Afghanistan the were shipped in through KarachI and then brought by truck up to Kabul. and the indians and pakistanis went to war and the port of KarachI was closed, and if you wanted to smoke you had to get Russian cigarettes or some other kind of cigarettes-- I though its not worth it, so I quit.

Keene: Well it worked out. Did people realize how bad [stutters] did people realize that they were that bad for you whenever

Whatley: No, we realized that it made you cough, but we didn't-- it wasn't-- that was right on the beginning on the suspicion that smoking caused cancer.

Keene: So you never smoked during your over your time overseas?

Whatley: When I quit in Afghanistan, I quit.

(inaudible 3:30)

Keene: Well, thank you so much again.

