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Arkansas State Police Project

Interview and Typed Responses with

Hansel Bradford
5 May 2004

Interviewer: Michael Lindsey

Hansel Bradford: I will start by saying I am from Van Buren County. I grew up at Eglantine, south of Shirley, in the Fairfield Bay area. When I was sixteen, there was a young man named Leslie Wright, [who was] seventeen], who lived with his parents across the river near Morganton. He murdered his mother and father. He was kept in jail at Conway, and during his trial, which was held at Clinton, Trooper Robert E. "Bob" Ward transported him to and from the Van Buren County Courthouse. I attended that trial and saw the trooper testify. He looked great in his uniform and on the witness stand. Back in those days, one trooper might cover as many as four or five counties. He lived in Conway, and Van Buren County was his assigned area. I would see him from time to time and he always looked good in uniform. He was well-liked and had an excellent reputation in the community. Bob Ward was one of the best officers that I ever knew. He was a great man. I have never heard any-

one say anything bad about him. He gave me a strong desire at an early age to become a state trooper. That lasted until I was hired and is something I will never forget. Had it not been for him, I might never have gone to work with the Arkansas State Police. In 1961, you had to be between twenty-five and thirty-five years of age to go to work [for the state police]. I was twenty-four and a half. There was a Weights and Standards Division of the state police in 1961. You could start in this division at a younger age. So I started in the Weights and Standards Division on December 16, 1961. I worked there until August 1, 1962, when I was commissioned a trooper and assigned to Boone County.

Michael Lindsey: Before you went into Weights and Standards, had you been a police officer anywhere else?

HB: No. I worked on the farm and in sawmills before [joining the state police]. The Weights and Standards Division was put back in the state police in 1953. In 1963 the legislature passed an act putting it back in the Highway Department, and today those officers are known as the highway police. In the Weights and Standards Division, I worked one month at the scales at West Memphis and then I went to Alma where I worked until I was commissioned as a trooper. I worked at Harrison until 1971 when I was promoted to acting sergeant and transferred to DeQueen where I supervised troopers for a year in Sevier, Howard, and Little River Counties. After that year I went back to Harrison as a trooper. I chose to come back to Harrison because I really didn't like that area [DeQueen] too much. I

liked the people, but not the area, and it was only an acting sergeant's position and didn't include an increase in pay. In 1973 I was promoted to sergeant and moved to Booneville where I supervised the troopers in Franklin, Logan, Scott, Polk, and Montgomery Counties. I was there for seven years. Sergeant Joe Brewer retired in the spring of 1980, and I requested a lateral transfer back to Harrison. It was granted in April of that year, and I moved back. In August 1983, Lieutenant Jimmy Stobaugh and Captain Billy Bob Davis retired from Troop I in Harrison. Captain John Paul Davis, a good friend of mine, requested a transfer from Troop A in Little Rock to Troop I in Harrison. His request was granted, and he moved up here as a commander of Troop I. Then I was promoted to lieutenant, assistant troop commander of Troop I. When I first went to work for the state police, there were four districts. District One was headquartered in Little Rock and commanded by Floyd Short. District Two was headquartered in Newport and commanded by W. D. Walker. District Three was headquartered in Fort Smith and included Boone County. Damon "Slick" Wilson commanded District Three. District Four was headquartered in Warren and was commanded by Otto Griffin. Roy Johnson was a major and headed the Weights and Standards Division. He was a gentleman of a man. You couldn't ask for a better man to work for—as were Damon Wilson and Lieutenant Stobaugh. There are so many great people in the state police. Lieutenant Carroll Evans down in Clinton is another good one. I worked for the state police until September 1, 2000, when I retired as a lieutenant in Harrison. I think I was probably the last member that started with the Weights and Standards Division. Lieutenant Evans worked in that division before he was

commissioned as a trooper.

ML: What would be a typical day in the Weights and Standards Division?

HB: Our job was to enforce the overweight, oversize, license and fuel tax laws. We were authorized to enforce motor vehicle laws, but we didn't have the authority of a trooper. Our enforcement was aimed at trucks and other large vehicles. Have you talked with anyone in uniform? In the Weights and Standards Division, we wore a brown uniform with a campaign hat. Our Arkansas State Police patch was worn on the left shoulder and a diamond-shaped patch was worn in the right shoulder with the words "Weight Officer" or the rank for supervisory personnel. The patches were the same as those worn by troopers, except for the color. The diamond shape patch worn by troopers contained the badge number or the rank for sergeants and above. Later on, the patch on the right shoulder was replaced with a patch shaped like the state of Arkansas. It just contained the officer's title. The next change was to put an Arkansas State Police patch on both shoulders, as it remains today. Captain John Paul Davis and I were instrumental in getting that change made. Our argument was that anyone approaching an officer from either side could identify him more readily as an Arkansas State Policeman, and as people were promoted, no patches would have to be replaced. I was in my first Arkansas State Police training school at Beebe when Lieutenant Colonel Melvin Delong, then a captain, told the class that the Arkansas State Police uniform was designed by the first assistant superintendent, Robert LaFollette. As I recall, he said it was designed from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police uniform, and the colors represented the North and the South. Back in the early days, they wore a

cap and motorcycle boots. Later on they went to the campaign hat. I was told that at one time in the 1950s, troopers wore a cap until they completed their probationary period and then they got to wear the hat. In 1969 when Governor [Winthrop] Rockefeller was in office, we wore a semi-western type hat for one summer before it was discontinued. My first issued handgun was a blue steel model 38-44 .38 caliber Smith and Wesson. My next one was a blue steel model 28 Highway Patrolman .357 Smith and Wesson. The next one was a blue steel model 19 combat .357 magnum Smith and Wesson. The next one was a model 66 stainless steel .357 magnum Smith and Wesson. Then we went to the Sig Sauer .40 caliber semi-automatic. Just before I retired, we went to the Glock semi-automatic. We were given a choice of either keeping the Sig Sauer or taking the Glock in .40 or .45 caliber. I chose the .45 Glock, which was awarded to me when I retired. Training schools were different back then. Today they are much longer. In those days, a new trooper might be assigned with a senior officer until he was ready to work alone. It is not done that way today. They go to school first. The first Arkansas State Police training school I attended was held at the Beebe Junior College in 1962. That was a one-week school that began on August 19 and ended on August 25. I still have the letter I received for that assignment. There were twenty-seven in that class. I didn't go to the basic school until 1964. It was held at Camp Robinson. It began on August 10 and ended on September 4. There were seventy in that class and sixty-nine graduated. That was the largest class in Arkansas State Police history. Trooper Bill Mullenax dropped out to return to a previous job at the Arkansas State Teachers' College in Conway. He lat-

er returned to the state police and retired as a sergeant.

ML: After you got out of the academy in 1964, did they send you back to Harrison?

HB: Yes.

ML: What would be a typical day as a trooper in Harrison during the 1960s?

HB: At that time we worked ten hours a day six days a week and were subject to call twenty-four hours a day. I have been called out as many as four or five times between shifts. We got off one day a week, which was not on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. I worked an evening and night shift. When I came to Harrison, Sergeant Jimmy Stobaugh, Sergeant Earl Rife and Trooper John Washington were here. Stobaugh was the highway patrol supervisor and Rife was a criminal investigator. In 1965 Kenneth McFerran was assigned to Boone County, and a day shift was added. We got vacation leave but no holidays. I believe Ralph Scott was the director when we started getting two days off a week and shifts were cut to eight hours. It was also during that time when we started getting holiday leave and were allowed to take some regular days off on weekends. My starting salary was \$3,600 a year.

ML: Was that much lower than you might receive at other jobs?

HB: No, it was much better. You didn't make that kind of money working on a farm or at a sawmill. I needed the job and was proud to get it. It was what I wanted to do and I enjoyed it. I would do it all over again. The Arkansas State Police is a great organization to work for and I am very proud to have been a part of it. It was a good job back then and an even better one today. In the early 1960s, there was a lot of civil unrest in Arkansas. The Arkansas State Police began riot control

training in 1963 or 1964. Supervisory and management personnel were first trained at Camp Robinson, and they trained the troopers out in the districts. This training was also included in the basic Arkansas State Police training school in 1964 and in-service training continued for some time after that. Those of us in District Three met at a peace officers' building in the Rogers-Springdale area for this training. Captain Damon "Slick" Wilson, Lieutenant I. T. "Boone" Bartlett, and Sergeants Jimmy Stobaugh and Tommy Goodwin were the instructors. I was on two assignments in Little Rock when things were pretty bad. There was sniping from buildings and Molotov cocktails thrown at vehicles and buildings. On one occasion, a Little Rock policeman and two national guardsmen were assigned to ride with me. I worked from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and was assigned to an area in the southeastern part of the city, which included College Station. I was sent to West Memphis when Dr. Martin Luther King [Jr.] was killed. [Editor's note: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.]

ML: Did they actually send you over into Tennessee?

HB: No, from this area they sent John Kidwell, Bill Miles, and me to West Memphis. We were there for a few days, but we were not sent into Tennessee. I was also sent down to the Tucker unit of the state prison when the state police took it over in the 1960s. I was there for about a week. No, I went down there later. I think John Paul Davis was one of the first ones they sent down there. While I was in Booneville, we had the Paul Ruiz and Earl Van Denton manhunt. They were prison escapees out of Oklahoma. They kidnapped a man over there and killed

him, leaving his body in a field. They took his car and went to Louisiana. There they came upon two old black fishermen. They kidnapped them, put them in the trunk of the car from Oklahoma and ran it into a canal, drowning them. Then these two came back into Arkansas. They got up just west of Magazine on Highway 10 and had a flat. They pulled off on a county road. A person driving by noticed they were strangers and thought they looked suspicious and called Marvin Richey, who was the town marshal in Magazine. He was a real good friend of mine. He went to investigate and they kidnapped him. They took his shirt off and one of them put it on. They put Marvin in the back of his patrol car. They went back through Magazine and on to Blue Mountain, where they turned right and went down to the Ashley Creek Recreation Area. As they drove in, they met two park rangers, David Small and Opan James, in a truck coming out. The rangers recognized Richey's car and saw him in the back seat. The rangers stopped and asked if they were having trouble. Ruiz and Van Denton jumped out, pointed guns at them, and said, "No, but you have." They forced the rangers to turn around. They handcuffed Small to Richey, put them in the trunk of Richey's car, and shot Richey in the back of the head with his own gun, killing him. One of them had a .38 caliber pistol and shot Small just before they closed the trunk, but it didn't kill him. They took the truck the rangers were in and forced James to lead them out of the area. They went through the Ouachita Mountains down near Oden in Montgomery County. They took James out behind the truck and executed him. They tried to hide the truck by covering it with some brush. Then they went to Oden, stole a vehicle, and went over into Oklahoma. In Oklahoma,

they called a taxicab, killed the driver and took the cab. They were eventually captured in the state of Oregon. There were around 120 officers involved in that manhunt for three or four days. They were so dangerous that some of their family members agreed to notify the police if they received a call from them, and that is what led to their arrest. I guess I actually set that manhunt in motion. I went to the car where they had killed the marshal and shot the ranger. That was on June 29, 1977. I called Fort Smith Headquarters and informed Captain Buren Jackson as to the direction the suspects were thought to be traveling and where the roadblocks should be established. He got things moving fast, as officers quickly began arriving in the area. They were convicted, sentenced to death, and executed not too long ago. [Editor's note: Earl Van Denton and Paul Ruiz were both executed by the state of Arkansas in 1997.] When I came back to Harrison in 1980 there was a bus accident that killed twenty people and injured thirteen people. It occurred south of Jasper. The bus was coming down the mountain by the fairgrounds on Highway 7. Robert Meek did the actual report on the accident and I assisted him. We brought the bodies over to Holt Funeral Home and I helped identify the bodies and interview the survivors. There were thirty-three passengers on the bus including the driver. That accident occurred June 5, 1980. The next major event that I was involved in occurred on July 3, 1982, when Keith and Kate Hagler hijacked a passenger bus down in the Conway-Little Rock area. They forced the driver at gunpoint to go to Jasper and park it in the middle of the Little Buffalo River Bridge. Their demands were that the police kill them. Their bodies were not to be embalmed or tampered with in any way. They were to be taken to

Emory Lamb's property and allowed to lie there. They believed that on the third day, they would come back to life, get up, and walk around. They called Lamb "Daddy Foo" and believed he was the Messiah. They agreed to release the bus driver and passengers but there was no reasoning with them. They were shot and wounded by state police snipers when they came off the bus and started toward us. They refused to obey commands to stop and surrender. Kate shot Keith in the chest, killing him, then shot herself in the chest, taking her own life. They had said that if we only wounded them, they would kill each other. Keith was disabled and couldn't fire his weapon, so she took care of things herself. This was the most bizarre incident that I was ever involved in. What makes it so unusual is that they were trying to force the police to kill them. I have never seen anything like it. Some of the state policemen involved were Lieutenant Jimmy Stobaugh, Lieutenant Earl Rife, Sergeant Jim Thomas, Trooper Bill King, Trooper Gary Jenkins, Trooper Robert Meek, Trooper Steve Enderlin, Trooper Steve Coleman, Trooper Bill Beach, Trooper Bobby Hicks, and myself. The video of that event has been used for training throughout the United States of America and in foreign countries. The biggest operation that I was ever involved in was the takedown of the CSA compound in April 1985. That was a group of people over in Marion County near the Arkansas-Missouri border that called themselves the "Covenant Sword and Arm of the Lord." That was a large operation that involved the Arkansas State Police, Missouri Highway Patrol, FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation], ATF [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives], U.S. Marshals and local sheriff's departments. We were expecting some serious problems,

but it ended without bloodshed. At the same time, we were involved in a man-hunt for a fugitive that had killed a Missouri State Trooper just across the state line in Taney County. So we had these two operations going at the same time.

ML: Had you had any run-ins with them before this?

HB: No, not to my knowledge. Trooper Sidney Pavatt was the first state policeman to be killed in the line of duty. This happened in Marion County north of Summit on September 25, 1948. Numerous house burglaries had been occurring in the area, and an individual went to the sheriff's office to report that his home had been burglarized. The sheriff was out of town, but he met Trooper Pavatt in the courthouse and gave him the information. Pavatt told the person that he would be back the following day to investigate. In the meantime, some of the stolen property was discovered in an old, abandoned, secluded storm cellar. This person, his son, and a neighbor were on their way to report this when they met Pavatt and a deputy on their way to investigate the previous complaint. The three directed the officers to the cellar. The officers questioned them and learned that an old retired railroad man lived nearby in a cabin. They went to question the old man accompanied by the three civilians. As they approached the cabin, a young man with a rifle ran in the back door. Pavatt yelled for him to come out. A shot rang out and Pavatt fell with a bullet wound in his chest. Those accompanying him were unarmed and fled for help. Other officers arrived along with an ambulance. Pavatt had crawled about seventy-five to one hundred yards downhill from where he had been shot and died while en route to a medical clinic in Harrison. The old man who lived in the cabin was at first considered a suspect, but his body was later found nearby in

a shallow grave. Officers found military papers in the cabin that belonged to Kenneth D. Speegle, twenty-three, who was AWOL [absent without leave] from the U.S. Army. A massive manhunt ensued, but Speegle managed to get out of the area. A former sheriff from the state of Texas who had once arrested Speegle was driving near Bethany, Oklahoma. He saw Speegle hitchhiking. He went to a telephone, called the chief of police, and kept Speegle under surveillance until they arrested him. Sergeant Damon "Slick" Wilson and Lieutenant Allen Templeton were shot in August 1948 while assisting the Newton County Sheriff near Hasty. The assailant lived with his brother and bed-fast, invalid sister in a densely-wooded area near the Buffalo River. He had sold the property, but they wouldn't give up possession. The sheriff had made attempts to get them to move, but they wouldn't do it. They were in poor physical and mental condition and the court ordered them committed to the state hospital. The sheriff requested state police assistance. The officers went to help him and were shot by the assailant who was barricaded in the house. The standoff went on until around noon the following day, at which time it was believed the assailant shot his sister, set fire to the house, and shot himself. Trooper Bill Struebing was shot in February 1954 when he went to investigate a suspicious car that had been parked with a man in it for several hours near a service station at Bear Creek Springs. He was shot while he and the assailant were walking back to the police car. Struebing returned fire and managed to get to his car, turn it around and put the headlights on the suspect, who was lying on the ground. He heard another shot while he was in the car and it was believed that the suspect [who was killed] shot himself. The assailant was

wanted for the murder of his wife in Oklahoma. Former Colonel Tommy Goodwin, a trooper at the time, and Sergeant Otto “Snake” Griffin were shot in December 1954 while assisting the Searcy County Sheriff near Pindall. They were shot while attempting to serve some arrest warrants. The assailant was shot and killed. Trooper Howard K. Hendrix was shot in June 1965 when he stopped three suspects in Marshall wanted for bank robbery. I was involved in that manhunt. Two of the suspects were captured in Searcy and Newton Counties. The other one was later arrested in a foreign country.

ML: You talked about the bus crash. That has to be one of the worst accidents in Arkansas history.

HB: That was labeled the worst motor vehicle accident in Arkansas history.

ML: Are there any details that stand out about that accident?

HB: The bus went out of control coming down the mountain right where the fair-ground is. There is a ditch on the east side of the highway, and it ran into the ditch. Some of the people got [thrown] out between the bus and the rocks. It threw the driver out, too. Then it veered across the highway and plunged down the embankment on the west side of the highway.

ML: When did you learn about it?

HB: It was at night while I was at home. Headquarters notified me. Captain Billy Bob Davis, Lieutenant Jimmy Stobaugh and I went to the scene. The Harrison Fire Department was called to help remove the dead and injured. The injured were taken to the Boone County Hospital and the dead to Holt’s Funeral Home. I spent a day or two at the funeral home helping identify the victims. A television crew

came up from Texas and I did an interview with them there on the parking lot.

The National Transportation Safety Board sent some people in and they investigated the accident alongside us.

ML: Working in the 1960s and 1970s—how would you work traffic without radar?

HB: If we made an arrest or issued a citation for speeding, we had to follow and pace the violator with our car. We were not allowed to use radar when I went to work. Later, we were allowed to borrow and use those owned by cities and counties.

The first radar that I used was owned by the Harrison Police Department. It was a little box unit that wouldn't lock in the speed. Some of the counties started buying radars and loaning them to the state police. Later on, the department started buying our own radars.

ML: Are there any technology or equipment changes that stick out as being important?

HB: In 1985 the state police went to the new 800 MHz [megahertz] radio system. They figured out where they wanted tower sites. In this troop, I was the person designated to contact landowners and find out if the property could be leased. If the people weren't willing to lease it, you just tried to find another spot. There were problems even with that system. For example, we could be at the rest stop on Highway 62/65 less than a mile from Troop I headquarters and you couldn't call out. We would have to pull out on the highway to call back to headquarters. My first state police unit was a solid blue two-door 1962 Ford with a standard transmission and no air-conditioner. In 1964, they began replacing the solid blue units with white over blue. In 1966, we got our first cars equipped with automatic transmission and air-conditioning. The old bullet type red light and siren was re-

placed with a round beacon red light in the 1960s. The beacon light was later replaced with a light bar, siren, and p.a. system. In 1969, our cars were equipped with blue lights. The white over blue units were replaced with solid white and blue striping, as they are today, when Doug Harp was director. In 1981, we went to the short sleeved open collar summer shirt. There were some who didn't want it. They wanted to stay with tradition, but I was one of the many who were proud to see it. That change was made by Colonel Tommy Goodwin and it was a good one. It made working conditions much better during the hot summer months.

ML: What was your relationship with the sheriffs?

HB: I had a good relationship with them. Some of the sheriffs were among my best friends. I always tried to treat people just like I wanted to be treated. Two of my good friends were shot and killed in this area. Baxter County Sheriff Emmitt Edmonds was killed by a prisoner he had in jail who had somehow gotten hold of a gun. I was involved in the manhunt for the fugitive. Later, Carroll County Sheriff Orville Bishop was killed while answering a family disturbance call in Green Forest. I had worked with those men and thought highly of them.

ML: One program that the state police worked on fairly closely with the sheriff's offices was the marijuana education program. Did you go out on any of those searches?

HB: Yes, I did go on some of them, but as a general rule, troopers were assigned to that task. In the early 1980s, Arkansas State Police narcotics officers found two patches of marijuana in Searcy County near Richland Creek west of Snowball. The patches were close together on a farm and had some large plants in them.

One patch was out in the middle of a cane field and the other was back in the edge of the woods. Lieutenant Carroll B. Evans, Arkansas State Police Company E commander, asked if I would like to help them. Two troopers and I went to assist them. The two suspects, a male and a female, lived nearby and the woman was home alone. While we were pulling the plants, she came and asked if we would like to have something to drink. We didn't accept her offer because we were afraid we might get poisoned. We pulled the plants, went to the house and arrested her. She wanted to change her clothing before going to the Searcy County Jail. Some of the officers went into the house, and I went behind it to wait under a shade tree since it was a very hot summer day. I noticed a dry creek bed down below and a small trail going down the steep embankment to it. I went down to look around and found where the trail went out on the other side. I began following the trail and walked into another large patch of marijuana out in an island. We found a water hose buried in the ground, which ran from the house to the patch, along with some tools they were using to cultivate it. The man was arrested later. The last sizeable quantity of marijuana I got was in October 1988. We were having a special operation in the troop and Captain John Paul Davis and I were out working with the troopers. I stopped a car with a headlight out on U.S. Highway 65 north of Omaha in Boone County. There were three white males in the vehicle. One of them was asleep or pretending to be asleep in the back seat. The driver said he had been up in Missouri to get the one asleep and was taking him back to Marshall where he was working at a carnival. I knew he was lying because there was no carnival at Marshall. I escorted them on to Omaha and di-

rected the driver to park off the roadway under a streetlight. As I was interrogating them, Captain Davis and Corporal Lyle Smith drove up. I opened the right door and an odor of marijuana came from the vehicle. We searched the trunk and found eighty-eight pounds of marijuana. They had just harvested a patch. The driver claimed that he had just bought a goat and had gotten it to feed the animal. He even testified to that in court, but it didn't help him any. He got twelve years.

ML: Did you see the size of the plots and the methods of cultivation change?

HB: Large patches became fewer. They started growing it indoors under lights and in greenhouses. They tried to hide it in bulldozer banks, in the woods, and in fields with other vegetation. The Arkansas State Police had some trained observers who were really good at spotting marijuana from a helicopter and a lot of pressure was put on the growers.

ML: You have talked about some of the people in the state police that you admired, like Carroll Evans. Do you have any stories that might highlight why you respected these men so much?

HB: Carroll B. Evans is a native of Van Buren County and lives in Clinton. I remember seeing him driving around in a blue panel truck. It had Arkansas State Police decals on the doors and "Weights and Standards Division" on the panels. He wore a blue uniform and cap. I think the Weights and Standards Division went to the brown uniforms in 1957 or 1958. I believe it was in 1957 when he became a trooper and was the drivers' license examiner for several counties in that area. He gave tests at Clinton on Saturday and I would go over quite often and visit with him. In fact, I believe he had my application mailed to me. Robert E. "Bob"

Ward, Carroll B. Evans, Roy Johnson, and Gray Albright were the first four people in the Arkansas State Police that I really knew. Albright, who was the first superintendent of the state police, gave me my first examination. I had a lot of admiration for those men.

ML: As a post sergeant and as a lieutenant, how would you gauge your troopers' activity?

HB: The standards used to evaluate an individual must be both achievable and measurable. We had an evaluation form which contained the standards for a specific task. Some of these standards were personal appearance, care of equipment and supplies, attendance, emotional stability, dependability, punctuality, relationships with other law enforcement agencies, tactfulness when dealing with others, ability to learn, initiative, attitude, and quality and quantity of work. I gauged their activity by observation, reviewing reports, and record keeping during an evaluation period. I was never told, nor did I ever tell anyone they had to get a certain amount of activity. High activity does not necessarily mean a person is doing a good job. In fact, it could be far the opposite. The quality and quantity must be acceptable. We were trained to do evaluations.

ML: Did you get a sense when a new director would come in, or a highway patrol commander changed, that the idea of what Little Rock wanted a trooper to be doing changed?

HB: As a general rule, a new director or highway patrol commander would make some changes. It's just natural that different people have different ideas about how things should be done. When there is new leadership, there will be some things

changed. The promotion of a sergeant, lieutenant, or captain will bring some new ideas and there will be some change. I saw some new methods that were very effective, and I saw some that were not. But in most all cases, when a new procedure was found to be ineffective it was either revised or eliminated.

ML: Did you notice if a director emphasized certain arrests over others, for example, if a director came out of the Criminal Division, he might prefer or encourage more felony arrests and not place as much emphasis on traffic enforcement like speeding.

HB: I don't remember anything like that. The state police always encouraged troopers to be alert for things other than why the traffic stop was initially made. We were always taught to do that, and it led to a lot of felony arrests.

ML: Did you see the typical activity change from the 1960s to the 1990s?

HB: From the time I started until I retired there was a tremendous increase in drug arrests. I remember in 1962 you heard about marijuana in California, but not here. You might find a marijuana cigarette, but that was it. Methamphetamines are another big change.

ML: In my opinion, the state police is a different organization from the 1960s and a lot of it has to do with the work requirements, like the hours. Do you think the troopers that are working today are the same as the ones that started in the 1950s and 1960s?

HB: Working conditions in the state police are much different today. There was no such thing as comp time back then. Today the department must abide by the Fair Labor Standards Act and that is the way it should be. The department had some

real good troopers back then and it has some real good troopers today. I believe the department will always be successful in finding good people.

ML: You mentioned that in 1963 the Weights and Standards Division was moved back to the Highway Department. Do you have any memories why this happened?

HB: At that time, the department was undergoing some severe financial stress due to insufficient funding. Mileage was curtailed to save gasoline. We were required to go out of the city limits and park along the highway. We were only allowed to go eat, pursue a violator, investigate an accident, or answer an emergency call. Officers were doubled up and in some cases there were three to a car. Sergeant Earl Rife, Trooper John Washington and I were in the same car. To help ease this burden, the legislature transferred the Weights and Standards Division of the state police to the Highway Department.

ML: Are there any other incidents over your career that stick out as being memorable that we haven't talked about today?

HB: I remember one that occurred while I was sergeant at Booneville. I had been to Troop H Headquarters in Fort Smith and I was on my way back to Booneville. A light rain was falling as I traveled south on Highway 23. I had just started up the Booneville Mountain when I saw a car on the shoulder with the hood up. I stopped to render assistance and asked if I could call a wrecker or give the man a ride. He said he lived at Sugar Grove and asked for a ride into town. The car had an out of state license on it, and I requested to see his driver's license, which was issued in the same state. He said he had been up north and had just recently moved back. I told him that he needed to get an Arkansas vehicle and driver's

license; otherwise one of the troopers might issue him a citation. We got in the car and started on to town. I still had his driver's license and for no reason other than just curiosity, I decided to run a check on him. I called headquarters and requested a "10-51," which means "Check for wanted." The dispatcher called back and asked if I was "10-12," which means "Is there a visitor present?" I knew right then that I had a wanted person in the car with me, and I began watching him closely. I replied, "10-4," which meant that I did have [someone in the car with me]. The dispatcher then said, "10-53," which meant that the person was wanted. He [the passenger in my car] gave no indication of knowing what I had done. I drove on to the Booneville Police Department, got out and placed him under arrest. He was wanted for robbery and bail jumping up in one of the northern states. I believe it was either Illinois or Indiana. On another occasion, I had been to Waldron and was on my way back to Booneville when I came upon a young man carrying a duffel bag and walking along Highway 23. I stopped to give him a ride. He told me that he was from Van Buren County and was going to his grandparents in Booneville. I ran a wanted check on him and was told that he was not wanted. I dropped him off at his grandparents [house] and went home for dinner. When I came back out, headquarters called and wanted to know if I still had him. I told them that I had no reason to have him, but I knew where he was. They said the Van Buren County Sheriff wanted to question him about a burglary in which a pistol, gun belt, and holster were taken. I picked the young man up and found the gun belt and holster in the duffel bag. The sheriff came to get him and he took us to where he had hidden the gun under water in a ditch. On November 7, 1972,

Captain Billy Bob Davis and Sergeant Joe Brewer received information that a subject was at the voting precinct at Log Hall in Newton County drunk and shooting a rifle. They went there and saw a man later identified as William Duster Campbell with a .22 caliber rifle in his hand. When Campbell saw the officers, he began threatening them with the gun. He told them to get back in the car and leave or he would kill them, and that they didn't have any business down there. They tried to reason with him and asked him to throw the gun down. He began pointing the gun at one and then the other, cursing and telling them he would kill them or anyone else that bothered him. He began shooting over their heads and at random in the ground. Dave Ricketts said he could handle Campbell and started walking toward him. He shot Ricketts in the right leg below the knee. Then Campbell started down a branch bed yelling, cursing, and firing the rifle. He turned and fired several more shots and Captain Davis returned fire. Campbell then turned and went on down the branch. Sergeant Brewer had gone to the police unit to call for assistance at that time. Lieutenant Jimmy Stobaugh, Sergeant Jim Thomas, Trooper Don Stracener and I went to assist. Dave Ricketts knew where Campbell lived and directed us to that location. Captain Davis, Lieutenant Stobaugh and Sergeant Brewer went around behind the house. Thomas, Stracener, Ricketts and I went to the front. We called for Campbell to come out and he opened fire on us with a .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle. One bullet hit the front bumper of the police unit behind us. We took cover behind a shed, and he fired at least two shots at us with a high-powered rifle. He then came out of the house into the front yard with a gun where he was shot and killed. Colonel Tommy

Goodwin told me not long before he died that he and Bill Struebing were wearing the same shirt when they were shot. Struebing had gained some weight while he was recuperating from his gunshot and the shirt became too small for him. He gave the shirt to Goodwin and he was wearing it when he was shot. He said he still had the shirt and the gun he was shot with. I believe he said the gun was a .32-20 caliber Colt. He said he was thinking of donating the shirt and gun to the Arkansas State Police Museum. On December 31, 1979, I went to Ozark to ride with Trooper Bill Brashears who was assigned to Franklin County. We worked for a while, had dinner at the Ozark Café, and went back out. Traffic was slow, and around 11:00 p.m. I went back down into Logan County. Shortly after midnight, Brashears stopped a van near Altus driven by Elisha Thomas Harris, twenty-three, on suspicion of DWI [driving while intoxicated]. What he didn't know was that Harris had committed a burglary and had some of the items in the vehicle. After talking with Harris at the rear of the van, he went to remove the keys and Harris shot him in the right ear with a .25 automatic. Harris then grabbed him. A struggle ensued and Brashears shot Harris. They were taken to the hospital in Ozark and both survived. Another incident that comes to mind is when Brian Snavely, a Harrison police officer, was shot. Captain John Paul Davis, Sergeant Jim Thomas and I were involved in the hunt and chases of that suspect. We had a description of the car and were looking north of Harrison in the Bear Creek Springs area. I was north on U.S. 65 and they were on a county road east of Bear Creek. The suspect had abandoned the car and had stolen a pickup truck. They came in contact with the suspect and fired some shots at the vehicle in an attempt

to stop it. As he sped away, dust from the vehicle interfered with the pursuit of it. They called and told me the vehicle was headed toward U.S. [Highway] 65 and where it would come out at. As I approached the intersection of U.S. 65, it came across the highway in front of me and headed west on U.S. [Highway] 62. I went in pursuit of it and fired a shot attempting to stop it. I stayed close behind the suspect and we were overtaking another vehicle as we approached the twin bridges east of Green Forest. Suddenly, an eastbound police unit came around a curve and attempted to block the suspect. The suspect collided with the westbound vehicle and the police unit. It then went off the roadway and came to a stop in a field. I came to a stop in a cloud of dust near the police unit, which interfered with my vision for a few seconds. I saw the image of a man standing with the door open on the left side of the suspect vehicle. He then ran a few steps and disappeared in the darkness. I thought the officer had run down to the vehicle and had gone after the suspect. As other officers arrived, I told them that an officer was out in the field and warned them to be careful. Deputy Johnny Savage and I were walking back to the damaged police unit and discovered a pistol laying the roadway. We then heard groans coming from the north side of the roadway. We found the officer lying there. The suspect, Andrew Shaw, twenty-three, was captured the following day at a nearby roadblock by Captain Davis and a group of officers after he had stolen another vehicle and was heading back east on U.S. 62. Snavely was shot in the early morning hours of May 17, 1988, and Shaw was arrested in the evening of May 18 during an ongoing manhunt.

[End of Interview]

[Edited by Rebecca Willhite]

[JD]