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Arkansas State Police Project

Interview with

Howard Chandler

9 October 2003

Interviewer: Michael Lindsey

Howard Chandler: I started with the State Police in 1951. Sid McMath was the Governor and Colonel Lindsey was the chief of the State Police. I was hired as a trooper and I worked at Hope for two months in the weights and standards division. They transferred me to Paragould and I stayed up there about a year. After the Judsonia tornado was cleaned up they transferred me to Fayetteville. I worked Madison and Washington Counties. I was transferred to Morrilton in 1954 as a trooper. I stayed there until 1957 when I was promoted to sergeant and transferred to Little Rock. Little Rock was my base until 1977 when I retired. When I was in Morrilton they didn't have a criminal investigation division. The trooper did all of that.

Michael Lindsey: Just in Morrilton or within the State Police overall?

HC: Overall. That was when I had an occasion to work burglary and homicides and everything a criminal investigator works along with the trooper's job. We had a forgery in that area. It was a political thing and I started working on that. It involved some prior identification of some handwriting. Through contacts I found out that Doctor Orlando Stevenson, who was a nationally known handwriting expert from Michigan, was living in

Morrilton at his summer home. I went to see him for some help in identifying the typewriter and the handwriting. He saw that I had an eye for this type of work and he started training me. I trained under him until 1959, then the State Police sent me to the questioned documents school put on by the Secret Service in Washington D.C. After that I came back and was designated the questioned document examiner for the state of Arkansas for handwriting and typewriters and so forth. I [have] maintained that position since 1959. Also during that time I was in charge of the manhunt details.

ML: There was a separate group that—whenever someone would break out of prison they would get together?

HC: You aren't old enough to remember the Joe Hildebrand hunt. I was up there thirty days. The Willard Martin hunt I was up there thirty-one days. I retired on a manhunt in 1977. We were on the Van Denton and Ruiz manhunt. I stayed on the manhunt until we put them out of the area. They organized the crime lab and they put all forensics within the crime lab. [This included] questioned documents, firearm identification, and fingerprints. I retired from the State Police and they appointed me the questioned documents examiner—[I] stayed on at the crime lab until 1990, I believe. In 1968, Ralph Scott was the Colonel of the State Police and he said, "Bear, we are going to organize a narcotics bureau." I asked him if he thought we needed one and he said we did. I asked him who was going to be in charge of it and he said me. I told him, "Colonel, I can't even spell drugs, let alone narcotics." He told me he would take care of that. He had already cut my orders to send me to the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drug School in Washington. When I got back I was in charge of that. At the time, I was in charge of the traveling criminals section and we kept up with the criminals that traveled throughout the country. I had a squad under me, so we just transferred some of the duties over to that traveling criminal squad. They asked me in Washington what kind of drug problem we

had in Arkansas. I told them that we didn't have one, but the agent said, "You just think you don't have one. You will find out you do have one." All we were getting before that was a pill or two off a truck driver. Margaret Van Dusen was the analyst over at the Health Department. She was the only one [drug analyst] in Arkansas so we took all of our stuff over to her. That was all the material we got until we started working. At this time LSD was coming out pretty heavy. All of those duties got to be too heavy and they took the narcotics section and assigned it to another person and gave them some agents. I kept the traveling criminal squad together. We did a little bit of everything. We provided some security to the Governor and any dignitaries that might come in.

ML: What department was that squad under?

HC: The head was CID, but my section was known as the traveling criminal section. My other section was the questioned document section.

ML: The traveling criminal squad just worked special details?

HC: Right. We kept track of "Joe Blow" who would do something in West Memphis and then we would hear about him in Texarkana. Then it might come to us that we would hear about him in Oklahoma City. We would try and get all of that information together and disseminate it to our agents. It was more or less an intelligence service than catching criminals. It might have been a bank robber or a forger. Back in those days we had some major forgers traveling around the country. We tracked two or three of them all over the United States.

ML: You were tied in with other states as well?

HC: They all had the same sort of division. We would have meetings and we might have a traveling criminal conference in Hot Springs or Tulsa or Kansas City. Everywhere we had those types of agents we would get together.

ML: There wasn't any sort of central organization, like—the FBI didn't set all of this stuff up?

HC: The FBI didn't cooperate with us. They were more of a secretive organization. They would tell you they wanted someone, but wouldn't give you any other information. It is not like it is now. We still had a good relationship with the FBI and Secret Service agents. We worked real close with the Postal Inspectors and Secret Service. At one time the Post Office was in charge of all of the credit card fraud. Then the Secret Service took it over as credit cards became popular. Now, of course, there is no control over it because it has gotten so big.

ML: Originally, the crime lab was a part of the State Police—right?

HC: No, Rodney Carlton was a forensic pathologist at the medical center. During the Rockefeller administration we had a warden named Merton who dug up some bodies from a graveyard down there. Rodney and I are good friends. I called him and told him that I had the bones of three people and he came down and looked at them. He called a Dr. Jones from Oklahoma City and they sent the bones to Glasgow, Scotland. They ran tests on them. In 1941 when they exploded the first atomic bomb there is strontium in the air. We all have got it. These bones didn't have them, so we were able to date them. We worked on that together and we convinced Max Howell (State Senator) that we needed a crime lab, which included a medical examiner with a forensics laboratory. It would include a health department and the State Police would provide the questioned documents and the firearms identification. We were still separated in our old offices until 1980 when they finished the crime lab building. Then we came together under one roof.

ML: You approached Senator Howell to get funding by the legislature?

HC: Right. They organized the crime lab. I think we had about forty people to start with. It was in 1987 that Governor Clinton appointed me the acting director of the crime lab, which is where I stayed until I quit.

ML: In 1957 they had the Little Rock integration deal. Were you sent down for that?

HC: Yes.

ML: Can you tell me a little bit about your experiences during that?

HC: My [unit's role] was just as observers. The Little Rock Police Department was assigned there. The State Police set up posts on the streets about two blocks from Central. They were just observation posts. My squad was there as observers.

ML: Were you still with the highway patrol at the time?

HC: No, I was a sergeant in plain clothes assigned to CID. We were strictly observers.

ML: I was reading in the papers leading up to it that Faubus was really concerned about the whites coming in and causing problems. Did you see any evidence of that?

HC: We didn't have any problem with the blacks. It was more or less the [Ku Klux] Klan. We knew a lot of the Klan and that was one of our jobs to make sure they didn't do anything. They did a lot of hollering and yelling, but that is all.

ML: No physical confrontations?

HC: No.

ML: Do you think the threat of violence was credible or do you think it was overblown?

HC: There was a real threat there. The Klan dynamited some cars. The fire chief's car got blown up. If they hadn't had a lot of National Guard and city police there we would have had some problems. The crowd was really worked up. It just takes a few agitators to work up a crowd.

ML: Did the State Police train their troopers and plain clothes for any sort of crowd control?

HC: Oh, yes. We were trained in riot control. We had quite a bit of training in that.

ML: When you started in 1951 did you immediately go to a training academy?

HC: Yes.

ML: What do you remember about Herman Lindsey as far as his leadership style or what kind of director he was?

HC: I thought Herman did a real good job. He was well-founded in law enforcement. He started in 1935, I believe. He had a way with men. I guess of all of the directors he was my favorite.

ML: What about Governor Faubus?

HC: The Governor was my friend. I knew him before he was Governor. I did a lot of work just for his office. They would have all kinds of threats sent in and Patsy Ellis was his secretary and she would tell me they got a letter threatening the Governor. I worked close[ly] with his executive secretary on security.

ML: Did they have a security detail assigned to the Governor before that time?

HC: No. We had a trooper assigned to the Governor as a chauffeur more or less. I guess in 1959, Chief Lindsey called me and said that we had a threat on the mansion. He told me to take my squad over there and set up a security detail. So I took my squad over and set up a security detail until we could pull in some troopers and setup an around the clock thing. I talked to the Chief the next day and he told me what he had heard. He told me where he got the word that the mansion was going to be blown up. I started investigating the source and after about two weeks I was able to determine that there were two women in a grocery store in Little Rock—a Safeway—one of them said, “It wouldn’t surprise me a bit if they don’t blow the mansion up tonight.” Someone else heard her say it and it started a snowball effect. That started the Governor’s security. When we got his security organized they assigned so many people to the mansion and so many to go with the Governor. The Governor didn’t fly. He was in Huntsville on Christmas vacation and they (Governor’s security) called me to come over there. They said, “You aren’t going to believe this, but somebody is putting a voodoo spell on the Governor.” Sure enough, when I got there they had a bunch of candles and a dead pigeon and this whole bunch of rigmarole in front of the door to the Governor’s mansion. Of course we

had security, but they didn't know how that woman got in there to put that stuff there. I finally ran that down and found out she was psychotic. There was always something to keep you busy!

ML: Was that pretty typical of your squad? Who else was in your squad?

HC: I had Duke Atchinson, Pete Tracey, Chester Clayton, Ollie Andrews, Jim Lester, Conrad Pattillo, and Lynn Chachere. Those were the only permanents. We had to go over and work the racetrack. The criminal element would move in there and they assigned us more people. These thugs would come in from Chicago and we tried to ease them out of town and make them feel not welcome.

ML: What years was this going on?

HC: I worked eighteen years over there.

ML: Was it during the Faubus administration?

HC: It started in then and went all the way through. I guess my first assignment over there was in 1958 or there about.

ML: It seems like the activities over in Hot Springs, like gambling, never really went away.

HC: As long as they had some of the local authorities within the group there wasn't much you could do about it. These would tip them off. I would get word and go get a search warrant, but by the time I got my crew over there it was already cleaned up.

ML: Was there a policy within the State Police that said since you couldn't do anything about it—just to let it go?

HC: No, I was over there a lot of times. I made a lot of runs over there, but you had to go through the locals to get a search warrant. We busted up quite a few machines.

ML: Was it common that if the Governor needed something done he would contact you directly?

HC: No, he went through the director. Any time something came up major it would come down through the ranks. I had so much going on I didn't have time to volunteer for anything.

ML: Did you notice a change when Governor Rockefeller took over and how his style differed from previous administrations?

HC: In some ways. I knew Governor Rockefeller before he was Governor. One thing that he would do is if someone called his office with a complaint he had the State Police check it out. We had one director; I won't mention his name—really took this to heart when the Governor's office called him about a complaint. Once, there was a woman lived south of Hot Springs on Highway 7 who was hearing voices in her chimney. That director sent me down to interview that woman to see if I couldn't stop that noise. I had other things to do. I had criminal cases to work, but he sent me down there. That was one thing about Governor Rockefeller. Regardless of who you were, if you filed a complaint he saw that someone took care of it.

ML: Are there any cases that stick out as being particularly memorable?

HC: There are a lot of them. It is hard to separate some of those things. In forgery cases I testified five times in one day. It was a bench trial. One time over at Wynne they had five people charged with embezzlement from an old lady—they had forged her checks. Each one had an attorney. When I was testifying I had five attorneys on me. It was a lot of fun because I knew most of them. In Fayetteville, we had an embezzlement case. There were two thousand five hundred documents that I had to testify to. I spent two days on the witness stand going through the documents saying if it was my opinion that they were forged. One time the prosecuting attorney at Fayetteville called me and asked to come by so he could get my opinion on a \$2,700 check. I looked at it and you could see two lines on the signature where it had been traced. That was all they needed so they

went back and charged this woman with forging the check. The court date came and I am on the witness stand and the defense attorney asked me if I looked at the letter. I asked him what letter he was talking about and he told me that there was a letter the guy who supposedly wrote the check had written. He had filled out the check but the name that was signed was traced over. The defense attorney asked me if I would look at it. I told him I would have to have a court order to do that, so he got a court order. I examined the note and the check and they were by the same person. The man whose check it was also turned out to be the person who wrote the check. I told Ted Coxsey that I was sorry to break his bubble, but that the girl didn't do it. What happened was this girl was his girlfriend and he had given her \$2,700 to buy a new car but written it on the wrong checking account. His wife got to it and asked about it. He hired a document examiner and they doctored the signature. When I retired, Linda Taylor took over the chief examiner's office in the questioned documents section. When she retired we formed our own company and really got into examining a lot of documents. These petitions that require 85,000 signatures people would collect 100,000 or more signatures and then we would be hired to go through and pick out the forgeries. We would have boxes filling that room in there. You would think you couldn't do that, but once you get on a roll you can do it quick. You start to remember handwriting styles. I remember handwriting better than I can remember names. It is just paying attention to details. Just like in my manhunt days, it is just paying attention to details and knowing what details you are looking for.

ML: Can you talk about the Joe Hildebrand manhunt?

HC: Joe was an old mountain boy up there. My association with him started in 1954 or 1955 when my sergeant in Little Rock called me to go pick up Joe in Dover and put him in jail in Faulkner County for forgery. He was about sixteen or seventeen. I went and got him

and put him in jail. The Faulkner County jail was on the top floor of the courthouse at that time. He walked right through those bars, dropped down in those bushes right below and went home. He kidnapped a honeymooning couple and tied them to a tree. They identified Joe. He was rearrested and taken to court. Sergeant "Blondie" Bowden was sitting with Joe in court and Joe asked him what they were going to do with him. Blondie said, "Joe, if they don't execute you, you'll get life." Blondie was just kidding of course. Joe jumped up, ran out, and hit the woods. He started stealing cars and trucks and burglarizing houses. Governor Faubus called Herman and told him to send someone up to catch Joe. We went up the first time and couldn't find him. Only four or five of us went up there. He kept doing this and word got back that he was staying in a shack behind his dad's house. When I got down to this shack the bed was still warm. He had already hit the woods. So he went and got his wife's sister Frances. She was about five feet one [inch] or two [inches] and weighed about one hundred and sixty pounds. She was chubby. They hit the woods together. People were feeding him and he was "borrowing" cars, so to speak. He went north of Boston and stayed there a couple of days, and then he started back south. At Pilot Mountain he kidnapped a couple and made them drive him down to Fort Douglas where he got out and hit the woods again. We got word that he might be going to a certain house, so Pete Tracy and I staked out this house down there. Sure enough, it was real dark and you could hear them coming. Keep in mind this is about thirty days after all of this started. There were weights on the gate to keep it pulled to and when he opened the gate you could hear these weights. When it banged shut we turned the lights on and caught them. Frances weighed about one hundred and ten pounds. Joe had a .30-.30 [Winchester] rifle and Frances had a .22 [rifle] and she had a pistol and a bowie knife. I handcuffed them while Pete held the gun on them. We always liked to have fun at that time and I said, "Frances, you got anything else on you?"

She said, “Yes sir, I’ve got some bullets in my under britches. Do you want them too?”

We were going out of this area and Pete is driving and I am watching them. Frances was squirming around and I asked her what was wrong. She asked me if she could take off her shoes. She had picked these shoes up in a junk pile somewhere. I asked here why she was wearing those shoes and she told me that she didn’t like stepping on snakes at night. Joe and her clothes were as clean as mine. She made Joe bathe and wash every day. Joe had a tear in his blue jeans and she took strips of cloth and sewed them up enough to make you proud to wear them.

ML: She was Joe’s wife’s sister?

HC: Yes. Joe went to the penitentiary. One day Clarence Thornbaugh called me and said they had a petition— Pope County wanted to send Joe to the State Hospital for evaluation. We went and told the Governor and the Governor told me to go get him and get him checked out. I said, “You want me to go get him?” I didn’t have time to do that, but I did [it] anyway. He said he wanted me personally to handle it. I went and got him and he [Joe] was upset. He said he had a good job down there and they treated him well and he didn’t want to go. He was an excellent mechanic and they treated him very well. He said, “Those doctors in the state hospital are crazy and if they say I am crazy I will spend the rest of my life up there.” I said, “Joe that is the Governor’s orders.” We didn’t have a secure place for that type of prisoner at the state hospital so I would go pick him up at the Pulaski County jail and take him over to the hospital for examinations. They finished the maximum security area at the state hospital at that time. It was supposed to be escape proof. So one morning the telephone rang about two o’clock. A man named Ferguson was on the State Police radio and said that Joe Hildebrand was gone. I said, “Don’t call me, I am not interested. He is going back to Dover.” That is where he went. We found out that Joe didn’t tie up the honeymooning couple; it was his brother who looks just like

him and is prone to drink. We had a bank robbery in Mountain View and caught one of them. They shot one of our troopers. The other one was chased by the highway patrol. He jumped out of his car on the mountain above Jasper. Sergeant Chester Clayton and I went up there to check the area out. We were going down the mountain on Highway 21 and a guy flagged us down. He said, "Fellows, do you mind taking me down the mountain? I don't feel like sitting on that old horse this morning." We said okay. He saw all of our guns and asked if we were hunting and I told him yes, we were hunting a bank robber. He said, "I don't know anyone up here that would do a thing like that." We went on down and let him out at the store. There was a man's house there beside the road and we stopped to talk with him. We told him who we were and who we were looking for. I asked him if he had gotten the keys out from the truck and the guy said, "You don't think he would steal a fellow's truck do you?" His wife called him a name and said, "Don't you remember Joe Hildebrand stole that truck one time before!" I don't remember the fellow's [the bank robber] name, but he rode the creek down to Jasper and would dog paddle through the deep water. They caught him in Jasper.

ML: When you went on these manhunts out in the counties did you find the sheriffs helpful?

HC: Oh yes. We worked for the sheriffs. The sheriff was the boss.

ML: Did you find different types of criminal activity in different parts of the state?

HC: We had a lot of thefts of herbicide in the south part of the state. They would back a truck up to a barn and take this stuff, which cost \$50 a gallon. That was the only thing I can think of as being localized to one part of the state.

ML: It sounds like the [State Police] did a lot of the criminal investigation throughout the state.

HC: Let's face it, a lot of the counties just had a sheriff and an office staff, but that is it.

ML: Did that change over time?

HC: Throughout my time the CID kept this relationship, but they are only an assisting agency. You don't pick up a phone and call the State Police to respond to a robbery or stolen car. You call the local authorities and they call the State Police.

ML: One of the things I am looking at is how Arkansas may have been different from other southern states and the problems they faced during the civil rights era. Mississippi and Alabama had these awful racial disturbances and violent confrontations between blacks and whites. Arkansas did not have the same type of issues. From the law enforcement prospective do you see differences between the states? Or was there a subversive element even within Arkansas?

HC: You still have got a lot of diverse thoughts in the field of politics. In some places politics gets real serious—killing serious. I don't know what causes it. There is a fellow by the name of Tolliver [Taliaferro, Hardin E., 1811-1875] that wrote a book in 1826 called *Fisher's River (North Carolina) Scenes and Characters* about North Carolina. He wrote about the people that were living there. Then he went to Alabama and found completely different people. When you get two or three different people merge you get a new group and I think that is what happened in Alabama. In Alabama during those times they had a lot of agitation from both sides, black and white. They tried that here in south Arkansas. We had some agitators move in, but people saw right through them.

ML: Black or white agitators?

HC: Both, but people saw right through them.

ML: After Martin Luther King was killed there were a number of racial disturbances; did you get called out to any of those?

HC: We sent troopers to Memphis to help stabilize things. The blacks had really started demonstrating and burning. We had the same thing happen in Pine Bluff, but they put it

down in two days. We had two episodes in Little Rock of civil disobedience [and] one in Pine Bluff, but that is all that I can think of.

ML: How would the State Police try to overcome that; is there anything they can do?

HC: We'd try to stop people with things like Molotov cocktails. We would confiscate weapons like guns, knives, and bats and send them home. We locked up a few carrying guns. We just didn't make that many arrests.

ML: It is interesting to me why Arkansas didn't experience the same level of violence.

HC: Law enforcement was diligent, and if you *are* diligent you keep a lot of that stuff down.

ML: Were there ways to make sure the subversive groups didn't come into Arkansas?

HC: We would talk to them. We would let them know that we knew what they were here for and that we would put them in jail if they stepped out of line. We would let them know we were watching them. We would put someone on them to watch them.

ML: How would you know they would be coming into the state?

HC: Your intelligence service was nationwide. Someone might call you from Ohio and tell you that "so and so" was coming to Little Rock. We would try and find that person and talk with him and let him know that we knew who he was and what he was doing and what we would do if he stepped out of line.

ML: Do you think that is one of the things that kind of kept a lid on the violence?

HC: Right. We used to do that with criminals. If we knew someone with a reputation was coming to Arkansas, we would tell them that we knew why they were here and that as long as they stayed here we would be with them, and they would leave.

ML: Did the State Police have any central records? For example, if a trooper in Dumas stopped a car and wrote a ticket did the CID have a way of finding out that this person was wanted for something else?

HC: No, if the trooper suspected something he would call us. I made all of the troop meetings around the state. I was in close contact with all of the law enforcement around the state, and with my document work I was in every courthouse. They knew me and if something happened they would get on the phone and call me.

ML: You must have had amazing contacts. If anything happened anywhere in the state they could just give you a call.

HC: Mississippi didn't have a handwriting expert. Arkansas loaned my services to them all the time. Louisiana had the same thing. So I made a lot of contacts that way.

ML: You must have been working seven days a week.

HC: When I went to work I worked six days a week, ten hours a day and then any calls over that. That is what I signed on for and that is what I tried to do. Things have changed.

ML: Do you think the attitudes have changed, or the mission, or both?

HC: People have changed. People aren't as dedicated. When they hired a trooper back then they hired a supervisor. He took care of everything on his run. They didn't have somebody over him checking his mileage and checking his daily reports. He took care of that. He was his own supervisor and they hired the type of person that could do that. They used to have seven districts and the sergeant was in charge of a district. He stayed at the headquarters with the radio and telephone and delegated. The trooper out there in the counties was everything. Most of our sheriffs back then were tax collectors as well. He was busy collecting taxes. He might have one officer, so if something came in he would call the trooper. We were the law back then. I was working in the Harrison district and I worked seven counties. I gave driver's tests in all seven counties. If we saw somebody without a license plate we would stop them or if somebody blew us off the road we would stop them, but we didn't get out there and patrol like they do now.

ML: In the early 1950s, you had so many counties that you didn't patrol, and just responded to calls?

HC: We were on the road somewhere. I lived at Morrilton and I had Perry, Conway, and Van Buren counties. I got a call about five o'clock that I had a wreck on Highway 7 below Hollis on the Garland County line. I went over there to work that and they carried the driver to the hospital in Hot Springs. I had to go down and interview him. When I got back in the car, Little Rock called me and said I had a wreck on Highway 16 where Fairfield Bay is now. So I went over there and worked that. I had one person in the hospital at Heber Springs, one in Clinton, and one in Little Rock. The sun was shining bright the next morning before I got home just from working two accidents. I had no complaints and I enjoyed it.

ML: Is there anything else that we haven't talked about that you consider is important to the history of the State Police?

HC: My manhunt is about the only thing that is outstanding in my mind. That and working with a microscope looking at handwriting. I worked twenty years developing a classification [system] for handwriting. I could teach you in ten minutes how to classify handwriting on this system. It is like classifying fingerprints. Only one out of two hundred and fifty thousand people will have the same handwriting characteristics. This classification is so simple. A lot of the letters you can forget. How many ways can you make an "e?" You don't have many characteristics in the letter "e." We took two or three characteristics on each letter and assigned them a numerical number. For example, how many ways can you cross a "t," three quarters of the way up, half-way down, and you have your different slants. We can work with those types of letters and can assign numerical numbers to those. We taught our investigators this method. State Police investigators don't work

forges anymore though. Some of the foreign countries contacted us to use the system and I think Israel is still using it.

ML: Talk a little bit about your manhunts.

HC: Had a manhunt in Van Buren County for Willard Martin. He killed an old lady up there, Belle Jones. He burned her in some hay. I was up there thirty-one days after Willard. He was raised out there in the woods and he was sadistic. When they got after him he went to Kentucky. He got in trouble up there and killed a woman. Then he came back here and killed Belle Jones. He also raped a woman up there. I still have got my map showing the roadblocks. Willard had the whole county up in arms. You didn't go anywhere unless you carried a gun with you. I saw a family walking to church one Sunday and the boy was walking in front of them with a double barrel shotgun. People wouldn't go to the outhouse without carrying a pistol. We finally got him caught and he got convicted on rape, but not on killing Belle Jones. We just didn't have enough evidence. We had a lot of people involved in that manhunt. I set up my headquarters in a sawmill—which was owned by the sheriff—in Scotland, Arkansas. That was the only telephone we had. We called it “Scotland Yard.” We had to move when we tracked him to Pope County. Then I set up my headquarters in a school. Those mountains are so rugged. We were lucky to find any fresh trails. If you get a lost person, you [need to] keep people away from the area and make a sketch of the shoeprints that are left in some soft dirt or mud and then measure the length of the stride. I used a rod with a rubber band on it to show the length of a person's stride and if I lost the trail I would lay that stick down to help me find it. You need to set up a perimeter about a mile and check the perimeter for signs to find out if they have gone beyond that perimeter. The longer the trail, the easier it is to cut and find. In the past few years if someone is missing everybody and their brother heads out there tromping around and sticking their feet in it (evidence). Willard

Martin was like a deer out there in the woods. He would run right through a briar patch if we were close. He carried the “eye” off of a cook stove and that is what he cooked on, like a griddle.

ML: Did you guys use dogs?

HC: We used dogs on him. When it is real dry, dogs are no good because of all the dust. When we were after him it was the dry time of year. It was so dry and the leaves and dust kept you from walking without sliding down the mountain, which I did one time. You need some moisture—then the dogs are good. We had some success with them if the season was right. They were owned by the penitentiary. We used dogs on a lot of my cases. We would have an escapee from the penitentiary and we went after them and caught them. They don’t do that so much anymore.

[End of interview]

{Edited by James Defibaugh}

[JD]