

TAPE #22--SIDE A
STANLEY SIMONS

SSAnd she had a friend, who, believe it or not worked for the place where they made these things. And I can remember that she told them get one of them for me, and he did. I remember going to a...her father was a Kiwanian, and they had a Kiwanas luncheon, and I went there with him at that particular time, that I was there. She came out here I remember once, just around Christmas time, and I remember talking to her, and of course, it was tough on her, it was difficult. Particularly where you rely as much on people as she did on Art. It was difficult for her, she was really thrown on her own, and it wasn't easy, as probably my grandchildren, a couple of them.

KF Okay. Now, at the end of the war, he of course could have got out of the Army like everybody else. Now why do you think he made a Military Career? Particularly bearing in mind what you've just told me about how difficult it was for Lucille.

SS Well now, he did get out of the Army.

KF Oh, I see.

SS He did get out of the Army, and he came here. In 1946 he got out of the Army, he'd had it. And he came here and lived in Morris Planes. He and I put this building up together by hand.

KF Oh really.

SS That's a fact. And he did some printing here. But he had been in the Army too long.

KF Well he was in the same length of time as everybody else.

SS It was too long. He had, it was difficult for him to adjust. Don't forget, he was in there as an officer. He was just telling people what to do. When you run a one man business, you can't do that. It's a much more difficult job. He was used to having people that he could tell to do things. You can't do that here. And he had a very difficult time accustoming himself to civilian life, or at least I felt that he did. And it wasn't that he wasn't a good worker, he was a damn good worker. He joined the...I was the Commissioner of Police in the town at that point, and he became a special police officer. I might add, I don't believe in giving things to anyone because they are your brother or anything else, but he was a good man, no question about that, he was the best special officer they ever had in this town. And he was absolutely fearless. He was same way here as he was in the service, absolutely fearless. Because I know of some instances that took place here.

KF Well tell me some.

SS Well..They had a...we are right next to a state mental institution, it's called Graystone. And at that point they had about 7,000 inmates there.

KF It's a big place.

SS Yes it is. A very substantial place it's about a mile and a half up here. Since then much of this has changed, they have different method of treatment today. I don't know if it's better or worse, because they have worse problems now than they had before. But these fellows used to come down and particularly the orderlies, would come down, we had a couple of bars in the town here. And I remember one night, it was a great big guy got in there, and the fellow who ran the place was a great big guy, and he was afraid of this bird, and so he called the police to come down...they had started breaking the place apart. And he told me that Art...said, you know, he said your brother, he came in here, and looked at this fellow, and he said to

SS him, alright, get up and get out. And the guy looked at him like he
cont. was nuts. He said, I'm not about to get out of here, you throw me
out. He said you wouldn't believe it, he said, your brother grabbed
him around the neck and grabbed his arm and shoved it up behind him
and wheeled him right out the door. And he said to the fellow, he said
now get in the car and sit down. And the fellow didn't want to get
in. He said he literally threw...he said the man weighed over 300
pounds and he took him and threw him the car. He said, I couldn't
believe it. He said, I was afraid to tangle with him. And I know other
people here, on other occasions told me that....I was with him one
night, there was a great big guy that was going into the Marine Corp,
he was a great big fellow. We got into some kind of problem out here
on one of the roads, and Art got out of the car and this fellow said
something to the effect that, he took a swing at Art I think, and Art
hit him, and he went boom, that's all, we hauled him back, we hauled
him away. And he was justified in hitting him, because I was there,
and I was Police Commissioner at the time. And we weren't trying to
hurt anybody, or anything like that, but it was a touch and go
situation, it was late at night, and the fellow had three or four guys
with him, and it was Art and myself, and it was going to be on, but
it wasn't, it was overwith before it started. He was a very, very
tough citizen. Tough man to run up against.

KF Now then. What difference where there between Art, when he came out
of the Army, and Art when you and he had last spent some time
together as young men?

SS Well, of course, we had fun when we were young. I didn't feel as
close to him, let me put it to you that way. You know, I never really
asked him about the things that had happened to him. And I didn't
ask him because he was an officer, and he was in a sort of an elite
group, and I really, to be honest about it, I really, to be honest
about it, I felt that anything that he had was pretty much classified,
and I didn't anticipate...I figured if he had anything he wanted to say
to me he'd offer. And I didn't ask him about it. I must confess. I

SS very, very rarely did. There are only a few things that we ever
cont. talked about...about what he did when he was in the service. There
were a couple of them. But not too many. And I did want to put stuff
down, I must say. I asked him a half a dozen times, I said, why don't
you put this material down, write it, because if you don't it's going to
be lost. And he didn't care. He felt that it was confidential, and
classified and he took the conservative, Army approach to the whole
thing. And...there were some things, he had a Colonel he hated. It
was in Florida. It was after Art got back, and this guy had it in for
him, he felt. And I know he, I guess got back down to him.

KF How.

SS Oh, you soon forget. But it was one of those things that kind of
wound up getting, just about cashiered out of the thing. But he was
very...Art told me he was very mean, very nasty, not only to him,
but he said, he's nasty and mean to me, he treats everybody...he's a
miserable character. So Art fouled him up, Art was kind of smart, and
so when he fouled him up xxxxxx, that was it. But that didn't happen
very often.

KF Art didn't tell you the details?

SS I don't think its a kind of a thing to...

KF You don't want to tell me...

SS No, I don't want to tell, I don't want to say anything.

KF Okay, fine.

SS It isn't...it wasn't illegal, it wasn't criminal, it wasn't, perhaps even
unethical. But it isn't the kind of a thing, I don't think, you want to
talk about. At least I don't think so.

KF Okay. Ross thinks...you've hinted the same thing, that the tough things he had to do in the war were largely responsible for his becoming such, an apparently, cold passeton (?) man.

SS I believe its true.

KF Now we don't know, you didn't talk to...he didn't offer to tell you much about that. He seems not to have told anybody, but the impression is that perhaps he did alot of killing. He saw alot of very unpleasant things. I suppose you would...he was a kind of a commando.

SS Yes. No question about it.

KF I wonder how Lucille felt about him when he came out of the Army.

SS No, she just loved him, she didn't think anything of it, one way or the other.

KF When did he go back...

SS You know, most of the work that he did was what is called defensive guerrilla operation. And where four or five people hold a group of maybe a thousand, two thousand people at bay, by disrupting everything, by letting them think that there are ten times as many, and being...and getting them where they are...his whole thing to me was, hit them where they don't expect it, surprise. That was his whole thing. He said if somebody expects you to be someplace, then they will be waiting for you, you don't have a chance. But if you are going to have five people, are going to take five hundred, you've got to take them when they don't expect it. Then you did pretty much the same thing, I believe, in Tehran. And it was the same general type thing. That was his general type of operation. So I don't know how much killing he really did. There was no question that he had to do a fair amount of it, and he...and in addition to telling other people to

SS do it, I'm sure...I know on that prison raid there, when the prisoners
cont. weren't there, that was a rescue operation..they killed, at Son Tay,
they killed a tremendous amount of people, no question about that.
Then on the other hand, you get involved in that operation, what do
you, you know, go on.

KF Oh sure.

SS You either do that, or you don't come back. You come out of it either
way you want to. But since you go there with the idea of winning and
succeeding, and you know that this is going to have to happen. I can
understand how he could be the way he was, and of course, it's
difficult to get from that type of thing, back into civilian life. It, you
know, it's extremely difficult.

KF What were the signs that he was unhappy as a civilian?

SS That's a hard question. Well I think one thing is he didn't make
enough money, and this bothered him. I think that is true, that's
because the business, having been a relative...the truth of the matter
is, there was no business of that kind here at all. I asked him what
he wanted to do. And he said, well, I would like to get into the
printing business. So I said, well, okay, let's see what we can do. I
didn't have any large amount of money or anything. I mortgaged the
house, as I recall it, and bought some printing equipment, and we
started it out.

KF What had you been doing previously?

SS I ran a paper. The Clothing Trade Journal, I bought it from my
father. Very interesting thing that happened there. I, of course,
primarily a lawyer, or was, and I went to Harvard Law School, which
is supposedly the best school in the country, I don't know whether it
is or not, but it has the reputation of being one of the top schools.
And it was kind of an expensive thing, although when I read today,
that it cost \$45,000 to graduate from there, I realized how cheap it

SS was in those days. It really is murderous today. But at any rate, I
cont. got out of there, I went into Dewey's office...I opened up an office of
law in New York, and more or less practiced. My father became very
sick, and my mother said to me, Stan, I want you to run this paper. I
said, jees, I can't, I can't do that and do a law business at the same
time, I said, it's impossible. She said to me, well, you know, your
father sacrificed alot to put you through law school. Well, what she
said was true. So I said to her, okay, tell me what you want me to do
and I'll do it. The result of that was, I ran this magazine. My father
felt that it wasn't making enough money, and I pointed out to him that
it was the middle of the depression, and that things were very
difficult and that it was making a fair amount of money. And I said,
look, why don't you sell it, it belongs to you. So I said, I'll tell you
what you do, you go out and see the best price you can get for it,
and I'll give you \$2,500 more. So he did, and I did. And I bought the
paper from him. And I ran it for a period of years. Now when Art
came out, he didn't want any part of running that magazine, and of
course, one of the reasons was he had never done any of that kind of
work before, I really never had either, but I got into it by getting
into the magazine. And so, he said, well I would like to go into the
printing business. Said, after all I went through the school of
journalism. So I said, well, okay. Well, we started this paper here,
it's a small paper, it's still a small paper, although it's got a heck of
alot more readers, and it's bigger than it used to be.

KF Is it the Morris News...

SS That's right. And we had a fellow that who wanted us to start it, and
he and Art were supposed to take care of it. Most of the people
around here I think felt that Art was cold and tough and hard.
Although I, of course, didn't feel that way. I must confess. And I
think he felt that he wasn't making enough money in it. I think that's
one of the things that happens when you are in the Army. You don't
realize that you have to come out and put your nose to the grind
stone, and it's tough going in a one man business. And eventually he
decided...he had a friend of his who was in Korea, and who wrote to
him and said, why don't you try to get back in. And so he did.

KF And this would have been what year?

SS That would have been about 1953, right around in there. He was here, he bought a house with my mother, over there, and my mother stayed there and Lucille took care of her, which I thought was just great, and of course, Art did to. I felt the same way about him. And I've always loved my brother, and I will say one other thing about Art, he had a tremendous sense of patriotism. If there ever was a guy who said, my country, right or wrong, but right or wrong, my country, they were talking about him. Because he was an extreme patriot. I must confess, I am somewhat the same way. Maybe that's because of the way we were raised, or we were brought up. I don't know what. But these people around here felt I'm the same kind of a lunatic. He was really a man for the country. No question about it. And no sacrifice that he could make would be to great, so he...risking his life didn't mean anything to him, but he also realized that he was in a desperate game, and he was a very astute person. And he wanted to survive. And I once said to him, I said, gee, I said, Art, is it right when you said they had a price in gold on your head in Vietnam. He said, yes, they have ten thousand dollars in gold, the North Vietnamese. So I said, shee. He said, hey, I don't see anybody collecting it, do you? But he was a...he was highly patriotic. Religion or anything else, nothing. Had anything meant anything to him, the country, the United States meant it all. That's the way he was. And he felt the same way about the people in the country too.

KF So for seven years, he and Lucille and your mother lived here. Both the boys would have been...

SS They were here, that's right.

KF Tell me a bit about their family life.

SS The Army made a hard father, I felt. I don't think he, because he had been in the Army all that period of time, and been up against hard things, I don't think he ever realized that you can't do that with kids. That you have to present a soft side to them, on occasion too. You will get further with them, just as you will with most people. I guess the old saying is, you get more flies with honey than you can with vinegar, or something like that. He didn't realize that. Now he worked for a time, driving a cab in Morristown, while he was here. And he was a scrupulously honest guy. And most of these cab drivers are a bunch of thieves. And the fellow who owned the company, old man Welch, Gene Welch, who I know pretty well. He said, you know, your brother is a fantastic guy, he brings in twice as much money as anyone else does. Well sure, he was the only one that was really paying him. I said nothing. But he thought Art was just great. And he thought he was great in all respects. So, he was a terrific worker for him. I know, but....he got kind of tired of the paper, and the long haul, I think, is what disturbed him. A business is something that you nurture for years, and years, and years. A military campaign is when you go out and shoot somebody. And that's the end of that. Or his type of military campaign. So I think it bored him. It really did. And so when he had the opportunity to go back to Korea, he went. But I also felt that he didn't think that he was making enough money or...the youngsters, his family life, I think his life with Lucille here was good, maybe I'm wrong, but I think so, I believe so. I never heard any xxxxxx thing with the youngsters, but I think they were kind of afraid of him, he was a tough bird. Or in other words, if he said, you know, Harry leap, Harry had better leap, because it's going to be tough going. I thought he was too strict, really. But he knew what he was up against, they didn't.

KF Did he find it difficult to show them affection, do you thing?

SS I don't know. I think he was affectionate with his wife.

KF Did you see that?

SS Yes, pretty much. Sure. And he would do what she wanted to do, many, many times. Even though it was something he didn't particularly want to do. So he wasn't that hard with her. I think he tended to be too logical with the kids. And that made it difficult, in addition to which...I think particularly, Bruce was a very stubborn person. And this led to some severe conflicts there that made for a great deal of unhappiness.

KF Do you remember any in particular?

SS Well, I don't like to...Well, if we're talking about when they were youngsters, well, I remember Bruce one time came out here...his father told him to stay out of here, and we were...we were just putting this place up. On a concrete floor over there was a steel pot, full of lead, that the plumber had left there. He had been soldering up alot of joints in the place here, and Bruce came in here, and Art came looking for him, and he found him just before he stuck his hand into that. If he had put his hand in there, his hand would have been taken off. Because the lead was molten. And I remember it because it was...

KF And what...Art was mad?

SS Yes, he was kind of provoked because the boy came in here. He was justified in being provoked to some extent. And of course he was also mad because the fellow had left this molten thing here. He was justified there to some extent too. But there's no point in getting mad about the whole thing. He wasn't that mad about it, but I recall the incident more than anything else. But I think he tried to be a good father, and I think basically he was. But Bruce got into an awful lot of trouble around here. You know, as kids, he was kind of...sneaky things that happened when I think about it. And I don't know why. Whether...I couldn't say that was Art's fault at all. It irritated him probably, that was probably one of the reasons he wanted to get away from here. He probably figured, what am I into here. Back in the Army it's not like this.

KF See now, in later life he appears to have been wonderful with children. Ross' children are just crazy about him. Of course it is easier to be a grandfather than it is to be a father, because you are not responsible. He wasn't a grandfather to these children, but he was playing that kind of role. And that's always easier than when it's your own children. But still, when he was in his 50's he seems to have been rather good at talking to children, and rather nice and soft with them, and they found it fascinating. But indeed in later life everybody found him fascinating, all those people at EDS are just totally seduced by your brother.

SS He certainly, when he was with me up here, everything that you say applies. I don't think there is any question about it. Now, what the reason was, why it didn't pan out with his youngsters, I don't know. But it may be that he didn't have enough contact with them for a long period of time. You know, Ross is raising his children.

KF Yes.

SS And of course, Lucille was very easy on Art, and I believe she may have been very easy on the children too. When he was here to give them a hand, his hand was too strong. When he wasn't here there was nobody with a hand that was strong enough. I realize it's easy to make judgements, and things like that, but the boys did not..I think they kind of broke his heart in a way. It was probably the saddest thing about his whole life, I would say, was the boys. And I tried to talk to them, I tried to talk to Bruce. He was like talking to a wall. I remember, you know, Art was in Vietnam, Bruce was in college. He came up to, I believe it was the last year, at the University of North Carolina. He father had paid for his tuition, he got some type of relief, but not a heck of alot. He was a resident of the state, that was about it. And Bruce suddenly left home, he left college with about 4 months to go. And of course, Lucille called me up and said, gee, I don't want to bother you, but do you know where he is? And I said, no, I don't, but I'll try to do the best I can to xxxxx. Well, he went out to Montana, I believe it was Montana, and I finally talked to him.

SS And I said to him, how do you come to leave a place like this in the
cont. last few months that you have? You break your mother's heart, you
don't tell her where you are, she doesn't hear from you at all, you
just go on. How can you do a thing like that? Well, it just...And I
said, do you realize how your father has to make his money? He
doesn't any large amount in deposit, so the bank...where they just
pay him a bunch of interest or something. He doesn't get down here
and run a butcher shop. He's over there being shot at, and shooting.
And the money that he's making is paying your college. How do you
come to do this to him? Don't you feel you owe him something. No. So
he was a very unfeeling type of...I don't have much use for him, I'll
tell you the truth. Mainly because...forget about Art, but his mother,
just leave her holding the bag that way. And off he goes. He did some
other things too that were very bad. I don't think you want to put
them on tape.

KF Okay. I'm going to see if I can't interview him anyway. It takes a long
time to get where he lives, but I'm going...

SS It's in northwest county.

KF I'm going to try and go out there, if he'll see me. Okay. Now he went
back in the military, he went to Korea. He was in the military then for
another 15 or 20 years.

SS Yes.

KF Lucille still live here most of that time?

SS No. Because she went down to Fort Bragg, and lived on the post
there for quite...or it might have been off the post, but it was, I
don't remember the street....it was 788, something like that, I don't
know, it's been a long time, and I was never down there or anything.
But she lived there.

KF What kind of contact did you have with Art during that period, now, until he...When did he leave the Army, about 1970?

SS '70, '71.

KF Okay, so from '53 to '71 what kind of contact did you have him over that period?

SS No too much, letters. A fair number of letters.

KF Was he a good letter writer?

SS Not a consistent, or not often, but his letters were kind of interesting at time, yes. I remember one time, I sent him a picture of this place here, when snow was on the ground. We had about foot and a half of snow...and he was in New Guinea at the time, and jees, he got this, he wrote me back and he said, boy I'll tell you something, I couldn't stand it, he saw that thing. And we laughed about some of the things. And he had a pretty good sense of humor, we laughed like the devil about some of the things that had gone on. And I remember, one of the funniest things, I probably said this before. My father had, in about 1941, or thereabouts, worked...he went down and worked for an outfit called Sigmond Eisner & Company in Redbank, who were a large military contractors to the Army, Navy, Air Force, and what have you. And he made patterns for them, and things like that, and he really made beautiful stuff, no question about that. So he made an Army coat for Art, he was going....jees, it took him so long to get it out, and we...I'll tell you, we...Art sent me some letters and we really howled over it, it was really funny. And he said, jees, I'll tell you the truth. He said it's colder than hell out here and I keep telling these guys I'm going to have this coat coming, and he said, I'm freezing to death. We had alot of fun about it. But finally he did get it, and it was a beautiful coat, and he was very happy with it and all that sort of stuff. But I was thinking about some of the laughs we had as time went on, about a variety of things. Korea...yes, he went back

SS in and....I guess it was kind of tough place to be, but Lucille spent
cont. most of her time there, and then of course he went to...After Korea,
he went to Turkey, where he taught Turkish commandos for a....he
thought soldiers were great, he said that the only trouble is, is they
don't use their brains too much, and he said as far as soldiers are
concerned, fearlessness, patriotism, following your orders and
everything, you can't beat them. But when it comes down to a
question of them using their noodles, they are not too hot. He said
that's the only problem. And he was also down at the Panama Canal for
a period time, as a commander, or something or other down there. And
there too, is where we thought one of the boys got into kind of a
drug habit, was down in the canal.

KF One of his boys.

SS Yes. I don't think the boys had a very good picture of the Army. I
don't think they particularly went for the armed forces. Maybe that's a
natural reaction, I don't know. But of course, I was high on Art, high
on the qualities that he had, and so I took kind of a dim view of the
boys. I must confess, I don't think they treated him right. Whether it
be on the road, or what have you, I don't think they did. I don't
think they treated him with a regular....I have a son who is a
Lt. Colonel in the Air Force. And I was tough on him too, not as
tough as Art was, but darn near. And all he says is, thank God you
were that way, or I'd really have been...It was in the '60's the drug
scene, the whole bit that went on here. But I really didn't think Art's
boys did well by him, perhaps they'll change, I hope so. But then it's
kind of late.

KF Let's talk about him now when he retired from the Army. He must have
been...he was close to 60. No wait...no, no, he was in his early 50's.

SS That's right.

KF 1918 to 1968. He was 53, 54. How did he...then he had to adjust to
civilian life. How did he do that?

SS Now what period of retirement are you talking about. When he went down to Florida, after he got out, after Son Tay? That I think is a little later than that. I think now you are up to around '70. I believe.

KF 1970. 1970 was Son Tay.

SS Right.

KF And he must have retired soon after that.

SS Yes. He didn't want to retire. They retired him. And I think in a large measure he felt that he had been done in by the system of the Army. He really wanted to be made a general, no question about that. And...

KF Do you think he would have been a good general?

SS Oh, sure. Yes I do. Not a politic general, there are all different kind of generals. But when it came down to winning a battle, or in some respects a campaign, sometimes those are two different things, but assuming that a type of thing that I'm referring to, which is action, I don't think they could beat him.

KF Now why didn't he become a general?

SS He didn't become a general because the general officers wouldn't let him become one. They were provoked at him. They were provoked at him because he was too direct. He wasn't politic. And the only way you can get away with that is if you are in a war, when they've got to have you win the battle, then they'll over look those other things. Otherwise they want the niceties. That was his problem. I tried to get him to go on the general, I pulled every trick, I'm still paying off debts to people that didn't help him, but they don't know it, but I am. But that's a fact. Because I thought there were some people could have and should have. And the real thing that did him in, was the

SS fact that he was in the reserve, and he wasn't in the regular Army.
cont. He was, I believe there was only one other person who had been in the reserve as long as he had been, and that's what nailed him. Because all these people that you come up with, that you come up to sanction your being made a general, all are in the regular Army and to some extent they want you to have gone to either Westpoint, or XXXXXX or some other place. But beyond that they don't want you to be in the reserves. That's what he was in.

KF I don't understand that. What does it mean to be in the reserves?

SS It's a part of the Army. In other words, you are never really a part of the Army of the United States, you are in the reserve section, the section that they can call up, but you are..you stayed in there all this time, and because of that, it is not really in its way regular Army. Have you ever seen the films of after the Son Tay Raid, when Nixon is with them in Washington?

KF I've seen photos.

SS Alright, Nixon said to him, I remember it on television. He said to him, you are in the regular Army aren't you? And he said, no, no sir, I'm in the reserve. And Nixon jumped back about four feet. Because he knew then that he couldn't get him past the general board that appoints the generals, that approves them, he couldn't do it. Now the only fellow...the only guy who ever went up the other way, such as he did, was a fellow in World War II, I forget his name, it was a German name. He was head of the 6th Army, actually, in the Pacific. And he had come up through the reserves. But he was in a war. If Art had been in a war, sure they would have made him a general, say sure, that's right, let this man through here, we need this guy to do this, that or the other thing, no problem. But it wasn't a war. So, they didn't need him, and so they retired him. And that really broke his heart, it really did. Because he asked me about it a couple of times. And I tried to get him to...I tried to get him to join the Israeli Army, because I had a contact...now this is the truth. I figure

SS anything to get him out of down there...I'd have put him in the Saudi
cont. Arabian Army, I wouldn't care where the hell he went, but he was my
brother, and I wanted...So I said to him, listen, I can get you
appointed a Major General in the Israeli Army. He said, actually, he
said, man for man it's probably the best Army in the world. But, I
said, I know the way you feel, you're not...He said to me, he said
Stan, I'm an American, I'm not an Israeli. I can understand that, and
he was right of course. Well I said, well jees, Art, I'd just like to get
you out of that place, and I had the contact.

KF This is when he was in Florida after Lucille...

SS That's right. So when Ross came along with that other thing, I
thought boy, that's great, that's perfect. So I figure I owe Ross a big
debt for taking him on that thing, and for treating him very,
very...I'm not saying this for that...but treating him very nicely, and
also for treating me very nice, I might add, no question about that.

KF Between the retirement and the Tehran Raid, what kind of a life did
he lead? Or rather, after retirement and up until Lucille died.

SS He enjoyed it, I think. It's an odd ball life. I went down there, I'd
never been down there before, and I went down there before Lucille
died, when she was alright, she had nothing...I thought I was in the
mountains of the moon or something. I came down there and I said my
God where, and when I got back up here, I said, you know, did this
really happen, did I really get down to this place. But he loved it. It
was all and all Idaho, when he was a kid. The old days, out on a farm
with the pigs and the chickens, and a pond, and the fishing, and all
this stuff, down to the very snakes. I can remember he and I
chasing...there were some rattle snakes in, same as Idaho...But he
enjoyed all that, that was just great. And he enjoyed being with
Lucille. And if the kids came down there it was alright, of course, he
was unhappy about Bruce, but Bruce, I think married a colored girl.
Well, at least he stuck with here, I give him credit for that, that's

SS something. It's an attribute I didn't think he had. But kind of broke
cont. Art's heart in a way. And it wasn't because Art is racist, he certainly
isn't. In fact, I remember talking to him about the black fellows under
his command. And he said, he told me just point blank, this was in
his retirement, right. He said as far as I'm concerned I don't care if
they are black, green, whatever they are, and I've had some black
men who were damn good men. They were equivalent of anybody, and
as far as I'm concerned, they are entitled...I think he went to bat for
a couple of them to get decorations for them, and did. And of course
this is another thing that infuriated the fellows at the time. He
really...that's the reason why, part of the general thing, being a
reserve is what really did him in, because even the president could
get it past. And he wanted to. But, sure, he did some of these other
things. Some of them are detailed in this book, with the Rock Island
Arsenal. When the stuff was no good, he told me how crummy the
amunition was. He said what the hell is the matter with these people.
But of course he made it tough on them. They weren't used to that.
He looked at it a different way. And he felt that he was killing
people. They looked at it as though they didn't give a damn. That
isn't the way he felt.

KF But he was upset when Bruce married a colored girl.

SS I think he was, yes. Yes he was, no question.

END OF TAPE #22--SIDE A

SIDE B--TAPE #22

- KF The '60's thing that you were talking about, before...Do you know what drugs they were?
- SS No, as a matter of fact, I don't.
- KF My generation thinks that's important, but yours doesn't realize.
- SS Yes. Oh, you know, the way I look at it, and that's because I probably am a member of the older generation. It's kind of a question of right and wrong. And I think it's a matter of discipline, self discipline. And I really don't think it's that tough to discipline yourself. I really don't. So all you've got to do is really want to do it. So to me, when someone gets involved in that, it's because they really don't care. And to me that's a lack of, to some extent, of common sense. Now don't get me wrong, there are all kinds of problems, I'm aware of that, and all kind of things that happen to people, all kinds of different people in the world but...I don't know, I always looked at Art...If I boiled it all down to one thing, I'd say he was a patriot. Maybe should have led a revolution or something.
- KF Now he was very interested in revolutions, I gather. Jay Coburn tells me. Do you know how that came about, did he ever talk to you about that?
- SS No. I know he was in...No, he never said, I must confess, he never said anything about revolutions, but he did...
- KF He was thrilled to death to be in Tehran when there was a revolution going on. He said that to Jay.
- SS Yes, I imagine that's true.

KF In fact, when they went in the Iranians asked him what he was doing there, because he looked like an elderly farmer. And he said, I've never been in a revolution and this is my chance, and they let him in. But you don't know where that interest in revolutions came from?

SS No I don't.

KF He was interested in history.

SS Yes he was, he was interested in history. I think that a part of it was due to the very nature of the war work that he did. This defensive guerrilla stuff, which is, which means you can manipulate people, and you can manipulate movements, and you can start them, you can format them, and you know how to hold them, with a very limited group of people. I know we talked one time about, oh, the riots in Baltimore that they had here for a while. I forget what the particular reason was. A lot of rioting, I think it was in the '60's, a lot of rioting going on. And he did some duty down there. And he said, really, these are not that hard to control if you want to do it. The problem is putting your foot down and in the right place.

KF And had he done that?

SS Yes he had.

KF Where would he have done that then?

SS Of course part of where he did it I guess was in the Phillipines. I guess he raised hell with the Japanese forces there, when they were in control. And his job was going behind the Japanese lines, for extended periods of time...When they were really on their own. And you had to be very self sufficient, even though you...and you couldn't carry very much, so you lived off the land. And you only had a couple of fellows with you, and yet you made life unbearable for the enemy. And of course, part of that he did by getting the citizens of the area to work with him. Which in a dumb way is a type of revolution, I guess.

KF Yes.

SS But he also mentioned police work that he had done here when he came back, and he was pretty adapted to knowing how to handle people.

KF It's interesting, because in the end that's how he got them out of the Iranian jail.

SS Right. Got that whole place going. It's very interesting. You know, I've worried about...it makes me feel bad that he didn't live. For one big reason, I think he probably would have had a successful journey on the planes that didn't make out. I think that he might have turned that around a little bit.

KF Planes that didn't make...

SS You know, the rescue attack, that was subsequently made, after he died.

KF Oh, yes.

SS I think he might have done a good job.

KF Well, I bet...Yes, seems to me the way that was run, they wouldn't let the military men run it, it was being run from the basement of the White House.

SS Yes. Well, I think if he'd been around they might have though.

KF He would have told them that was the way they had to do it.

SS That's right. They would have been afraid to do it any other way, in one sense. He was an interesting man. And he was a very complex man too. You might think he was very simple, but he wasn't.

KF Well, that's what I'm trying to get at. These complexities.

SS I often wondered if had an great love affairs. I read one of your books. I see you have sex intermingled with it.

KF Oh yes.

SS Considerably. Interesting. I read it last night.

KF Which one.

SS Key to Rebecca.

KF Oh yes.

SS And it's an interesting book. I had, I might add, you are quite a favorite in Morris Plains, because I went over to the library, or my wife did, and they said, oh yes, Mr. Follet's books are well read, particularly by the men. Now a little town like this, I think that's quite an accomplishment, I must say. And I had visions of having a tea here, while you were here, so that all the people I could say to them, well...Incidentally, I must ask you one other thing. Do you have any relatives in Dallas?

KF No.

SS Because there is someone that has a rare coin company down there, who's name is Follet. And it isn't that usual a name. And since you were affiliated with Ross and was down in Dallas, I just wondered. Nothing wrong with being in the rare coin business, but I happened to see this yesterday, I was looking through a coin paper, and I said, well dog gone, I wonder if this...the first name is Michael, I guess. But at any rate....But, yes, it was kind of an interesting...I think my brother was involved with some kind of a Laotian person. Either Laotian or...what do they call those mountain people?...Mountainyards.

KF Oh.

SS I do believe so. Which is somewhat along the line of a couple of those books I've of yours. You know, fascinating. They are interesting though.

KF When would that have been? If it was Laos it must have been the '60's.

SS I'm almost sure it was in the '60's.

KF Now that's very interesting.

SS I believe it was a daughter of a priest or something like that. I had some conversation...you know, and he kind of laughed about it. But I had a feeling it was true. And I never really...

KF That's a vulnerability.

SS Oh sure.

KF A vulnerable side of him that I have not heard about from anybody else.

SS Well I had seen him look at women, let's put it that way. So he was not devoid...

KF Now there is a difference between looking at women and falling in love.

SS Oh, but I don't think he was really in love. I think that...now I'm going to shift this thing dramatically here. I think that he did it because he had to, and that's the inclination I got from him. Was that they felt that if he didn't do that, that he felt he would not get the support...and the indication was that he wouldn't, in other words, that was considered the chief, or prince, or head or whatever thing he had, whatever name he had there. The intimation was that he expected Art to get involved this way. And I guess that was part of his patriotic debt that he paid.

KF That's not a bad excuse.

SS Well, I'm trying to get it away from Major Smith in the thing there. I don't think it was that type thing. I think it, really...

KF You don't think he was in love with her?

SS Oh, I don't know. Love is a funny term.

KF That's what makes it so interesting.

SS Yes, right. I think after a fashion you cannot have any strong sexual attachment for a person unless there is a type of love. You know, it goes through all kinds of ramifications, but it was my understanding that there even was an offspring of this.

KF Oh really.

SS So...that's a fact.

KF Well, well, well. So he has another child that I didn't...

SS And that's as far as...I don't know.

KF You are not certain, but...

SS No sir, I'm not. No. Because if I was certain I would make a studied effort to maybe help the youngster, whoever it might be. Who knows, things were xxxxxxxxxx. But I don't know. This is not a figment of my imagination. It was kind of based upon statements that he made, and things. One thing or another. And I think that it is probably so. And his intimation to me was that he had to get the extreme confidence of the people, and that's what they expected of them.

KF And you are not even sure what country it was?

SS It would probably...it was a Mountinyard, I believe. I'm almost sure. Because it was a long time ago that I talked to him about it, and not a heck of alot. And I didn't pursue it too much, because I figured it was kind of a personal thing. But I thought that....As I read your book, I thought, this is very spicy item to go along with all this other stuff that you seem to have dredged up, or either from your imagination, or from fact. This is not from imagination. But I don't have...I can't tell you exactly what it was. I really don't know. One of the youngsters might know. The guy that might know would be Harry. Not Bruce. Harry might not want to say anything.

KF Well, I'll ask him certainly.

SS Is he still down in Florida?

KF Apparently he works on a ship out at New Orleans, but he lives in Florida, but he's not always there...

SS We called up a couple of times and there was no answer. So I didn't know what had happened.

KF Well, that because he's away from home alot of the time. So I'm hoping to see him. I've got to see him.

SS But he might have that. That type of thing there. I don't like to divulge things. I don't even know....I read them and there were some things in there that, you know, and he asked me, don't ever say any of this to anybody, or something like that, he was concerned about some political things in some places. Although I wish to God I'd kept the...I had fire. And all the main that I had from him in World War II was burned up, and I had alot of it. But I don't have it anymore. I have a fair number of letters from '52, '53 on, no great number. Even alot of those I didn't keep. I do have a picture of Lucille and Art the last time, in 1971, just as he was going to take off for...1970...just

SS as he was leaving for Vietnam, just before that Raid, came home for a
cont. very short period of time to stay. And just the other day I ran across
a letter with two pictures of them, which were kind of interesting. I
thought I'd take them down and have them reshot, and see if he
couldn't intensify the picture, because they aren't too...they must
have dulled with time. Not bad, but not good.

KF What do you think he wanted out of life?

SS I think what he really wanted out of life was what he finally got for a
very short period of time. A farm, not a ranch, and that's the truth.
To be with Lucille. To be as independent as it is possible to be. And
I think that's basically, that's is pretty much what he had. The only
other thing he would have like to have been, would have been a
general. And that didn't come to pass. He didn't have much use for
politics. And he told me he was a republican down there, he told me
he was the only one in the county, one of the three or four, or
something like that.

KF Republican.

SS That's right. In the entire county down there. We laughed. I think
that really is all he wanted. I don't think he wanted any other thing.
He certainly didn't want to write anything. Because I said to him, why
don't you get someone to write this..I said, even I will write it. Well,
I am no great writer, because I don't go in for great description, or
things of that character, but I said, at least the facts will be there.
No, well, he put me off, and put me off. I tried to...I said, get
someone who is a writer to do this. So I don't think that he...I say
that because I don't think that he wanted to have notoriety so to
speak. I don't think that would have meant anything to him. How he
felt about his youngsters...I think he was a little sharp with them
when he was older...Although he took Harry back in...I tried to talk
to him about it again, when I was down there, the time before Lucille
passed away, a year before. And it was hard to talk to him about the
kids. I told him that I thought he was being too hard on them. And I

SS told him that he should get Harry's youngster and bring him down cont. there. And whatever his..how he felt about Harry, it didn't pay to continue fighting against it. Instead of that, love the youngster for what he was. And so, if there were mistakes that were made along the way, you only pass this way once, so do the best you can to forgive the things that happened, and try to get the most out of the future. And he did, in fact, have the youngster down there for a while, as a result of....Harry...then they got into some other kind of a fight over something. Art was too...it was his mother's wife's car. And I think Harry wrecked it. And he was infuriated. He told me about it. And he was wild.

KF Whose car.

SS Lucille's. He had told Harry not to take it. And then Harry finally talked him into it, and then he said I'll be very careful with it. Well, there was a wreck, and Art was convinced that he wasn't very careful of it. And he was infuriated. So he threw him out. No longer with his wife and youngster. But this, of course, is more or less recent. You know, we're talking now about, just before...I believe it was just before Lucille's death. But then at the end he became closer to him again, which was good. I was glad to see that happen.

KF Did Bruce come to the funeral?

SS Yes he did. He came by himself. I was substantially provoked by him because I had agreed to meet with him and talk with him, and some things like that. And I only had one day down there, and they then decided to meet together without really telling me. And the result of that was, I didn't get to see them at all. And I was provoked...

KF Bruce and Harry.

SS Yes. And said, well, you stay over another day. I said, no, you didn't have the common decency to tell even tell me what you were going to do, having made an appointment with me, you just proceeded to disregard it. And I said, okay, if that's the way you want to be, that's alright with me, and I go back today, which I did. But to me that was symptomatic of the way they operate. Which was...

KF Maybe you are a little unforgiving, like Art.

SS Oh yes. I am. I'm tough in my own way, because that's the only way you get by in this world, to a point. I make allowances. But, I don't know. See, I felt that...I hold it against them, the boys, I felt that they didn't treat...with their father I can understand them, but they didn't treat their mother right. And to me that is symptomatic of some great weaknesses. And I don't desire to get entangled weaknesses. So, you know, maybe I am a little unforgiving. I suppose its not the greatest attribute in the world. As far as that goes, I just have avoided making any moves. But as far as...on occasion Harry has called me and asked me to do this, that and the other, which I have been happy to do. But that's something else. For instance, I think it would be tough getting tangled up in Bruce's life, very difficult I think. I can't see it. I can't. If I could help him, that's one thing. But I don't think it would give me any pleasure to get tangled up in his life. So what's the sense of doing it. I don't think it would give him any either. I'm sure it wouldn't. But you know, no...one of these days if I get to Florida I'm sure to see Harry. Because he's...I like his wife, I like his youngster. They've made some mistakes, I've made some too, so what the heck. But Art, my one picture of him is patriotism, to be honest about it. That's it. I think he would do that maybe, above all else. You can't ask for any more than that. If that's what you are looking for. I think he's loyal. He was loyal to Ross, I think that he was loyal to the job that he took over there to do. That is...loyalty is a trait that is not too common today. Believe me. I don't know, from what I see. So I think he had alot on the ball, it's unfortunate that he passed away when he did.

KF Okay.

SS I don't know what else...The only other things I have, or I might run across, it I got a kick out of...Did they ever get that thing done that they were going to do at Fort Bragg, I think it was. A museum or something like that?

KF I think so. Ross...part of my deal with Ross is that some of the money, a little of the income from this book is going to go to it.

SS I wonder if they ever got the museum...did they ever actually complete it?

KF Well, I don't know anything about it, but I gather from the fact that Ross wanted some money to go to it, that it must be still a going project.

SS Because, I put a picture of it in the paper, that I received from somewhere. But I wonderd if it ever became a fact.

KF Well, I'll check with Ross, but I assume it did.

SS There are alot of fellows around here. I ran a picture in the paper some time ago, no so terribly long ago, a few months back. I ran across a picture of the fire department, when Art was in it, and had his picture...and I ran it in the paper. Old time pictures is kind of fund.

KF Are you publisher and editor of the paper?

SS Yes. General fact totem. I have a couple of reporters around, but it's kind of fun.

KF I would sure like to take a copy with me.

SS Yes. I'll give you a copy. Of course, I'm a conservative...I believe in saying what I think, and I don't give a damn how the rest of the people like it. We had an election in New Jersey, right, I think this is the only...they had some question, they had so many questions on the ballots, it was ridiculous, really. And it's just a small paper. But this town, because of a stand we took on the questions, the only time in this whole area to vote against this particular question. So I realize we have a considerable amount of influence. I laughed when I saw the results. But I think the people are misguided in the way they voted on some of this stuff. The governors election still isn't decided, I wonder if it ever will be, to be honest about it. But we had alot of...

KF Okay. I really appreciate you giving me your time.

SS Ken, it's nice now. If you think of some things that you would like to write me about, or ask me about...I have not looked at the letters..there may be...I don't really have too many, maybe a dozen, 15 or so, I don't really recall. I'll go through them and see if there is anything in there that will help you with the things that you are...I know pretty much what you are after now. You might ask Harry about this girl, possibly.

KF I will.

SS I don't think it was a big romantic thing.

HAS TO LEAVE A MOMENT

SS You know what I'd like to do, I'd like to get a copy of this book, if you can find one down around there.

KF Well, I certainly will. That one belongs to an EDS employee.

SS These were on a tail, I tried to get a copy.

KF Well, I tell you what, this is still on, so it will remind me when I get

SS the transcript. I have a researcher in New York who finds things out
cont. for me and so on. And I'll put him on to this. Because that's one of
the things he does. If he can't find a copy...He won't find a copy in
the book shops, he'll go to the publisher, and if he can't do that, he'll
go to the New York Public Library and he'll photocopy the whole
thing.

SS Oh, don't have to do that.

KF No, that's alright. If you would like it.

SS I tell you, I read it because I took it out of the library down here.
And I called the publisher. I couldn't get a copy. So I don't know. I
thought that maybe Ross had a bunch of copies or something down
there.

KF No he hasn't, because he...he's given me that one, and he's trying to
get another one for the employee who that belonged to.

SS Well, I could probably get a second hand copy out of the library here,
by going over there and buying it from the.

KF Yes, you might do that. But it's no problem, my researchers do this
all the time. Out of print books, they go to the library and photocopy
for me. So if you want me to do that it's easy.

SS I don't understand why it's out of print to be honest about it. I don't
understand why they didn't redo it then. But...

KF I'll put them onto it, and I'll get that done. It's the least I can do,
you've been very generous to me with your time.

SS Oh, well, that's (can't understand).

END OF TAPE