

Charles Currie

Interviewer: My name is Sarah Spencer and today is March 7, 2005. What is your full name and where and when were you born?

Currie: Charles C. Currie I was born in Willoughby, Ohio a suburb east of Cleveland and September 14, 1926.

Interviewer: Alright what branch of the service did you serve in?

Currie: U.S. Army

Interviewer: Alright what was the primary unit that you served in?

Currie: Well I served in a number when I was in the army first I was in the 77th infantry division that occupied the initial occupation Kido and then they deactivated January f 46 and I went into the 11th air borne. We were recorded I was bandsman at that time as an enlisted man I played the trombone and very interesting there was another man in this city who was a fellow bandsman in the 11th air borne with me. Frank Brown was his name he was already a musician for much of his life and he taught music here in the city and he worked for Sam oh what's his name that had the music business before the tornado on Commerce Street. But Frank was the first trombonist and I played second trombone. Frank dies about a year ago but it was odd that our paths crossed again after that time.

Interviewer: Now were you drafted or did you enlist?

Currie: I was drafted and one of the things that might be of interest to you was the the experiences that we had a lot of college students today are not into because of the voluntary army today. When we got to be normally in those days they let you graduate from high school but when you were 18 you had five months you would get a letter from the draft board to report for a physical exam and if you passed that the next month you would have another letter to report for induction. And I was in college in New York so my physical notice was transferred to New York and then I took the exam and then I was drafted. However I was in college at that time I was in on the fall semester at Columbia so they let me finished the semester and I was drafted at the end f January ah February 45.

Interviewer: Did your military service have anything to do with what your civilian job or your civilian education was going to be?

Currie: No I was premed in college and I was drafted out of college. I tried to enlist in the Navy V12 program but I was too young I was 17. They had programs in those days the Army had the ASCAP program and the Navy had the V12 program. And if you got in if you enlisted into the service and got into the program they would let you finish college but then you went on active duty. However if you flunked out any subject in college well you went immediately into the armed forces. In fact in the college where I was at Columbia they had our class was about 250 but the had a V12 program there and at the end of the term about 75 of the guys flunked out and went off to Samson which was a Naval training facility near New York. And then they were headed to sea.

Interviewer: Where did you do your basic training?

Currie: Camp Wheeler Georgia south of Macon or just outside of Macon. As a matter of fact I passed through about two or three years ago and it's the head of the Georgia forestry State Forestry Operation I believe.

Interviewer: What was your basic training experience like?

Currie: Oh it was an experience it was 15 weeks of our infantry basic. And after you were drafted well it took about two weeks from when you were drafted I was drafted into and the reception station was at Camp Atterberry, Indiana. And then we were sent down by train to Macon well to Camp Wheeler Georgia and we had basic training there. It was was hard infantry basic. One of the first thing you did they gave you training in throwing grenades and marksmanship and we were on the rifle range by this time it was in May of 45 when the Germans surrendered and but we finished our training. And as a matter of fact this is a matter of information they had a lot of German POWs that were there and they did a lot of the rough engineer type work out in the ranges sitting around the post. And then we did so we trained on rifles and BARs and machine guns I think the 11th and 12th week as I remember were machine guns and the 13th and 14th week we had Bivouacked and the training closed with a live fire exercise that we took a hill with artillery a curtain of artillery fire advancing in front of you. In fact one of the guys in our square got hit with a piece of shrapnel in the shoulder from it. And I think that got him out of the service but anyway after basic we were given two weeks of leave to go home well a furlough. And then what had happened near the end of the war one of the constituents of Senator Taff in Ohio who was a very prominent senator at that time boy was in the army and he was killed in action at about 18 and a half. And so it was a human cry at that point so for everybody that was 18 they gave one extra month of advanced infantry training and so we went from after furlough I came back to Camp Rucker, Alabama which is now Fort Rucker.

Interviewer: That's where we're going.

Currie: And going I'll never forget that train ride. We went on this one track train and you could look back and you could see grass growing up between the tracks and then on the trees there was Spanish moss hanging down as we went by. And I thought to myself what are we getting into and so we got finished well we got into our advanced infantry training and at that time they dropped the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And when that happened almost all of the training activities in the Army I think shut down. So what they did then is everybody in the military training schools that were training were shipped overseas and that so that the men overseas who had been in combat and so forth could come home.

Interviewer: So as you were training it was towards the end of the war did you have a sense of relief that you weren't necessarily going to go into a combat zone or were you preparing the whole time not unsure?

Currie: Well you didn't you just did what you were told they'd tell you to go here go there and you just went you know. And however we went okay after Camp Rucker we went out to Camp Roberts I think it

was no it was a Fort, Fort Orr in California and then we were given equipment for the war. You got a new rifle for example covered with coxswain it took about a day to get all the coxswain off of it and so forth. But the one thing I remember about Fort Orr you were every where you went you were about ankle deep in sand that was we did a lot of marching so that wasn't the most pleasant things. But anyway we got we got equipped and then we went to Camp Stone man in San Francisco it was near San Francisco Bay and then we shipped overseas. We were the I think 7 transports that went and we were one of the 7 I think the 2nd or 3rd that went straight from the states to Japan rather than go to the Philippines they had a big replacement depot in the Philippines called I think the 4th repo depot it was called it was in Latte. And we went instead right to Tokyo well to Yokohama.

Interviewer: How long did it take you to get there?

Currie: The trip over was 10 days we were on a huge troop ship the General Gordon and riding in a troop ship is one of the most unpleasant experiences you could possibly imagine. We were they had of course in the holes they had bunks and so forth and you were bunked in each hole about three guys level three levels. And its almost like a concentration camp as far as the but anyway I was right on the bawl I was right there on the right side of the bawl and as we were going over at one point they thought they sighted a mine. I thought to myself man if we hit a mine it will hit either the front side or the other and we'll be just fish food you know. Well anyway the ship made a complete turn a complete circle and the five inch gun they had a five inch gun on the rear and it was spinning around like that I couldn't believe it could go around so fast but they were looking for the mine to shoot it I guess if they could. Anyway we got to Tokyo bay and as we were coming in outside the harbor there was a well there was some kind of concrete things right at the entrance of the harbor and it said Kill Roy was here. The classic thing you know all through the war you know Kill Roy was here but it was right on this concrete in paint. Well we went in and as we came into the bay at Yokosuka which was a naval base of the Jap it was a big fire of black smoke and so forth. And I looked out the port hole I remember and I saw this just before we were getting off I saw this Japanese must have been a fisherman or something he was in a little row boat but it just had one ore you steered it form the back. Well we got to Zama which had been the Japanese West Point before the war and it was just getting set up so the time that we were there was two weeks. We dismantled the school we took library tables you know heaved them out to the trucks and so forth so they could make barracks well bunks and so forth.

Interviewer: What were the condition of the men you were replacing in?

Currie: Okay let me I'll get to that in just a minute.

Interviewer: Okay

Currie: We went to we left Sama and we were going to Hokido I was assigned to the 77th infantry division and it took us a day or so and a large number of hours to get from Yokohama to Tokyo because from Yokohama from Tokyo is about 18 miles you looked and all you saw was ashes and rusted tin it was just leveled I mean this whole distance and it took us we had to switch the train to get us through and go north. And we went up through Sandi, Sandi had been carpet bombed and it was just like the center of the city was just like carpet ground it was just wiped out. And of course on the hills and the sides and

there was still the homes but it had been carpet bombed. Then we got to Mori which was the northern most city of Honchu we took there's a ferry that goes between they had seven ferries five of them had been strafed and sunk and but at Mori there was the only thing that was standing in Mori was the docks. And we got on one of the two remaining ferries which has a list as we went through Okita to Hokkaido which was the terminal point from Mori to Okita and the one thing I remember about being on the ferry was the flees I mean down in the you know where we were crunched up and packed so we had to get through that. Well we got to Hokkaido and we'd been given I think three days of K-rations a K-ration was like a cracker jack box but at the end of the cracker jack box they had a little small can like of deviled ham or something but I think they had Australian bully beef it was hideous then you had some crackers and so forth but we had enough we had rations for three days well by this time we had run out of rations and we were going through a place called Otaru which was just a little bit out of Sapporo and I remember the train stopped there for some reason and I remember a Japanese of course the people standing watching the American people and so forth and a Japanese boy tossed in some apple onto us boy that really hit the spot. Well anyway we went from there to Asahikawa which was in the middle of Hokkaido it had been the headquarters of the Japanese north army it had been a Calvary post at near there were the Inuk people the Caucasian the tribe that they found in Hokkaido. Well anyway so we were there for about 2 weeks it was like a repo depot also and then we would get orders gradually to where we were going and since I had been a bandsman or I had played in the band in high school and college a little I got orders to come into the 77th division band and the was in November of 45. And the division the 77th division was going to deactivate in January at the end of January but we had to practice every day the morning we spent in practice and then in the afternoon we were sort of off if we didn't have detail to do.

Interviewer: So were the conditions of the bandsmen better than they had been when you were in the infantry.

Currie: Oh yeh well the problem is the only problem is in combat you would be digging graves but that was a deal just. Well anyway but I remember we were in a building in Sapporo it had been a sweet potato factory it had three floors but the band was quartered there. And there our basic chore we had to guard a pile of coal that heated the building sort of in the vestibule area of the building at night. And I remember walking when I was on guard at the first seeing December the first snow started to fall it was just as I was walking guard back and forth the next time we saw the ground was in April they had at least 10 feet of snow in the city.

Interviewer: Wow

Currie: And but we were issued a pair of skis from the Japanese army which didn't need them anymore and outside of the city there was a there was Mount Miriam and so we could go skiing in the afternoon if we wanted to it was not too bad.

Interviewer: Now were you or any of the men you were with disappointed that they weren't going to see combat?

Currie: No let me tell you why. No no that was forgotten of course the war was over and so forth. But the 77th division was scheduled to go in to invade Okito in the second wave of troops and thank God it was over they expected it was going to be a very difficult time because they Japanese had been so propagandized that the American's were savage we were going to kill everybody the wives and kids and all the whole ten yards. But the Japanese people were very docile and we I never had really any problems with them. Of course the GIs generally looked down on them but by and by you get to know some of them people in that and I made friends with the of course I was a Christian and a boy I tried to connect with the Chaplin he was an old Chaplin Fredrick Vogel he was from Bennington Vermont an old Methodist Chaplin but he was a Christian man he was a Godly man. And the boys that defined themselves as Christians would sort of would be in the Chaplin you know the Chaplin activities and that. And but he provided he was able to arrange for some coal for the Japanese Presbyterian church there and the pastor and I became acquainted with the family and a very fine woman there who taught English and the they had a Christian school in Sapura called the Hope Sage Salonta.

Interviewer: Were they Americans or were they

Currie: No they were Japanese

Interviewer: They were Japanese.

Currie: But it was a Christian school there were seven Christian churches on Sapura. And we I was invited to the family and so the pastor and a young man a pastor's boy who had been in Masuria had been repatriated and the pastor's daughter was there. We had a conversation lesson usually one night a week they would try and teach me Japanese but I would teach them English pronunciation. The Japanese have a very they had difficulty pronouncing "r" like we pronounce it they always roll it rrrr, reee, roo and so forth. And but believe it or not I learned enough Japanese that when I came back from the Army to Columbia I was able to take a course in Japanese there I think Japanese II. But I had several friends there and but thing were very difficult that first winter in Japan the people didn't have much to eat. And when I got back to the states I sent to my friends that I made there I sent five packages of ole things like dried beans and peas and other things that would provide nourishment for them but sent five boxes back. But anyway in February well anyway the 77th division was going to deactivate well some of us had liaisons such as I described to you like that and so the 11th air borne division recruiter came up the 11th air borne was going to put their headquarters in Sapura. And so ten of us decided we liked it in Sapura the recruiter said of you go air borne you can stay I mean you can commit to the air borne band which will be there in Sapura. So ten of us decided to go air borne for the dumb reason because you know we had made friends there and so forth. And so but then after the division deactivated we went into the 11th air borne then we had to go down to Sandi for jump school and we were at a place called You Know Me which was right on the ocean and there were I think we took jump training in May of 46. And then after that we came back to Sapura and served out our remaining of our time. But being in the band was a pleasant experience because we would get calls to come to a certain post to provide a retreat playing for them you know the band and I remember on Okito there was one place called Murrain where they had an Adak unit there the 152nd Adak I think. So we went there we conducted the retreat played for them you know and then eventually of course in the afternoons I described how it

was we would practice in the morning and the afternoons we're free sometimes we'd go swimming we'd play baseball and discipline was quite relaxed. And greatly relaxed and when the Korean War came later on and the guys had to go from Japan right into combat from a situation like we had it I'm sure it was not a fun experience.

Interviewer: How long were you in Japan total?

Currie: I was there about a year.

Interviewer: Okay

Currie: From oh let's see from the 26th of October to about October of 46. And we we came back from when it was time to come we came down to Zima to the repo depot again was where we were processing to come back to the states. And so we got a chance for about two weeks if we didn't have detail we went into Tokyo and look around and things like that. I saluted General MacArthur one time. He had went to he was he had his headquarters were in the Dietchi Building which was just off of the well the mote around the house and he would come driving by in his limousine and then he'd turn and park at the Dietchi Building and always when he came to work the Japanese there would be a large crowd of Japanese people they really respected him. And we were there one day we saw this car come down and park in front of the Dietchi Building there was a number of steps be bonded up those steps like a gazelle I couldn't believe it I mean he was so spry but that was one of the high points of military service doing that. But anyways then we came home on another troop ship the Williams Victory. And that took us about two weeks that was awful we got caught in a storm off of Alaska and actually the storm the waves were so bad that sometimes this huge ship would it was the Williams Victor the victory ship. The screws would come out of the water in the rear and we thought the ship was going to tear apart like this and the ship would vibrate and everything like that. And but the waves were like mountains I mean man I was almost terrified to see the waves so high and of course the ship pitching and so forth. And of course in a troop ship after a few days of course people get pretty sea sick sea sickness all over and it's I mean it's not a pleasant experience to be on a troop ship when your traveling across the ocean believe me. And for that reason if I could go anywhere I don't want to go on a ship I want to go on a plane. And so that's it anyway we got to after two weeks I looked out and a track see the only thing behind us as the ship was going along was the seagulls that followed the ship and when the cooks dumped the garbage over the back of the ship they would but they followed us all the way across the ocean. And one night I looked out and I saw a light it was Vancouver Island apparently I saw the light and then a little while later I saw another light on the right. And this was apparently in the Washington peninsula and so forth and but nothing else happened after that. But in the morning I woke up and we were birth at we were birth in Seattle and then we we were in process at Fort something I think McCord or something like that but it was an army post it's closed now. And then we went there by troop train again to Fort Sheer, Illinois and you know as we passed along North in the Dakotas and so forth the train would stop once in a while for example and you'd see these oh there's a some kind of a concession that had oh like restaurants along the road along the railroad that's I can't remember what the name of it is but they still have restaurants today. But when the troops would come we were able to

get off the train and go in and maybe buy something the cost would be about triple. But anyway we got to Fort Sheridan and we were processed out then and we came home.

Interviewer: Oh so how long was your total service during that period?

Currie: Yeah it was 21 months.

Interviewer: Okay

Currie: But what was the way you got to come home when we first got over there as replacements the some of the guys had 43 you got a point for every year every month you were in the service and the high point men were the ones that came home first. And there were some guys that had 43 and 44 months overseas. But when we went into Asahikawa the first night I just to go back a little bit to tell you think cause when we came there we were we got there about oh 3 or 4 in the morning and we were escorted up this huge ramp they were about a block long you can't believe how long these wooden barracks were. But they had a long the long halls they had the little like squad rooms and we were escorted to the squad room and we were given a place. And the guy that lead us to our bunk he was about three quarters well he was really drunk and then we got to these rooms and there was saki bottles green saki bottles in the cases with sods over it I thought to myself good night what are we getting into you know. But of course these rooms had been abandoned apparently and they were just flea infested so what you when they you sort of re-concurred the barracks you put a aerosol bomb in the room and then maybe a day or so later go back and so you could go into it and so but that was it.

Interviewer: So what was the condition of the men you encountered that had been there that you were replacing?

Currie: They were the ones I saw at that point were about like I described to you not all of them but.

Interviewer: Just demoralized?

Currie: Yeah but I didn't see really enough of them to know it but all I remember is just that horrible experience of coming into this area and these saki bottles and stuff like that. And then but some of these men had had like I said had been overseas almost four years. And that takes a guy to pieces one of the men from my hometown was in I think in the Marines or something and he came back he was practically destroyed as a person almost you know from that. So one of the things when people come back from combat situations one of things the army focuses on that today to try to help them help guys get back into their families and so forth. And it's very there's a lot of stress sometimes but the army knows that and are doing the best they can to take care of it. In those days of course they didn't think of that I mean but but the thing is when they came back when the guys came back normally well units came back also and of course after the victory there was a tremendous respect you know for the soldiers who were coming home. And what the problem of Vietnam was when you went overseas of course the first units went over as units and the thing is though you came home you had to serve a year in Vietnam and then you could come home and then you'd rotate back home. However they did have a you could take two weeks of leave and two weeks of R&R while you were let's see two weeks of leave

and I think a week or two of R&R and so what they had an arrangement like during the mid part of your tour you could come back and rendezvous with your wife in Honolulu. And be there for we got I think we got 11 days there and it was nice. Nice of course they helped the wives financially so they could come but so it was a very pleasant interlude. Then you got another I think it was another week of you could take leave a week of leave so I went back to Japan and I went up to Okita to see what it was like in Sapura I could hardly recognize it anymore because it had changed so much of course that was from 46 to 70.

Interviewer: Twenty five years.

Currie: Yeh so the only thing I could recognize is where we used to have chow it had been a bank building and that was still there that I remember.

Interviewer: Now do you remember what are your remembrances of Pearl Harbor? And do you remember hearing about it on the radio or

Currie: Oh yeh well yeh I wanted to be sure to tell you that. It was a Sunday afternoon and one of my buddies in the area where I lived in Quid, Ohio came by and said the Japs have bombed Pearl Harbor. And that was the first knowledge of it and of course that was in 41 and in those days I was about 13 or 14 and it of course we were in the war then and of course you had rationing you had gas was rationed in other words you couldn't take vacations anymore because gas was rationed. You had to sugar was rationed coffee was rationed you had to have ration coupons with you got to use and you could only get so much every month. And so what anyway my buddy who reported that he was a year or so ahead of my other buddy and myself and he he went into the air force he ended up as a gunner on a B25 liberator. And but he came through it okay he came back my other buddy my classmate Bob Morris his name was he was drafted he was six months older than I was so he was drafted. And he ended up in Europe with in the 98th division with General Patton's unit and he described on incident of combat. He said they got pinned down by a German his patrol by a German machine gun or something so the squad leader told him to stick up his rifle to see you know where the fire was coming from and the top of his rifle was shot off so he told another man to throw a grenade and they threw a grenade and so they got through that scrap alright. But my buddy got hepatitis and was sent back to Mets and of course the war ended at that time for him.

Interviewer: So was he

Currie: It was over but I told you the experience of being drafted already so.

Interviewer: Did you want as young men hearing about WWII or hearing about D-Day not D-Day sorry hearing about Pearl Harbor did that excite you did you want to perhaps get an opportunity to serve one day?

Currie: I would say most guys did fight it was just something you did you know if you were 18 you went into the army or the navy or whatever. And I enjoyed very much my time as an enlisted soldier and the last thing I did at Fort Sheridan is when you were just going out the door there was a little desk there

and they ask if any if you would like to sign up in the enlisted reserve core. And I gave them a thumb print I enjoyed my time in the service so I said yes I'll sign up for the reserves so I went over and I signed my name and gave them a thumb print. And in those days your time in the enlisted reserve core for purpose they counted that for purposes of retirement. And I got 4 years of retirement credit when I retired from the army in 74 for that act.

Interviewer: Wow so did you go back to school when you got back?

Currie: Yeh of course I was drafted out of college then I went back I finished college and then got married.

Interviewer: Did you use the GI bill at all or

Currie: Yes oh yes the GI bill was probably the greatest thing the greatest investment the United States has ever made. Because they guys came back from the war they having been through the service that's a very maturing experience I should have told you the standard thing about being in the army and going through basic. They said I wouldn't take anything for it for the experience but I never want to do it again. But I personally and for universal military training I think it's an excellent experience to give a man discipline. And also it's an investment in citizenship too.

Interviewer: So you benefited from the GI bill returning home right.

Currie: Oh yeh okay what you got for every month you were in the service you got a month of the GI bill up to 36 months. And so if you went through a term of college the term of college would be like four months. Well that didn't take off a whole term you only took off the four months and so you had. So I was able to finish college let's see when I came back I had two years in before I went I came back in January of 47 I started back went through a full term and then I went to summer school and at Western Reserve in Cleveland and took about almost a term of work there and then I went back one more term the winter term in 47 and 48 and I graduated in 48.

Interviewer: So did you continue at Columbia when you got back or did you

Currie: Yes yes I finished and then I applied of medical school and of course after the war there was a tremendous influx of people coming back you know to applying for gradate school so I didn't make it so I had to take off I took a job temporarily me an mom was courting we got married and we had twins.

Interviewer: Oh wow

Currie: They are here identical twins and it took us it was about two years before I was ready to reapply and but at that point the Lord had directed me into the ministry instead. So I still had some of the GI bill it paid for almost well using the months as I described to you using them up it took me through two full years of seminary and I think another term of seminary.

Interviewer: Wow

Currie: And so the GI helped me get my professional qualifications. And that's why Tom Brokaw in his book called it the greatest generation. Well you know but through that experience of the war coming back then the guys were experienced they went to college grad school and so forth got credentials it well it just elevated the quality of the citizenry. The only trouble is it has a down side too is we were able as you came out of most everybody came out of the depression and so you had a sense of values and you appreciated what you had and the opportunities. Well the problem is though as our children grew we gave them the things we were deprived of or didn't have growing up you know. And they have today I think that was a down side because they you had this rebellion in the 60s of the young people basically fighting the draft and all this. And that was very demoralizing to the well one of the things though another reminiscence from the war was you came out when you went into the service you came out of your sort of little circle of life and you were thrown out into the world. And you saw stuff that you never saw before and you became like a world citizen instead of just like your neighborhood back home where there was a steady quiet neighborhood. And when you came back things could never be the same again you know because of the experiences that you had and the maturity that you gained and from all the things you saw. And it that was a good thing but there was a down side to that too though. When a lot of guys got into the service it tore up there the social pressure on the morality. You understand what I'm saying?

Interviewer: Yes

Currie: And they'd go out from home and of course one of the great problems that you face in other parts of the world that is a menace to soldiers is of course there's the prostitutes that I don't know they come up out of the ground almost but there always around. But so one of the positive things though a woman could do whose husband is in the service is keep in close contact with him. There was in our unit in Vietnam this was later of course but there was a there was a woman I think she sent her husband a package of goodies everyday and but just frequent correspondence he couldn't have go tin trouble I mean just you know I mean he was smothered by her care.

Interviewer: Now you were in both WWII and Vietnam

Currie: Yes

Interviewer: So did you feel a huge different in just the nations support of the

Currie: Yeh well

Interviewer: Between the wars?

Currie: Yeh one of the this is just a personal opinion but in this past political election it the media biased was quite defined it was the same there to everybody. Okay in Vietnam in the Vietnamese war of course you had Jane Fonda and this is just a personal opinion but I think Walter Cronkite who was considered a great newsman and so forth but he was a very detrimental influence on the how should I put it the viewing of Vietnam. By his well his slanted news that came out of Vietnam. Well for example you have the same thing today in Iraq I mean obviously to bring the Vietnamese people I mean the Iraqi people to

where they are today a fantastic amount of good has occurred in the culture of their country to bring them to their point of democracy and freedom and the blue finger okay but you don't hear that all you hear about is combat death they show you coffins coming back and so forth. But what has occurred there though which had been under reported has I mean is just it shows the tremendous things that our country has accomplished there and also in Afghanistan.

Interviewer: Do would you say in WWII there was less of that negative slander?

Curie: Yes you were well of course the country was attacked of course at Pearl Harbor and of course that produced a fundamental the base of patriotism and loyalty to the country. Well the same thing in what's going on in Iraq today because of 9/11 you see and just the horror of the experience that has produced I think a very great deal of cohesion. But the media of course with their biased of course all the off the wall stuff they come across with and it distorts reality and truth.

Interviewer: Now here's not to change the subject but where were your recollections of the great depression and did your family life change as a result of the war economically?

Currie: Well my father was a postal clerk during the depression he I think was furloughed for two weeks a total of two weeks. We but as we went through there up until the war he worked you at your job people worked at their job that was it you worked at a job all your life. And you were loyal to your job your job was everything instead of today your like your work is like a commodity that can be tossed around. And a lot of people don't have a lot of loyalty as a result of that because of the callousness of management a lot of time toward the care of employees. But anyway my folks had it tough in fact they used to budget their money my dad made less than \$200 a month through those years I think. And they used to my parents would they would put \$2 a day in envelopes after they paid their bills and that's what we had for groceries you know they would some how my mother got us through you know . But that was it they had these envelopes and they that was just to bring us through but they did. But it taught values and people made do with what they had.

Interviewer: Did things change once the war began?

Currie: Yeh but of courser there was a lot of work when the war started and this made thing it took the pressure off the people through you know through the days of the war. And then of course as I said by using the GI bill and getting professional qualifications just helped elevated well the citizenry the productivity of the citizenry well the things that made our country great.

Interviewer: So if you had your service to do over again would you do it?

Currie: If I had a call from the army right now saying we'll take you back we can use you perhaps in an administrative position some I would kiss I might go kiss my wife but I would go do it. I enjoyed the service that much.

Interviewer: Did that influence your decision to go back into the army you first years?

Currie: Yes yes I was I was the fact that the war directed me into Military Chaplain see it was just right up my alley spiritually.

Interviewer: Did you when you returned from the war did your experience there change at all your decisions you continued with med school had it changed your view of what you wanted to do in your life?

Curie: No I finished all my premed term and then when I was admitted that year I did post graduate work at Cleveland College I took a course or two in chemistry a couple of courses in German and to improve my qualifications to reapply. So but it was the Lord that directed me into the well into the ministry and which for what its worth I told you that when I was admitted well for the first time I just took a job you know until I heard whether I made it into med school or not. Of courser it turned out I didn't but I was courting and of courser I married my wife and we had our two children and it was a coupe of years before I could reapply but while I was working I worked for a power company in Cleveland. The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and I my job I was a ground man for the power company it was with a small crew and I dug holes for telephone poles or you know for light poles every day that I worked for them for about two and a half years. And one day as I was doing that I said Lord how wonderful it would be if I could serve you with this labor I'm pouring down into these holes and a little while later it was raining one day and so we couldn't go out on the power lines because of the danger of lightening and so on and so we had to sit in the warehouse that day the garage. And the other guys spent the day playing black jack r whatever they played or hearts or and I used to have my testament of course I was also I was taking night courses at Cleveland College and so I would study if I got breaks like that but I always had my testament and so I was reading in the new testament and the scripture from Collations 4:17 I read one day it said " and say to our kippus take head to the ministry that you've received of the lord that you fulfill it." And you know God talked to me by that verse it wasn't audible nothing audible and so forth but when I when that verse when I read it I knew from that moment I had some kind of a ministry from God I was 24 at that time trying to get in med school with all the training and so forth. And so it was also a warning take head to the ministry that you have received of the lord that you fulfill it. And that indicated that I had some kind of a ministry I didn't know what it was well anyway in the process of going to seminary in one of my seminary classes or when I went to seminary this we were in Dallas at this time I went to Dallas Seminary and one of my classmates asked me if I'd like to preach at the (tape ended).