

**ATTENTION: © Copyright The Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. The following materials can be used for educational and other noncommercial purposes without the written permission of the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University. These materials are not to be used for resale or commercial purposes without written authorization from the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University. All materials cited must be attributed to the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University.**

**Vietnam Archive  
Oral History Project  
Interview with James Mogan  
Conducted by Stephen Maxner  
June 16, 1999  
Transcribed by Stephen Maxner and Tammi Mikel**

**NOTE:** Any text included in brackets [ ] is information that was added by the narrator after reviewing the original transcript. Therefore, this information is not included in the audio version of the interview.

1       STEPHEN MAXNER: This is Stephen Maxner conducting an oral history  
2 interview with Mr. James F. Mogan, Manager of Postal Mailing Services, at the  
3 Southwest collections building at the Texas Tech University campus Lubbock, Texas 16  
4 June 1999 at approximately 9:40 a.m. Mr. Mogan, would you please start telling us  
5 about your general experiences and why you decided to join ROTC and what year? Give  
6 us just some basic background information about your experiences?

7       JAMES MOGAN: Joining ROTC during the Vietnam era was, for me, a natural  
8 thing. I come from a family with extensive military background. My father was a career  
9 officer who received a battlefield commission during the Second World War; my  
10 maternal grandfather was a career officer who received a battlefield commission during  
11 the First World War. So it was for me a very natural thing to, in some ways, serve the  
12 country in uniform.

13       SM: What were your concerns regarding entering ROTC at the particular time  
14 knowing that there was a war going on; knowing that it was very likely when you  
15 graduated you could be sent into harms...what were your feelings and thoughts on that  
16 kind of stuff?

17       JM: Actually, that's precisely why I did what I did. Actually, I had been a minor  
18 seminarian on the campus of University of Notre Dame for several years preceding that  
19 and with my brother enlisting in 1966 I felt the more people who willingly step forward  
20 and volunteer the less people would be drafted. So the fact that there was a war going on

1 was precisely why I got in to do my part. It was the family tradition and for me it was the  
2 right thing to do.

3 SM: What made you decide to attend the University of Oregon?

4 JM: Well, that's even more underlying my reason to serve. I had really been  
5 motivated to pursue Asian studies as a major and at that time University of Oregon was  
6 one of the very few universities in the United States who offered a major in Asian studies  
7 and I applied for early admission to U of O, and was accepted. Again, for me there were  
8 very few other choices at that time. I thought that major would go in very well with my  
9 desire to serve, particularly to serve the conflict going on in Southeast Asia.

10 SM: Could you describe the kind training that you received at the U of O in the  
11 ROTC program?

12 JM: To a certain extent I thought that many of the things we were allowed to do  
13 were much better suited tactically than even OBC, Officer's Basic, after I graduated and  
14 was commission. A lot of in classrooms studies, general topics of citizenship and  
15 government the first year, the military history which is a natural thing for me, doing the  
16 M, S, II year tactical types of activities, doing the MS III year, my junior year . And  
17 finally I was a cadet Company commander of the MS II class, the sophomores, which  
18 allowed me not only to put in my interest of military history but also to work in some of  
19 more practical aspects of working with them because it was a lot of map reading involved  
20 and tactical training. What was really interesting was our extracurricular activities  
21 particularly a program that was known as the Marauders. Really kind of like an adventure  
22 training and tactical training extracurricular group. We did a number of FTXs, not only  
23 to prepare us for advanced camp at the end of our junior year but also just generally to  
24 give us a feel particularly, after our cadre turnover at the end of my freshman year we had  
25 several officers who came in with extensive combat experience in Vietnam. Essentially  
26 they helped us in that way. I felt that it was much more valuable for me than what I was  
27 to experience in advanced camp at Fort Bragg between my junior and senior years and  
28 later at OBC. As a matter of fact, my OBC, from a tactical sense left me rather  
29 disappointed in a regard. And that Marauders experience really came in handy  
30 particularly when I had foreign duties as an FO along the Korean DMZ in my first duty  
31 assignment.

1 SM: So your training in ROTC was, as far as you're concerned, very good,  
2 especially after the transition.

3 JM: It was very good. We had two officers who were one was the battalion S3.  
4 The other was a company commander of the 2nd of the 7th Cav in Operation Pegasus.  
5 And these two officers were gold mines as far as tactical training and they gave us the  
6 benefit of their experience.

7 SM: What were their names?

8 JM: The officer who had been the battalion S3 who became MS IV instructor  
9 during my sophomore year was Major Kenneth K. Date. The other officer, he had  
10 commander Charlie Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cav, and was the first Army officer into Khe  
11 Sanh, as matter of fact, was Captain Peter J. Conway.

12 SM: And they had no problem communicating their experiences? Did they  
13 volunteer stories about what they did in Vietnam or was that something students had to  
14 ask them about?

15 JM: I think some of them had to be asked on more personal level. As far as the  
16 benefit training, they were very free about giving us the benefit in the training aspect not  
17 so much in telling war stories but this is what you have to do in the certain circumstances.  
18 This is how you conduct yourself in the field. When we studied and worked with squad  
19 level tactics, troop leading, they were, they definitely gave us the benefit of experience  
20 and when we didn't do it right they were very, in a positive sense, critical. And that I  
21 thought was extremely, for me and later in my career, extremely helpful. The I didn't see  
22 the likes of it at advanced camp. As a matter of fact when I was at advanced camp in  
23 between my junior in senior years, we had one officer who attempted to do that who was  
24 our company tactical officer, who was literally, verbally, in our presence, torn to pieces  
25 by a field grade officer because he tried to tell us, again, tried to give us the benefit of his  
26 experience as a company commander in the fourth infantry division. And that just left a  
27 very bad taste in my mouth. And I appreciated that officer whose name was Captain  
28 Terence Bell. He was a good man.

29 SM: So it seems like at least at the ROTC level, your instructors were allowed to  
30 integrate their experiences pass on information to you, but in the Army generally, there

1 was some kind of problem with officers who wanted to integrate their Vietnam War  
2 experiences in training?

3 JM: I felt so. Even more so when I got to OBC. There was kind of a buzzword,  
4 “wait until you get to the next level and then you will see the real Army.” That happened  
5 with ROTC, “Well, you will see more at advanced camp.” Then they said, “Well, wait  
6 until you get commissioned.” Then you get commissioned and they say, “Well, wait  
7 until you get to OBC.” Then when you get to OBC, they say, “Well, wait until you get  
8 to your first duty assignment.” Then when I got to Korea, because by that time combat  
9 arms, this pertains in particular to field artillery, were no longer being sent Vietnam to. I  
10 got my first duty assignment in the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea. I got over there and  
11 they said, “Well, wait until you get to U.S. Army Europe. You’ll see the real Army  
12 there,” or, “Wait until you get to the CONUS unit.” It became a rather illusory thing  
13 and I have to go back to the time and places it was really only where you happened to be  
14 at and we had the benefit. At least at this time frame, with all the campus turmoil, we had  
15 a lot of good training. The only thing we didn't do, we did not on purpose, when we  
16 learned of our cadre military background, we did not broadcast it. We kept in-house on  
17 purpose just because of the increasing level of anti-war, anti- ROTC activity particularly  
18 after the 1969-'70 school year started to turn violent.

19 SM: Before we talk about that because I do want to talk explicitly about that, one  
20 last question about your training experiences. In ROTC, and then in the early stages of  
21 your training at the basic course and then your advanced training as a field artillery  
22 officer, were the facilities adequate? Did you receive enough support?

23 JM: I really felt that OBC was almost, well I will put it this way it was extremely  
24 disappointing in a number of areas. The technical training the highly technical aspects  
25 were great. We talked about field artillery meteorology, for example. That was okay.  
26 When we got to the gunnery department I was no whiz at mathematics but we had, in my  
27 section in my class, we had a gunnery instructor. He was a Captain by the name of  
28 William Bartholomew who was a superb officer, very patient, the best of the instructors  
29 from a recollection of the experience there. But the things we needed most in dealing  
30 with preparation for field training for those of us were going to go out to the field  
31 particularly as forward observers, and later as fire support officers, it was disappointing

1 to the extreme. Very little practical, outside of calling in some rounds, there wasn't a  
2 whole lot of as much of hands-on as like in a tactical sense; a lot of classroom, but not a  
3 tactical sense. Nothing on the working with an infantry or as far as coordinating fires.  
4 Nothing on overlays, nothing on working for example, if you were with a unit that had a  
5 mortar support for example on how to coordinate with the observers for the mortar fire  
6 for that infantry or Army unit, nothing at all. In when I got out to the 2nd Infantry  
7 Division, basically it was pulling everything right out of the air, horribly unprepared.  
8 And I think that may have been a byproduct of well we don't have to emphasize this  
9 anymore because they're not going to Vietnam maybe that's the reason why. But in those  
10 aspects, the practical aspects, of actually working in the field in a combat environment  
11 nothing on hip shoots. Zero. As a matter of fact I remember to this day even our  
12 executive officer actually day live fire hip shoots into, in Korea on a training exercise  
13 shortly after I got their. And I was doing a call for fire. He laid his target overlay on  
14 backwards so we were walking our way to and I was walking fired towards a South  
15 Korean guard tower in an area called Crap Island right-off of the (unknown) estuary.  
16 And when the last round nearly hit the tower I called a cease-fire, hopped into my jeep,  
17 drove five kilometers back and asked them, "What are you doing?" and it is all because  
18 again I think that there was the big laps there where sure you know how to work FADAC  
19 and you can go when and may be you can supervise manual chart operators in a fire  
20 direction center at the battery level but the other things were just, just not there in  
21 training.

22 SM: These were problems with even upper level officers, field grade officers.  
23 That must have been a problem with training perhaps?

24 JM: Well, you translate it down. Because you have to understand who writes the  
25 curriculum, who writes the lesson plans, who establishes the curriculum, which I found  
26 out later in my service school assignments of having been in assistant's service school  
27 director. You have to integrate your experience into your program of instruction, into  
28 your doctrinal writing in order to be effective. At Fort Sill in late 1972 it was just  
29 literally, I found out, and I felt some real deficiencies, which did not help me later on.

30 SM: Were there any serious training accidents are people getting injured or  
31 getting killed in training?

1 JM: No, not while I was there, not in my cycle, none that I was aware of. They  
2 even went to the extremes, one time when they did have us go out and call in fire out of a  
3 blockhouse near a blockhouse signal mountain. They took extremes to simulate being  
4 danger close, but not even coming anywhere near within one kilometer of where we were  
5 calling the fire from. So I think they went overboard in that respect.

6 SM: Well let's go ahead and turn to your experiences at the University of Oregon  
7 during the Vietnam War. And, if you could, give us a quick summation of the time  
8 period you were there and start by giving us a description of the atmosphere on the  
9 campus regarding the Vietnam War, the draft, and other major issues that were part of the  
10 students' interests.

11 JM: Well, I was a student of University of Oregon from September 1968 until  
12 June 1972 as an undergraduate. The atmosphere on campus generally is quite liberal  
13 socially and politically. I think that is considered a continuum. I think that the  
14 University itself during the several years immediately preceding my arrival went through  
15 a bit of the transition, from being a little bit more shall we say moderate, I would not ever  
16 say conservative, that category fell to Oregon State University. But it was a transition to  
17 a more radical posture. Again it's a number of areas: socially, environmentally, even  
18 back then, environmentalism was high on the agenda as far as the campus atmosphere is  
19 concerned. The big turmoil on campus as I arrived in a political mood, the campus was  
20 split in the presidential Oregon primary of 1968, heavily supporting Eugene McCarthy  
21 but the a lot of people who were emotionally involved with Bobby Kennedy's candidacy.  
22 Then on top of that we had the faculty member in the department of mathematics by the  
23 name of John Froines who happened to be a member of the Chicago Seven, and that just  
24 added to the overall atmosphere on campus. Not only was the campus solidly anti-war at  
25 the time, and by extension anti-draft, and anti-military despite the fact that the University  
26 of Oregon has a reputation of producing out of ROTC more general officers than any  
27 other college or University in the United States outside of Westpoint. The campus was  
28 volatile. During the first year, early on as a matter of fact I happened to be talked into  
29 running for the Associated Students of the University of Oregon Senate. That's the  
30 student governing body at the University. And I was elected under rather unusual  
31 circumstances to say the least despite the fact that I had already a made myself rather

1 pronounced in my views. I managed to somehow to be endorsed by the Oregon Daily  
2 Emerald which itself is also a very left-of-center publication. Its editorial policy had  
3 always been so even when it had ROTC students who were involved in the staff and  
4 publication and editorial boards. But the campus basically during that first-year had only  
5 one incident, which could be classified, one on-campus incident as being classified as  
6 being violent. Shortly after the start of the winter quarter 1969, a naval aviation  
7 recruiting team arrived on campus. Now the University of Oregon had at the time an  
8 Army ROTC detachment and an Air Force ROTC attachment. No naval representation,  
9 naval recruiters had been coming in periodically and recruiting students particularly  
10 graduating seniors who were interested in aviation. Well the team had to come up. And I  
11 remember there was at least one; it may have had a yeoman attached to it for  
12 administrative purposes, but it least one officer and they set up a recruiting table on the  
13 second floor of the Earl Memorial Union, Student Union, at the University of Oregon. I  
14 had become aware through my campus contacts and through my ASUO Senate contacts  
15 that there was going be some sort of demonstration, to wit, something of a mock trial of  
16 naval aviation and by extension U.S. policy in Vietnam in general. Aviators of course  
17 being the target because of the bombing occurring not only in support of U.S. forces and  
18 ARVN forces in the South but also bombing in the North. The People's trial started with  
19 particular results. There were number of student activists who were involved with this,  
20 getting this organized: Bob Caulfield, Don Fitz, Bill Curley, Tommy Lee Anderson and  
21 his brother, were actively involved and I think Roy Bennett may have been involved as  
22 well.

23 SM: And these were members of various activist groups on campus?

24 JM: Various activist groups.

25 SM: Which groups were they?

26 JM: Bob Caulfield, Don Fritz, and Bill Curley were involved with the S.D.S. The  
27 Anderson Brothers were members of the Black Panther Party, which were the two, at that  
28 time, the two main groups. I don't know if Bill Miller was involved, I don't recall his  
29 being there. But there was a small group who openly identified themselves with the  
30 American Communist Party on campus at that time. There was the trial now; of course  
31 the predictable result was they found them guilty. This was done while the officers, the

1 recruiting officer was trying to conduct his business . The thing turned ugly when of  
2 course the predictable result was they were going to find him guilty, yes, and they said,  
3 “Well, what's the sentence?” “Throw them out.” Well they physically grabbed the naval  
4 recruiter and literally threw him out of the building, assaulted him, and one of the  
5 demonstrators had him in a headlock and grabbed him and we're trying to separate them.  
6 And they got them outside. It was only then that somebody picked up the phone and  
7 called the Eugene police which was not too terribly atypical of the rather low-level of  
8 response initially that the Eugene police department showed back then, not wanting to  
9 exacerbate any tensions on campus.

10 SM: How did the administration respond to this? The campus administration?

11 JM: Very placidly. We had, at that time, an interim president, Dr. Charles  
12 Johnson, who, as I recall, his main function was the dean of the business school. During  
13 this interim period. He was trying to keep the University running academically as well as  
14 deal with the state. The state, the governor of the state of Oregon, Tom McCall, had a  
15 very low level of tolerance for this sort of thing, but the University essentially to no  
16 action against the students who were involved. And even though they were identified,  
17 and documented in the very last issue of the University of word and year book which was  
18 for the 1969 school year, they were openly identified, the students were identified, those  
19 who were involved. No action was taken, disciplinary wise. Outside of a march on the  
20 ROTC building, at the edge of the campus later in the year, the rest of the '68-'69 school  
21 year passed with a sense of a few demonstrations, a few teach-ins at the Earl Memorial  
22 Union, a few gatherings at the terrace outside an area of the Student Union called the fish  
23 bowl. But other than that it was calm.

24 SM: Did you attend any of the teach-ins?

25 JM: Only as an interested observer, seeing what was being put out.

26 SM: What were they like?

27 JM: Basically, a lot of rhetoric, some handouts, very repetitious, over and over  
28 again, the same themes, "The war is wrong, victory to the NLF, victory to the Viet  
29 Cong," your typical chants, "1,2,3,4," that type of thing, but not a whole lot of substance.  
30 You've got a little bit to a certain extent in some academic classes depending upon what  
31 department you were in. You learned on the leadership lab days whether some people



1 felt that they would get bad grades if they showed up to class in uniform, if they didn't  
2 have time to change. My thought on it and my theory was, "I'm proud to wear the  
3 uniform, if you got something to say, "Hey, let's discuss it." If you take it out on me  
4 with grades, we'll be in the provost office to deal with it, and I'll bring in up on the floor  
5 of the ASUO Senate," despite the fact that I knew I would, undoubtedly, be voted down  
6 on the subject. The only other thing that was interesting, toward the end of the spring  
7 there was a motion formulated by Bob Caulfield, who was one of the S. D. S. leaders to  
8 prohibit outside law-enforcement officers and the National Guard from coming on  
9 campus. Of course, I got up and spoke to the bill and I said, "You have got to be kidding!  
10 What puts this body of individuals in this state above the laws of this state and the laws of  
11 this community?"

12 SM: What was the response?

13 JM: Oh, we had the Dutch member of the ASUO Senate who was also a residence  
14 hall assistant over in Bean West where I happened to live during my freshman year. He  
15 got up and raised his right arm in a nationalist socialist salute. I said, "Thank you very  
16 much Pieter, I appreciate that."

17 SM: So, were you a minority of one in the Senate or how many other students'  
18 senators or officers were of the same philosophical background as you?

19 JM: Three. Myself, Bob Barkley who was there at the naval recruiting incident  
20 and was in the process of signing up to become a naval aviator, which he did. He became  
21 a rear seat man in Navy jets, as a matter of fact on F-4s, he wanted to fly missions in  
22 Vietnam, and a fellow by the name of Randy Gragg, and every once in a while one other  
23 student Senator by the name of Dave Jennings. Other than that I guess there were three  
24 or four of us, we were a minority.

25 SM: What about the faculty on campus, the professors? Were most of them  
26 sympathetic with the majority of the students in terms of their anti-war and anti-draft  
27 sentiment?

28 JM: Actually the University of Oregon faculty can be almost termed to have been  
29 a silent majority. Most, at least 50% either had no opinion or supported the policy of  
30 United States in Vietnam. I can only think of a handful who would bother to make that  
31 known and next year would be the proof of the pudding in that regard. We could always

1 talk Professor Paul Ball, in the Department of History, who was Japanese linguist and  
2 expert on the Japanese Navy in the Second World War and served in the Marines as an  
3 interpreter during the Second World War and work with Tokyo war crimes trials. My  
4 best friend's dad didn't necessarily agree with the war. He was a full professor of  
5 history, Gustave Alef, a remarkable man who has since passed away. His sons were very  
6 actively involved in ROTC. In one of these same incidents during that time frame,  
7 Professor Lebbing Hausen, a professor of physics who was a well noted astronomer,  
8 same way. He would take us into account if we had exercises or labs or something of  
9 that nature. He had an exam schedule if we were in his astronomy class for example, he  
10 would make accommodations for us to be able to do that. But other than that, the campus  
11 was laid-back. I almost felt that Dr. Johnson was, to a certain extent, intimidated by the  
12 whole thing. And his rather early demise and the circumstances of it during the coming  
13 summer would seem to think that he was horribly overwhelmed by the responsibilities  
14 particularly in dealing with the growing problems on campus with radicalism.

15 SM: How did the Eugene, Oregon people respond to this outside of the  
16 University?

17 JM: A liberal community, basically white-collar, anti-war but not very  
18 participatory in the events. One of the things we found unusual because particularly  
19 minority groups on campus, the Eugene itself had at that time very, very small minority  
20 population, that they would very easily espouse groups. But the community per se didn't  
21 get involved. Once you got away from Eugene communities turned very conservative.  
22 Springfield was just kind of like a sister community to Eugene, quite conservative. As  
23 you moved into other outlying communities like Venitta, Cottage Grove, became even  
24 more so. Until you reach the confines of the communities, which support the logging  
25 industry in Eastern Lane County for example, and they even got further away. Almost to  
26 the extent of being very opposite on the opposite end of the spectrum, quite conservative.  
27 Very, almost very indignant about the attitude at the University and the Eugene  
28 community and tolerated the University shenanigans as they would see it at the  
29 university. That also came into play during some of the spring 1970 disturbances in a  
30 round about way.

1 SM: How did television and newspapers coverage, how did they cover these  
2 events in Eugene?

3 JM: I didn't watch a lot of TV back then, so I really couldn't say for sure about  
4 the television aspect, print media, extensive coverage, somewhat neutral and impartial.  
5 As a matter of fact since you brought the subject up I did a dump of the Eugene register  
6 guard archives at Eugene public library during this time frame. Just during the space of  
7 69 to about 71 with a few later articles, the Eugene register guard had no fewer than 74  
8 articles on the ROTC program, particularly on the disturbances. They actually, at the end  
9 of the 70s riots, actually came in and interviewed seven of us for an article. "Why are  
10 you in ROTC? Why are you involved in this?" And they try to get a representative  
11 spectrum we hadn't been involved. But, of course, the Daily Emerald, I think actually  
12 the editor during that year was Ron Eachus, and I think that Ron was really shocked after  
13 being forewarned of what was going to happen that things turned as ugly as they did.

14 Transcribed by: Tammi Mikel

15 JM: They tolerate the editorial policy of the campus paper; was definitely anti-  
16 war.

17 SM: This is the Emerald?

18 JM: The Oregon Daily Emerald is the student newspaper at the U of O. Any war,  
19 but I think that they were at least in an outward sense very...taken aback by how violent  
20 things turned.

21 SM: So this is the school year '69-'70, spring of 1970 in particular? Why don't  
22 you go ahead and explain to us the events that led up to that, and what happened in that  
23 spring?

24 JM: Well, I didn't stand for re-election to the student senate. I thought one year  
25 of dealing in this was enough. I got more heavily involved in academics and then a lot of  
26 the ROTC extra-curricular activities I had been involved in, and I had more time for that.  
27 But we kept an active interest in politics. One of the things we noticed right from the bat  
28 is a lot of the personalities seemed to have been changed, as far as the radical anti-war,  
29 anti-ROTC element on campus. Some of the people who'd been leaders from the  
30 previous year were gone. One leader in particular, Roy Bennett, had made the mistake in  
31 the 1968 presidential campaign of trying to put a stick of dynamite over the door frame of

1 the Lane County Democratic Party Headquarters on Willamette Street in Eugene. That,  
2 unfortunately, was kind of the “Keystone Cops” type of thing. He had the propensity for  
3 violence. He was under police observation when he was under surveillance when he tried  
4 to pull this stunt. It didn’t go off because he didn’t put the fuse in the stick correctly and  
5 it kind of literally fizzled out. Right after the float started the school year, he was  
6 sentenced to eight years without parole in the Oregon State penitentiary. The judicial  
7 branch in Lane County took a very good view; I think they were tolerant toward exercise  
8 of free speech and very intolerant toward violence. But he was sentenced, as I recall, to  
9 eight years without parole. I was at the conviction sentencing hearing in the audience and  
10 the judge because he had issued, as he was walking away, the judge had overheard him  
11 threaten the life of the student who was next to me because he had testified against him.  
12 The judge had the bailiffs bring him back to the bench immediately and issued him a  
13 bench warning saying that it was in his power under the state penal code to give him  
14 more than the maximum because of his conduct in the court room and that he had better  
15 not say another word in his court. And as I recall, he spent his eight years without parole,  
16 from what I heard from friends back in Oregon. But anyway, it kind of set the tone. Roy  
17 was gone; Don Fitz, who was rather active, suddenly slumped in the background; Bill  
18 Miller from the CPUSA left during that school year, just shrank to the background;  
19 people who may have involved from the teach-ins weren’t there. People who we thought  
20 were kind of on the really on rough side of things, kind of on the more militant side  
21 suddenly, took from the previous year came to the forefront; Bill Curley, came to the  
22 forefront. Paul Gratz, and we had a bunch of new people, some of whom we found out  
23 apparently had been T.A.’s or graduate assistants down at San Francisco State who had  
24 been terminated by President Sam Hayakawa during the SF State strike, suddenly were  
25 up on the fringes of our faculty. John Froines was not a major player, because he was  
26 having his own legal problems back in Chicago with federal courts. But his influence  
27 was, I believe, kind of underlined but not a whole lot of talk of him. I think that may  
28 have been on purpose. New people came around, Ralph and Carol Neusbaum,  
29 Gathansers, and Lee Weiner, the Schoenfeld brothers, all came to the forefront and we  
30 started to have an increase of anti-ROTC demonstrations and an increase in, shall we say,  
31 amore revolutionary, if nothing else, tinge to the rhetoric being used at teach-ins and the

1 demonstrations and the noon time gatherings at the fish bowl or EMU, and I really took  
2 note of it because it was just an uneasy feeling. Shortly after the start of the winter  
3 quarter of '69 there was a march on the ROTC building, the intent of which was to hold  
4 down the American flag, which stood on a small flagpole outside the buildings. Now the  
5 ROTC departments were in two old buildings built after the end of the Second World  
6 War to house returning veterans. They originally called them vets dorms. French Hall  
7 was where the Army ROTC was in the adjoining areas with the Air Force ROTC, kind of  
8 on the edge of the Pioneer Cemetery, a private cemetery which is adjacent to the campus  
9 at the opposite side of the playing field from the back of the university's library building.  
10 I was bound and determined to physically stop them because I knew who was involved. I  
11 was going, in the process of actually going out, and I wrapped a lanyard around my arm  
12 when our cadre changed. Our MS1 instructor, Captain Norman Sowell, locked me in his  
13 office to keep me from coming out. The one thing that changed, which is rather  
14 significant in the Army ROTC, was the fact that except for the professor of Military  
15 Science, we had a total turnover of cadres; new officers, new non-commissioned officers,  
16 just a total turnover. At the same time I think we kind of - I guess, in my class - kind of  
17 felt that we had the point element, that the aspect that we had was that we were students  
18 at this university, too. We see our obligations as citizens somewhat differently than our  
19 student contemporaries, and that if they have the right to demonstrate, we have the right  
20 to pursue our commissions, to participate in the ROTC program, and we were going to  
21 stand up for it and we felt that we were not going to let ourselves get pushed around. Not  
22 to the extent that we were espousing anti-war violence or anything of that nature, but we  
23 were going to stand up. We were going to help law enforcement officers. We were  
24 going to assist the cadre and do whatever we could to maintain the ROTC presence and if  
25 that meant taking the opposite line demonstrations and the like then we were going to do  
26 it. At the same time we just emersed ourselves in ROTC extra-curricular activities. To  
27 be sure we had, particularly I felt, in my own personal opinion in the upper classes, that is  
28 the MS-3s and MS-4s during my sophomore year, a number of people were there, "Well I  
29 don't want to get drafted when I graduate, I've got my student deferment, so therefore  
30 this is an easy way to spend two years, get a commission, maybe I might be even lucky to  
31 spend it in the guard or the reserve without having to go on active duty." So, no

1 occupying space, etcetera. But, that was their right to do though. I guess that's...I don't  
2 know, that's hard-core. I kind of took a dim view on that, saying occupying space is that,  
3 it ought to be used for those who are really going to pursue this. And we had a number of  
4 freshmen that we kind of drug along with us in this regard, to kind of build up, what we  
5 thought was a kind of corps.

6 SM: How many students were enrolled in ROTC? And what was the size of the  
7 student body on campus?

8 JM: University of Oregon had a student body of approximately 15,000. The  
9 enrollment had declined to the extent that we - at the sophomore year - went down to I  
10 guess a little over a hundred. They took a two-battalion cadet structure, with the cadet  
11 brigade commander and revised it down to a single battalion structure during that time  
12 frame. It kind of bottomed out I think right about 1971-'72 school year at just a little bit  
13 over a hundred students at that time. But again that was a by-product of the war and the  
14 emerging times, emerging into the lottery system and things like that and just the general  
15 that went on campus. So I think about that time we had 125 maybe, no more than 150.

16 SM: And of the campus itself, how many of those 15,000 were graduate students  
17 versus undergraduate, do you think?

18 JM: I think out of that 15,000 I think there was about...the majority of that figure  
19 I think I was speaking to about the undergraduate number. About 1,000 of those students  
20 were, as a matter of fact, international students. Mostly from Taiwan, Hong Kong, a very  
21 interesting contention from Norway, as a matter of fact, and several of the western  
22 European countries, some British, some Irish as a matter of fact, but mostly from East  
23 Asia; some Japanese students as well, but a very large contention from Hong Kong and  
24 Taiwan.

25 SM: In the ROTC detachment, how many of those students that you interacted  
26 with, approximately how many were of the variety that they joined ROTC because they  
27 hoped that perhaps it would be better than being drafted into the Vietnam War or it would  
28 be an easier road to hoe to go into the ROTC program than maybe serve in the reserve?  
29 Was that a significant minority?

30 JM: I would say heavily, in the advanced course, very few during my freshman  
31 and sophomore year really had any desire to really either make a career out of it or go for

1 an RA commission. I'd say a very minority of that group. As we progressed it became  
2 essentially we were there because we wanted to be there, not because we were hiding  
3 from anything; particularly after things started to turn ugly.

4 SM: And how did they turn ugly?

5 JM: Well it started with that, March in January of '70 that march in the building  
6 to hold down the flag. They did attempt, the cadre locked the doors, and they did attempt  
7 to enter the building and interfere with activities and class and stuff was the intent. We,  
8 again, I guess myself and several of my other MS-2 sophomore contemporaries had  
9 pretty well done a lot in background intelligence, not that we were doing anything illegal  
10 or anything, we were just observing and overhearing, and what we heard through our  
11 contacts and student government or our friends, like Dave Jennings, who were still  
12 involved in student government. We were picking up little bits and pieces and passing  
13 those on, so we knew what the intent was, so the doors were locked to exclude entrance.  
14 About a month later, the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, 1970, the first incident of overt violence  
15 directed against ROTC. That evening several individuals apparently entered one of the  
16 classrooms at the physical education building, which sat next to Mac or MacArthur Court  
17 on campus. The supply room was separated from the building where we were at by the  
18 Pioneer Cemetery. I've got a map of the University of Oregon campus here. This is  
19 where the supply room was located and there was a little drive through area there at the  
20 corner of University Street and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Directly overhead built into part of the  
21 building were the classrooms for the P.E. department. That evening a fire was put on the  
22 wooden floor of the classroom directly above the ROTC supply room which burnt...the  
23 idea was to burn down into the ROTC supply room and destroy it, which it succeeded in  
24 doing. It turned out to be a four-alarm fire, totally gutted the supply room and of course  
25 destroyed the classrooms directly above it as well. The fire department was able to  
26 contain the fire before it spread over to Gerlinger pool and down the length of the  
27 building toward MacArthur Court and they did a remarkable job of doing that because of  
28 course we had the weapons. There was a very, very small quantity, as I recall, of blank  
29 ammunition. We had, at that time, we had M-1 rifles and a functioning caliber 30 light  
30 machine gun assigned to the department, the cleaning equipment of course, obviously,  
31 and all the uniforms were in there. And they did a remarkable job of this four alarm fire

1 to keep it from spreading, because it could have very easily have spread down the block  
2 and involved the entire area significantly. Well this was viewed by the radicals as a  
3 major victory for the people. In realizing the extent of the fire that got involved, of  
4 course anytime a fireman responds to a fire they always put their life on the line. This  
5 was a four-alarm fire. Had this got out of hand and with the quantities and types of  
6 material that were involved in the fire one of those first of the minor miracles that nobody  
7 got really hurt.

8 SM: They did determine that this was arson?

9 JM: Absolutely. It was determined that the fire was arson. We had our ideas  
10 who may have involved.

11 SM: They were never able to find out who exactly started it?

12 JM: No, but we could tell by expressions, off behind the scenes, nothing that we  
13 could put our fingers on, who was actually involved. Then again, we among the ROTC  
14 cadets had our suspicions of who was involved. But this again, after this then within a  
15 month the supply room showed to what extent someone was willing to go to make the  
16 point; more teach-ins, more rhetoric. Coincidentally, with a lot of activities that were  
17 going on, anti-war activities that were to take place in that spring of '70, nationwide to  
18 coordinate the efforts and the like, it just so happens that that spring that several of the  
19 faculty, the anti-war faculty, and I can't put my finger on who actually proposed it, a  
20 teaching fellow by the name of Lee Weiner I think may have been involved and several  
21 of John Froines' associates had put a motion into the faculty senate as a group and they  
22 normally met as a committee the whole time. A faculty, a general faculty vote scheduled  
23 for the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 1970 on the retention of ROTC on campus. In the several weeks  
24 preceding this it became almost a daily occurrence on the terrace, memorial unit was  
25 located right here, which also became known as the gathering point for demonstrations  
26 and the like...point to this and say, "Well there'll be consequences, there will be  
27 consequences," of what was happening. And we were taking, among us cadets, we were  
28 taking careful notice. We spoke rather extensively, not only to our cadre, but also to  
29 several people, Jim Kennedy who is the chief investigator for Lane County district  
30 attorney's office who we had worked with on the Roy Bennett situation the year before  
31 and several of the officers in the Eugene police department to let them know that we had



1 a very uneasy feeling about what was going to happen on April the 15<sup>th</sup>, regardless of  
2 how the faculty vote went.

3 SM: Was there an undercover presence on campus as far as the FBI?

4 JM: Oh yes there was, more than we realized. We knew that there was a field  
5 office of Army intelligence, an open field office of Army intelligence that operated out of  
6 the US post office main building in Eugene on Lamb Street. Mr. Toyama, assisted by  
7 several people from the town was a frequent attendee at some of these events as an  
8 observer. We did not acknowledge his presence during these things, but we knew who he  
9 was and he knew who we were. There was also an individual who we identified as being  
10 a revenue, maybe an assistant or a faculty member at the school of music who was  
11 showing up with videotape equipment. Of course he was noticeable back then, he was  
12 taping these events. And of course if anybody remembers what early model portable  
13 videotape equipment, this is rather something to haul around. It's not like today's  
14 camcorders. He was taping. It was rather interesting. We'd say, Well maybe he's  
15 working for the university archives, or maybe it's an academic project, he just happens to  
16 be here." But he was at some of these events. We had photographers, some of whom  
17 were openly identified themselves as representing Panther Party headquarters and who'd  
18 come around and take our pictures, at these events, we'd smile and wave, we'd do group  
19 pictures. My roommate and I, my best friend, were all very active involved. We'd sit  
20 around, we'd literally do group poses with our arms around our shoulders, "Come on,  
21 let's get a profile. If you're going to take a picture, do a good job." We had no kind of  
22 feeling, like, "Hey, if you're going to take our picture, do it." [?]. We had nothing to  
23 hide. "We're the good guys here," type of thing.

24 But the S.P and the radicals as well would take our pictures and get them for their  
25 archives so they knew who we were type of thing. Kind of a spy vs. spy sort of thing, we  
26 kinda got a chuckle out of that. But the rhetoric was changing right before the faculty  
27 vote. And we had, like I said, we had given some thought to what was going on. When  
28 the day of the vote took place, those of us who, I guess you might say the hard-core  
29 ROTC cadets, Colonel Curtis and our class advisor, Captain Lambert, pulled us aside and  
30 said, "Guys, don't come into the faculty meeting. They're going to jam in there. You  
31 guys need to keep a low profile." I reminded Captain Lambert, I said, "Sir, I know what

1 happened to the naval recruiters last year. If we win, you guys are trouble, physical  
2 trouble, I feel it in my guts, something's going to happen tonight," and we all said,  
3 "Yeah, it's going to happen." The afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>, the faculty meeting was  
4 scheduled, I think, around 3 or 4 o'clock. It was later in the afternoon after last class so  
5 they could get maximum attendance. There was something like 200 faculty members  
6 who showed up for the meeting. And as I recall ROTC carried, literally, less than a half  
7 of a dozen votes. That is when the trouble started. After that, the demonstration started  
8 after the vote was tallied. And that goes to show exactly how divided the faculty was. A  
9 little bit more than half supported the program outside of the...outside of this handful; it  
10 was kind of like the silent majority, "Okay, we'll vote and then we'll disappear" sort of  
11 thing.

12 SM: How many students were demonstrating in opposition of ROTC at this time?

13 JM: The crowds could upwards of 500 students and more, depending on the  
14 occasion. We had - and so we had known that - several of the speakers in particularly,  
15 Bill Curley, Paul Gratz, Lee Weiner showed up on the faculty that year, Jim Monroe who  
16 was teaching fellowhood we found out later, I believe it had been at San Francisco State,  
17 who had shown up that year. Here I am.

18 SM: How many other people showed up from San Francisco?

19 JM: We felt that a number of them - at least a half a dozen - showed up, that I  
20 felt.

21 SM: And they became instrumental in the demonstrations?

22 JM: I think so.

23 SM: And the organization of the students?

24 JM: It's kind of like exporting the revolution, I would say, in what they toned in  
25 the rhetoric. Our cadre, they cautioned us not to be confrontational, maintain low profile,  
26 you have your right to be there but, you know we can take care of ourselves type of thing.  
27 Well there's a gallery in 150 sciences that sits above, and we stood immediately outside  
28 the doors, and the gallery was packed, most of it with student activists and radicals and  
29 anti-war, anti-ROTC who started immediately after the vote was taken so that they had to  
30 be stopped, terminated; the rest of the business had to be terminated. As the cadre left  
31 they began to encircle; pushing and shoving started. At that time, what we did, we

1 cadets, there was about a dozen of us, we were together, what we did is we got around  
2 and we said, "Let's form a circle." We circled our cadre, literally. So, as we walked  
3 back from 150 sciences which is right across from the terrace - because that's where the  
4 rest of the crowd was in this immediate area - as we walked back through past Johnson  
5 Hall, the ROTC buildings were located here at that time; past Colier and Gerlinger and  
6 the library. It was called Mac Library at that time. We literally formed a human circle so  
7 that they physically...and the idea was to get to assault the cadre, they were going to have  
8 to assault us first. They didn't do anything, the administration did not do anything  
9 previously to the students who assaulted the recruiters, they may not do anything if they  
10 assaulted the ROTC instructors in mirror of the naval recruiter incident. But, if they  
11 assaulted us, we were students, therefore we had...we...literally it was like a "We dare  
12 ya! Go for it. You gotta get past us." We can defend, well, they have orders essentially  
13 not to do anything in front of the Army, not to excite anything or the like. But we were  
14 students, therefore double jeopardy number one; we weren't under any prohibition from  
15 defending ourselves legally. The other thing was that by assaulting us to get to them,  
16 student disciplinary action would be much easier for the administration to do. So it was  
17 form a circle, and we literally walked them in a human circle. It was kind of funny  
18 because the pushing and shoving against us. There was a very, kind of gray haired  
19 photographer, a radical photographer who had been around radical movements and labor  
20 movements for years by the name of Harry Gross who was there taking pictures.  
21 Actually Harry was a very excellent photographer. His politics were kind of weird, but if  
22 you could imagine a guy with gray hair, gray, Curley, bushy hair, with one of these  
23 leather vests and bare-shirted jumping up and trying to take pictures of us. It was almost  
24 a sense of comedy.

25 SM: About how far was it from the senate meeting building to the ROTC  
26 building?

27 JM: Well this is basically about 500 yards or so, basically a quick walk across  
28 campus.

29 SM: And that whole area was lined with students?

30 JM: Well actually kind of a rolling mob of maybe four or five hundred. But the  
31 radical activists in the center kind of egging on a lot of pushing and shoving to get

1 at...right about the time we started to get near the edge of Pioneer Cemetery, they kind of  
2 gave up trying to get with the pushing and shoving and a shot passed us, and what they  
3 did was they went through the building and began to ransack the offices, and threw  
4 typewriters around, tumped desks over in the classrooms and the cadre's offices and the  
5 like, threw chairs and cushions around, scattered papers and the like, break windows. So  
6 particularly the core group and I figure at least a hundred of those students went through,  
7 a hundred of the group went through and essentially trashed the offices. One of the  
8 things we found interesting, after all that we had said, that there was not a single police  
9 officer in sight; nobody.

10 SM: Knowing that this kind of a very insightful event, that this was going to  
11 occur, the administration still did not call and ask for any kind of support?

12 JM: Absolutely none whatsoever. Not until the last student had left from the  
13 trash in which was maybe about 4:30, 5:00 did the first police officers arrive.

14 SM: Was there campus police?

15 JM: No. There was no campus security at the time, everything revolved on local  
16 community law enforcement for support. But we found it ironic. The whole thing could  
17 have obviously been at least the entrance of the building, had been presented. But as it  
18 began to emerge there's a little bit of a plan involved not to be confrontational. Now the  
19 one thing we'd also told everyone at about 7:00 that night regardless of the fact that  
20 there's supposed to be another anti-war rally outside the EMU in the terrace area. What  
21 we informed the cadre and said, "They're coming back." We kind of figured that had the  
22 road gone the other way, this would be the throw the ROTC out of the classrooms  
23 exercise. Here was revenge and retribution because in the spirit of democracy where  
24 majority rules, they lost the vote type of thing. But we knew they were coming back.  
25 About 6:00, approximately 10 City of Eugene police officers arrived on the scene.  
26 Finally! Under the command of a sergeant, they had no two-way communications, by the  
27 way, they moved their cars away from the building, this area right in front of the dorms  
28 was a parking lot area. Our cadre had moved, everyone had moved their cars away from  
29 the building into what was then the School of Music parking lot. Police didn't leave their  
30 cars there, they just left it completely vacant. They came in, took our statements, and  
31 asked if anyone wanted to keep them informed of what was going on over at the EMU.

1 So a couple of my friends went over there extensively to grab a couple burgers, bring  
2 some food back and I guess we went as a group, actually, to the professor of military  
3 science, Colonel Curtis, and I said, "Colonel Curtis, we understand you and the cadre are  
4 staying here tonight. We want permission to stay in the building. We're staying with  
5 you," and he said, "Well under the circumstances, fine." Then he looked at the size of  
6 the crowd and the captain and a couple of the other guys came back and said, "Oh we'll  
7 be fine." There's about 500, 400 or 500 people there in the hall. So the sergeant was in  
8 charge, said "Ok, what we're going to do is this." The building itself is made literally  
9 two story, made of almost clapboard. It's very temporary quarters. But...it was hooked  
10 together with a series of corridors and runways you might say. And there was a stairwell  
11 here, offices, cadet lounge was here, Colonel Curtis' office, the PMS was here, and  
12 various cadre members as we went down to here to Churney, this is where the classrooms  
13 were. And this is the area that faces the library, north. What the sergeant did with his  
14 men is he briefed them, "I want one or two of you at every door." Then he turned to us  
15 and says, "Listen. If this gets like I think it's going to get, do any of you men have  
16 objections to being sworn in as police officers of the city of Eugene?" Raised our hands,  
17 and said, "Well, now you're newly sworn in for this evening only to assist us, and  
18 fellows, when they get past us, you got them." Which was fine for my best friend who is  
19 now a fiscal priest, one of my best friends roomed with the now Reverend Bob Young.  
20 He had broken his foot and was there on crutches, and he turned to the sergeant and said,  
21 "Sergeant, may I use this?" and he said, "As long it's not undue force, you may use your  
22 crutch." So we took up positions with the officers. One of my things, this is where I  
23 became addicted to coffee because one of my jobs was to keep the coffee pot full for the  
24 officers, but they saw the mobs gathering in the [?] at seven, and the crowds getting  
25 bigger. As I mentioned before but you'd asked the question about undercover officers.  
26 This fellow who was at the school of music had followed us also and would take the trash  
27 into the building. He was there, and we began to put two and two together...and he was  
28 talking to the sergeant; it's at that time that we found out he was undercover. And as well  
29 he managed, shall we say, to be integrated into the faculty.

30 SM: Who was he working with?

1 JM: My belief was he was working with the Federal Bureau of Investigations. I  
2 later confirmed that summer. But he had taped everything, and he was now with us and  
3 he said, "I'm going to stay with you" as far as right now. At that time of the day, around  
4 seven or so, was when it was beginning to turn dusk. Our feeling was that the crowd was  
5 going to be coming as soon as it got dark. So he was going to keep there and keep the  
6 videotape machine going as long as he could while he could still tape, so he was there.  
7 So we kind of found out some of the other involvement; Mr. Toyama from the M.I. office  
8 was there as well as all of our cadre. And the Air Force...I think the professor of  
9 aerospace science was there, but the Air Force was kind of infinitely more laid back in  
10 this than we on the Army side were almost to the extent of being indivisible. Even from  
11 the cadet program being indivisible, which we never cease to kid them about.

12 SM: But the anti-ROTC activity was anti-Air-Force ROTC as well as anti-  
13 ROTC?

14 JM: As a matter of fact, one of their cadre's were in the process of trying to  
15 escort them out of the building or back to the building and apparently got punched in the  
16 mouth as well, which kind of gave it just that much more emphasis to what we were  
17 trying to do. But as soon as it got dark we began to kind of got forewarning by feeling  
18 that they were on their way over. Typical, when the crowd got there they marched again,  
19 almost the same route down past Knight Library skirting past the cemetery, which would  
20 become really ironic as things unfold. Gathered in what was called the girls P.E. field,  
21 starting with the shouts, and then the barrage started. Rocks, oranges with razor blades,  
22 apples with razor blades, petro-bombs, crudely made but still those became raining in the  
23 building. It was then that the police sergeant on duty asked for volunteers to get the  
24 undercover officer out. As I said, this is a whole labyrinth of old buildings, the idea was  
25 to get this guy back to his office in the school of music where he could be picked up and  
26 get his equipment and his evidence out of the area. Myself, another MS-II by the name  
27 of Mike Malanaphy, and another MS-II by the name of Rich Rice volunteered to escort  
28 him out the labyrinth of quarters or whatnot and out of the building. We literally left the  
29 building in the middle of this; escorted him out, got him to the back ways of the vet's  
30 dorms complex, back to his office, deposited him there, then we went back into the  
31 middle of the building while in the middle of this riot was going on. No one ever knew

1 that this was happening. Even Ed Dortch who wrote the article for Oregon Quarterly for  
2 the Spring '99 edition, Ed Dortch had no idea how much had been gathered by the federal  
3 law enforcement, on video tape. The former radical leaders that he interviewed for that  
4 article apparently had any idea. When we got back I went into Colonel Curtis' office right  
5 next to the...which was right next to the stairwell of the building. And looking at the  
6 corner with the police sergeant, the detachment sergeant major by the name of Clarence  
7 Dematos and maybe one or two other cadets, and Colonel Curtis. Right after I got there I  
8 stood next to the...window, looking out, seeing these things arching through here,  
9 hearing the crashing in the building. And as I was doing so a small coke bottle filled  
10 firebomb hit right under the window of Colonel Curtis, and exploded against the side of  
11 the building starting a fire. Now the vet's dorms, being made of plywood that they were,  
12 and the paint was on there, could have been highly flammable. So as we had put fire  
13 extinguishers in various parts of the building, I grabbed the one we put in Colonel Curtis'  
14 office, got in the window frame, finished lifting the window up which had been left  
15 somewhat ajar from the demonstration, lifted it up, got astride the window with this old  
16 style water fire extinguisher with a hose like this, and was straddling the window frame to  
17 try to put this out when Sergeant Major Dematos grabbed me by my right shoulder and  
18 said, "You young idiot!" Grabbed me by the shoulder, threw me up against the wall. I  
19 dropped the fire extinguisher back underneath Colonel Curtis' desk a said, "Sergeant  
20 Major!" and he just pinned me down, "Stay here!" As he did this most of the glass and  
21 parts of the frame of Colonel Curtis' window went flying across Colonel Curtis' desk.  
22 Sergeant Major Dematos may have saved my life by doing that. I don't know if it was a  
23 barrage of rocks. There were a few oranges in the office with the razor blades but  
24 literally, Sergeant Major Dematos saved me from getting very badly injured by doing  
25 that. And so it was then that some of us heard, because things were getting kind of tense  
26 at the other end of the building, apparently because of a cascade of rocks and whatnot,  
27 where one of the officers had apparently asked the sergeant for permission to unbolster  
28 and open fire. That the crowd was surging up against his edge of the building which  
29 faced Pioneer Cemetery, and the eastern entrance that faced right out this way. There is,  
30 by the way, there is a road, a narrow road that runs down that edge, and he said, "No." It  
31 was about that point that we all kind of figured that it was all going to hit the fan and that

1 this wasn't, you know...the ugliness that we had before was about to turn. And the  
2 officers thought the crowd was about to change, and with the possible consequences.  
3 Right at that time, and this is one of those well timed things, the sergeant probably knew  
4 more than he was telling because...and not to spill the beans in case anybody should  
5 happen to say anything. That afternoon, apparently because of Mr. Jim Kennedy's  
6 contacts, the Lane County sheriff had called in all of his outlying, non-essential deputies  
7 from all the outlying communities in Lane County - Lane County is a huge place - pulled  
8 in his deputies, issued them crash helmets and baseball bats. At the same time, Captain  
9 Pat Iarion of the Eugene Police Department was assembling a riot squad as well. What  
10 they were doing while all of this was going on was coming up 18<sup>th</sup> and assembling at  
11 Pioneer Cemetery which is...has a hill that's really almost mound shaped, but there's a  
12 ridge that runs down unelevated ground on the opposite almost kind of reverse slope, and  
13 the trees...a heavily wooded cemetery among the old headstones and monuments. And it  
14 was about this time that we started seeing the arcs, with smoke coming out of the  
15 cemetery and landing in the middle of the crowd.

16 SM: Tear gas?

17 JM: Tear gas. Caught the crowd in the dark, absolutely unaware. Then they  
18 charged into the crowd at a full tilt and just scattered everybody. It was the nick of time.  
19 I'm sure a few heads got broken, nothing of any serious consequence. But that charge  
20 literally broke up the mob.

21 SM: How many police officers were there approximately?

22 JM: I fear there's probably forty Eugene Police Department, and Lane County  
23 sheriff's deputies involved in the...operation out at the cemetery. They came  
24 in...immediately the Lane County Sheriff's Department. Basically they kind of claimed  
25 jurisdiction for the time being. They put a cord around the ROTC building of sheriff's  
26 deputies armed with M-1 carbines. They stuck a deputy sheriff up on the roof with an M-  
27 1 carbine and they were really in a mood to fight. These are officers who, normally their  
28 weekend duties are breaking up bar room and tavern brawls and logging camps. They  
29 had orders, of course, as soon as they got on the scene and secured it. Captain Larry who  
30 commanded the E.P.D. contingent, he secured the area outside and just finished  
31 dispersing the crowd. The county deputy sheriffs had immediate security. And this was



1 the first time I'd ever seen anyone butt-stroked with a weapon in my entire life. Right  
2 afterwards, after the crowd had been dispersed, about 15 minutes afterwards we were  
3 talking with the deputy sheriffs. "Thank you. You guys got here in the nick of time." A  
4 man and a woman with rather scraggly hair, with an old fatigue jacket on, came up and  
5 literally, "Man I want to go inside the building!" Officer said very firmly, "No sir, you  
6 may not enter." And this is one of the officers who was armed with an M-1 carbine.  
7 "But man, we want to go in the building!" We kind of took a step back to see how this  
8 was going to pan out. We tried to say, "Hey guy, go home. It's all over, go home."  
9 Officer said, "Leave the scene. I am ordering you to leave the scene." "Oh come on  
10 man!" He tried to shoulder his way past the deputy sheriff. The deputy sheriff butt-  
11 stroked this guy in the stomach. Left him writhing on the ground. This woman who was  
12 with him, I guess it may have been his girlfriend, said, "Boo-hoo," and started crying.  
13 "What did you do? What did you do?" He said, "Now I'm telling you for the last time;  
14 leave the area or you will be under arrest for riot." So she kind of drug him up under his  
15 arm. So the officer turned and went back to his conversation, tried to get a little bit of  
16 background on what happened earlier in the day. We must have stayed until eleven or  
17 twelve at night before we all scattered, went home. We kind of figured since the police  
18 were there on the scene that morning the Oregon State Police arrived. They were under a  
19 plain clothed lieutenant by the name of Stewart, essentially claiming jurisdiction over the  
20 area. There was a new time gathering, much less attended but by this time the warrants  
21 were out.

22 SM: And the warrants were for SDS members?

23 JM: Mostly SDS members, for arrests for insighting to riot, assault, assault with  
24 intent to commit murder, various charges as I recall. And they identified, right off the  
25 videotapes and off the...all the identifications that we had given, they knew exactly who  
26 they were going for. By name, by sight. When the noontime crowd on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April  
27 showed up Lieutenant Stewart was out there with two other Oregon State Police officers.  
28 Everyone else...the other Eugene Police Department officers were inside the building,  
29 one or two outside the doors. Lieutenant Stewart walked up to...walked up to one of the  
30 female leaders by the name of Kathan Zurzan [?], identified himself, showed his  
31 identification, and we were watching this from the top of the stairwell...the second floor

1 stage of the stairwell in French Hall in front of the playing field and we could overhear  
2 what he was saying. He said, "Kathan Zurzan? You're under arrest for insighting riot."  
3 Went to pull out his cuffs...one of the other members of the group who was not one of  
4 the leaders pushed on Lieutenant Stewart. He was on the ground immediately.  
5 Lieutenant Stewart looked at least middle aged, was missing several fingers of his hand  
6 due to a bomb incident earlier in his state police career. The last person you'd kind of  
7 figure to be knowledgeable in martial arts, this guy is whipping in the air on the ground  
8 with Lieutenant Stewart's knee on his throat with his pistol unbolstered. As the other  
9 officers cuffed Zurzan, and then proceeded to cuff him, they called for the E.P.D. to come  
10 escort them away, take them to the Lane County jail. Eventually all eight were arrested  
11 on the insightment charge...I think Winger was on the list, [the Neusbaums, the  
12 Shaenfields]. This involved the crowd rhetoric and obviously not police presence  
13 because what apparently happened was that Governor McCall had apparently given  
14 notice to the civic officials in Eugene and Lane County that this nonsense would not be  
15 tolerated, or this type of demonstration. "Yes, the peaceful demonstrations, the sit-ins,  
16 that's your right. We're not going to interfere with that. We as Oregonians have  
17 tradition," was his view. "However, when it comes to violence, you cross the line.  
18 Therefore if you can't take care of yourself, I'm sending the people in who can." So we  
19 had a rather large contingent of Oregon State Police who came in. One of the ways you  
20 could tell who was in which police department is by what type of, shall we say,  
21 nightstick, or crowd or individual suppression device they carried. The Eugene Police  
22 Department had normal police nightsticks as part of their police equipment. The Lane  
23 County deputy sheriffs were issued baseball bats, and you could as a matter of fact in that  
24 one picture in the Oregon article, you can tell that these police officers, if you blow that  
25 picture up, you can tell who they belong to; you can tell the type of stick he has in his  
26 hand. That is a size 29 little league baseball bat, except for one officer who they  
27 fashioned a two handed club for, and he was the point man in breaking up  
28 demonstrations. The third police department involved, the Oregon State Police, their  
29 officers were issued ax handles. So you could kind of tell who's doing what, you didn't  
30 have to see the uniforms to tell which jurisdiction they belonged to.

1 SM: How many state police officers arrived the following morning, the following  
2 day?

3 JM: I think they talked out of about twenty, and there was an Oregon State Police  
4 presence on campus for the next two and a half weeks. It became a law of diminishing  
5 returns to go to the ROTC building because the heavy police presence. Other types of  
6 activities became involved. More demonstrations, teach-in types of activities at the fish  
7 bowl, at the Student Union, at the terrace outside the fishbowl. This continued on for the  
8 next two weeks until somewhere around April the 26<sup>th</sup> it was decided to protest this and  
9 the police...the ROTC, and the war, and the police presence on campus, by occupying  
10 the administration building at Johnson Hall.

11 SM: The sit in at Johnson Hall on April 26<sup>th</sup>?

12 JM: Um hum. This carried on for several days. The sit in the foyer in the  
13 president's office continued, no real police interference to start with except President  
14 Robert Clark kept telling them, "Leave the building. Leave the building, please. We  
15 can't get our work done," type of thing. The sit in eventually continued until finally the  
16 pressure, mostly from the outside, led President Clark finally to call in the police to have  
17 the demonstrators removed from the building.

18 SM: Now when you say pressure from outside...how much interaction was there  
19 between the university administration and in particular President Clark and the governor,  
20 because I know in the Dortch article he mentions conflict; the governor wanted to send in  
21 National Guard?

22 JM: And he eventually did.

23 SM: And he eventually did, but Clark apparently did not want to insight that  
24 much more violence or that much more student protesting activity and so he basically  
25 tried to stay off of that kind of a move successfully?

26 JM: I think he did it as long as he could until he felt that he could no longer  
27 withstand the political pressure, understanding of course that the mood of most of the rest  
28 of the state was not supportive of what was going on. The fact that, of course, being a  
29 state institution, there's always the power of the purse for example, the state legislature.  
30 When it comes budget time it has to be remembered, particularly when you're competing  
31 for funds against Oregon State and the like, the legislature could take a very dim view. I

1 think there might have been quite a bit of communication going on between those  
2 agencies as well. From the student aspect it became a bit of an irritant to a certain extent.  
3 They try to deal with the constant sit-ins, get your classes done, then change your mind  
4 and go back to ROTC, particularly if they let up the police presence, etcetera.

5 SM: Speaking of the students, you mentioned before with the faculty the “silent  
6 majority”. Probably a majority of the faculty did not sympathize really with the anti-war,  
7 anti-ROTC, anti-military aspect of the student body. What about the rest of the student  
8 body; the ROTC detachment’s a little over a hundred people, the anti-war demonstrations  
9 number between five hundred and eight hundred, give or take. There’s 15,000 students  
10 on this campus! What about the rest of them, I mean, there used to...you are talking  
11 about 14,000 more people who are kind of just sitting on the side lines, not necessarily  
12 participating on either side. What are they...

13 JM: Well I think they...probably viewed it as an irritant or, as a lot of other  
14 general society back then, you had a lot of students who are interested, essentially, in  
15 having a good time. Oregon always had a reputation as a party school.

16 SM: The “Animal House” reputation.

17 JM: Precisely, why else was it filmed there? From that aspect, that plus the fact  
18 that you had a sizeable amount of students, again international students who did not want  
19 to get caught in the middle of this. So when you put this all this together, I would venture  
20 to say that either disinterest or I’m interested only because this is messing things up.  
21 Well, this is a university and we don’t need to have the cops here type of thing. Well I’m  
22 against the war, but I will vote at the ballot box and I’ll just...whatever. That was, I  
23 think, where a good deal of the student support came, our views came from. Again, to be  
24 sure, you had a lot more people actually a lot more willing to get involved in the Johnson  
25 Hall sit-in than you had in the actual riots per se, you had people join in the sit in just for  
26 the sake of just joining there and being that, doing a statement without realizing that if  
27 you happen to be there on the last day what the consequences were going to be if you did  
28 not leave the building type of a situation. This is where you had people who are more  
29 laid back, more of your traditional demonstrators. For example, one individual who had  
30 happened to be a vet, not necessarily an actual Vietnam vet by the name of Tim Travis.  
31 This is where Tim started to get involved. This was more his move you might say

1 because opposed to the violent radicals, because some of the other radical leaders who  
2 had escaped arrest again said that the old ways were much more effective in getting their  
3 point across than the new ways of trying to burn buildings down with people in them. So  
4 that's, I think you might say, is a watershed. When the police did come, I was outside of  
5 Johnson Hall, I was on the opposite side of the street as a matter of fact, again with our  
6 same group of friends just hoping that they didn't go back to ROTC because by that time  
7 we'd had enough and I was in a rather upset frame of mind anyway for a different set of  
8 issues at the time because right before this had all started I just got a notice from the  
9 Army from the Professor of Military Science saying that I had been disqualified,  
10 medically disqualified as a result of my advanced course physical. So I was more upset  
11 than I would be just for the fact, they're demonstrating and using violence against ROTC  
12 and, things that I believed in and stood for. But we were standing there as observers.  
13 The whole thing was very carefully orchestrated to avoid the type of gratuitous head  
14 bashing which occurred outside of Pioneer Cemetery and which occurred actually  
15 between that and then the sit-in. Because several days after the April 15<sup>th</sup> demonstration  
16 and riot there was a march on downtown Eugene which the police met particularly, and  
17 the deputy sheriffs particularly met head on and stopped dead in their tracks with some  
18 more baseball bat swinging on their part and the avertance of the Springfield Police  
19 Department's pepper fog machine which in the background of those articles as well. We  
20 actually, the day that the sit in was broken up, there were four local law enforcement  
21 agencies and the National Guard all involved. The Eugene Police Department had the  
22 mission of removing the demonstrators one by one passively from the building covering.  
23 They had brought out busses to take the demonstrators away if they did not disperse  
24 which I knew they weren't going to disperse; basically a fireman type of carry, like two  
25 man carries of each demonstrator, and deposit them in the waiting busses. The steps of  
26 Johnson Hall leading up to the building on either side were lined with Lane County  
27 deputy sheriffs with baseball bats in hand. The building, Johnson Hall itself, was  
28 surrounded by uniformed Oregon State police officers with ax handles. The one  
29 Springfield Police Department officer with this pepper fog machine was standing behind  
30 where the busses were because some of the crowd were beginning to lay down around the  
31 busses, and sitting in two deuce and a halves and later dismounted were two squads of

1 Oregon National Guard infantrymen M-1s with bayonets fixed. Each squad had a man  
2 with a tear gas dispenser. Basically they were converted to dispensed tear gas and they  
3 were waiting outside as well just in case they should happen to be needed. Outside of the  
4 demonstrators, essentially, the ones who laid down at the busses, the picture in, the one  
5 central picture in the Ed Dortch article is of the pepper fog machine. I moved around  
6 when they started to remove them from the building because I had a girlfriend who lived  
7 at the University Cooperative at the time; I was definitely concerned. She worked as a  
8 student assistant in the science library. I was definitely concerned that she not pass by  
9 Johnson Hall on her way from work back to the university female co-op where she lived.  
10 So I was standing there to make sure that she got, "Go this way, Nancy! Don't go that  
11 way!"

12 SM: Speaking of the Dortch article, during this period where the students are  
13 starting to be removed from the Administration Building, it mentions that the SDS  
14 leaders got together and they decided that they were going to leave. They weren't going  
15 to wait for the police, they weren't going to get arrested again, they couldn't afford it.  
16 Were other students aware that even their leaders were abandoning this movement?

17 JM: We knew. When I say we knew, those of us who had worked with student  
18 government or are active in ROTC, we knew who the leaders are; we had been very open  
19 about it, providing information to law enforcement the whole time; identifications, what  
20 was said, when it was said...so we knew exactly what was happening. They were being  
21 left on the lurch. The professionals in the group, the ones that had shown up, had started  
22 the '69-'70 school year. The ones who had already been popped and were out on bail  
23 from the April 15<sup>th</sup> riots, said they were left, left on the lurch. This is something I know  
24 that Tim Travis was definitely concerned about. Tim is one of those background people  
25 when the new wave of anti-war activism started and he noticed it, of course he was a little  
26 bit more mature world wise. But we had realized what was going on, and it was left  
27 essentially to the rank and file. And there is something rather revolutionary to that  
28 pattern; too, of where the rank and file take it when the leaders need to take to cover and  
29 so that wasn't anything that was terribly unexpected, at least not on our part, that they  
30 would do something like that. But as it turned out, about the only real confrontations  
31 were with the sit-in demonstrators who positioned themselves around the bus and then

1 the officer with the pepper fog machine, his job was to basically kind of hose them down  
2 like as if you were spraying weeds for insects and that's literally how he moved; he had  
3 officers, or actually deputy sheriffs, on either side of him as he moved, and just moved.  
4 It sounded like a chainsaw; as a matter of fact it had a chainsaw motor in it, cranked it up  
5 with a hand pull starter and just moved along. This is the first time in my career, well I  
6 guess my life, outside the April 15<sup>th</sup>...it dispersed rather well. Well the university got a  
7 good whiff of tear gas because it just kicked out mountains of gas. After they had been  
8 dispersed, and I don't think there was any effort to arrest them, just remove them, it was  
9 the sit in demonstrators who were eventually handcuffed, most of them with plastic  
10 handcuffs, led to them...and driven off to county jail. Most of them got disorderly  
11 conduct and trespassing type of charges, really kind of misdemeanor type of thing, no  
12 insinuating a riot.

13 SM: How many people were arrested?

14 JM: I'm trying to think. Fifty? Sixty? Filled up both busses, as I recall. At that  
15 point the next phase started which is the only visual reminder of that time on the  
16 university campus and that's the barricading of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue as it runs through the  
17 university. Kind of like as a last gasp type of thing it was decided, in the midst of all this  
18 to barricade both ends at the major east-west artery through the campus. 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue is a  
19 two lane street that runs through the northern part of campus; runs past Johnson Hall, the  
20 administration building, runs in front of the EMS< ran past what was then the science  
21 building out through the eastern edge of the campus; quiet, tree lined, almost residential  
22 type street. Both decided to barricade that as a measure of protest, homemade barricades.  
23 And this is where the rest of the Oregon community's tolerance came into play. The  
24 surviving visible, shall we say radical leaders got involved in some of the barricading of  
25 the street. Basically dirt, timbers brought from a lumberyard or wherever they took it off  
26 from, these homemade barricades. One of the major vehicles particularly was used at the  
27 western end as a barricade was a Land Rover that was owned by one of the radicals  
28 involved, the administrators involved. They're were using the back end of this Land  
29 Rover to pop it up and bring in the timber and dirt and I think it was the second afternoon  
30 of the barricading process which was by the way no police or university interference  
31 whatsoever. None.

1 SM: Students were just allowed to bring in whatever they wanted to barricade the  
2 street?

3 JM: Uh huh, public street.

4 SM: And no response whatsoever?

5 JM: None! Everybody was just like, "Okay, let them go ahead, no one's being  
6 hurt," type of thing was what we felt was the response.

7 SM: Was President Clark instrumental in this mentality do you think?

8 JM: Very much so. I don't think that he was intimidated as much as Charles  
9 Johnson was. But he was very, very laid back, kind of, "I'm sympathetic to letting you  
10 do what you want to do, just don't let it go too far," type of thing. Object of laugh from  
11 Salem. Very laid back and of course obviously, for those of us who wanted strict law  
12 enforcement on campus it was very much disconcerting. We would look over his head  
13 like somebody from the law and say, "Somebody take charge here!" type of thing. It's  
14 almost like we've got anarchy. But to a certain extent it did provide amusement though,  
15 all things being considered...particularly one incident the second afternoon of the  
16 barricading. I was standing on a little...on the right side of Cinden Hall, which looks over  
17 the edge of Kincade and 13<sup>th</sup> on the northwestern edge of campus watching what was  
18 going on. It was about 2:30-3:00 in the afternoon after my...I'd just gotten out of class a  
19 while earlier and I was standing there with Al Alef who was one of the group from our  
20 class in ROTC in the corps who is also the son of a professor of history at the university  
21 and Mike Malanaphy and several other cadets from ROTC, and just kind of watching  
22 them work away when another student, an individual about our age with short hair starts  
23 to walk up. Al starts to say something and wave and I said, "No," because he's walking  
24 with a sense of purpose to the Land Rover and he said, "Jim, don't say anything." "What  
25 do you mean Al?" "He's a friend of mine from South Eugene High School, went to  
26 school together, he's a midshipman at the Coast Guard, don't say anything." "Okay."  
27 This individual walks up; pops open the hood of the Land Rover which is backed up into  
28 the University and on 13<sup>th</sup> were off loading dirt. Kind of moves around inside under the  
29 hood of the engine, emerges with the distributor cap in his right hand, closes the hood, all  
30 of this, by the way, unnoticed by anyone who is at the other end off loading and building  
31 the barricade. And so he slams the hood down, and turns to go away. "Hey man, what



1 are you doing there?” He doesn’t respond, he walks the same way; with a purpose, with  
2 a military stride back up 13<sup>th</sup> until he gets opposite of the U of O bookstore the western  
3 corner. There’s a large storm drain there. Without missing a stride he takes the  
4 distributor cap, throws it down the storm drain, and just keeps on walking away. We are  
5 busting a gut. They said, “Man, what did you do? What did you do?” They went under  
6 the hood, opened it back up. We are literally rolling. In the midst of all this, I think this  
7 was a rather one of those humorous types events that when it happens breaks a whole lot  
8 of tension. It was so humorous to see them bouncing around off of each other looking for  
9 that and one of the surrounding students said, “I think he threw it down the storm drain!”  
10 And so they’re literally trying to reach down the storm drain trying to see if they could  
11 get far enough to reach the distributor cap.

12 SM: Did this slow the process of their barricading?

13 JM: Oh, well, to a certain extent yes because they eventually wound up pushing it  
14 so another vehicle could come in. But we were also kind of humorous because we would  
15 shut down every once in a while because of the conservative state of Oregon. It’s sad to  
16 say that we harassed them by saying, “Hey, there’s a pickup truck coming! A couple of  
17 guys in the back! You better watch out!” Or “Hey we heard that the loggers and  
18 ranchers are coming down!” And at least on one occasion when a pickup truck did come,  
19 on the first Friday evening afterwards, people thought it was a bunch of...down for the  
20 weekend loggers, coming down to mess with somebody at the barricades, the long hairs.

21 SM: Did that happen on campus very often?

22 JM: Not on campus but they scattered, they scattered. There were at least one or  
23 two instances I think I believe Bill Curley was the victim of one of these incidents. He  
24 made the mistake of going to a bar for a beer, tavern rather, occupied by and normally  
25 frequented on weekends by loggers coming down from the eastern Lane County logging  
26 camps, and they just literally worked him over, big time. Of course the tavern owner  
27 only called the deputy sheriff after it was all over.

28 SM: They successfully barricaded the street and that lasted for how long?

29 JM: Permanently. This is one of those things you think about in retrospect and  
30 the University of Oregon may be in a lot of denial. When I talked to Ed he seems to feel  
31 the same way. After the end of the school year things kind of calmed and the university

1 shut down for several days after the Kent State shooting. As a matter of fact, after the  
2 Kent State shooting, I decided to go home and take an early out on my semester work  
3 because my sense of direction had to be refocused after because I didn't know whether or  
4 not at this time having been medically disqualified for continuing in the ROTC program,  
5 whether or not I could get a waiver, or if I couldn't get a waiver what I could do. So, I  
6 went back home to my folks who were living in St. Petersburg, Florida, lived down in  
7 kind of the future type of thing. After Kent State, outside attempts to verbally disrupt the  
8 ROTC's Spring Review there wasn't anything really the rest of the semester. There's  
9 still a really very heavy police presence. 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue was a lot to be made. The  
10 barricades at either end were allowed to remain permanent, to this day only service  
11 vehicles are allowed on its maintained, essentially, pedestrian walkway. So it is in fact a  
12 reminder of exactly what was intended to be a throw in the environmental cause in the  
13 middle of all the anti-war, anti-ROTC disruptions. The university, on its website, states  
14 that this came about as a project from several architectural students which, when I first  
15 saw that I said to myself, "You've got to be kidding! There's no way. I remember the  
16 dirt, the logs, the loose pieces of lumber. I remember the Land Rover. Give me a break!"  
17 This was nobody's project, but rather a knee jerk reaction as one way to kind of for the  
18 quote unquote "people" to strike back.

19 SM: Ed Dortch, in his article, mentions that during that period immediately after  
20 Kent State President Clark held a number of meetings with the students, and the way  
21 Dortch describes it, it was kind of like a venting period where students could voice their  
22 concerns, voice their opinions, and that that helped in some way to diffuse some of the  
23 angst and the tension? Do you feel that is an accurate depiction?

24 JM: I think to a certain extent that is accurate, for those who are of a more radical  
25 vent. Again from the other side, the another perspective, I thought of caving in, like "I'm  
26 sorry, I had to exercise my responsibility." Of course not a lot was known about Kent  
27 State, and to this day not a lot of people realize that one of the four students killed was an  
28 ROTC cadet at Kent State, was hit by a stray round, William Schroeder was an ROTC  
29 cadet. People don't realize that.

30 SM: How important was Kent State, do you think, in helping to diffuse it? The  
31 fact that students were fired upon by national guardsmen, and this was such a very similar

1 experience to what had occurred there at the U of O; fear that perhaps this could happen  
2 here. Maybe we should tone down what we're doing.

3 JM: Well I think that it had to that extent in realizing, of course, if you were a  
4 radical leader, I'm sure that Gratz, and Monroe, and the Neusbaums, and Zurzan, and Bill  
5 Curley, and...others knew how very, very close the University of Oregon came to serious  
6 bloodshed. Had things not been as well taught, they lost control of their crowd on the  
7 night of April 15<sup>th</sup>. It is very, very likely in my estimation that someone could have  
8 either been very easily hurt; heck I was almost cut to pieces quite literally. But, how very  
9 close we came to having lives actually lost that night. And I think that toned it down for  
10 their...I think for the rest of the school year outside of the verbal harassment at the spring  
11 review in attempts to block them while they march, things of that nature. That went a  
12 long way. At the time, some of us students disagreed whole-heartedly with his method;  
13 however was it successful in the end to keep people from perhaps, in its own way to keep  
14 violence, further violence from occurring? In retrospect, yes, but it had been a hair  
15 raising experience. And I know just from my student government contacts and from  
16 talking to members of the faculty, I knew my Professor Alef, Professor Ebbenghausen,  
17 Professor Dule, he had really been taking a tremendous amount of heat from the state  
18 house in Salem, had to have been.

19 SM: How long did President Clark go on to serve as president of U of O?

20 JM: Five years. I believe he left in 1975. He retired. Right now he's very  
21 elderly and infirmed. In my discussion with Ed saying basically that his interviews may  
22 be the last that Robert Clark is able to give, on any subject right now. Just due to his age  
23 and infirmities. And he interviewed I believe last fall when I discussed that with him.  
24 The experiences are rather ironic, but for me it was all right. Number one, it was the first  
25 time I had ever been in anything with violence, fear for life, anything of that involved. It  
26 becomes a watershed, your first experience of that always kind of stays with you. How  
27 well are you going to handle yourself in that kind of a situation? And I owe the riots to  
28 my condition. As I was able to confirm later, when I went home and discussed with  
29 Professor Alef, Al's dad, tried to convince me that, "You don't really need the Army.  
30 Your family's done too much. You went through too much last year. You really need to  
31 stay and if you want, if you want to leave the Army alone and really devote yourself to

1 academia, particularly in history, I will do my best to help you pursue that.” But I said,  
2 “Sir I really appreciate that,” and I value that, I value his advice and experience to this  
3 day, but I said, “No. This is what I’ve got to do.” So we started, my dad and I started a  
4 letter writing campaign to congressmen and whatnot, and then came back negative.  
5 Finally we decided, particularly I said, if my physical wouldn’t have changed, if the city  
6 of San Francisco can qualify to disqualify, I said we’re going to give it one last hope. We  
7 sat down and we wrote a letter to Richard Nixon the President of the United States, and I  
8 told him that basically, in a very, very general way, what happened on April 15<sup>th</sup>, the fact  
9 that we’d been working with the police. In certain aspect you know I had already, laid  
10 my life on the line for my country and the uniform even though I wasn’t under contract, I  
11 hadn’t been in advanced course yet. I wanted to pursue my commission. So many  
12 people are trying to burn down ROTC buildings. About two weeks after we wrote that  
13 letter out of the blue, one morning while I’m shaving, my mom comes in, knocks on the  
14 door, and comes in the bathroom, says, “Jim? You’ll never believe this; we have the FBI  
15 on the line for you.” “You’ve got to be kidding, mom. Tell [Efrein Zimbalistish] to go  
16 land the helicopter across the street and we’ll see him on Sunday evenings.” She said,  
17 “No Jim. Go wipe your face and answer the phone.” So I didn’t even finish shaving,  
18 wiped my face and said “This is Jim, how can I help you?” and the individual on the  
19 other end identified himself as a special agent of the FBI, a residence agent in charge of  
20 the St. Petersburg office and he said he wanted to come by and visit me about what  
21 happened in Oregon, particularly the events of April the 15<sup>th</sup>. Thirty minutes later two  
22 gentlemen come to the door of my parent’s home. I answered the door, had their badges  
23 and their identification folders open. “We spoke to you on the phone?” “Yes sir, please  
24 come right on in.” With them, they had a folder approximately an inch and a half thick.  
25 In that folder was field agent reports, photographs, stills taken from video tape, that we  
26 laid out for about an hour and a half, two hours for cooperating evidence, verification of  
27 identification, is this [Jim Menus], is this Kathan Zanzer, is this Paul Gratz, is this  
28 Weiner, etcetera. And I sat there for two and a half hours with them and I said “Well, I  
29 wasn’t there on that particular day of demonstration. Talk to Al Alef, 4095 Ferry,  
30 Eugene. He was there, he knows.” He pulled out a piece of paper and said, “Okay, I’ll  
31 write that down. Got that one.” What they had done was apparently with all this

1 evidence, this is where I found out who the video taping camera man belonged to, but the  
2 other thing was that's ironic, is that this occurs after I'd been home for six weeks or so.  
3 Within less than two weeks, maybe a week, I get a personal letter from the surgeon  
4 general of the Army saying that he had been contacted by the President and that if I so  
5 desired a waiver all I had to do was pick up the phone and contact the professor of  
6 military science at the University of Oregon and the waiver was mine. "Thank you very  
7 much for your service to your country - Al B. Jennings, Surgeon General of the United  
8 States Army."

9 SM: So without that riot experience, that waiver would have never come?

10 JM: Yep, yep, had I not been there. Had I decided to stay home, had I decided to  
11 do anything else the evening of April 15<sup>th</sup>, I would never have served a career in the  
12 United States Army.

13 SM: Ready to take a quick break?

14 JM: Sure.

15 SM: Okay, so why don't we begin now by discussing your last year at U of O,  
16 and again the general atmosphere of how it changed, and of course major events that  
17 occurred during that period.

18 JM: Well, actually, my senior year, which was the '71-'72 school year, the  
19 atmosphere as far as anti-war, anti-ROTC activities had changed dramatically from the  
20 '69-'70 year. While there is a great deal of anti-war activism, the tone had changed. At  
21 that time also the war was beginning to wind down as American troops were being  
22 brought back while the war was still going on, the draft was still in place. But, I think it  
23 was the transition in leadership and also the exposure to the violent edge of the '69-'70  
24 year. In the intervening year we had two serious bombings on campus. One where a  
25 bomb was placed in a men's room in the largest building on campus, Prince Campbell  
26 Hall which is a nine story tower style of essentially office buildings with a large  
27 auditorium style classroom in the building. It destroyed the men's room that the bomb  
28 was placed in but also threw glass quite across campus. The one image I have of that  
29 bombing was on the grass outside of PLC, a six-foot shard of glass from the glass  
30 window was sticking like a spear out of the ground. Another one of those incidents  
31 where violence occurred and thank God no one got hurt. And also a small device was

1 placed and exploded in Johnson Hall during that year. In May of '71 during a  
2 coincidental with national activities, anti-war activities, there was a brief attempt to  
3 occupy the new ROTC building. During the summer of '70 the ROTC building moved  
4 into a what had been formal fraternity house at the corner of Alder and 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, right  
5 here. The old vets dorms, [?] and French Halls were demolished as they should have  
6 been years before and the ROTC classrooms, offices and supply rooms were consolidated  
7 in this new building. There was an attempt to occupy it in May of '71. Some spray  
8 painting on some walls and the like took place. They quickly chased out. Police  
9 immediately arrived on the scene to secure that. There was another evening rally when  
10 an attempt was made to march on the building, throw rocks and the like and they  
11 gathered in this area on Alder. At the start it started to get ugly. A rock was thrown  
12 through the window of a city of Eugene fire engine which was parked outside. They had  
13 to block the street. But the police rapidly, again, they responded. They were already set  
14 for it to meet the rioters. I remember in this year's phase, we all got first aid kits and  
15 were stationed inside the building and around with the officers so we actually had a more,  
16 shall we say a more humanitarian mission. And I remember being counseled by a police  
17 lieutenant on the scene saying you make sure, you know treat the injured as they're  
18 injured. Don't take favorites between the police and the demonstrators who get hurt out  
19 here if you meet it. But I remember them winding up tear gas grenades on the classroom,  
20 on the top of the building on the classroom tables, ready to use if they needed them to  
21 throw out the windows. The Oregon State Police were there, already on the scene. The  
22 first attempt to push, a City of Eugene Police Officer was hit in the leg and badly cut; had  
23 to be transported to Sacred Heart Hospital. Unrelated to his injury he also because of the  
24 tension went into a brief cardiac arrest. Word of that got back to the police officers. We  
25 had a very minor situation a la Chicago when the word got back, apparently because of  
26 the crowd, some of them swinging night sticks. Several of the officers chased students  
27 into the building. There's some co-ops, student cooperatives on the opposite side of the  
28 building on Alder from the new site of the ROTC programs. One of these, it's right  
29 about here, it's called Campbell Club. We had one of our cadets; a young fellow by the  
30 name of Alan Takei who happened to live there came out to see what the noise was  
31 because some of the demonstrators tried to escape by rushing into the cooperative. Police

1 mistook him for one of the demonstrators and just knocked the daylights out of him,  
2 knocked a couple of teeth out before he could be restrained. But that was the one  
3 incident that school year besides the two minor building bombings and that was it as far  
4 as teach ins. A lot of the leaders from the previous year were gone or not very  
5 disciplined at all. We had a more, let's call it moderate leadership. This is where Tim  
6 Travis, who was interviewed for the Dortsch article, came into play. Tim was quite level  
7 headed. We actually talked to Tim. By my senior year, everything was almost  
8 perfunctory. No really major incidents at all. We just went through our senior year. We  
9 did our ROTC thing, they did they're activism thing. There were even occasions when  
10 we'd sit in the fish bowl in opposite booths and it was almost like trading war stories.  
11 "Tim, do you remember that?" and he'd say, "Hey, do you guys remember..." We'd go  
12 back and forth with a banner type of thing; nothing confrontational, you know. Nothing  
13 of any threatening rhetoric, it was almost like matching war stories, about the good old  
14 days, or the bad old days, you can put it. No interference at our spring review, no one  
15 shouting really nasty things, no need for the police to intervene or anything like that like  
16 they had to two years before. It was almost as if you didn't know it was the same place.  
17 Yes the anti-war sentiment was there, our graduation speaker was Ellie Abel who had  
18 been a prominent NBC newsman and who had gone to the Dean of the Colombia  
19 University, was the graduation speaker. He said, "Mr. Nixon, stop the Vietnam War!"  
20 And of course a lot of cheering went on. One of my part of this corps, a fellow by the  
21 name of Bruce Hill, went so far to make his views known as that since we'd had our  
22 commissioning ceremony that morning before graduation, we all showed up to  
23 graduation in a block. He and I think John Nelson and Bruce went on to become an  
24 Army aviator, got out the brand new gold bars and put them right on top of the  
25 mortarboard just to make the statement. I'd promised my folks had flown; my dad  
26 actually administered the oath to me, just to make that statement. You guys did your  
27 best, and we made it. The program's here, it's still intact, be here for a long time to  
28 come, and they're happy, and you can protest your war all you want to but we are  
29 commissions and we are about to find out whether this four years of struggle, being in  
30 ROTC during the Vietnam War was really worth it.

31 SM: How did that experience affect you most, do you think?

1 JM: Well, in a political sense, actually, I learned to become more tolerant of  
2 the...I'll still be straight in a lot of my views, but at the same time you learn to a certain  
3 extent, you look at it to a certain extent, it's the reverse image. You've got to learn to  
4 work. The other thing that kind of moved my experience, my graduation and  
5 commissioning present from my folks that spring was a trip to Ireland, and I had some  
6 unusual and interesting experiences over there. This, of course this was in the spring of  
7 1972 and I was able to bring back a few other tidbits of like, do you really want to be  
8 intolerant folks? Let me show you real intolerance of somebody else is. I was at Victoria  
9 Street railway station fell fast when it was bombed. I saw the immediate effects of the [?]  
10 Street bombing, that's where they [?] department store deliberately into the path of a car  
11 bomb on false warnings, told me to go exactly the opposite way so the crowd would be  
12 where the bomb exploded and of course all you see is me helping them off. When you  
13 take a look at that and if you contrast that with my University of Oregon experiences, I  
14 think the fact that, where does, shall we say intermoral rhetoric; where can it lead you?  
15 It leads the people down. It taught me in that respect to try to be more tolerant and level  
16 headed. You can get your point across infinitely with greater effect by being not so  
17 much...you can have very deep and well rooted beliefs but when you take it across that  
18 line, when you let your emotions clog your rhetoric, clog your reasoning, it gets people  
19 hurt and you're not anywhere near as effective. People, who may have been supportive  
20 of the anti-war movement had to have been alienated, particularly when it became  
21 violence to a certain extent that we proved was exporting. It wasn't [?], and it didn't  
22 come from the Eugene community, it didn't come from anything indigenous, to a great  
23 extent the University of Oregon faculty and violence was exploited to a certain also you  
24 might consider the ROTC program as being exploited, too. The other thing, still, it was  
25 an experience.

26 SM: How did the Eugene, Oregon community respond to the violent aspects in  
27 the spring of 1970? You'd mentioned before that the media, the print media in particular,  
28 had been relatively balanced in their depiction. Did they become less supportive of the  
29 students, less radicalized?

30 JM: I think much less supportive, not of the anti-war sentiment as such; it became  
31 less supportive, infinitely less supportive particularly when you had individuals in the law



1 enforcement community who've finally got a chance to get involved and not only from  
2 the actual police aspects, but also the judicial aspects. The way the warrants were  
3 handled, arrests, judges on the bench like in the sentencing of Roy Bennett, definitely  
4 should have been a shot across the bows that you can go and do what you're going to do  
5 on the campus but if you come into my courtroom, you're going up to Salem, and not to  
6 sit in the state house, either. You're going to go get in the other house that the state  
7 maintains at Salem as Mr. Bennett did. We all had all sorts of shall we say fringe  
8 elements? We had [weathermen] who were more infinitely involved in doing violent  
9 activities. We had one or two people actually, not associated with the ROTC program,  
10 who I personally knew, who openly associated themselves with the Minute Men  
11 movement, Robert Depu. People tend to forget about these militia type groups of 1990's,  
12 but there were the minutemen running around in the 1960's, a lot of talking, thankfully  
13 no real acts of violence. But we had a type or two running around. It's kind of ironic,  
14 too, that our group that hung together so tightly became really rather dispersed. Once  
15 we'd actually gotten commissioned and in the later years I know I'm in contact with my  
16 roommate from the time. As matter of fact Bob actually has his parents place in the  
17 trunk, I think, of Midville, Oregon. He actually still has a flag that he captured and  
18 framed and put in our apartment from the May 1971 riots. Someone had brought in a  
19 Viet Cong flag and they tried to occupy the building, which he confiscated as a prize of  
20 war. Several of us made a career, took the full ride. Individuals [?] stride, I mentioned  
21 Al Alef a couple of times. We wound up sharing an apartment at Fort Hood, but when he  
22 got out of the Army he went into law enforcement and kind of...I'd rather not say; not  
23 very visible at all. I kept on running into some of my piers and temporaries, various  
24 assignments. I ran into both Bruce Hill and Mike Malanaphy who I mentioned several  
25 times in the interview, in Germany as late as 1981. But I think outside of Bob, Bob  
26 Young, I think he's the only one still wearing the uniform in his own respect right now.  
27 And that's as a commander/chaplain in the US Naval Reserve which is even more ironic  
28 because of the other cross currents running around, Bob was the last person I could  
29 imagine being chaplain in the service.

30 SM: So you went from graduation into the Army, and your first duty assignment  
31 was in Korea?

1 JM: Korea, 2nd Infantry Division.

2 SM: When you got to Korea I assume that you've interacted with quite a few  
3 Vietnam Veterans?

4 JM: Uh huh.

5 SM: Was there a lot of discussion about the experiences in Vietnam? Did  
6 Veterans that remained in service and went on to other duty stations, would they discuss  
7 their experiences in training environments and things like that with other fellow soldiers,  
8 fellow officers?

9 JM: Not very much. In '73-'74 was a bit of a funk, it had its own problems,  
10 which is kind of ironic. I got one of those good moods/bad moods I think as you do in  
11 your career. They were looking for volunteers to become involved in the RR/EO  
12 program, and I guess that must have been that liberal Oregon Willamette Valley, Eugene  
13 exposure, that plus the fact that I'd been to Ireland and seen some things. I remember  
14 seeing the busses in Montgomery, Alabama in 1964, I remember Selma. Maybe I've got  
15 something to contribute, so I raised my hand to volunteer for the program and of course  
16 the following...as a matter of fact, Columbus Day, 1973 simultaneously every major  
17 camp Army and Air Force erupted in some sort of a riot, which is how I eventually get to  
18 meet the individual who has become famous as a general, Colin Powell; singularly  
19 distasteful experience. That's not worth talking about, but anyway, no one thought about  
20 Vietnam, it's like a bad memory to some people. In particularly Korea, outside of field  
21 grade officers, a few company grades, there weren't a whole lot of Vietnam Veterans  
22 around yet except for maybe NCO's and the like. We have a lot of troops that were  
23 terribly under manned. We had in bravo 1<sup>st</sup> of 38<sup>th</sup> field artillery, we had one gun section  
24 except for the chief of the gun section who was a PFC holding down AJ stripes, sergeant  
25 stripes. Every member of his crew was a KATUSA, Korean augmentee. Half the battery  
26 were Korean. So Vietnam is just like for a lot of people a bad memory, and then you saw  
27 that everybody being relaxed, "Well I'm a draftee, I really don't have to be here," or "I  
28 don't want to be here, I'm leaving soon," so therefore, "What else can you do to me?"  
29 type of attitude, the underlying racial problems.

30 SM: What about drugs?

1 JM: Marijuana in plentiful supply. Nobody wanted to do anything about it. It  
2 was nothing for troops to be smoking pot in the barracks. I remember once we actually  
3 had an unannounced search warrant in the battalion, and one soldier had dropped  
4 something. His battery commander came up to me, I was standing behind our battery.  
5 He came up to me with a marijuana cigarette in his hand and said, "Here, take this and  
6 flush it," and my jaw dropped. The guy dropped it, you saw him drop it, this is evidence,  
7 this guy's having me flush this thing away, as if it's not even there. It was not a good  
8 time at all. It carried over. I went to my next duty assignment which was Fort Hood, 1st  
9 Cavalry Division. When I was at Hood, I had only two people I could talk to; number  
10 one, Captain Lambert who had been my MS-II instructor who had went to the University  
11 of Oregon as a [?], 1/77 field artillery, 1st Cavalry Division, this was back for the 1/77.  
12 So I could talk to him. I could talk to the aviators, talked about it, but not with a sense of  
13 who. We had an aerial field artillery battery with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav and we could talk about it in  
14 rather detached terms, but, just a real funk.

15 SM: You think the Vietnam War was instrumental in creating that in the after  
16 effects of the lack of morale?

17 JM: Well, lack of morale but just lack of feeding of general support. Things  
18 weren't as plentiful, a lot of budget cuts, transition, the way the war ended. Sitting back,  
19 ironically I was on leave in Ireland when watching the news on RTE about finaling the  
20 push and the fall of Saigon. I had dually reported when I went on leave to the DIA's  
21 office as anyone going on leave to a foreign country is supposed to do; check in and leave  
22 their local address in case of contact, waiting, wondering whether or not I was going to  
23 get a call from Parnell saying, "Pack your bag and hit the next flight back."

24 SM: Do you think it was worth the expenditure of material, men, money; the  
25 Vietnam War, given the outcome?

26 JM: Given the outcome, it would be hard to justify it. If you have a stated  
27 purpose, the results were exactly contrary the stated purpose and that was to maintain the  
28 Republic of Vietnam, which did not happen. But I think there is such a sense of  
29 resignation, I think it's just one of those times where the American people wanted to get  
30 down on their knees and thank the Good Lord they live in the United States under our  
31 constitution, and this isn't France because this would have made the workings of another

1 Algeria scenario where the Army decides we bled and sweated for all these years and this  
2 is what the result is? We'll see you on the streets; we'll see you at the barricades. Make  
3 sure you don't open your mail today because you can, and I've done quite a bit of  
4 extensive studying here, studies on the French Army and their reaction to the peace in  
5 Algeria. Like I said, only in America would this have gone by the way it did. I thank the  
6 Good Lord it did go that way because otherwise you'd have seen tanks in the streets  
7 headed for the government centers to take out the frustration because it was just a bad  
8 lack of sense of direction, lack of everything else. People don't realize the United States  
9 Army have been beaten before, and rather somewhat decisively. In decisive terms, if one  
10 takes a look at history, if one takes a look at the Little Turtle's War of 1792 or the Red  
11 Cloud War of 1866-67, things drug out significantly but you know there was essentially  
12 some sort...even though it seemed to be perpetual warfare against the various Native  
13 American tribes every once in a while the Army was beaten. There was some sort of an  
14 outcome to it. Eventually the west, regardless of and not even touching the subject of the  
15 rightness of a lot of Native American policy by the government, but eventually for the  
16 Army there was a positive end; it was over. It ended, and the next adventure, if you will,  
17 opened up the war with Spain. There was no time to sit around and mope and regret and  
18 have people angry for what you did.

19 SM: Which is what happened after Vietnam?

20 JM: Essentially to a certain extent if not, fairly tolerant and it comes up every  
21 time, it's like the bad penny that keeps on coming up. In the future there will be another  
22 Vietnam type of thing. People talk now about Kosovo and the Balkans with the same  
23 type of aspect. I've even taken a look at the interesting contrast between anti-Vietnam  
24 War activism at the University of Oregon at the time. I lived through it and what's  
25 happening contemporaneously with this, the bombing campaign in Kosovo and the like.  
26 Man I fell off my chair, "Is this the same place?" One demonstration, one assistant  
27 professor of architecture, one teaching assistant and five students with homemade  
28 placards banging bells on the steps of Johnson Hall...this is the place that got tear gassed!  
29 I'm just thinking just the contrast. It's not necessarily everybody loves the air campaign,  
30 it's not that, it's just perhaps the tenor of the time, changing societies, you know it's push  
31 button, a little bit more sanitary. No pictures of downed Americans.

1 SM: There are certainly obvious differences, you don't have the draft, so you  
2 don't have student protests, students concerned that they're going to be sent over to  
3 Kosovo and potentially killed. You're right; the casualties, you don't have the body bags  
4 coming home, the caskets coming home. What are the major differences you think exists  
5 between the '60's and the '90's to prevent any kind of major outbreak of demonstrations?

6 JM: I think there's always a potential. Human nature, even though circumstances  
7 change, the calendar moves, human nature doesn't necessarily change. People adapt  
8 themselves to technology, to environment, and I think that has something to do with it.  
9 That plus the fact that even though we have a much more, shall we say a greater degree  
10 of interaction between peoples nowadays and a greater degree of contact; for example,  
11 anyone can get on the website now, even if you want to get into real audio or listen to a  
12 radio broadcast like I did last night, I listened to the radio broadcast out of [?] for  
13 example, or...and I listened to Romanian radio out of Cuze. You can find out to a greater  
14 degree, get more information. I think the other thing is that, particularly the University of  
15 Oregon, it is a cause driven campus. Right now, I think the two biggest causes and I  
16 think in this order, number one, university diversity. The University of Oregon has  
17 always been diverse but it's not diverse enough for some people apparently, but it's  
18 always had a big student body which had been more representative of the entire cultural  
19 spectrum than their own state and local community, which is ironic and  
20 environmentalism. You don't have Walter, literally Walter Cronkite or Huntley Brinkley  
21 or the like on at 6:30, with the latest reports from Vietnam scenario type of thing. So I  
22 think that's a lot to do with it, that plus the fact I think this new society, or this society  
23 that we're in right now, I think it's even more into it's own comforts than past  
24 generations just because things are so easy for us to do, and I think you put a lot of these  
25 issues together. And I think that you have a tendency not to get that. There are people in  
26 that community or across the country who will always be pro-military, and those who are  
27 anti-military. I think the other thing is that mitigating a lot of this, at least in the public's  
28 eyes, or the image of the military that came out from such things as the hopelessness of  
29 Beirut, or even other types of situations such as Somalia, where good intentions went  
30 horribly bad, or Haiti.

1 SM: Would you see these as kind of like a continuation of what happened in  
2 Vietnam and the after effects of Vietnam in terms of we went in with good intentions, we  
3 wanted to support what we thought was a Democratic government in South Vietnam, and  
4 of course what ends up being the reality is something completely different than, of  
5 course, the end of the war was completely different?

6 JM: Well that's true, that plus the fact that the absence of such things as exposes,  
7 atrocities, like My Lai. I think that has kind of taken the edge off. I think you have a lot  
8 of things in unpopular media too. They'd rather call it, as a matter of fact, a very positive  
9 image, even in the worst war parts of movies like *Saving Private Ryan* have a tendency to  
10 hearken back to their time, other than Vietnam. I think that all has got something to do  
11 with it. To a certain extent we're more knowledgeable yet, to a certain extent also  
12 desensitized. And we don't know what it's like outside of the Vietnam Veterans, for  
13 example the now growing older World War II Veterans who have been willing to talk.  
14 This current generation really doesn't have, outside of the brief horrors of Beirut or of the  
15 one incident, the border they attempted to seize a mean that turned out rather ghastly,  
16 much more ghastly than people realize. We really don't have that much of experience,  
17 and to a certain extent we have become desensitized. Our idea of violence may be a  
18 movie image, or maybe a manufactured image of professional wrestling, where it's all  
19 kind of stage-managed and the beating that you see really doesn't happen type of thing.  
20 This in turn though, given the volatility of the world because the world infinitely more  
21 now is influenced [?]; may come back to haunt us.

22 SM: What do you think about American military interventions now, in terms of  
23 given your experiences at the U of O during the late '60s, early '70s, of given your  
24 experience as a military officer, the lack of integration apparently, of a lot of experience?  
25 What do you think about military interventions overseas and things similar to Vietnam, in  
26 areas similar, Kosovo, for instance?

27 JM: Kosovo, I have some very deep convictions about that. Number one, I'm  
28 convinced that the American public in general has a real lack of knowledge over the  
29 history, culture, and even current events. Anyone who picks up the last published one  
30 edition of the last U.S. Army country study of Yugoslavia obviously has not read what it  
31 says about Kosovo because it kind of puts, shall we say it's kind of divergent from the

1 conflict except the facts concerning the area. Militarily, the Balkans are a cesspool. It is  
2 the swamp. I tried to tell someone the other day; it's kind of like a set of Chinese  
3 handcuffs you've played with as a child. Keep your fingers in; now try to get them out.  
4 The Balkans are the same way. This is only the fifth major war in their region between  
5 the parties this century; fifth this century! You don't count dead in Balkan wars by the  
6 thousands; you count them in the hundreds of thousands. There were too major wars  
7 before the First World War broke out. During the First World War, more Serbian...let's  
8 put it this way; the greatest rate of combat deaths in the First World War, this is the First  
9 World War of Flanders fields, and they're done. The highest rate of combat deaths were  
10 suffered by the royal Serbian and the royal [Montenegro] armies. Far more than the  
11 British, far more than the Germans, far more than the French facing each other in places  
12 like [?] and the like. And this is even before talking about the Second World War, and  
13 quite frankly, I don't think our people are trained to the mission. Given that, given the  
14 tremendous downsizing, given the tremendous shortages in class II-IV-IX, flight time for  
15 normal aviators was I think the approximate cause why those numbers died. Lack of  
16 training, training, funds, training time, you put that all together on a force which is  
17 stretched down, a force which must rely on the reserve components in order to keep its  
18 current real working missions going. We are in more trouble than people realize. I've  
19 been trying to tell people for weeks, watch Korea. People ignored it, having not gone to  
20 Vietnam, people say, "Oh you got commissioned too late, you didn't go to Vietnam," I  
21 said, "So what!" I said, "A 7.62 millimeter bullet from an NKPA, AK-47 will kill you  
22 just as dead as one fired by a NVA regular. I drew combat pay my first five months in  
23 Korea. Having walked the wire DMZ was where I had my first fire fight, which was  
24 rather interesting as an OF. Our battery was so short of weapons, I carried an F78  
25 millimeter. When I served as an FO for the rotating platoon, from the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 31<sup>st</sup>  
26 infantry I carried an M79 with bandoleer and a bandoleer of canister. They had it waiting  
27 for me when I returned, showed up and they had an M79 just waiting for me, and you  
28 don't realize in this world how truly unstable it has become."

29 SM: What role do you think the United States should play?

30 JM: I feel that our role should be when and only when American lives and  
31 American treasure are directly at stake. And the further away and the further detached

1 we are, the less propensity we should have become involved because the conflicts which  
2 we have today isn't a direct result or are not the direct result of short-term political or  
3 economic causes. You take a look at the world's hot spots, these are long standing, deep-  
4 rooted, ethnic or nationalistic based hostilities, which are now only going through their  
5 latest iteration of turmoil. And the Balkans are just the latest example of that. I think in  
6 one national city Congress ordered an NSC meeting where the subject came up about the  
7 Albanians, are they a genius people? Someone says, "I don't think so." Apparently what  
8 was reported by this one national senator, the NSC operatives didn't even know the  
9 difference between the Turks and the Kurds in Albania and which side was which. I  
10 learned that as a sophomore at the University of Oregon in Tim Dehedehecks Eastern  
11 European Geography class, which happened to be going on also which is why I was  
12 standing at Conlin Hall that day, right in front of Tim's class speaking of the glories of  
13 King Zog the 1<sup>st</sup> of Albania, how the Albanian state became the first and only conquest in  
14 Europe, a fascist Italian assembly. They didn't even know that. Fundamental types of  
15 things and then we're putting ourselves in the middle of this. We're expecting to say  
16 because we are Americans we will part the waters. I take RTE news on line which is  
17 radio [?] and read the articles daily. Good Friday is about to go up in smoke. What do  
18 we do then? The IRA hasn't disarmed. The Protestant militaries haven't disarmed. The  
19 big winner in this weeks European Parliament elections going on in Ireland was no other  
20 than the obsequious Reverend Ian Paisley, a man whose political and religious views are  
21 well known to many as being the cause for a lot of the trouble, and he's the big winner.  
22 Where does one make a bet; do we now because of Kosovo, does this become the model  
23 to becoming involved between the Turks and the Kurds? Does this become a model  
24 between trying to intervene between Pakistan and India? If we make a stand here and  
25 say we can go forward or we can go back, why didn't we intervene, then [?] clean the  
26 Serbs out of the Kriena, that was passed off by Mr. Arenson, the Dutch foreign minister  
27 several weeks ago on a CNN live broadcast, as achieving balance. That was his quote,  
28 "Go and achieve balance." Well, where do we now draw the line, or do we take a look  
29 internally? After all, what happens if the Navajo nation decides to secede from the  
30 United States and declare that the Treaty of 1868 is now null and void, and seceded into  
31 total tribal sovereignty. What do we do then? Do we bomb window rock? And when



1 the president of the Navajo nation doing the federal budget crisis in 1995, literally, sealed  
2 the tribal borders with the tribal police which is only an area about the size of the state of  
3 West Virginia, from entrance of any non-native American going in and out. It was only  
4 very briefly until the budget negotiations, but he was zealous, he was going to carry  
5 through with his threat.

6 SM: You mentioned the bombing; it seems like for the past century; the twentieth  
7 century has been the, of course, the century of technology and warfare and one of the  
8 outcomes of the current crisis in Yugoslavia has been of course this attempted vindication  
9 of the soul use of air power as a tool of policy, as a tool of force, and of course the  
10 administration, the Clinton administration stating all too often how getting the Serbians to  
11 accept the current peace plan, that this is an indication of the soul use of their power. I've  
12 heard commentators speak of this critically and I personally think of it rather critically;  
13 what do you think in terms of just the...general use or importance of technology in  
14 modern warfare in the instance of Yugoslavia, Kosovo, but more generally while you  
15 were in service, in trends that you witnessed in this regard?

16 JM: Well, troops on the ground became more and more reliant on air power to  
17 seize ground as a method of reducing casualties. Kind of an extension of aerial artillery,  
18 you think of the aerial artillery, which is not in and of itself bad. Anything you can do to  
19 minimize casualties on the ground you want to do. I was eight years old watching Robert  
20 Mitchum and Robert Wagner, "The Hunters," again, in the first field exercise on Korea, I  
21 think that's where I first met Colin Powell who was in a field exercise where our air  
22 cover was two ROK Air Force F86s. I mean it was right out of that 20<sup>th</sup> century Fox  
23 movie, *The Hunters*, and woo! Coming right down the valley, gosh, am I in a movie or  
24 what? Anyway you think about that but it doesn't achieve anything in and of itself. In  
25 the end, battles are won, campaigns are won, and some sort of a peace or result achieved  
26 because a soldier with a rifle is holding a piece of ground. And that is what went, and I  
27 don't mean this facetiously, the only other person ever to believe that air power could  
28 achieve, and in and of itself, was Harmond Gary. He tried to tell that to everyone in a  
29 campaign of France in 1940 and that's how [Dunkurt] happened, and again the Battle of  
30 Britain itself the same way, or the support of the 6<sup>th</sup> Army once the Stalingrad pocket  
31 closed in 1942. I can do this all by airpower. It doesn't happen. If your goal is to

1 maintain a border, are you going to patrol the border with an airplane? It sure hasn't  
2 worked with the no fly zones in Iraq! That plus the fact that it doesn't achieve a result  
3 anyway. The forgotten air campaign of this century is the aerial interdiction campaign  
4 between 1950 and 1953 in Korea and it was a massive failure. For those who want to  
5 think past or even focus on the Ho Chi Minh trail aerial interdiction campaign does not  
6 hold a candle to the amount of air craft and the amount of ordinance brought on North  
7 Korea between the [?] and the main line of resistance. Incredible amount of interdiction  
8 effort. Again, it boils down to that, and again, what the DRO campaign do if the  
9 result...what was the purported result? The result was to do what? Put K-4 on the  
10 ground! So one leads to the other. So actually, if suddenly someone turned around and  
11 says, "Well, now you're 2/3 of the way in we changed our minds; we're not going back  
12 into the interior. We're going to stay in Kosovo. Come move us." Like the 200 Russian  
13 Paratroopers at the Preslina Airport! What's going to meet them? An F-16 or Toronado  
14 with guide ammunitions? If you want them to leave, they're either going to have to pick  
15 up peacefully or some other soldier on the ground is going to have to pick up and carry  
16 them away. I think it's purely illusory and to show what our reaction is likely to be, just  
17 go back to 1993 and the mission [?]. I think we showed a very lack of will power when  
18 they showed on the ground with the Somali Militia, militias, mobs, whatever anyone  
19 wants to call them. What they were willing to do and what they did to our people on the  
20 ground, that's I think the proving point; are you willing to put up with that. In 1993, we  
21 weren't.

22 SM: You don't think we are now?

23 JM: I don't think so. I think the American public is...to a certain extent...those  
24 who want an active campaign anywhere are full of rash and bravado and there are a lot of  
25 people around who have never seen the results on the ground of combat. There are  
26 people who've never been on the ground who've seen the results of what a bomb can do.  
27 A terrorist bomb as well as an aerial dropped ordinance. I invite anyone who thinks,  
28 "Hey, talk big now." Then put them in and expose them to that and say, "How are you  
29 gong to talk as big?" It doesn't make any difference what your political principle is.  
30 Number one, you're willing to put your life on the line or be intimately responsible for  
31 people, in a leadership position, a tactical leadership position on the ground to talk that

1 way, and then are you willing to do that? Or maybe you can go up to the widows. I  
2 would venture to say that maybe the most unnerving personal experience the current  
3 commander-in-chief had is when he had to give the Medal of Honor to the widows of  
4 Randy Shugart and Gary Gerden, because they didn't get bodies back, they got parts of  
5 bodies. That was all on videotape from overhead, or no, surveillance. They chopped the  
6 bodies to pieces. That had to have been, for him, a very unnerving experience.

7 SM: You mentioned that you think that the American people are desensitized,  
8 given a lack of experience with military operations, I don't know, sort of an exposure to  
9 bombings and things like that but at the same time it seems like we're hypersensitive to  
10 casualties.

11 JM: Well that's the dichotomy, that because we've become desensitized, it's like  
12 the video game. I've lost X amount of people, I had one of my guys killed in my video  
13 game type of mentality, which is a way as a matter of fact, we train our soldiers more and  
14 more using that technology. Not just in tanks, in air craft either. In infantry, on the  
15 ground. Suddenly, this desensitization you think it's commonplace because it's an  
16 unreal image. Then put on the ground it becomes flesh and blood. Either your flesh and  
17 blood or somebody else's who's standing right next to you or you can see it become more  
18 real and then suddenly...this is not the generation of World War II, it's not the generation  
19 of the American Civil War which is [?] being an active Civil War re-enactor. Times I  
20 think have changed, or we think we can wave the magic wand because someone thinks  
21 that people who hate each other and hated each other for centuries and have so much  
22 baggage it is unreal suddenly think well, because we Americans, we can say, "There's  
23 your piece and you go in your corner," and you go in your corner and all of them look  
24 happy and play together from here on out. Play together in, shall we say, economic terms  
25 or diplomatic and life proceeds very happily, literally like as if it's a foreign affairs  
26 Donna Reid show, and reality is that it doesn't work. You can't legislate people to live  
27 together. Sadly the thing that worked for Yugoslavia was Joseph Grostido bashing heads  
28 together for a generation and dealing with people in his own way. Saying, "I know what  
29 happened here before, I was even involved in much of it and I perpetrated a lot of it but  
30 guess what? You're all going to live together in the same country or you will pay the  
31 price and that price is going to be very steep and very stiff and if I have to shoot you so

1 that there will be peace maintained between the Kurats and the Serbs and the Kriena, so  
2 be it. If I have to shoot a Kosov or Albanian to keep the peace I'll do it. But, as long as  
3 I'm in charge here this won't go." And he ruled Yugoslavia, he ruled by intimidation, he  
4 ruled by a certain degree of velvet gloved terror but terror none the less, for everybody to  
5 live together and for a generation, Yugoslavia managed to prosper and grow  
6 economically as an independent power inside of Europe in its own system of government.  
7 Not to justify the system of government methods, but that's what worked for that group  
8 of people. One has to shake their head. The stakes are different. I don't think really, to a  
9 certain extent there's a lot about Kosovo which really doesn't compare to Vietnam era;  
10 politically, geographically, and militarily. People like to throw that analogy up like it's  
11 another Vietnam and it really isn't, for lots of different reasons. People don't understand  
12 the ethnologic makeup of Vietnam, they don't understand the history of the movements,  
13 they don't understand the history of our involvement or how things started; the Vietnam  
14 revolutions started after the end of the Second World War and the like. The fact that if  
15 there's anything we could point out to the [?], well, then we'd say, "We have a bunch of  
16 Tonkinese." We can come in and take over the [?] Chinese perhaps or the Ottomese, if  
17 you want to think of ethnic involvement without the political ramifications. But that plus  
18 the fact we don't have a government, a legitimate government, of sorts shall we say,  
19 inviting us in. This is not the same; this is like coming to the party uninvited to a certain  
20 extent. The only thing is I think we use that as the comparison to often. That plus the  
21 fact that one of the things that has disturbed me is the extreme of some Vietnam  
22 Veterans. Everybody has their military experiences, a lot of them, good experiences, bad  
23 experiences. I know talking to my father extensively; he succeeded to the command of  
24 the battery, which was part of Task Force F. Talk about horror stories, the United States  
25 at war. We inherited a battery that had lost all its guns or half its soldiers were barefoot.  
26 The thing that really I find disturbing is the fact that it's almost for some people sadly it's  
27 become an excuse, which is not necessarily a military tradition, it's like, I can't move off  
28 this point. My experiences, a body of experiences but I can't move off this point and  
29 progress and mature to a certain extent looking for the proper words to use. "Oh, I was in  
30 Vietnam." a lot of people in Vietnam, a lot of people die, a lot of people progressed on  
31 and do well to make the best of their experiences but not to the extent that someone

1 wanted to create himself. We didn't create a homeless generation after World War II, put  
2 a Vietnam patch or a World War II patch and say, "I never recovered all these years  
3 here." Not to say that people don't need help but I think there eventually comes a point  
4 where a national psyche because some people, maybe some on the ground and some who  
5 were never there but will use that as a cultural or political excuse never moved off the  
6 point they lost. The south lost its Civil War, and the only part of the United States that  
7 had ever been militarily occupied with an iron glove. The South got over it and it didn't  
8 take them a generation to get over it. By the time the Spanish-American War came  
9 around it was, "We're in this with you," old Confederate Veterans looking to wear the  
10 Union Blue. Two Confederate Generals actually served as United States Generals and  
11 volunteers, not to mention scads of lower ranking individuals as part of the United Army.  
12 Do they have reason maybe to feel bigger? Oh yeah. Really bigger, in particular.

13 SM: Do you think United States government takes as good a care of its veterans  
14 as it used to, or is it part of this problem for Vietnam Veterans?

15 JM: I think part of it is.

16 SM: Some of them?

17 JM: I think part of it may be expecting the government to do too much. I think  
18 the Army even now goes overboard on transitioning. Find a civilian job when getting  
19 out; you're an Army alumnus now! We'll help you find you a job. We'll do this, that,  
20 and the other, and it's become essentially a placement service on top of everything else.  
21 The Veterans...I think the VA hospital system has always been a thorn in the side of  
22 everybody and particularly since a lot of particularly retirees have looked at the certain  
23 benefits as thinking, or expectation of benefits such as regularly available medical care,  
24 dental care, PX and commissary, things like that. Now with base closures and  
25 downsizing, well, if you don't have as much somebody has to be on the short end. And  
26 that's on the retiree's side. I have avoided using any of my veteran's benefits on purpose.  
27 I paid for my graduate education out of my pocket; did not use the GI bill. I've used my  
28 other health care, other health benefits since I've left active duty to cover my medical  
29 expenses without going back on what used to be Tricare business, because I don't want  
30 that to be an excuse in my life. Well I always hated going to the PX anyway, so I guess  
31 that's from my time having to deal with the [?] headquarters. But I've avoided doing that

1 on purpose, you know. If you're going to go back into society with uniform, go back and  
2 wear it with pride, but, for things like that, particularly for things of short, leave that to  
3 the active duty. Leave that to the young soldiers and their families. Don't try to divert  
4 resources away from them, particularly when there's not enough to spread around. We  
5 had our opportunity to make our mark, perform our service and whatnot. If it becomes  
6 necessary as a fall back, but don't go up there and insist and demand a right to something,  
7 particularly if that means that much less for the guys who've got to do the mission now  
8 because there isn't enough to go around for everyone. I got a joke; you know people on  
9 active duty kind of wondering if they become a casualty, "Do you have your insurance  
10 card on you just in case? We'll have the medic come around and check." Because that's  
11 what they'll do now in active duty, military medical facilities. Even major posts used to  
12 have Army hospitals, now have the essential just full blown clinics and that type, like I  
13 say, I'm not going to insist on driving up to Reese or going to Clovis though my father-  
14 in-law insists on doing it. My wife has to take him up there every once in a while.  
15 You're in the community, use the benefit of your experience, try to tell people, what you  
16 did, but don't use that as a crutch and don't wear it as a sleeve looking for a heart on the  
17 sleeve type of thing looking for sympathy because everyone's has their own set of horror  
18 stories. Everyone's had their own good experiences as well as very bad experiences.  
19 Everybody has lost friends. I lost my best friend in high school in Beirut when they blew  
20 up the barracks and destroyed the 24<sup>th</sup> ALU Headquarters. So I've lost friends, been in  
21 firefights. I've seen what happens when you pull an M-79 canister on somebody at ten  
22 feet, so I know what it's like. But, you tell people about that to warn them, like I  
23 wouldn't say warn, to educate them. If you want to use the military, if you want to share  
24 experiences, that's all well and good. But, don't go out there and have expectations.  
25 Don't go out there and denounce things one way or another unless you have a body of  
26 facts because we're different in a way, and that's not to...as a puff-up difference. We are  
27 different in our military. There's no General Lee syndrome. There's no king. There's  
28 no dictator. There's no emperor. There's an elected president who has his constitution  
29 for referral in the future. As a constitutional duty of being the commander in chief, good,  
30 bad, or indifferent; we answer to civilians. Coming from people who should be in many  
31 parts, experiences come from that. That's not a criteria. Never has been a criteria, never

1 will be a criteria. We are supposed to be in the image of our founding fathers. Citizen  
2 soldiers and we've got to act the core of that and not be another [?] case. Either A, we  
3 run the show here as the French Army seemed to think it did after our Algerian  
4 experience went up the tubes, or as another case of social welfare, only with a uniformed  
5 class as opposed to an indigent class of people.

6 SM: Thank you very much.

7 JM: You're quite welcome.

8 SM: This is interview #2 with James Mogan on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 1999 in his  
9 office at postal services at Texas Tech University. Mr. Mogan, if you would, just  
10 describe briefly the additional information you'd like to add to your interview with  
11 regards to the fight song.

12 JM: Well, I had neglected to mention this, but this is one in the very tense  
13 evening after the crowd had been dispersed outside of the ROTC buildings at the  
14 University of Oregon on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, 1970. Most of the cadets who had been in the  
15 building went back to the cadet lounge, kind of revisiting everything that happened, made  
16 some coffee for the police and deputy sheriffs, and for ourselves and just sat around  
17 discussing the events. Well one of my hobbies back at that time, if it could be called that,  
18 was making parodies of songs. So several of my friends, particularly Mike Malanaphy  
19 who was a frequent lyrical cohort of mine kind of encouraged me to put something  
20 together. Well the first thing that popped in my mind was the very singable University of  
21 Oregon fight song. We wanted some way to...not only to mention the Eugene Police  
22 Department who had, when they eventually showed up, did some heroics and basically  
23 saved the day, but also to bring into, you might say somewhat in a reverse sense,  
24 honorable mention for the radical leaders. So I got together with some assistance from  
25 Mike and put together a riot version of the University of Oregon fight song "Mighty  
26 Oregon". Shall I proceed?

27 SM: Absolutely.

28 JM: (singing and humming...)Oregon our Alma Mater where the EPD is found,  
29 With the SDS and Paul Gratz and the Neusbaums all around,  
30 We'll swear a warrant out on Zurzan, and use the pepper fog on Howe,  
31 There'll be a day in court in Eugene for the rats of Oregon,

1 Here comes Captain Larion, with his squad of forty men,  
2 Break out the tear gas, come look at the cowards run,  
3 As we clean up all the rads in Eugene...  
4 Oregon our Alma Mater, where the EPD is found,  
5 With the SDS and Paul Gratz and Neusbaums all around,  
6 We'll swear a warrant out on Zurzan, and use the pepper fog on Howe,  
7 There'll be a day in court in Eugene for the rads of Oregon!  
8 I should add that everyone who was named in the song was arrested the next day, either  
9 by the Eugene Police Department or the Oregon State Police for insightment to riot and  
10 eventually did stand trial in district court in Lane County Oregon for their  
11 activities....except, of course for Captain Larion who was in charge of the police who  
12 came out of the cemetery and dispersed the crowd. It helped definitely to break the  
13 tension and it became, essentially, the theme song of the Army ROTC commissioning  
14 class of 1972. We used it occasionally in fond memory whenever any of us kind of get  
15 together, it's always request time and I've got to sing that. So that's basically what I had  
16 to add to the interview.

17 SM: Okay, well thank you very much Mr. Mogan.

18 JM: You're quite welcome.

19

20