

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

NARRATOR: Tom Kelsay

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Tom Kelsay was born in 1942 on a farm in Indiana where he lived until he graduated high school. He joined the Air Force in 1961 and was trained in meteorology, spending some time serving in Korea and the Philippines during the Vietnam War. He left the military in 1969 and went to work for the National Weather Service. He retired from that in 1994. He now lives in Cimarron, Kansas where he runs a small antique vehicle shop.

DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 14, 2003

INTERVIEWER: Rachel Pederson

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Cimarron, Kansas

NUMBER OF CASSETTES: 1 audio cassette

LENGTH OF CASSETTES: 60 min.

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 39 min.

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED: Farm life in the 1940s and '50s; Experiences of home life and school; Meteorology; Time spent in Korea and the Philippines; the comparisons of the Vietnam War and the current Iraqi conflict.

Tom Kelsay
Narrator

Rachel Pederson
Interviewer

July 14, 2003
Cimarron, Kansas

Tom Kelsay – **TK**
Rachel Pederson – **RP**

(Beginning of side A)

RP: Monday, July 14, 2003 and I am interviewing Mr. Tom Kelsay. When and where were you born?

TK: I was born December 13, 1942 in Shelby County, Indiana.

RP: Ok, what did your father and mother do for a living?

TK: My father, my father was a laborer during World War II. He never served in the military and my wife (means mother) was more of, more or less a traditional housewife.

RP: Uh-huh. So did you live in town then?

TK: No, I was born on the family farm that's been in the family since the 1880s and it's still in the family. It's uh near, it's in rural Shelby County, Indiana.

RP: Ok.

TK: And my relatives still live in the place.

RP: So what were some of the chores you did as a child?

TK: Well, I grew up on a farm. After, after I became fairly, became older, uh after maybe eight, nine, ten years old, we took care of livestock. We had chickens, we had livestock, we had milk cows, and uh, typical farm chores: Milking cows, gathering eggs. Got bigger, we run farm tractors during the summer, took care of farm work things of that nature, cut fire wood. We didn't have electricity until 1954 and so I was about twelve years old before we had electricity. We had uh, we cut our own fire wood, heated with fire wood and things of that nature.

RP: Uh-huh, uhm, how was farm work different than it is today?

RK: Oh, much, much different. The farm equipment is much, much larger and the way they farm here in Kansas is much different. When I grew up, farms were what you call, I guess you would call an organic farm in that they were self-contained. We had our own garden, we had our own milk cows, we had our chickens, we had a few hogs and uh the crops we raised we, we, we used to pay the taxes and buy salt and things from town but we basically lived off the farm. Now the farm is uh much, much larger. Farms are much larger and uh they generate cash and it's kind of uncommon for people to have chickens and pigs and sheep and goats and things that we had at that time. A typical farm back where I grew up would maybe eighty to a hundred acres and out there, what are they now?

RP: I have no idea.

TK: A couple thousand acres I suppose. Farm machinery, a farm tractor in my, when I was a young boy, a farm tractor might have thirty horse power. Now it's not uncommon to see tractors with three hundred horsepower. So there's been a huge difference in the way, in techniques and farm machinery.

RP: So what did you do for fun as a kid? Obviously you didn't have video games or Nintendo. What did you do?

TK: No, we didn't have TV. We didn't have electricity but we didn't lack for fun, I mean we had horses. My dad worked with, he had horses, we rode the horses. They were work horses but we rode them as saddle horses and then of course, uh I had seven brothers and a sister, we had a large family and uh we always had plenty to do. We had uh, where I grew in southern Indiana there was lots of water. We had streams so we fished, we hunted, we camped, we did all the childhood things. But uh no, we didn't have video games, computers, that was unheard of. TV was a novelty then, particularly during my early childhood.

RP: When did you get your first TV?

TK: I think about 1956, which I would been about fourteen years old. It was black and white and uh, it was quite a novelty. It was really quite a novelty but uh, I think we maybe got one or two channels and now I think, cable I have something like seventy channels now so there's been a huge difference.

RP: Uhm, did you go to the movies? You lived on a farm. Did you get in town enough to go to the movies?

TK: Not very much, we were pretty much, we didn't travel very much. I can recall, I was, we lived within forty miles of the state capital which was Indianapolis and I sixteen year old before I ever got the state capital, so it was pretty rare for us to travel very much. We stayed there on the farm, went to school, that sort of thing. Went into town maybe on a Saturday afternoon to pick up a few basics and groceries but we pretty much lived on the farm. If you looked at the Mennonite Community now, it would be roughly

equivalent to how we lived, if you took away their electricity and telephones and things like that its just . . . we were plain folks but everybody was plain at that time. That's the way people lived. Particularly country people.

RP: So where did you go to school, in town?

TK: Well, we had country schools. I graduated from a little school called Medum, in my elementary school and later when I graduated from High school I graduated from Hope. Uh it's kind of interesting, my brother, we had moved right before I graduated from the eighth grade, elementary school and he graduated from Green Township school and the class was so small – there were only six that graduated – and uh they all loaded up in the principal's 1948 Chrysler and went from Green Township School in rural Indiana and drove all the way to Denver. That was their graduating class which was quite a thing. He had big old huge '48 Chrysler Limousine and they drove out there. They saved up money and they drove all the way to Denver Colorado and back. The principal and the teacher, the principal and his wife took the students.

RP: So you said you graduated from elementary. Did you go on to high school then?

TK: Yes, I went on to high school. I graduated uh, I graduated I think in 1956 from elementary school and then 1960 I graduated from high school at Hope, Indiana. I was one of the last graduating class from the old Hope High School. After that they moved and I think consolidated.

RP: Did they have as many sports teams and activities in school, when you were in high school or . . .

TK: Well, yes but the emphasis . . . We didn't have football but we had basketball and track. Basketball, of course in Indiana very popular and still is, but basketball and track, uh . . . there wasn't quite as much emphasis. I never learned to play sports. I never played sports because we, as a farm kid, we had farm, farm animals to look after. Instead of staying for Basketball practice or whatever, I had to go home and take care of livestock and uh, we had, we had milk cows and we milked them by hand and you had to milk them night and morning and that just pretty much put an end to any kind of activity, extracurricular activities, such as sports or anything else after school. As a matter of fact, my father would, if we needed school work done, he'd keep you out of school to do the field work, because the field work was a matter of survival.

RP: Was that an often thing? Did you get held out of school a lot?

TK: No, no, no, not very often but you, but, the school, back in those years the schools were a little more understanding about the need, you know, that the children represented a source of labor, so our schools didn't start until probably early September and they were out early May, so you were available to . . . It wasn't often but they, the teachers, they were pretty understanding if you had to stay home and help your folks.

RP: What did you do after high school?

TK: After high school, I graduated from high school in 1960 and my mother started me when I when I was only five years old in first grade so I graduated from high school and I was only seventeen and I didn't turn seventeen until my senior year and I couldn't find a decent job and college was out of the question at that time because of the expense. I was one of nine children and so forth. And so I got a job driving a truck, I drove a milk truck, picked up milk, ten gallon calls for, ten gallon milk cans for a dairy operated by the farmers coop. And I ran that from May until I enlisted in the service in March 1961, but that was seven days a week. I operated that milk truck and got thirty-five dollars a week.

RP: Was that a lot for then?

TK: No, it wasn't a lot but it was not unheard of. Thirty-five dollars a week . . . to give you some idea gasoline was twenty-five cents a gallon. You could take your girlfriend out for a date and have uh, you know, go out to a movie, have something to eat, and buy a little gas for your car for five bucks. So, you know, thirty-five dollars was, but no it was not very good. It was not horrible but it certainly was not very good but it was, for a seventeen year old boy it was not bad. And then I supplemented my truck driving by working for area farmers after I got off the milk route in the afternoon. Typically I run from about five a.m. in the morning to about two and after two o'clock I'd work maybe until dark for some farmer putting up hay or driving a truck or something. And that typically would pay seventy-five cents to a dollar an hour, so I would, in a good week I'd make fifty or sixty dollars in the week, which was a lot of money then. It was a lot of money for the time, or a fair amount of money for the time I should say.

RP: So you enlisted in the service about 1961. That, that was about the time for Vietnam wasn't it?

TK: Uh, that would have been a little bit early for Vietnam. Vietnam was starting to get pretty, well, I don't know when you make the transition. The French was involved with Vietnam in the fifties and I think Dien Bien Phu, the Battle of Dien Bien Phu was in the late 50s, '56, '58. And so we were starting to get tangled up in that but I enlisted in '61, I was in the Air Force and by 1963 there was some people being sent to Vietnam as advisors in civilian clothes carrying weapons but I did not uh . . . by '63 I think we were getting involved in that, that I was aware of. I'm sure there was some involvement before that, clandestine involvement, but uh I, I served my first four years, I went on to serve eight and a half years in the military, Air Force and the first enlistment I spent most of it in Wichita Falls, Texas.

RP: So what are . . . Can you tell me about that a little bit? Just, what are some stories of . . .?

TK: Well, I was uh, in 1961 the military was drafting and I had no opportunity to go to college and I looked at the military as a chance to fulfill my military obligation whether I was going to . . . if I did enlist I would likely be drafted, most likely into the army or the

marine corp. But if I enlisted in the Air Force or the Navy perhaps I could learn a skill. So I briefly considered the Navy and decided that I didn't want that and I enlisted in the Air Force and when I did they, they told me they were going to make a weather man out of me and I said, "What is that?" And they told, "Well, you will learn."

So I was, after basic training, I was sent off to Wichita Falls and, I'm sorry, after basic training I was sent to Shenuda Air Force Base in Illinois and I went through basic weather observer training and I think that was about eighteen weeks and after that I went to Wichita Falls, Texas and served for the next four years and it was there that I discovered that I had, I had stumbled across a pretty good, potentially good career. I worked with the National Service, the US Weather Bureau as it was called in those days. Uh, they were also collacated with, with the Air Force weather people. And I seen these fellows. They had good jobs, good uh, good careers so I thought, "Gosh, I have locked on to something here." And so I took quite a lot of course work, additional course work and I stayed in the, even after my eight years in the military I went on and I stayed with the National Weather Service as it is now called and eventually whenever I completed my government service and military, I had thirty-three years of service and I retired when I was head of the National Weather Service at Garden City. I also served as chief of the National Weather Service in Goodland for about eight years and also briefly at Dodge City and Garden City, I think I was there eight years. But that's getting ahead of myself. I served in the military from '61 to '65, I mean '61 to '69 and during that time I served in Wichita Falls, then in the Philippines, uh, and then I was transferred back to the states and then went back to Korea, served with the second infantry division in Korea in the late 60s and then I was discharge in 1969 and went to work for the government. So even though I did serve all around Vietnam and served during those years, I never served in Vietnam. I had a, I never tried, really tried to avoid it. It just never came up. I, did, while I was in the Air Force in the Philippines in 1965 I did extremely, highly classified work and I was place on travel restriction where you cannot go into any kind of a area where you run the risk of being captured, because you, I suppose, during interrogation or perhaps torture they could get you to divulge this classified information so I was on a travel restriction where you could not go into places like Vietnam or where you run the risk of being captured by the enemy. So that was the reason why I, I suppose I never went to Vietnam. And I was on this restriction for something like five years and by the time the restriction was over with I was out of the military.

RP: That's interesting.

TK: Yes, well. . . I was, I was considering a uh career in the military but Vietnam by the time, by the time, the late '60s, Vietnam was really getting ginned up and I was spending a lot of time over seas. I spent thirty-one months overseas the last four years I was in and I was, had family and that sort of thing, away from my family and I decided I'd quit but I would stay with the weather business so I transferred from the military service to the National Weather Service as a civilian.

RP: When did you meet your wife then?

TK: I met her in 1962, well, late 1961, and she's a native of Indiana and we were married in the spring of '62 and we were together for twenty-six years and we were divorced in 1988. I have since remarried after being single for now, I think, thirteen or fourteen years. My wife is a native of the Philippines, my present wife.

RP: But you didn't meet her while you were over then?

TK: Oh, no, no, no.

RP: Ok, so I'm sure you told me but how did you end up then in Cimarron, Kansas?

TK: Just transfers. I have worked at . . . Given my, given my tenure in the military, well, including my time in the military and the civilian branch in the military, civilian branch in the government, I had seventeen assignments. I have worked in such places; Cleveland, Chicago, Indianapolis, Denver, thirty-one months in the far East, Wichita Falls, Texas, Oscoda (sp?), Cimarron, Dodge City, Garden City, just to give you a few. But I've always been . . . I grew up in the country. I grew up in the country and I've always preferred small or rural type of environments and I accepted the assignments to small places like Dodge City or Goodland. And when I came to Garden City back in 19, let's see, '78, no, I'm sorry. I came to Garden City about 19, late 1985. I knew Cimarron was not too far from the airport so I came here to live and I've been here since uh December of 1985. But I had a good career in the National Weather Service. I've seen some very interesting things. I have experienced typhoons, hurricanes, typhoons, tornadoes. My specialty was radar meteorology or the study of severe storms and I worked with many tornado out-breaks and things of that nature.

RP: Well, you said typhoons and that sort of stuff. Can you tell me anything, stories about those or when you were . . .?

TK: Well, a typhoon is nothing. A typhoon is a hurricane in the western Pacific so it's the same as a hurricane. Uh, the one we had there in the Philippines, a big island Luzon . . . What I can remember most about it, I think we had something like twenty inches of rain in a single day.

RP: Wow.

TK: Which caused a huge amount of damage. Uh, that's the only tropical storm that I was involved in. Most of my time was spent in the meteorology business, particularly in the area of severe weather in the United States where, away from an area prone to hurricanes but I did have quite a lot of experience with tornadoes. I experienced the great tornado of April 2, 1965 which was a category five tornado hit Wichita Falls, lived . . . killed seven people and did severe damage there. I was working at Indianapolis in uh, some, I think, let's see this would have been '74 about ten years later uh and they had the out break . . . a day known as the killer tornadoes were there's about three hundred tornadoes in a single day throughout the mid-west and eastern part of the United States and of course out here in western Kansas, I spent much of my career, at least half of my

career in western Kansas and we had uh tornado and severe thunderstorm out breaks from time to time but uh . . . It's interesting in all of the years though that I spent in western Kansas, we never had a fatality here in western Kansas from a tornado that I'm aware of, yet we did lose a fair amount of people, at least several people to winter storms. So I really do think that winter storms probably a bigger, bigger threat than tornadoes.

RP: Back up a little bit still . . . Tell me a little bit about your time over seas. Did you experience the culture much or did you stay on the base more or . . .

TK: Oh, I've always been open-minded. I like to travel and I like to experience different cultures. Uh, no I traveled a fair amount. I tried to develop Philipino and Korean friends. As I said, my wife is Philipino and I just, just spent, here in the last year I spent several weeks in the Philippines. And I don't hole up in a big fancy hotel in a big city. I go out and live in the borongies (sp?) they call it, which is a, the philipino word for village. I live in the borongie with the folks, and I tried to do that in the military service as much as I could. Uh, they, I think that's one thing that a person should do is go out and try to learn, experience the culture, appreciate their culture, appreciate the difference and I very much enjoy it.

RP: What is some of the difference between . . .?

TK: Oh, gosh. There's so many that . . . They're very . . . That would kind of hard to explain I suppose. Their culture is . . . I think you have to bear in mind – particularly the philipinos – they have, they have, they have a lot of American ways. The Philippines, they call themselves the second largest English speaking country in the world because of their population but the Americans have and some sort of relationship with the Philippines since 1898, the war, the Spanish- American War when we went there and occupied the Philippines until, roughly 1898 until about 1950 and then we had military presence there for quite a long time after that and so their, they have a curious mix of Spanish influence, American influence and then there's a hodge-podge of Malay, Asian and so their culture is very complex. Very much family orientated people, largely Roman Catholic uh . . . And where my wife is from, on the island of Cebu which is the second most populated island of the seven thousand islands of the Philippines, uh her folks are farmers. Her mother runs a day care but their farm is like three acres and he farms with a water buffalo and they have no home telephone. They have electricity but they live uh, they're, they're pretty much like subsistence farmers uh, but they're very much family orientated. They have very strong family ties. Generations live in the same area. In their culture they're not nearly as mobile as we are I mean we pack up and move a thousand miles. To them to be any distance at all from home is kind of unusual but I guess that would be . . . I'm not sure that's a good answer to your question but it's about the best I can do.

RP: That's fine. What was . . . I know Vietnam was fairly unpopular here in United States. What was the feeling toward Vietnam for those in the service?

TK: Well . . . It was very unpopular I think probably early on. It was probably least acceptable but the Vietnam War was pretty traumatic experience for the country and for the people that served. I think that's one of the things that probably drove me out of the military was I just felt there was a lot of people dying for nothing. There was something like 48,000 died and many, many more were injured or scarred by the experience. I've always been a bit of a military historian and it's my firm belief that it was started with lies and . . . it was started based on the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and uh – an incident in the Gulf of Tonkin that's – and that was fabricated to some degree so the war was started with lies and it was just not popular in the country. A lot of people died but the United States I think has had a history of doing this from time to time. If you'll remember the Spanish- American War, the battle, "Remember the Maine", the Maine sunk in Cuban waters and there was talk that Spanish had something to do with that and that was one of the reasons why they went to war. And then Vietnam comes along and now you see some of the controversy about Iraq, some of this information fabricated. I think probably the biggest impact the Vietnam War had on me was it probably made me eternally skeptical of the motives of the government and what they tell you. The government lied to us much during that uh, that uh experience. There was a lot of men died for nothing, for no good reason and we packed up and went home and it was a very, very, very tragic episode in our country's history and I think it probably, like I said made me eternal skeptic of motives. It's interesting to know that the people have promoted this war with Iraq, many of them did not bother to serve in Vietnam. Those influences, who now fly the flag the highest did not follow it very closely when it was their time. They ran into the National Guard or something . . . It was very unpopular and a lot of people tried to avoid it. I didn't try to avoid it. It was . . . it was not a good time in our history.

RP: So you see a parallel between Vietnam and the war with Iraq?

TK: No, I think Iraq is probably much more complex, I really do. If you look at eh history of uh the middle east there's been conflict between the Jews and Christians and Muslims since, roughly the first crusades or thirteen hundred years and I think we got ourselves potentially into very much into a quagmire but Iraq is not the kind of country that you can fight a classical, a guerrilla warfare, war because it doesn't have the vegetation and things of that nature. I think it's not near as simple as it's, it's not going to be over as neatly or as simply. There is a lot of conflict between the Muslims and the Christian people. I don't think that we, I think by in large we don't appreciated the difference in the culture that they have, their religion and I think that perhaps if we spent a little more time trying to be understanding of them instead of going to war with them perhaps we'd get along a little better with them. I wish very much that we did not have oil interest in that part of the world and we did not have to be there but we are there and . . . but when ever you serve during the tragedy during something like Vietnam I think it probably turns you off against all wars. A huge amount of innocent people die. Uh, it's interesting to note that back uh, prior to World War I or during World War I the bulk of the casualties in war was the soldier but now with modern air power and artillery the modern weapon, most the people that die in war are not soldiers. They're civilians, they're women and children and innocent people and that's a great tragedy so I guess I'm uh, I, I'm uh veteran who is also a bit of a pacifist. I think the war is the last solution that

should. . . But as I said Vietnam probably has made me prejudice against all wars for all my life, though I was not –

(Customer enters and has personal conversation)

TK: Vietnam or something.

RP: Yes you were telling me about Iraq and then Vietnam and then the similarities and differences between the two.

TK: Well, I don't know, as I said there is quite a lot of differences in the two countries, the way the wars are being fought and that sort of things. I think there are some similarities. The people who really tried to promote the war in Vietnam were just a few people that uh, very senior positions in the government. They were preaching about the domino effect at that time that if Vietnam fell to the Communists then the rest of Southeast Asia would fall. And now there appears to be a few very well connected, right-wing type people in the upper echelons of the government that are really pushing for the war in Iraq, trying to make the case of the war in Iraq and so there is similarities there and I think that, I'm not sure the Vietnam was ever very popular but it got very unpopular and I think that your starting to see now some question about . . .

(End of side A, beginning of side B)

RP: OK, keep going

TK: I think one of the first casualties of the war is the truth. The truth becomes propaganda and we're fully capable of spouting propaganda just like the enemy is and we try to cast best light on the situation, so to cast eh best light on the situation and the worst light on the enemy and I think if you're really going to . . . I think if you are really going to try to come to a, a decent educated judgment of what's going on I think you kind of have to dispense with the propaganda and do some of the research on your own. And right now we are getting a lot of propaganda about Iraq. I'm sure that Iraq is, the Iraqi leader was bad news but in that part of the world it seems like you have two choices. You either have anarchy or you have tyranny. You got the tyranny of a strong leader or you got the total anarchy, break down like you have in Afghanistan so I don't know what choices you have. I think . . . the problems in the world are pretty easy to identify but the solutions require a little more thought. I think that's probably where we are right now.

RP: So you got out of the military in 1985.

TK: No I got out of the military in 1969.

RP: 1969 and you were in the National Weather Service till . . .

TK: Yeah, and I was in the National Weather Service until 1994.

RP: Oh, ok. So how did you get into this job here?

TK: Well, I was weather man in the Air Force and whenever I got out of the military I applied, I applied for jobs within the National Weather Service when the U.S., or the federal government as a civilian and I filled out their applications and applied and I was offered a job. Some of my early jobs that I had, was uh a little Air Force base as a civilian in Columbus, Indiana. I also worked in Chicago and Cleveland. That was some of my entry level job that I had.

RP: Was the difference . . . Was there a big difference between working in the military as military personnel and working for them as a civilian, in the jobs that you did?

TK: Well, I didn't work for the military as a civilian very long. Uh, I worked for uh for the department of Air Force as a civilian for roughly three months and that job collapsed, the base was closed. The base shut down and I went on the National Weather Service which is purely civilian. No, there's really not . . . as far as the duties, no a great deal of difference. Meteorology is Meteorology whether you're wearing civilian clothes or a uniform. Uh, of course the staffing and so forth and the grades, you have military ranks in the military but basically the job is very similar. As a matter of fact back in the old days, most of the people in the National Weather Service had done . . . were ex-military, ex-navy, primarily ex-Navy and ex-Air Force people because that's the only people that were training meteorologists at, during those times. And uh it was . . . The civilian weather service was just full of ex-military people.

RP: Anyway, so, you were in the National Weather Service and then you retired from that.

TK: Yes, in 1994 I retired from that and started this little business that I presently have which is I deal in antique tractors, motorcycles, any kind of special interest vehicle. I buy and sell all over the country. Well, I buy here locally but I sell all over the country. I've sold, I think, half a dozen states. I think the last sale I made was into Wyoming but I advertise on the internet, also like uh, some of the major newspapers like the Denver Post and things like that you know to get out the wider market. I've traveled also extensively. I have a little dog that travels with me, or he has. He's getting a little old now but he's . . . I've kept a record of his miles and he's traveled about eighty thousand miles with me. His name is Bud.

RP: Wow. I think that dog has traveled further than I have.

TK: Yeah, he's been to Sturgis. There's a picture of him. He's traveled about eighty thousand miles. He's been to Sturgis with me six times but uh, I like to travel. There again you get . . . if you're out wandering the country, I like to take the roads less traveled. I get out and wander around and stop at a place. Bud is a great ice-breaker. People will come out and talk to you. Kind of unusual to see somebody riding with a dog and they'll come out and visit with you and I find in interesting that there's people . . .

Small towns. Had an old gent one time in Missouri, walked up to me, perfect old Missouri gentleman, faded over-alls, about seventy-five, walked up to me and says, "Say, I like your dog. Tell you what," he said, "I'll trade you two cats for it." I said, "No sir." Of course he's just teasing. But I think Bud and I have been in about sixteen states and traveled about eighty thousand miles together. But I've had an interesting life. I'm just turning sixty my last birthday. Had a good career with the National Weather Service. Managed to get a decent education over the years. Went to school on the GI Bill after I got out of the military and been a life time student. I think went to seven or eight different colleges over the years. Still read extensively. Like doing my crossword puzzles. Try to keep up on the current affairs even though sometimes they kind of upset me but, but as I've found as I got older I got a little bit more of a pacifist.

Never served in the Vietnam but I was close enough to the scene to see . . . I served with the second infantry division in Korea and I served with enough people that were scarred after the war. In Clark Field where I served in the Philippines – that was a air back station and used to see the debris of the war, of the Vietnam war. Young men with limbs gone and body bags of the dead. (Pause) I think probably serving in the military during the Vietnam War – not that I served in Vietnam and I don't want to give that impression – but I think that probably changed my thinking for the rest of my life, about war and the tragedies of it.

Are you going to go on to college before long?

RP: Yes, sir. Well, I'm in college now. I've got one year down and then I plan on . . . getting a bachelor and then maybe doing some EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) work and that sort of stuff so . . .

TK: I like school but the last course I took, I was so old by the time I took my last course – Spanish – the teacher called me Mr. Kelsay and I called him Chuck, there was that much difference in our age and I decided it was time to quit going to school. I mean he was something like thirty years younger than I was or twenty years younger but I very much enjoyed school but now I, with probably a hundred and forty semester hours of college work there's nothing, not very much that I'm interested in so I don't go anymore.

RP: Well, that's about all I have. If you have any other stories or anything else you can think of.

TK: No, oh I suppose I could talk about things. I'll tell you somebody might be interesting is uh . . .

(Phone rings, personal conversation)

TK: . . . He served in the Vietnam War. Of course his thoughts may be somewhat different than mine.

RP: Well, I'm hoping to try and get with him this week. But . . . Well, thank you very much.

TK: You're welcome.

(End of Interview)