

# Gray County Veterans Memorial & Archive

## ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

**Adelphus J. "Slim"  
Greiving**  
August 22, 2014



INTERVIEW  
YEAR

**Adelphus John (“Slim”) Greiving  
2014**

## **GRAY COUNTY ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW**

**NAME: Adelphus John (“Slim”) Greiving  
DATE: August 22, 2014  
PLACE: Santa Fe Trail Museum, Ingalls, KS**

**INTERVIEWER: Kathleen Holt                      TECHNOLOGY: George Martinez**

**PROJECT SERIES: Korean Era Oral History Project for Gray County**

**FUNDING: This project is funded in part by a Kansas Heritage grant from the Kansas Humanities Council (KHC) for the “Gray County Korean War Veterans Oral History Project.” The Kansas Humanities Council is a nonprofit organization that supports community-based cultural programs, serves as a financial resource through an active grant-making program, and encourages Kansans to engage in the civic and cultural life of their communities.**

### **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:**

**Adelphus “Slim” Greiving was born in Nashville, Kansas, December 20, 1929. Adela May, Aquina, Barbara Lee, Renoldis, Beatrice, Belarian, and Loualla, and Jerolyn, and Norbrit, and Albina, and then a half-sister would be, Uniss, and two half-brothers would be, Wilfred, and Victor. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the 9<sup>th</sup> Corps Combat Engineering unit as a Corporal E-2.**

**SUBJECTS DISCUSSED: Basic training, sea travel, Korea environment, combat engineering, recreation, food, homecoming, life after the service**

**COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW: Mr. Greiving has been experiencing health problems. We much appreciate his taking the time to participate in this interview. His wife Sally Greiving was present for the interview.**

**SOUND RECORDINGS: Digital**

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 45:06**

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE: None**

**TRANSCRIPT: 27 pages**



**ORAL HISTORY**  
**Adelphus John ("Slim") Greiving**  
**Interview Date: August 22, 2014**

**Interviewer: Kathleen Holt (KMH)**  
**Interviewee: Adelphus John ("Slim") Greiving (AJSG)**  
**Interviewee's Wife: Sally Greiving (SG)**  
**Sound Technician: George Martinez (GM)**

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**(GM)** - Ok, we're recording.

**(KMH)** - Ok, I'm Kathleen Holt and I am at the Santa Fe Trail museum of Gray County, in Ingalls, Kansas. We are together here to do some recording of oral history about the service experience of a person I know as Slim Greiving. Today's date is August 22.

**(AJSG)** - The 22nd.

**(KMH)** - 2014. It's about 3:00 in the afternoon and, Slim, if you will introduce yourself, give us your official name and birth place and birth date, then we will be ready to talk.

**(AJSG)** - Adelphus Greiving. I was born in Nashville, Kansas.

**(KMH)** - And what date was that?

**(AJSG)** - Twelfth month, 20th of '29.

**(KMH)** - Twenty nine, so . . .

**(AJSG)** - So old, I can't remember.

**(KMH)** - Oh well, I'm, I'm not that old, but I can't remember mine half the time!. We're here to talk about your service experience. Where, where did you live when you went into the service?

**(AJSG)** - Nash -- St. Leo, Kansas.

**(KMH)** - And where is St. Leo? What county?

**(AJSG)** - It's just between Nashville and Cunningham.

**(KMH)** - Oh Okay.

**(AJSG)** - In Kingman County.

**(KMH)** - Is, is -- Kingman County.

**(AJSG)** - Kingman County.

**(KMH)** - And Nashville. I'm not familiar with that.

**(AJSG)** - Nashville is, seven miles, south of St. Leo.

**(KMH)** - Oh Okay. All right. How big was it?

**(AJSG)** - Just a little bitty town. Had three beer halls.

**(KMH)** - Oh, the claim of fame?

**(AJSG)** - It was Cath . . . It was a Catholic settlement.

**(KMH)** - Oh Okay. Okay. Did your family farm? What did they do there?

**(AJSG)** - We was on the farm. Yeah, we farmed and, and I was trying to say something else. I forgot what it was.

**(KMH)** - Oh, Okay.

**(AJSG)** - Oh, we rode horses every place we went, 'cuz we didn't -- kids back then, they didn't have cars. They couldn't afford them.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum. Okay. So were people in your family in the military? Did they -- did anyone go to World War I?

**(AJSG)** - Just my, my brother, older than me. He was two years older than me. He, he went in there. He was in Korea, and he died in '57.

**(KMH)** - Oh, uh-huh. So where you still in Nashville when you went into the service yourself?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, uh hum.

**(KMH)** - And so what happened with that? Did you get drafted? Did you enlist?

**(AJSG)** - I got drafted.

**(KMH)** - Un huh. Get it in the mail, or how'd that happen?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, I imagine I got it in the mail, the draft papers.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum.

**(AJSG)** - But I had to do all the farming because my dad's hands, were like this

**(KMH)** - Oh my, arthritis?

**(AJSG)** - Yup.

**(KMH)** – Oh, wow.

**(AJSG)** - He always told us kids that the combine did that -- *(Laughter)* that the wheel on there raises the plant, farming, lowering it.

**(KMH)** – Uh hum.

**(AJSG)** - That's what he told us, but it was arthritis. That's what I learned later.

**(KMH)** – Hum, and then so you were farming with him?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** – Were you, were you in school too?

**(AJSG)** - No, nuh uh.

**(KMH)** – Uh huh, so you were . . .

**(AJSG)** - I'd cut school when I was in the seventh grade.

**(KMH)** – Uh huh.

**(AJSG)** - Had to do the farming.

**(KMH)** – Uh huh, so that must've been a blow to your family, to get drafted then. Who did the farming?

**(AJSG)** - I did the farming. Oh yeah, after I left?

**(KMH)** – Yeah.

**(AJSG)** - Oh, then my brother, older brother, eldest brother, he took over and farmed it, and, and just shared with my dad.

**(KMH)** – Ah, so, do you remember what your mother said when you were drafted?

**(AJSG)** - Good riddance! *(Laughter)*

**(KMH)** – *(Laughter)* She cheered? *(Laughter)*

**(AJSG)** - I did just . . .

**(KMH)** – Um, how many siblings did you have?

**(AJSG)** - Brothers and sisters?

**(AJSG)** - There's nine of us all together.

**(KMH)** - Wow, but where were you? Were you oldest, youngest?

**(AJSG)** - Help me. *[Speaking to Sally Grieving, his wife.]*

**(SG)** – Okay. Thirteen altogether with your -- His dad, married twice.

**(KMH)** - Oh Okay.

**(SG)** - After his first wife died, and, so . . .

**(KMH)** - Well wait a minute, we better. . .

**(SG)** - And they were kids at that time.

**(AJSG)** - I, I don't remember all that stuff.

**(KMH)** - OK, so, when you went to, after you were drafted, where did you go to enlist, to sign up?

**(AJSG)** - Went to Camp Crowder, Missouri.

**(KMH)** - Okay.

**(AJSG)** - And then from Camp Crowder, Missouri, to Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

**(KMH)** - And um, so you did your basic at Fort Belvoir?

**(AJSG)** – Yeah.

**(KMH)** - OK, and what was that like? Was that the first time you were really away from home?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - What was that like?

**(AJSG)** - Didn't bother me a bit.

**(KMH)** - Really? You just got on the train or how'd you travel?

**(AJSG)** - Oh well, when I got to the basic training, I had to take a plane from Wichita to Denver, Colorado, and then from Denver, Colorado, they switched planes and took a format of a plane on to Seattle, Washington -- Pier One.

**(KMH)** - Wow, and then where?

**(AJSG)** - And then we went on a boat from there. There's 55,000 soldiers on that boat going over to Korea.

**(KMH)** - Wow, what was -- did your basic training prepare you for what, when you went with, to Korea then?

**(AJSG)** - You'd crawl on your -- they'd shoot. They said they was shooting live ammunition over us and they said if you raised up, you were a dead duck.

**(KMH)** - So they just taught you infantry fighting skills, huh?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, you was crawlin' in the mud, underneath of, and they had wire, barbed wire over ya'.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh.

**(AJSG)** - If you raised up you'd get stuck.

**(KMH)** - Wow, did they lose people in training?

**(AJSG)** - Once in a while, yeah.

**(KMH)** - Wow, so you learned enough on the farm to keep your head down? *(Laughter)*

*(Laughter)*

**(KMH)** - Um, did you feel like, were you anxious to go to Korea by that time, or you nervous about it?

**(AJSG)** - No, it didn't bother me. Just had, had to go and get it over with.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum, what -- Was that your first airplane trip?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - What was that like?

**(AJSG)** - It's kind of scary when you first got on it, see 'cuz I took that two motor plane to Denver and then from there you got on a four motor plane.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum. What'd a kid from Kansas think about that?

**(AJSG)** - The what?

**(KMH)** - What did a kid from Kansas think about that?

**(AJSG)** - Oh, I don't know.

**(KMH)** - Did it bother you to be on the ocean when you were on the boat? Ship?

**(AJSG)** – No. Nuh-uh. I sea sick all the time, from there. . .

**(KMH)** - But, you didn't get air sick though?

**(AJSG)** - No I didn't get air sick, but . . .

**(KMH)** – Yeah.

**(AJSG)** – When we went over on the, in the boat, I was sea sick.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh.

**(AJSG)** - And I hid out in the potato room. They'd call while I'm in there. I wouldn't answer, 'cuz I'd say I'm sick, I didn't care what happens to me.

**(KMH)** – Oh. (Laughter) You were going to go in as a sack of potatoes, huh?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - What did, what did you eat?

**(AJSG)** - Them potatoes.

**(KMH)** - Yeah.

**(AJSG)** - Potatoes and crackers.

**(KMH)** - Yeah.

**(AJSG)** - There's crackers back there for some reason.

**(KMH)** - Yeah, huh, so how long was that trip?

**(AJSG)** - Twenty one days and 21 nights.

**(KMH)** - Wow.

**(AJSG)** - That was a long time to eat potatoes. And then, when I come back while were, from overseas, why, let me see -- forgot his name. There was a sergeant, and he'd give us the duties on the, on the, on that ship that was coming over, and it took about, probably ten days.

**(KMH)** - Wow, that was faster, did you come straight back from Korea?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - Huh.



**(AJSG)** - But this sergeant I went in with, with him and then I had a friend from back east. Erik, Erik Green.

**(KMH)** - When you, did you make pretty good friends then?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - When you were all in combat together and. . .

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, yeah.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh, did you keep in touch with them after?

**(AJSG)** - No.

**(KMH)** - Huh.

**(AJSG)** - Couldn't have.

**(KMH)** - Did do reunions or things like that?

**(AJSG)** - Didn't have no money to do anything like that.

**(KMH)** - Yeah, huh, well tell me about Korea then, what was it like from the minute you got off the boat, what happened?

**(AJSG)** - It stunk so bad that, just all the rice patties, and you got the honey carts.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh.

**(AJSG)** - And the dump at the end of the, right on the rice patties.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum.

**(AJSG)** - That's about all I remember.

**(KMH)** - Huh, the smell, what did it look like to you? When you got off the boat, what was the first thing you saw? Was it a city?

**(AJSG)** - The, the houses, they were little, the houses had, hut straw, kind of a straw huts.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum.

**(AJSG)** - That they lived in. Then the raw sewage would run down the streets, and then after, after we got out of, after we got out, they took us over to -- I don't know where they took us. Up in the mountains and then we were there ever since.

**(KMH)** - So, where you in, was it like a compound of some kind? A military compound? Did they have barracks there?

**(AJSG)** - We had tents.

**(KMH)** - Tents.

**(AJSG)** - We lived in tents.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh.

**(AJSG)** - And, then, then we dug fox holes and stayed in the, in the fox holes.

**(KMH)** - So, at first when you got there, did you have a training period or anything? Or you just got started and they sent you out on a tour?

**(AJSG)** - When the combat engineers with worked on roads and stuff and built bridges.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum.

**(AJSG)** - They guarded a "billy" bridge one night, but I didn't go, and, two days later, they blew it up -- the Chinks *[sic]*.

**(KMH)** - Yeah. Do you need a drink?

**(AJSG)** - Say what?

**(KMH)** - Do you need a drink?

**(AJSG)** - I don't know, I just . . .

**(KMH)** - There you go. I'm telling ya', the talking is, dries you out. So what was a typical day like? What did you have for breakfast? Did you have to cook that over a camp fire?

**(AJSG)** - Eggs. No, we had a mess hall.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum.

**(AJSG)** - That uh -- all metal, two by fours and metal over it.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum.

**(AJSG)** - No heat in there or anything. Nothing, and in them tents we had little -- I forgot what they call them, little heaters, and they burned diesel fuel.

**(KMH)** - Oh?

**(AJSG)** - And then they had a guy when you'd be on call guard, you had to go through every tent and check them, 'cuz every once in a while they'd catch on fire, burn your tent down.

**(KMH)** - Was it noisy, like, trying to sleep in a tent?

**(AJSG)** - No.

**(KMH)** - Huh, everybody got quiet at the same time?

**(AJSG)** - I guess, I don't know.

**(KMH)** - Huh, um, so in your tent, what was in there? I take it a bed, but, I mean a cot.

**(AJSG)** - Just an army cot, yeah. Army cot and your clothes and your blankets.

**(KMH)** - Was it cold?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - Damp? What was the climate like?

**(AJSG)** - Cold, and then water would run down the mountains. We'd put our beer in them to cool our beer.

**(KMH)** - Oh.

**(AJSG)** - And then, whisky, you'd get one quart of whisky a month, and if you'd, you get two cases of beer if you didn't take the whisky.

**(KMH)** - Oh, and the Army issued that?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, but you had to pay for it.

**(KMH)** - Oh.

**(AJSG)** - It was a dollar a bottle for the whiskey and a dollar, I think it was a dollar a case for the beer.

**(KMH)** - Wow, was that expensive then?

**(AJSG)** - No, that's cheap.

**(KMH)** - Comp, compared to your pay.

**(AJSG)** - And cigarettes. Well we got for fifteen cents a pack.

**(KMH)** - Oh my gosh. Did everybody smoke?

**(AJSG)** - Pretty well, yeah.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh. Uh huh. Did you smoke before you went?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - Yeah, just kept right on. So, after you had your eggs, then what?

**(AJSG)** - Well the eggs. I'll tell ya'. I don't know where they shipped them over, but you could smell 'em from here to, Washington, D.C. *(Laughter)*

**(KMH)** - Oh my gosh.

**(AJSG)** - Kansas City is where it started. Always had scrambled eggs going. When I took my physical and you could smell that -- probably for ten miles when you first got into Kansas City.

**(KMH)** - Were they powdered eggs or something?

**(AJSG)** - Powdered eggs.

**(KMH)** - Oh really?

**(AJSG)** - And then when I was overseas, well we had canned eggs and they was powdered eggs but, they didn't stink.

**(KMH)** - Huh, did they -- so they just reconstitute it? Did you have anything else like bacon or sausage?

**(AJSG)** - Potatoes, had potatoes.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh. Did you gain weight or lose weight?

**(AJSG)** - I weighed 220 pounds when I went over and weighed 220 when I came back.

**(KMH)** - Wow.

**(AJSG)** - I didn't gain; I didn't lose.

**(KMH)** - You must've liked those eggs! *(Laughter)*

*(Laughter)*

**(KMH)** - Um, so after you got done with breakfast, I take it you showered. How'd you wake up?

**(AJSG)** - We had a creek down there running. We'd go down there and bathe at the creek.

**(KMH)** - Oh, Okay.

**(AJSG)** - And then that creek was full of eels. We'd catch them eels and then, cleaned them eels, and mixed with the scrambled eggs, and how -- We'd, we'd steal them powdered eggs from the mess hall.

**(KMH)** - Oh, so you'd make your own?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - Do you ever, have you ever made them since?

**(AJSG)** - Say what?

**(KMH)** - Have you ever made eggs and eel, since?

**(AJSG)** - No!

*(Laughter)*

**(AJSG)** - But the creek over there was full of them eels.

**(KMH)** - Huh.

**(AJSG)** - At first I thought they was snakes. *(Laughter)*

**(KMH)** - Yeah, did you have any kind of survival training before you went?

**(AJSG)** - No.

**(KMH)** - You just got there and had to figure it out?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - Huh, so, Okay. So you get dressed. Then you go to breakfast; then you go to your job, or to where?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, to your job. Go working, on roads, bridges.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum.

**(AJSG)** - And then, you'd have to, had rock crushers -- had to -- then you had to stay out there and count trucks to load that they'd take out, and I didn't like that but we would stand there all day long and . . .

**(KMH)** - Just bored?

**(AJSG)** - In that dust and dirt.

**(KMH)** - Yeah, did -- so it was some kind of like a rock mine or something there where -

**(AJSG)** - It, a lot of rocks in them mountains. Then shove it into the bulldozer.

**(KMH)** - Oh yeah?

**(AJSG)** - Took it, building bridge, bridge banisters, and made a house out of it. Then they'd shove that over into the dump trucks.

**(KMH)** - Wow, did, how did you learn to do that, kind of work?

**(AJSG)** - You just, everything come to you natural.

**(KMH)** - Huh. I mean you just from working on the farm where you had to figure out or -

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, yeah.

**(KMH)** - Huh, and, and, how did you get signed up for that unit? Did you have to take any kind of --

**(AJSG)** - Nope.

**(KMH)** - Huh, but, other than that job watch, counting the trucks, were there things about it that you liked?

**(AJSG)** - Not really.

**(KMH)** - Well, how'd you pass the time then?

**(AJSG)** - Well, guarding stuff all the time. You'd have to guard stuff up at night. You'd have to guard stuff in the day time.

**(KMH)** - Was it, was it stressful, were you under attack sometimes? Like if you were out working on a road or a bridge?

**(AJSG)** - Oh, you'd, see these missiles coming though there. They looked like they were about that long, that big around, but they never did hit any of us. When they'd explode while they were full of shrapnel . . .

**(KMH)** - Did you know guys who got hit or were injured that way?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah they, several guys.

**(KMH)** - Hum, so were the roads -- what were the roads and bridges you were building for? What was their function?

**(AJSG)** - See the trucks to haul the diesel fuel in and gasoline.

**(KMH)** - Okay.

**(AJSG)** - And food.

**(KMH)** - So the front line was how far away from you?

**(AJSG)** - Probably, from our tents, probably two miles.

**(KMH)** - Hum, could you hear shelling.

**(AJSG)** - Oh yeah, all night long.

**(KMH)** - Yeah, but no, no infantry troops were housed where you were? They were in other areas?

**(AJSG)** - I don't know.

**(KMH)** - Huh.

**(SG)** - Having a storm. . .

*[The wind's coming in.]*

**(KMH)** - It is, that's amazing, isn't it? It didn't even look like that out there.

**(SG)** - Got your windows closed on your car?

**(KMH)** - I do, yeah.

**(SG)** - Ours are open.

**(KMH)** - Uh oh, do we need to go close them?

**(AJSG)** - No I don't think so.

**(KMH)** - Okay. Well --

**(AJSG)** - It ain't gonna rain that hard.

**(KMH)** - Tell me some things that happened? Anything scary, anything humorous?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, when we first went over all, we captured some guys that were -- I think five, captured five of them Chinks *[sic]*. Then took them back to the MPs and then they took 'em off in a bus. That's the first thing that I ever, which I was . . . scary.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum.

**(AJSG)** - 'Cuz we had to card them and I didn't know whether to shoot them.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum. They were actual soldiers?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, Chinks [*sic*] -- were soldiers

**(KMH)** - Yeah, yeah, what did you wear, everyday?

**(AJSG)** – Fatigues.

**(KMH)** – Okay. Did you ever have to wear a dress uniform, for anything?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah I had to wear for parades and stuff like that.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum. When did they have parades?

**(AJSG)** - I'd say about, oh I guess that's when I took my basic training, yeah.

**(KMH)** – Okay. Yeah, um, what happened at like holidays? Now what year did you get to Korea?

**(AJSG)** - Went in, took my basic training, went over there in '50. October '51 – went over there in '52, then.

**(KMH)** - Okay, and then what year did you come back?

**(AJSG)** - I was in 18 months.

**(KMH)** - Okay, so you were there right over the end of it.

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - End of the conflict. Where you there when they signed the . . .

**(AJSG)** - I don't even know.

**(KMH)** - Huh, so, the whole time you were there, you either worked on a road or a bridge or guarded things?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - For that whole 18 months?

**(AJSG)** - Well not all the . . . After I was there so long, I got to be a tool keeper, kept all the tools and power saws and everything. Kept them up in shape and had it all in one tent and then . . . want some or take something they had to sign, so when they'd bring it back . . .

**(KMH)** - Uh hum, anybody try to bribe ya' for something?

**(AJSG)** - I don't remember.



**(KMH)** - Oh, if they did (*Laughter*) . . . So, what did you do for fun and recreation? Did you ever have any time off?

**(AJSG)** - Drink beer and whisky.

**(KMH)** – Okay. On, in your tents or. . .

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - Were there party tents?

**(AJSG)** - They played camp cards, poker.

**(KMH)** – Yeah?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - Mostly poker? Uh huh. Did you ever go into a town? Was there a town to go in to?

**(AJSG)** – No.

**(KMH)** – Did -- so you were kind of up on the mountains?

**(AJSG)** - We were down in the -- we were down in the mountains all the time.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh.

**(AJSG)** - I don't know where is. Seoul would be the closest that I knew of.

**(KMH)** - How, about how far do you think were from Seoul?

**(AJSG)** - I have no idea.

**(KMH)** - Huh, um, what happened around holidays? Did they uh, acknowledge holidays like Christmas or Thanksgiving?

**(AJSG)** – No.

**(KMH)** - Just another day?

**(AJSG)** - Just another day.

**(KMH)** - Did you ever get mail from home?

**(AJSG)** – Yeah.

**(KMH)** - How was that?

**(AJSG)** - I don't even remember.

**(KMH)** - Did your, family ever send you a care package? Do you remember?

**(AJSG)** - Probably, some cookies and stuff, yeah.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh. How long did -- Did you communicate at all with your folks when you were there? What was that like?

**(AJSG)** - Just about letters, that's all.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh, but you could get letters?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - Who wrote to ya'? And how often? What was that about?

**(AJSG)** - My wife. *(Laughter)*

**(SG)** - I wasn't your wife then.

**(KMH)** - Ah, your girlfriend. *(Laughter)*

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, my girlfriend.

**(KMH)** - How often did your girlfriend write ya'?

**(AJSG)** - Every day, probably.

**(KMH)** - Oh all right. So you got a lot of mail from there. Were you home sick?

**(AJSG)** - No.

**(KMH)** - No?

**(AJSG)** - No.

**(KMH)** - Wow. What was the hardest part about it, tell me about that.

**(AJSG)** - I don't know.

**(KMH)** - You don't?

**(AJSG)** - Don't remember.

**(KMH)** - Huh. What do you remember about it?

**(AJSG)** - I don't remember it. *(Laughter)*

**(KMH)** - Not much, huh? Did anything ever funny, really funny ever happen?

**(AJSG)** - Not that I know of.

**(KMH)** - Nobody got fallin' in the latrine or . . . ?

**(AJSG)** - I, I, don't think so.

**(KMH)** - (*Laughter*) They might not see that as funny, would they? Slim, did you tell me you went to Japan?

**(AJSG)** - Do what?

**(KMH)** - Did you go to Japan?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, we was in Japan for, R&R.

**(KMH)** - Yeah.

**(AJSG)** - But I don't. . .

**(KMH)** - OK.

**(AJSG)** - Went in for, I think it was five days and five nights, five days and five nights of R&R. Rest is what they called it.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh. And what'd ya' do, in Japan?

**(AJSG)** - Just run, rode around in the rickshaw all over town, in Seoul.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum.

**(AJSG)** - You know, I don't know if it was Seoul or, had another name.

**(KMH)** - Seoul is in Korea?

**(AJSG)** - Say what?

**(KMH)** - Seoul is in Korea?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, I know Seoul is, uh, Kokura . . .

**(KMH)** - Uh huh.

**(AJSG)** - And that was the town.

**(KMH)** - Did you eat any of the food then?

**(AJSG)** - I didn't. I ate down in the breakfast . . . I'd eat the eggs. We'd eat eggs in the -- I guess they called it resting town . . .

**(KMH)** - Yeah

**(AJSG)** - But uh, soup they'd, they'd have minnows. What they had in them yet, that's the kind of soup they ate.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh.

**(AJSG)** - And I didn't eat it. *(Laughter)*

**(KMH)** - *(Laughter)* So it was pretty much military fare the whole time you were there?

**(AJSG)** - Say what?

**(KMH)** - It was pretty much for that 18 months, you just ate military food?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - Huh.

**(AJSG)** - A lot of rice.

**(KMH)** - Was gonna' -- that was gonna' be my next question. Do you like rice?

**(AJSG)** - No! *(Laughter)*

**(KMH)** - That was your lifetime fill of rice?

**(AJSG)** - Uh huh.

**(SG)** - And he did lose a, a buddy over there that actually went in at the same time he did.

**(KMH)** - Oh.

**(SG)** - He was a buddy before he went in.

**(AJSG)** - Did what?

**(KMH)** - So, did you have friends that went in? Tell me about friends that went with you.

**(AJSG)** - Well, had one friend, he went in and uh, and he got, stepped on a mine, and killed him.

**(KMH)** - Hum.

**(AJSG)** - And then I had another one that, he went to Alaska, and, I don't know what happened. He got killed anyhow. His folks got ten thousand dollars. Every time somebody got killed -- well they got, their parents got ten thousand dollars, and that was the only two that got killed, that I know of, that was my friends. But I had pictures of

where the, the Kor-- the Chinks [sic], where they didn't bury them. They just dug 'em with a bull dozer, and shoved the dirt over the top of them, and I had pictures of that. And when we come back to the States, they would go through your bags and stuff, and anything like that, they took it. And then when I got out, I tried to steal a, a carbine. I took it all apart and put it in my duffel bag and they got it.

**(KMH)** - So you couldn't bring anything back?

**(AJSG)** - You couldn't bring anything back

**(KMH)** - Huh, huh. Did anybody send things home?

**(AJSG)** - Say what?

**(KMH)** - Did anybody, was anybody able to send any kind of souvenir things?

**(AJSG)** - Well some people did. I had a, brother in law that got a, he got a couple of M1 rifles

**(KMH)** - Huh.

**(AJSG)** - And, but I never could steal it.

**(KMH)** - Did you, have you ever been back, since you got home?

**(AJSG)** - Back where?

**(KMH)** - To Japan or Korea?

**(AJSG)** - No, nuh uh.

**(KMH)** - No desire to?

**(AJSG)** - No.

**(KMH)** - Yeah.

**(SG)** - It's raining.

**(KMH)** - I hear that, I'm very happy.

**(SG)** - I better go out and pull up the car door window.

**(GM)** - Yeah, can we go out and do it? Is it unlocked?

**(SG)** - Yeah, it's unlocked.

**(KMH)** - Ok, we'll . . .

**(SG)** - But it's all electric, you can't . . .

**(KMH)** - Oh, oh. We gotta' have the keys. OK.

**(GM)** - Well, I can pause it.

*[Resume taping. Off-line discussion about Slim's siblings.]*

**(KMH)** - What were their names?

**(AJSG)** - Adela May, Aquina, Barbara Lee, Renoldis, Beatrice, Belarian, and Loualla, and, Jerolyn, and Norbrit, and Albina, and then a half-sister would be, Uniss, and two half-brothers would be, Wilfred, and Victor.

**(KMH)** - Wow, how big was your house?

**(AJSG)** - Uh, it was a big house, two stories.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum, did you put all of the girls in one, and all the boys in the other?

**(AJSG)** - Had the one bedroom for the girls and had a bedroom for the boys, all, we slept upstairs.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum.

**(AJSG)** - And, no heat, just blankets and feather beds.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum, just about like Korea in a tent huh?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - Yeah, what was like the weather like in Korea, I mean, was it always cold or always rainy?

**(AJSG)** - It rained. It rained for 33 days and 33 nights and we'd be out there with our ponchos on scooping mud into the potholes.

**(KMH)** - Wow.

**(AJSG)** - And putting shattered rocks in them .

**(KMH)** - Wow.

**(AJSG)** - And I thought I'd, I thought I'd freeze to death before . . .

**(KMH)** - Wow, 'cuz you set up in the mountains. Was it high; I mean did it ever snow?

**(AJSG)** - No, it's, build, around in the mountains, it just --

**(KMH)** - Uh huh.

**(AJSG)** - Like that all around.

**(KMH)** - Wow, but I don't know what elevation it was, was it ever snowy or not?

**(AJSG)** - Oh yeah, it snowed, beat the dickens.

**(KMH)** - Yeah.

**(AJSG)** - 'Cuz were, where our tents was, had the back towards our tent, and we had the latrine, was back there, and we couldn't get to it. Snowed dripped, I don't know how it dripped in the mountains like that, but you couldn't get to the latrines. We had to dig it out in the next morning.

**(KMH)** - Oh, so the, your latrine was just like a ditch?

**(AJSG)** - A ditch and just dug it out and they had a shell over the top.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh, wow, how far away from your camp was it?

**(AJSG)** - About ten feet.

**(KMH)** - Wow, huh, up where you were, did you have the odor from the open sewers, like you had down, below.

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, all the time. They had that odor all the time.

**(KMH)** - Huh.

**(AJSG)** - You just got, had to get used to it.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh.

**(SG)** - Tell 'em about your drinking water.

**(AJSG)** - And the drinking water, they'd get out of the creek and then put them tablets in it.

**(KMH)** - Oh.

**(AJSG)** - And it looked like drinking mud water.

**(KMH)** - Oh my goodness, so you didn't drink a lot of, you drank beer, that's why  
*(Laughter)*

*(Laughter)*

**(KMH)** - Did you have coffee?

**(AJSG)** - Had coffee, yeah.

**(KMH)** - In the morning and . . .

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - All day?

**(AJSG)** - Had coffee and, I don't know, I don't think we had any tea, I know we had coffee.

**(KMH)** - Did you just uh, like at lunch, did you just do, K-rations?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, K, K-rations, and sometimes C-rations.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh, and then what about night time, dinner?

**(AJSG)** - You'd, you'd go down to mess hall and eat.

**(SG)** - Sometimes at night they'd sneak over to the mess hall and helped themselves to what they could find.

**(AJSG)** - You'd go to the mess hall and then they would have a, trapeze, you'd get in a line, and you had to follow that trapeze all the way, if you didn't make it, you had to go back to the end of the line again.

**(KMH)** - Really?

**(AJSG)** - And, that was every day.

**(KMH)** - Oh my gosh, why was that? To keep people from stealing food?

**(AJSG)** - Keepin', no, keep you . . .

**(KMH)** - Oh, keep 'em in shape?

**(AJSG)** - In physical shape.

**(KMH)** - Maybe I better try that! (*Laughter*) OK, so were you dating Sally when you went over there?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah.

**(KMH)** - You were engaged? What . . .

**(AJSG)** - Were we engaged?

**(SG)** - Without a ring, yes.



**(KMH)** – Okay, so when you . . .

**(AJSG)** - See her ring? See her ring?

**(KMH)** - When you left, were you uh, were you . . . Was she happy when you went?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, probably get rid of me! *(Laughter)*

**(KMH)** - *(Laughter)* So you went over there. Then, did you meet anybody else while you were over there? Did you ever go on a date or anything over there?

**(AJSG)** - No, uh, there weren't body to date.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh. What?

**(AJSG)** - Ask me a question.

**(KMH)** - Yeah, so, so ok, so, did any other girls write you from the U.S.?

**(AJSG)** - No.

**(KMH)** – No? You were true and loyal to Sally?

**(AJSG)** - Yeah

**(KMH)** - OK, then what about the letter? *(Laughter)*

**(AJSG)** - What letter?

**(SG)** - The letter you got a while back that wanted to know if you were still engaged to Sally! You don't remember that about a year ago when this letter came in for you, and this woman wanted to know if you and me ever got married? And if not, she wanted you to contact her. You don't remember that letter?

**(KMH)** - Oh my gosh! Oh well, there are something better forgotten, huh?  
*(Laughter)*We're kind of teasing ya', but tell, tell me about this. What was it like, to be, in a place that was so far from the life that you knew, like your farm? Did you miss farming? Did you think about it when it was time to plant?

**(AJSG)** – No. You, you had your friends, your squad you know.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh.

**(AJSG)** - I was in the first squad, and, of course I lost my voice. I was in the first squad - the first squad, the first platoon, but you just made friends you know, with everybody out there.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum, so tell me about getting back to the U.S. When you got off the ship back home, how did that feel? What'd ya' feel like? What'd ya' think?

**(AJSG)** - I don't remember.

**(KMH)** - Huh, you don't have a memory of what that felt like, to get home? How about when you got home, how were you greeted when you got home?

**(AJSG)** - Same as ever.

**(KMH)** – They just said hey, move over, give 'em a place at the table?

**(AJSG)** - Yup.

**(KMH)** - What'd you do after that, did you come back to the farm, did you go to . . . yeah

**(AJSG)** - Yeah, let's see, get back, we got married, shortly after that, when I got back, right?

**(SG)** – Right.

**(KMH)** – OK.

**(SG)** - He was over there for 13 months in Korea, and then after he got back I think he was discharged within a month.

**(KMH)** – Oh.

**(SG)** \_ Then we went, after we got married. We worked at tenant farms.

**(KMH)** – Ah.

**(SG)** - Well, different places.

**(KMH)** - Uh huh.

**(AJSG)** - And then, they'd, they'd hire ya', and then when winter would come, then we don't need ya' anymore. Then you had to find another job.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum, how'd you get out this way?

**(AJSG)** - Friends, no say . . . . We, it was another tenant farmer job, and we went to work for Rudy Loewen.

**(AJSG)** - Yeah we just came out here with, job to job. Rudy Loewen. Didn't know anybody out here, and they had another man and, his wife, tenant farmers, and we turned out to be all good friends.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum.

**(SG)** And still are, that was Don and Hellen Wilkinson.

**(KMH)** - Oh yeah, uh hum.

**(SG)** - I shouldn't have gone out there and scared the rain away.

**(KMH)** - Oh, shoot, what -- Slim, when you think about that experience in light of your whole life, what, what do you think when you think back on that? Was that overall a good experience? Tell me about, tell me a little bit about that. How would you describe it to your grandkids?

**(AJSG)** - I don't know.

**(KMH)** - Did, have you talked about it a lot in your life, told stories?

**(AJSG)** - No, no, not really, not really.

**(SG)** - Debbie, with Debbie, with Debbie he did.

**(KMH)** - Yeah?

**(SG)** - He always and he still tells her stories about it.

**(AJSG)** - I don't remember.

**(KMH)** - Hum, uh hum, in general, do you think of it as a good experience? Just soon not revisit? What?

**(AJSG)** - No.

**(KMH)** - You wouldn't want to go through it again?

**(AJSG)** - It was a good experience.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum.

**(AJSG)** - 'Cuz I could've went over there and got killed just like my friends.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum. If you had to sum it up, what would you say? What would you want people to know about your experience?

**(AJSG)** - Not much.

**(KMH)** - Just nothing?

**(AJSG)** - Nothing, just went over and got it over with.

**(KMH)** - Yeah.

**(AJSG)** - Something you had to do.

**(KMH)** – Yeah.

**(AJSG)** - And no way to get out of it.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum.

**(SG)** - He used to have nightmares, for a long time, but, he hasn't had any for a long time.

**(KMH)** - Well that's good. Got through with it, huh? Well , we really appreciate your telling us.

**(AJSG)** - Now what cell are you going to put me in?

**(KMH)** - Oh, the padded one. *(Laughter)* No, I think that's, that's very interesting. I was surprised when you came back that you didn't want to build roads or something. You just had enough of it, huh?

**(AJSG)** - No, I built roads when I worked for the county.

**(KMH)** - Oh yeah, I forgot that part, so you did kind of use what you learned, didn't ya'?

**(AJSG)** - Yup.

**(SG)** - And he worked for the city of Montezuma for several years too. We lived down there for a while.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum.

**(AJSG)** - We've got big friends down there.

**(KMH)** - Uh hum. See, you did bring something back from that. Some woman you didn't remember that wrote you a letter, and you built road building talent and skills.

**(AJSG)** - I don't know who that woman was, who?

**(SG)** – I wouldn't have any idea. I tore up that letter!

*(Laughter)*

**(SG)** - I showed it to Debbie first!

**(KMH)** - You've got a history, Slim.

**(AJSG)** - Lock me up.

**(SG)** - He told that somewhere on the, on the ship -- either going or coming -- he had taken my class ring with him, and it disappeared and he told me it fell over the edge.

**(KMH)** - Oh.

**(AJSG)** - A shark ate it. *(Laughter)*

**(KMH)** – Yeah.

**(SG)** - And I think he lost it in a poker game.

**(KMH)** – Oh?

**(SG)** - I never have been able to get him to --

**(AJSG)** - No, went over the, it went over the ship and it went in the ocean, and then -- I didn't lose it in a poker game!

**(KMH)** - I think it's time for us to leave! *(Laughter)* Anything else you want to tell us?

**(AJSG)** – No.

**(KMH)** - OK, we need to take your picture.

**(AJSG)** - Yes.