

*The
Kerr County Historical Commission
Oral History Project
presents*

An ORAL HISTORY

of

*SAM ADAMS and
AL BISHOP*

Center Point, Texas

*Kerrville, Texas 2018
Transcribed & Edited by Jeanie Archer Webb*

*The Oral History Project is a project of the Kerr County Historical Commission,
a volunteer organization. The Oral History Committee chairperson is Francelle Collins.*

Kerr County Historical Commission
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Name: CHARLES ALFRED BISHOP
Date of Birth: December 12, 1938
Place of Birth: Center Point, Texas
Education: Center Point High School
Sul Ross State College, Alpine
Southwest Texas State Teachers College, San Marcos

Father: Ralph Woodrow Bishop
Mother: Polly Ann Archer Bishop
Siblings: Eric, Victor, Polly Gayle Bishop Davis
Wife: Judy Sue Bishop
Children: Cody, Clayt, Kelly, Kara

Name: JAMES SAM ADAMS
Date of Birth: June 6, 1939
Place of Birth: Center Point, Texas
Education: Center Point High School
Southwest Texas State Teachers College, San Marcos

Father: Earl Adams
Mother: Juanita Bishop Adams
Wife: Patricia Ray Adams
Children: Juanita Rae Adams Raiford
Lisa Ann Adams Copeland

Interviewers: Francelle Robison Collins
Bonnie Pipes Flory
Jeanie Archer Webb
Julie Mosty Leonard

Date: November 15, 2018

Place: 627 Lois Street, #10, Kerrville, Texas

An Oral History Interview of

First Cousins
Sam Adams and Al Bishop

SUMMARY

Al Bishop and Sam Adams are first cousins who grew up in Center Point, Texas in the 1940's and '50's, when Center Point was a small town with an estimated 600 people, but with its own independent school district. Bishop is a descendant of old Kerr County families, and Adams descended from Sutton County ranchers. Together they attended and graduated from Southwest Texas State Teachers College. After college Adams taught school in Odessa and then rose through the officer ranks of the US Marine Corps, notably commanding in the Viet Nam war and later at the Guantanamo Naval Base. He and his wife retired to San Antonio, and at the time of this interview their daughter lives in Center Point and teaches in the Kerrville schools. A Golden Gloves boxing champion himself, Bishop taught school and coached his students as winning amateur boxers before joining the Prudential insurance company, where he became a million-dollar producer. Both Adams and Bishop take pride in having mentored young men throughout their careers. In this interview they talk about growing up in small town Texas at the middle of the 20th Century.

(Recording)

My name is Francelle Robison Collins and I am with the Kerr County Historical Commission, Oral History Project. Today is November 15, 2018, and we are here at 627 Lois Street, Kerrville, Texas, with Bonnie Flory, Jeanie Webb, and Julie Leonard. We are talking to first cousins Al Bishop and Sam Adams, who understand that we are making audio and video recordings of this interview and that a typewritten transcript of our interview will be provided so that changes can be made. The audio and video tapes, however, cannot be edited. This information along with copies of any family pictures and documents provided by you will then be turned over to the Kerr County History Center, Schreiner University Archives, and the Portals to Texas History, University of North Texas, where they will be available to the public unless specific restrictions are placed on them by you. These restrictions will be noted in the Release forms after you have had a chance to review the transcripts. Are you clear on what we are doing today?

SAM & AL: Yes.

FRANCELLE: Let me start with Al. What is your given name?

AL: Charles Alfred Bishop

FRANCELLE: When and where were you born?

AL: Born in Center Point, Texas, December 12, 1938.

FRANCELLE: Were you born at home?

AL: Yes.

FRANCELLE: Do you know who helped deliver you?

AL: Yeah, Dr. Jones from Comfort.

FRANCELLE: Me too! Do you have any siblings?

AL: Yes, I have 3. Two remaining, one passed away.

FRANCELLE: What are their names?

AL: Their names are Ralph Eric Bishop, Thomas Victor Bishop, goes by "Vic," and Polly Gayle Bishop Davis.

FRANCELLE: And what was your father's name?

AL: Ralph Woodrow Bishop.

FRANCELLE: And what was his occupation?

AL: Stone mason.

FRANCELLE: Did he work locally?

AL: Yes, he worked with the Archers. My mother was an Archer. And Charley Archer was a bigtime rock mason, his sons were rock masons, and my dad and all of them worked together.

FRANCELLE: And do you live in the family home now?

AL: I live just across from it in Center Point.

FRANCELLE: Did he do the rockwork there at that house?

AL: No, there's no rock really there. But he did a lot around.

FRANCELLE: Are there still some around?

AL: Oh yeah.

FRANCELLE: That would be neat, to be able to go see all that. And where was your dad born?

AL: He was born in Menard, Texas.

FRANCELLE: Ok, and your family dates back many generations here, of early settlers. Lowrances, correct?

AL: There are some Lowrances, yeah. .

FRANCELLE: And the Dentons, correct?

AL: Yeah, good!

FRANCELLE: I had to work real hard! About when did they come to Kerr County?

AL: Well, I'm not for sure, but early 1800's. Some of them are buried out at the Center Point cemetery, some Bishops that were born in, like, 1810, that area. .

FRANCELLE: And what was your mother's name?

AL: Polly Ann Archer.

FRANCELLE: And what was her occupation?

AL: She worked as a nurse at Starlight Hospital the job she had for 43 years. She almost died on the job. My wife and her..I could hear them laughing down the hallway. She laughed all the time and I do too. And that was about three or four months before she passed away.

FRANCELLE: And there is a building named for her.

AL: There is! Oh you did read stuff!

FRANCELLE: And you want to tell us a little bit about your Mom and Dad, something that you find endearing ?

AL: Aw, yeah, well, my dad was super tall, he was like over 6'3" and my mother was barely over five feet, and so she'd have to...walking along, sometimes he'd have me up on his shoulders and my mother would be having to nearly run to keep up with his long strides. And we lived in a tiny house, it was about as big as this little area right here.

FRANCELLE: So y'all always lived in Center Point?

AL: Yes. And my dad would, fact is, when they got married, ironically, he was valedictorian at Center Point and your Dad was salutatorian.

FRANCELLE: How neat. You're talking about Julie?

JULIE: Raymond Mosty. I didn't know that.

AL: And my dad went to work at Mosty's Nursery for a dollar a day. Didn't last too long, but I think that's what he was doing when I was born. And then luckily, he and Clayton Milton had a termite business for a while. They had an old van, you remember that, Adams? And the van just didn't have a window on one side – it had a compressor and all kind of stuff in the back. But it was our family car and the Milton's family car. We'd keep it a week and then the Milton's would....and now and then we'd go to the movie, and my mama was driving, and Betty says, "It's really cold in here, Polly." And she says, "Well, roll up the windows." She knew there was no pane in the window, so Betty....(laughter). 'Course, things were good, we can tell stories all day long about the good old days.

FRANCELLE: Did you know any of your grandparents?

AL: Yes. I knew them all. I have a picture with the four grandparents.

FRANCELLE: Oh my, and they lived in Center Point also?

AL: Yes. In earlier days they both lived out of town. My grandpa Bishop lived out on a ranch close to Camp Verde, and then the Archers lived just a little, just 3 miles from Verde Store toward Bandera. Then they both moved into the big city of Center Point. But I got to spend lots of time with my Bishop grandparents. They had an old pickup, like a Model-A pickup. We came back and they said we're gonna go by and see your mom and dad. And I wouldn't get out because I was enjoying the stay out there and I was afraid I would have to stay home, so I wanted to go back, and they said, you won't have to get out, your mama will come out. So my mama came out and hugged me and I went back out and spent another few days at Bandera Pass. I loved my granddad Archer, but my grandma – I loved her too, but she'd make us work, she'd make us pull weeds the whole time. Whereas Adams and I would go with my grandma Bishop and she'd just treat us like kings.

SAM: Cook whatever we wanted.

FRANCELLE: Alright, now I'm going to talk to your first cousin here, Sam Adams. Can you give us your given name?

SAM: James Sam.

- FRANCELLE: And when and where were you born?
- SAM: I was born in Center Point, Texas, June 26, 1939 in a house right beside where Bishop was born.
- JEANIE: Where was that?
- AL: Down from the schoolhouse, close to Mosty's Nursery. The house is still there, on the right.
- JEANIE: Is that that big white frame house?
- SAM: You remember where the Baptist parsonage used to be? It was right across the street from the Baptist parsonage. It's not far from Scott Mosty's, on the other side.
- JULIE: There's a house there that had a fenced yard, had a fence in front of the house, is that it? And another big white frame house was next to it.
- SAM: Right, Mrs. Taylor lived right behind back there.
- JEANIE: The white frame house, across from Scott and Essie (Mosty), almost across, is where Wayne (Archer) was born. So grandmother and granddaddy were living there, is that the house?
- AL: Same house. That's where I was born.
- SAM: And Aunt Polly delivered me – his mother.
- JEANIE: Aunt Polly delivered you?
- FRANCELLE: So there was no doctor there, just Aunt Polly?
- SAM: Who needed a doctor? No, I don't think so.
- JULIE: How long did they live there?
- SAM: Well, mother at that time was living in Sutton County. That's where my father's family was from. And so I went back there. The first I remember of us actually living in Center Point was when mother came down when I was four and started teaching back in Center Point.
- JULIE: That was what – 1940...
- SAM: 1943-1944.

FRANCELLE: Do you have any siblings?

SAM: No.

FRANCELLE: None, you were just a spoiled brat kid?

SAM: I suppose so. Mom and Dad married late. Mom was 36 when I was born. At that time, still old...

FRANCELLE: Yeah, everybody was about 18 when they had kids back then. What was your mother's name?

SAM: Juanita Lyla Bishop Adams.

FRANCELLE: And what year was she born?

SAM: 1903.

FRANCELLE: And tell us what she did.

SAM: She began teaching in 1920 when she was 17 years old. She attended, I don't know where the Normal School was, I assume it was somewhere in the area, I don't know how in the world she would have gotten to San Marcos, which became the mecca for teaching. But she went to 6 weeks Normal School and began teaching in Lane Valley, between Center Point and Comfort. Taught there...

FRANCELLE: So there was, what, a little private school there?

SAM: A little one-room school. It's still there. You know where Lane Valley is? That road there, it's just across the river back to the left. I drove by there not long ago. It's still there. It's kind of hidden, but it's there.

FRANCELLE: So who went to that school?

SAM: Well, the local...the ones I can remember were the Schmidts. I imagine there were 15 or 20. But Edgar and Chester and...

FRANCELLE: Comfort and Center Point kids went there, is that what you're saying?

SAM: Well, it was the country kids that went there, I imagine Bohnerts were in there, and a lot of them still called Mother "Miss Juanita."

FRANCELLE: And how many years did your mother teach?

SAM: She started teaching in 1920 and I don't know, she might have had a year or so off and on in there, but she stayed in Center Point until 1956, and then she came up to Kerrville and taught at Tivy first grade, oh, for probably another 15 years. And then after she retired, I came home as a Major, and she was still, she was substituting, in Center Point and Tivy High school, elementary, she wasn't afraid of the Devil himself. And I asked her once, "Ma, can you handle those damn high school kids?" And she said, "I handled you, didn't I?" "Yeah, but you were my mom, I let you!" And another story about her, when we were in high school, I never got in trouble, Bishop, always did...but I mean if a little scrap was going on our something, Mama was the honorary elementary school principal, but they'd go get her.

FRANCELLE: To break it up, huh?

AL: Nah, she didn't break it up!

SAM: And you know when it would happen she'd come scoop me up and sometimes Bishop, and I told her one time, I said, "Ma, you embarrass me." She said, "I embarrass **YOU?!?**" "ME?" I embarrassed her more than she embarrassed me, I couldn't imagine, why does she always want to come get you?

JULIE: She taught first and second grade. She taught me, and I think all the Mosty's, but I got in trouble with her too, once, and it was undeserved.

SAM: Mine was always undeserved.

JULIE: Remember, she used to – when you had a loose tooth, you'd go sit on her lap and she would jiggle people's teeth and pull their teeth.

FRANCELLE: That was part of her job.

SAM: I can remember people, sometimes people were late losing their teeth – fifth graders would come in and she's...can you imagine teachers pulling teeth today?

FRANCELLE: Well, she was more than a teacher, she was a mama to those kids. So y'all started school together, correct?

AL: Yeah, correct.

FRANCELLE: How many – there was only one first grade?

JULIE: First and second were in the same room.

SAM: First and second were in the same room. There were probably 20-25 in our first grade class. Fifteen of us graduated, twelve of which I believe had started and finished together. You know, like, Johnny Finch came in, was a latecomer, he was from the fifth grade on.

JULIE: Gerald Witt.

SAM: Witt started with us.

JULIE: And Neil Coldwell, was he in there?

AL: Neil, yeah, he started with us.

FRANCELLE: And you're bound to have a Devore in your class? I think Devores were in every class.

AL: Yeah, Bill Devore.

JULIE: Was Teddy Morrow?

SAM: No, he was two years ahead of us.

FRANCELLE: Well, did y'all consider yourselves country boys? Did you live the country life, you think, hunting, fishing?

SAM: Well, we were city boys. Hell, we lived in Center Point! We lived in town. But yeah, we hunted, fished and spent about half our life on the Guadalupe River.

AL: For sure we did.

FRANCELLE: And what year did y'all graduated?

AL: 1956.

FRANCELLE: Oh, the same year as my brother. But he was at Tivy.

SAM: Gerald (Robison), yeah. Gerald retired about the same year my daughter started teaching out in San Antonio.

JEANIE: When I was growing up, there was a big, seemed to be a big competition between Tivy boys and Center Point boys. Did you all engage in any of that?

AL: No!

- SAM: No!
- FRANCELLE: Al's never heard the name Wilbur McDaniel!
- AL: Y'all know about that!
- JULIE: Comfort was kind of...I remember Comfort girls were, some of you boys were interested in.
- SAM: Nahhhh. Yeah, the Comfort girls were prettier than the Center Point girls. I don't know, for some reason we never did date much in Kerrville, I don't know why.
- JULIE: Y'all kind of palled around together, I remember yall had big groups of guys you were impressive to come together.
- SAM: Well, it was funny. Bill Womack and, I don't remember, four or five Kerrville guys...
- JULIE: Jimmy Simmons?
- SAM: Al and I, twelve years wasn't enough, so we started together at Southwest Texas over at San Marcos. And one day, I think Bishop was telling Womack, said, "You know, you're not a bad guy after all!" "Womack said, "You know, I was just thinking the same thing about you." I can remember going down there once. Kay (Mosty) was having a party or something, so went down and swooped in a couple of times and Womack and several other guys, you know, were standing out there and Womack wasn't that big anyway. But we're thinking...you know...but it was one of those cases where one was scared and the other one was damn glad of it. We didn't throw a lick..... "I could kill you with one lick..." And of course those old Comfort boys, we, I'm sorry to say, we bullied them. Oh God, big old hard working square headed Germans. You know, they could have back handed us, but they didn't dare. You know, we'd go up and..., "yeah, your head is still square..." and stuff like that.
- JULIE: We played Comfort in football too. Were they six-man like yall played? We didn't have enough to have substitutes in the game.
- AL: That's right.
- FRANCELLE: You had to go both ways.
- SAM: Oh yeah, but we were fortunate that our team was good enough. There were, aw heck, I think there were eighteen on the team, we had enough to scrimmage, but usually we would play the first quarter, the first half at

most, and they would put sophomores in, and they cleaned up. Well, we had good talent, we had a good coach, and I don't know, maybe there wasn't just much talent in the area and we were fortunate. But, we won regional our senior year, and that's as far as you could go in six-man ball then. And we beat, aw, we beat Friendswood, which now has two 5-A schools. In fact, Pat and I were going somewhere, we were going through Pflugerville, another big old strong team and as I drove through there, I was telling Pat that we played Pflugerville, I guess twice for bi-district title, they won on penetration. And what happened to Center Point? Pflugerville has a 6-A team and a 5-A team now. But at least we're double-A.

FRANCELLE: I remember going to some of those games, we came down there because my dad went to Center Point schools and I remember turning the lights on in the car, we sat in the car, and maybe that's just because it got foggy or something, but I remember a lot of people turned their car lights on so yall could see better out there, is that right?

SAM: I don't remember that.

JULIE: It was a lighted field.

FRANCELLE: Yeah, it was a lighted field, but I remember we were down at the end and a bunch of people turned their lights on, so maybe the light went out or something, I don't know. So, what did y'all do after you graduated? Well, what else were you involved in at school besides football? Girls and what else?

SAM: Studying!

AL: Adams was more the ladies man than I was. We'd go to Pat's Hall in Fredericksburg on Friday night and the Cabaret Club in Bandera on Saturday, and we'd reverse them the next weekend. You know, lots of things happened at those places, too.

SAM: Pat's Hall, I guess, is back open again, but of course the Cabaret is long gone. And the Purple Cow, which was a good hangout.

AL: And you'd get back over here, the Chatterbox and the Grove are no longer here.

FRANCELLE: Teen Tavern. Did you ever go to the Teen Tavern?

SAM: Yeah, that was fun.

JULIE: And Beakley's for hamburgers and enchiladas.

FRANCELLE: I think y'all all did hang out at Beakley's a lot.

SAM: Oh yeah. At Beakley's at the time, malts were a quarter and milkshakes were 20 cents, so we all drank milkshakes. Hamburgers were 20 cents and cheeseburgers were a quarter. I think she threw in the fries (and the flies), and the enchilada plate was 50 cents.

JEANIE: Where was that located?

SAM: Right there on (highway) 27.

JULIE: Where Toucan's is.

FRANCELLE: They were a lot of fun, the Beakleys, both of them were a lot of fun. I used to enjoy everybody being in there. So you can remember the Wilbur McDaniel story?

AL: I definitely can, in fact Kay Mosty wondered which one of us, one day in Sunday School, said all they talked about was whether it was Wilbur and me in a fistfight. She said can you whip Wilbur McDaniel? I said, I don't know, he's pretty big. He'd just won the heavyweight championship in the National Guard, and I won the light heavy in the Golden Gloves in San Antonio, so I knew we were due. And one day I walked in the Teen Tavern and old Mac and I glowered at each other some, and then a kid was there, a freshman, his name was, y'all remember Bill Archer, his little brother, I forget his name.

FRANCELLE: Joe Archer.

AL: OK. He was popping some girls with a towel and I wasn't paying any attention to him, and the girls were giggling and all that, but Mac, to show out for me, jumped over and grabbed this kid and slammed him against the wall. I took a step or so his way and he said, You don't like that, Bishop? And I said, Nah, I don't like you, Mac. And he said, Well, why don't we step outside. And I said, Nah, didn't you have a concussion last week? And he said, Yeah, but don't let that stop you. I said, Nah, I don't want you to have an excuse. I'll be over here in two weeks, and we'll get together. So in two weeks I came over, I had my fists wrapped and wearing some good fighting clothes, and we couldn't find old Mac. And whoever was with me said, He's scared! And I said, No, he's forgotten it. And what's her name, Covert, Hazel Covert, we even went out by their house but he wasn't there. And the parents came and said Can we help you? And we said, Well, we were looking for McDaniel. Well, they were here but we don't know where they went. And so I forgot about it. And I was in school, I was a year ahead of Mac, we were the same age but I was a year ahead of him. So then I came back, I was dressed halfway in some Elvis sweet clothes, and I walked in Teen Tavern. And lo and behold, I

ran smack dab into Mac. And he said, I heard you was lookin' for me. I said, Matter of fact. He said, How about Tivy Mountain? I said, Let's go. And old Don Shelton was sort of Mac's lackey, drove him around. He came up in a big Buick, his Momma's Buick...

FRANCELLE: Red and White.

AL: And Mac said, I'll even let you ride shotgun. Mac got in the middle, the three of us rode and a couple of my buddies, Tommy George and Richard Jones said, Watch him, they may jump you. I said, Nah, I know these guys. And on the way up there, Mac said, Well, let's take off any rings and stuff, we don't want any scars. I said, Yeah, you don't want this "CP" stenciled in your forehead. And he laughed and said, We'll see. Mac and I went together up on Tivy Mountain, we could see people coming, car lights, for a mile. And you might know I didn't come out too good on this one. I started after Mac, and all of a sudden the lights went out. I looked up at Mac and he was thirty feet away, I'd slid after he hit me, that far on my back. And old Mac walked up and he said, Now maybe old Bishop won't think he's so bad!!! And flat out, I looked at Mac and it looked like he was ninety feet tall. I didn't realize I had a concussion, and Tommy George was trying to bet some guys, and I saw him paying off and I raised up and I said, Did he hit me? And old George said, DID he HIT you? But then luckily for me, two years later Mac joined the Navy, and didn't see him. And so we went to Bandera as usual, and somebody there said, your fighting man McDaniel is inside. No, where is he? We'd been to college and remember Legs Leggett, a little guy? And Mac was standing over there with the Covert girl, leaning against the wall, and we eyeballed each other again and I told Leggett, I said, go over and ask that girl to dance. Well, I didn't mean for him to grab her and pull her out on the dance floor, but since she turned him down, he did, and he pulled her out there, and man, old Mac came off the wall, grabbed old Legs, jerked him up nose to nose and finally turned him loose, threatened him and everything, and so I walked up to him then and I said, That's the difference between you and I, Mac, you always pick on somebody smaller than you. He reached over and tapped me on the shoulder and said, You're about my size, how about after the dance. I said, Nah, can't wait, we got to go now. We started out, Tommy George and them said, They're at it again, Bishop and Mac!! But we didn't have near the following, we had only about six guys down on the river, not these 300 that saw us on Tivy Mountain. And needless to say, I waited this time, I didn't wade into him, old big hooks, I'd just block them until he tired out and he slumped down on his knees and Shelton was there again, and he said, Let's call it a draw! And Tommy George, Draw, Hell, Mac can't get up. And I said, Nah, that's fine, we'll call it a draw. I said but I tell you what, Mac, let's not do this 'til we're about 50 years old. Fifty sounded sooooo long. And he said, Good idea, and we shook hands and that was the end of that era.

JEANIE: Legendary.

FRANCELLE: Were you tamer than that, Sam? Or do you have some stories?

SAM: Always was!

AL: Adams was usually out with the girls, that's the reason....

SAM: No, I was home studying! I can't top Bishop.

FRANCELLE: Tell us a good story. You don't have one?

SAM: No, not really.

FRANCELLE: You got along with all the guys?

SAM: Well, we had our share. But I finished school, taught school for a year in Odessa and then took the easy way out and spent the next 28 years in the Marine Corps.

AL: Yeah, that's easier than teaching school.

FRANCELLE: Y'all went to Southwest. Were y'all roommates?

AL: We were, starting out. And then I busted out after one semester, I missed my Mama too much, I had to go home every weekend, and then I went to Sul Ross a year and then came back.

FRANCELLE: Talk about going in the Marine Corps.

SAM: Well, naturally I think it's the greatest thing I ever did. It was a great career, I was an infantry officer, didn't see that much of the war, the Marine Corps didn't have too many dynamic places. I spent a lot of time on the East Coast, Far East.

JEANIE: What year did you go in?

SAM: 1961, and I retired in 1989.

JEANIE: And then you just went down to the Marine Recruiting thing and signed up, or what?

SAM: Well, when I was home Christmas from Odessa – and I taught in Odessa because it was the second highest paying district in the state, because of the oil. So I was going to go out there and earn my fortune, and the salary, then in the second highest paying school district in Texas for a beginning

teacher was \$4250 a year. That's not a month. And on one of the job applications I said I made \$4250, and they say, a month? And I said, No, a year! But anyway, when I came home for Christmas, a friend of mine was home from the basic school where officers go after they're commissioned, they go to a six month's school. Another Marine friend was home from Marine boot camp, so I was with these two hard-headed Marines for two weeks, and we did a lot of partying and everything, and a lot of people thought I was a Marine, and I kind of let my alligator mouth overcome my hummingbird ass, and everybody thought I was a Marine, and Yeah, when I get back I'm going to go ahead and sign up. And so I went back to Odessa and took the test and signed up. And the next October went up to Quantico to basic and officer candidate school and for about ten weeks I was asking myself what in the hell am I doing here?

JEANIE: Is it really as tough as its reputation?

SAM: It's certainly different than pledging a fraternity in college.

AL: It really is.

FRANCELLE: Did you go to Vietnam?

SAM: Yeah.

FRANCELLE: How long were you there?

SAM: I was only over there one tour, '67-'68. It was a hot time but it was just once. I'd been assigned to Officer Candidate School on staff, and the CO over there convinced people that he had to have his people there, they were an important job. But as soon as he retired I was out of there in two months.

FRANCELLE: So what was your job?

SAM: I was a company commander. I had 200 Marines under me for about the first 7 months and I was staff officer the second time, I was wounded the second time.

FRANCELLE: You were wounded?

SAM: I was hit a couple of times when I should have ducked.

FRANCELLE: Did you get some medals out of it?

AL: Yeah, he did, he plays it down but he really did.

FRANCELLE: Go ahead, we want to hear about those medals.

SAM: Well, I got the Purple Heart twice, I zigged when I should have zagged.

FRANCELLE: What was that experience like?

SAM: It was great. It was a little scary. The first couple of times we went in the field fortunately we didn't make contact, and you know, everybody does everything differently. And I did things differently than my predecessor had done, and I was raising hell, and doing this and doing that. And you could tell, what does this sonofabitch know, he's never been shot at. And I felt like that. And fortunately, the first time we made contact, I suppose I responded in a way they liked because I noticed after that all I had to do, and they were doing it, and I said, that's great. But what if I make a wrong call? 'Cause they're going to go in hell or high water and do exactly as they are told to do. And I guess I was fortunate, I had only six – only six may sound kind of ridiculous, but I had only six Marines killed in action.

FRANCELLE: How big was your platoon?

SAM: Well, I had 200 – it depended on what the mission was, but it usually went to well over 250, and a TO for a rifle company is about 200.

JEANIE: What rank were you when you commanded those?

SAM: I was a captain.

JEANIE: And why do you say it was a great experience?

SAM: Well, where else are you going to lead men like that? Here we go, high diddle diddle, right up the middle, or we're going to go around and that's the way you go.

JEANIE: You're making important decisions.

SAM: I think you could probably relate it to teaching school. How many lives do you mold as a schoolteacher and I'm confident that there are probably 50 or 60 Marines that stayed in the Marine Corps because of me, right wrong or indifferent. And most of them are still alive.

JULIE: Marines don't leave anyone behind, do they?

SAM: No. To a fault, sometimes. We fought the North Vietnamese Army, to my knowledge I never saw a Viet Cong. We fought the North Vietnamese Army that had everything we had except air, they wouldn't risk their air,

but their artillery, everything else, was equal. But if somehow we missed a man that we knew had gone down, we'd go back and the first man that I had killed we went back after and they were ambushing the body. We got the body but we lost another Marine. So you know, I've often wondered ...the tradition is you don't leave them back...and hope that that mother is grateful that we did bring the body back, but another mother is sad because her son was killed getting the body back. What to do, what's right, I don't know.

JULIE: I can see your mother in you. Your discipline, and you did what she told you to do.

SAM: Yep, that's true.

JULIE: And that helps a lot in life to know what you can do and can't do and better not do. You had great training.

FRANCELLE: Where did you go when you got back to the States?

SAM: Recruiting. I went to Cleveland, Ohio. We hit the college campuses. It was officer selection. And I had applied for recruiting duty Dallas, Texas, when I was a second lieutenant, and about three weeks or a month before I was due to rotate back to the States, I went back to the rear, and I went by the one shop that had the orders, are my orders in? And, yessir, oh boy, that's good duty, that's good duty. Well, what is it? Well, how in the hell can you tell me it's good duty when you don't know what it is? Well, it's recruiting, and you're officer selection officer in Cleveland, Ohio. I said, CLEVELAND, OHIO? Beats the hell out of Vietnam, I guess. But Cleveland, Ohio, they won't even understand me up there. But, we spent three years in Cleveland, Ohio, and enough people understood me that I made quota.

FRANCELLE: And then?

SAM: After that I went to some Marine Corps schools and then I was a battalion executive officer and then, it was after Viet Nam was over, we spent a year in Canada going to their command staff college in Toronto, which was great. And we just sort of bounced around and we retired, well, I spent two tours in Guantanamo Bay. One of the XO's of the Marine barracks and then I spent more time in Camp LeJeune and went back as CO.

FRANCELLE: Well, I might as well ask you, was the movie written about you? (A Few Good Men).

AL: It was.

SAM: There were similarities.

FRANCELLE: Did they interview you to do that?

SAM: No.

AL: But Jack Nicholson played his part. All the generals around the world call Adams about him being in the movies. And I called him and told him he looked a lot better than Jack Nicholson. A few good men, and Adams is one.

SAM: Well, I don't know. I wouldn't do anything any different if I had it to do over again. What actually happened was that we really had a sorry Marine there in one of the companies and the Marines – he was so bad the Marines decided to have a blanket party. He wouldn't bathe, he fell out on all the runs, you couldn't depend on him to do.

FRANCELLE: Danger to everybody.

SAM: And they held a blanket party on him and somehow it came down to the fact that I had ordered the thing, which I hadn't done. But I was short toured, I came out of there about six months early. And if I had any shot at General, that pretty well did that in. But I wouldn't do anything differently. I think I did the right thing.

AL: And the kid didn't die in real life.

SAM: No, he didn't die. I mean, they beat hell out of him.

JEANIE: What happened, I didn't understand, what happened to you as a result of that?

FRANCELLE: He didn't make General.

SAM: My change of command was about six months early. And General Grey, when General Grey sent me down there, he knew I'd been down there as XO, and General Grey, who became Commandant – I told him, General, I'm not putting up with that shit coming across that fence line. Because they were coming across periodically. He said, that's why I'm sending you down there, Adams. And I stopped it but unfortunately when it hit the fan, General Grey was up for Commandant, and he wasn't going to do anything. I'm not pulling a Hillary Clinton here and saying I really won, but that had a whole lot to do with it. I had one general officer in my corner and he lost.

JEANIE: Why were the Cubans coming across the fenceline?

SAM: To mess with us. Trying to get us, trying to start an international incident. Now, since then – we had mine fields on our side to prevent, and we had defense devices to stop if they ever came across, but, not because of me, but after I left, the Cubans put up mine fields on their side to prevent, not their soldiers from coming, but to prevent the civilians from coming across, seeking asylum. And of course we still had, when I left down there, we had 86 or something like that, Cubans who came across every day to work at the Naval Base, shipping facility. At one time down there they say that the Cubans could repair any ship, any damage to the ships that came in. It's the best deep water port that the Navy has in the world. And so that's why it's important that we keep it down there, not so we can say, hey, we own this little piece of Cuba. It's because the deep water training that goes on there, submarines or whatever.

JULIE: What year was that?

SAM: I was down there...83-85 and then 87-88 and then I came back here.

FRANCELLE: Was it already used for a prison?

SAM: No. There was a brig, but there was no – that was long before they'd even, you know, I retired in '89, I left down there in '88, so that was...then, it was great. The weather was perfect, the water was clear, diving was...

AL: Oh yeah, Adams took us on nine dives down there, we were down there with him, in like, '87.

JULIE: Were you married then? And your wife was back in the States?

SAM: Oh no, wife and kids went to school there. I mean, the only drawback was, and of course, they could fly to Puerto Rico, in fact, our kids went once a month to a little base in Puerto Rico, they had braces and so they would go back to Puerto Rico and they would do their shopping and what have you, and get their braces and then come back. In fact, I remember one time Pat came back and one of the civilian workers was with her, and he was pretty – he was a boy from South Carolina, and he was carrying this big box. And Pat said, you know, Sam, give Carl a hand there. And I said, well, why? And she said, that's my microwave. Microwave? What the hell do we need with a microwave? But you know, about two days later I was using the microwave! Thank God we have a microwave now!

FRANCELLE: So how many years total were you in the service?

SAM: Twenty-eight years.

- FRANCELLE: And did you do anything after you retired, I know you've done things...but...
- SAM: Well, Bishop and I worked for about five years together for Prudential.
- AL: Yeah, it was a fun five years.
- SAM: Didn't sell a whole lot of insurance, but...I spent a lot of time in Center Point and Kerrville.
- FRANCELLE: Where did you sell insurance?
- AL: Yeah, with Prudential, he was there five years.
- FRANCELLE: Just in the area?
- JEANIE: In San Antonio.
- AL: Yeah.
- SAM: And sometimes in Kerrville, Center Point.
- JEANIE: Yeah, you sold a lot of Prudential in Center Point!
- FRANCELLE: OK, Al, and how about you? What did you do after you graduated? What year did you graduate?
- AL: Oh yeah, I graduated (college) in '61, and my wife, we weren't married then, already had a job teaching school in Bishop, Texas. And we liked the name of the place, and stayed down there for three years. But she went down and she asked that she would take the position if they would give me a job. They said, well, what kind of degree does he have. And she said, Ag. And they said, well, we don't have an ag department here but how about his minor? And she said science, and they said oh, man, great, can he teach junior high. You bet, she said. So – she was a good teacher, she taught for 25 years, but three years was ALL I could make it. And the very first day, a kid came in to the class. I was teaching 6th grade. I remember thinking, oh that'll be a snap – 6th grade, what do those kids know? This kid came in, real nice kid and he just asked me one question, well, how does petrified wood get petrified? I remember thinkingahhhh...petrified. I have no idea. And so I said, Dennis, I remember his name, I said, that's a great question! Why don't we all do a little research on that? Boy, I'd already bought some encyclopedias to try to catch up myself, so sure enough, the next day he came in with a long dissertation – he was a smart kid. I took notes, and I'll never forget how petrified wood got petrified! I taught three years down there, and they

were fun years, in fact, one of my students is an attorney in San Antonio, he's always on TV, I holler out, look! There's my student, you missed him! I know y'all see him, his name is Fidel Rodriguez, and he's a good attorney. I talked to another attorney down there that, I said, the only attorney I know is Fidel Rodriguez, he and his wife were both attorneys, and he said, Gosh, he is the BEST attorney, hardest working attorney in this town. I said, I taught him all he knows. I coached down there to make my, I think I got \$43,000, Adams –

SAM: \$4,300!

AL: Yeah, \$4,300. And that included the coach's salary that was \$300 a year. And we had to coach after school, and then Coach Davis and I – he's a real good guy, luckily for me, because I'd just played 6-man football and really didn't know a guard from a tackle still at that late date. But luckily I had boxed, so I had a bunch of Hispanic kids that, they had them separated in smart kids and mediocre kids and I didn't like that stuff anyway. Because the kids, first of all, they said, Ah, you're a new teacher, Mr. Bishop, they give you the dummy class. For homeroom. And I said, Aw, come on, that's not so and so forth. But I had all boys and they would come in first day of class, I guess that's before the kid beat me on the question, but I walked in and one little kid, Anselmo Trevino was his name, he had another kid down, pounding him, and I grabbed the kid and pulled him off and he said, Man, you touch me and my daddy's gonna come up here and kill you! And the other kids said, Mr. Bishop, you know how big his daddy is? About this tall. But Anselmo, I called him years later and chatted with him, and he came by to see me, you want me to buy you a beer, Mr. Bishop? I went back for a reunion, you know. So anyway, I told these kids – they were all mad and it was hot down there in the afternoon and no air conditioning, and sweaty – I couldn't get used to that hot sweaty country myself. And so I picked up this brilliant idea, I said, how would you guys – from now on we're gonna meet over in the gym. And they said oh no, we're not playing any volleyball or sissy stuff like that. And I said, no, we're gonna fight. And every head came up! Fiiiiiight? They said with smiles on their faces. Yeah, do you guys know where we can get a ring, a boxing ring. Oh, we used to have a YMCA but it closed down and so forth. And so the very next day, I heard a knock on my door and two little guys dressed in uniform, little hardworking guys, said, where do you want this ring? Oh, you got one? Oh yeah, they didn't want it, it was taking up space, and I said can y'all help me put it up? Oh yeah. And man it was a professional ring. So we went over to the gym, I didn't ask permission or anything, I was just a junior high first year coach. So we set it up in one corner. And got in there and we had a couple of sets of gloves and all these kids did some boxing, I gave them a few pointers, and then that afternoon one of the kids came running in said, Mr. Bishop, the high school guys are rastling (wrestling) in there with their coach and

everything in our ring. That's OK, that's OK. So I went over and I talked to this one coach, he was sorta smug to me, said that I was just a junior high coach. I said, boy, this is a good idea, having this ring in here. And he said, Aw yeah, we find it's great for conditioning. This rastling, you just can't beat it. And so I had my tough guys lined up there every day, they were so – they were lined up, ready to go to class. And Coach Davis said, I don't know how you got all these guys out, they had signed slips that couldn't participate because of this and that and the other. That was when I took them to the Golden Gloves and we won five, we beat up these Navy guys so bad.

SAM: They needed it.

AL: But these kids of mine were only in the 6th grade, but they were older than the Navy guys. But I had a math teacher there, she chewed me out, she said, what are you doing taking these kids and increasing this violence, they're violent enough. And I said, yeah, but at least they have pillows on their hands. So, another little guy, Arnulfo Flores was his name. He was a Bantamweight, he was really tough, he just beat those little sailors up and won a title. And this teacher came to me and she said, I owe you an apology, she said, Arnulfo Flores is a new man. She said he actually held the door open for me and he sits up front. Now, his grades are not better, but when everybody walks in, they said, Champ, champ, how'd you do it? It was nothin', maannn. I checked on him years later and he and his brothers had an upholstery shop in Kingsville and they said aw, they're doing very well, I was glad, maybe that little bit of boxing. Couldn't teach them anything else but a little bit of that.

JEANIE: Just a little thing like that can turn a person around.

AL: That's right. And so then I went to work for Prudential. Though I didn't like insurance sales and I didn't want to sell insurance, thought I couldn't sell anything. And I was just going to stay through the summer until I got a decent job. Well, thirty year later....well, twenty-five years later Adams came, and that was a lot of fun.

JEANIE: How did you come to be a good salesman when you didn't like it?

AL: Well, I had a boss who was a super nice guy. In fact, I go to his son, I've been going to him for 40 years as my dentist. Chris Capetta. Mike Cappetta was his dad, my boss. He was the smoothest guy I'd ever seen. He would tell me just little....

SAM: Sure better than our boss.

AL: Yeah, better than the big boss, that's right. He would tell me things like

Calling, just little simple things like, ask a person if this is a good time to talk as soon as you start. We'd moved to San Antonio, and I was new in San Antonio, didn't know anybody. So he had me call baby leads, he'd call them. A list of people who'd had new babies, and we'd call, hey congratulations on the baby, have you talked to anybody about insurance. And he said, you'll make ten calls and you may get three appointments and you should sell one. And of course it wasn't all that easy, but it got easier through the years and it was a lot of fun. I didn't think I'd like a bunch of insurance people, but there were 50 of us in the office and we still have a reunion once a month. All the old Prudential folks meet there, and our wives, and it's the best time, you can't believe the good time we have laughing about old stories. Since it was a 50-man agency, we would lose and gain an average of about 17 agents a year, and then we got women coming in and we all were really tickled to death that the women salesmen were really good, nearly all of them. And everybody liked one another the whole 30 years I was there, and we liked Adams. And there was one guy we didn't like, he was an old cowboy, hick-i-fied guy. We called him Cowboy Walker. And he was a braggert kind of guy, bragged about all the women he had, and we wondered how a woman of any kind could be his honey. But he had a wife, and he had a honey, you remember, Adams, at the same time? They knew about each other but he was so desirable, I guess. Anyway, Adams hated the guy, and one day Adams came in sorta late, we had a staff meeting, it was a waste of time but we'd go in there in between going to coffee and going to lunch, and this guy walked over there and he said to Adams, Well, good afternoon! And Adams said you SOB, you want me to jerk your ass outside, you know, what's it to you when I come in. And he said, Aw, I'se just joking with you Sam. And we got outside after the meeting and Adams said Ahh, I guess I was a little hard on Walker. Hey Walker, you want to have coffee. Aw, (laughter) man, he came up the stairs and the three of us went and had coffee. But one day...

SAM: My good buddy here, when I was late, I'd say – I was talking to Bishop, I wasn't talking to anybody else – come on by some time. And I was going to Center Point...

AL: But that very day Walker said, well, I don't know where you live.

SAM: So anyway, I get to my house, and I use the same security system my mother did, the screened porch was locked, so I went around to the side and went in that way, you know that was Mother's only security forever, and somehow I, well, I guess I must have unlatched the front because I went around and before I could get around to the door that goddamn Walker was in the house and had out one of my report cards! You made a "C" in department! You sonofabitch, get out of here. What are you

doing? Get out of here? He had beat me in the house practically, 'cause Bishop had told him exactly where I lived!

AL: I hated to do that.

FRANCELLE: You've moved back to Center Point, but you still live in San Antonio?

AL: But he moved north, he's close to Boerne now.

SAM: Well, I would be in Center Point. But about two weeks before we retired, I walked in one night and Pat was in the living room, hands on her hips, looked like Juanita Adams, and I said, Oh God, what have I done now? I can't think of anything. She says, I don't know where you're planning on retiring, but if you're planning on retiring in Center Point, you're going without me! Well, I couldn't understand that. God, she's from Crystal City. You want to go back to Crystal City??? No. So I never thought I'd live in San Antonio, but been out 29 years and we've been in San Antonio just north of there for 29 years, so I guess I'm a San Antonian.

SAM: It's Timberwood Park, we're about five miles south of where 46 cuts across. Another day I walked in and this wasn't Bishop, but Walker, I don't know whether he was looking for me or not, but I wasn't paying any attention and he had an old beat up Chevrolet pickup with a Dallas Cowboy running along the side on either door, and I took about two steps into Café 27 and who's sitting there but Cowboy Walker. And it's too late to turn around. I was forced to drink a beer with him and then I left.

FRANCELLE: And you have a daughter that's teaching at Tivy, correct?

SAM: Yes. She's another Juanita Adams. She teaches 7th grade science and loves it. And you know, there's nothing, I don't think, any worse than a middle school student. I wasn't worth a damn, you know, they're not big boys or big girls and they're not little, but you know they don't know what they are.

JEANIE: Thirteen-year olds, she's teaching 13-14-year olds.

SAM: And she loves it. She wouldn't do anything else.

JULIE: Does she have children?

SAM: Four.

JULIE: Are any of them playing football?

SAM: And she didn't convert to Catholicism, she's still a Methodist. They were

trying but no children for four years, and they broke the code, I guess. They had two, and then in fact my son-in-law was fixed, he thought, and they were down at the house for a birthday supper, I guess, and he said, you want to hear a joke? Yeah! Rae's pregnant again. And I said well, that's fine, but I thought you were fixed. I thought I was too, and they tried the procedure again, they had another baby, and finally it worked.

FRANCELLE: Your daughter lives in Center Point?

SAM: Yes.

FRANCELLE: And Al, I don't think you told us your wife's name.

AL: Judy Sue.

FRANCELLE: And how many children? And where do they live?

AL: Four. And they live, one in Boerne and one in Kyle and one in Center Point and another in San Antonio. Two boys and two girls.

FRANCELLE: Were any of them an Al Bishop?

AL: No.

FRANCELLE: You broke it, huh?

AL: Yeah, well, one of them is really worse than me!

JEANIE: If we have time, I want to ask Al about, he was telling me earlier about his brother Eric, who was a game warden here for years.

AL: Yeah, Eric was one of a kind, for sure. If you talk to any game warden and ask them if they know or knew Eric Bishop, they all know him. I don't care if they've been in a month or 30 years, they'll say, well, yeah, let me tell you a story about Eric Bishop. And he started out in High Island which is down on the Coast, down close to Houston, a little area. And it was a notorious place. They would test wardens out to see if they were going to make it down there. But, he made it. He did all kinds of things like, they were trying to catch some duck hunters killing illegal ducks, but every time they'd go in after them, they would go out with another load, and so he walked, with his gun on his head, I think he had a rifle just in case, because the water got up very deep, he walked across swamps and everything else, and he stood out there and counted the illegal ducks and stuff these guys shot. And then he started walking out, and they looked, big eyed, they thought it was a monster coming up. And when they realized it was a warden, saw his badge and all, they started trying to kick

some ducks under the car. And he said, Ah, that's OK, kick them if you want, I've already counted all of them, you've got all these illegal birds. So he took them to the judge, they were such nice folks, he said, Aw, just hit them with the minimum, Judge, they've been real nice. He would do that with a judge. The judge was waiting for his beck and call because he brought so many people in, illegal hunters, and if they got smart with him, he'd say, Hit 'em hard, Judge, they're tough, they think they're gonna get me afterwards, I can hardly wait. And he was a real fist fighter to the nth degree, he grew up going to Bandera and stuff, and he would fight at the snap of a hat. In fact, Adams and I and Eric were all in this fraternity at Southwest Texas – he went a year or so over there, he'd gone to Schreiner – but his wife was a Center Point girl. He has three boys, three nice boys, and his wife made him promise that he wouldn't get in a fight. He said I prommmise you, I guarantee you I won't. So he was sitting over there with a big smile on his face, we were over there at a place called the Devil's Backbone, it's a rough place alright. And in walks some old cedar choppers. One of them had really big arms, leading the way, big old strong guy. And Eric would never pick on anybody unless they were super big, bigger than him, normally, and he walked up, and Carol Ann tried to catch him as he took out, and he had a big smile on his face still, he walked out to the leader and he grabbed the guy with both arms and kissed him on the forehead. And he turned him loose, smiled at him some more, and the guy talked to his friends, Oh man, what is going on here? And he and his friends sidled over and then they left. And Eric came back, smiling at his wife, and she had her arms crossed, Carol Ann from Center Point, she said, you promised me, Eric! He said, wha'd I do? I couldn't have been any nicer! And she got tired of all the incidents. He'd be in Bandera and he'd jump up and hit a guy, and she'd say, why'd you do that for? And he said, he was cussin' around you, Carol Ann. She said, I didn't hear him! And being game warden was a proper place for him, he was, you remember he was elected something like Warden of the Year his first or second year, and he took care of shrimpers, I was telling them the story about him, another warden was telling me about he and Eric pulled up to this shrimp boat. Illegal shrimpers would go in these estuaries and just kill millions of little baby shrimp before they were big enough to be good to eat. So Eric was checking out shrimpers, they asked him to do this, they wanted to know who could they get in Texas to stop these shrimpers. His bosses said, I know one guy, Eric Bishop. So Eric went up on the boat, the other warden was holding the boat and listening because he knew there would be a happening, and Eric knew it too, he looked forward to that. And he went up and the guy said, well, if you didn't have on that big gun, and the guy listened for the gun to hit the deck, blump! And he heard the gun hitting and the next instant over the railing came the guy flailing and hit the water. And then Eric and the other warden had to save the guy because he couldn't swim. And in fact, a friend living in Odessa was talking to the district warden out there and

asked him if he knew Eric Bishop. He said, Aw, lemme tell ya' the last time I saw Eric was at a big warden get-to-gether out here, a meeting, we were having BBQ and beer and all that, and said there was a big old guy, a big warden, said he kept saying, That guy, that's Eric Bishop? He doesn't look that tough to me, he looks a little old. And so he walked up to Eric and said, You look a little old to be as tough as they say you are, and of course, like they said, Eric wasn't a talker, he wouldn't argue with anybody, BAM! He hit this guy and he slid into the fire and Eric had to run grab him and pull him out of the fire. And he sat down with him and waked him up and said, You're a nice guy but you need to have a little more respect for your elders.

JEANIE: What was it like growing up in Center Point when y'all were kids and teenagers?

SAM: No better place.

AL: Yeah, we were pro-Center Point, I'm telling you. That's the reason we had run-ins with the other towns. And Kerrville maybe we didn't have many, but you remember that time Johnny Finch, in 1956, got a brand new black and white Ford Fairlane.

FRANCELLE: It was beautiful – continental kit on the back if I remember.

AL: Boy, you really do have a good memory, I'll tell you.

JULIE: Was that the one he wrecked by the nursery?

AL: No, that was his mother's car. His was in having some work done on it, and her car didn't have a governor on it. His dad had put governors on his sister's and his car.

JEANIE: What's a governor?

AL: A governor makes it go only 60 miles an hour, that's all, on the floor, and they ran them on the floor all the time.

JEANIE: Maximum speed.

AL: But we were in his mother's car when he turned that one over. But this time we were in his car and driving through Kerrville and somebody hollered, Center Point cedar choppers!

FRANCELLE: Those are fightin' words.

AL: Slowed down, and come on! Out to edge of town. And they said we want

Finch. And we got out there and somebody said, oh man, that's old Junior Sparks, he's a Golden Gloves fighter, this was before I – I was only about sixteen, so anyway, Finch proceeded to just make a rag doll of this guy. I mean, none of us knew Finch could fight like that. And he told me later that his dad had given him boxing lessons, I had never heard that. But Finch shook this guy up good, and Junior Sparks, back then everything was fair, we just stood there and watched to make sure the fight was fair. And Finch asked him if he'd had enough, and he almost said, Yes Sir. So we helped him up and that was all of that fight. Usually they didn't amount to near as big a thing as you see in the movies, but it was fun growing up in the 50's in Center Point.

JEANIE: And where was the Commandant all this time?

AL: He was usually with a girl. He had more important things to do than hang around with a bunch of guys.

SAM: I don't know, I missed out on some of them.

JULIE: I can remember one time we were parked outside, I think that house that had the fence, and your mother was inside, and my mother was inside, and you were left, I think in a pickup, and we were all out in the station wagon and you were trying to impress Kay (Mosty), and you were crawling out this window and you'd get on top of the car and stand on your head or do something like that. And we were just mesmerized by your antics.

SAM: I think that was at Café 27.

JULIE: And you did it there too. Maybe that was your trick that you had to impress the girls.

SAM: Yeah, Kay and I had a big romance, I guess in the 4th and 5th grade.

JULIE: James Sam Adams.

AL: Well, I was too bashful. Everybody loved Kay. But I sent off and got a picture made of Kay, cut a picture out of the yearbook, I guess. I had it colored, it cost three dollars and something, I had all the change in my pocket. But I got this picture and aw I just loved it. And I told my brother Vic, if you see Kay, would you tell her I have this – I was too bashful to tell her – I have this picture. And so he told Kay, and I couldn't wait – I said did you tell Kay I had the picture? Yeah. Well, what'd she say? She said to either burn it up or give it to her.

JEANIE: I think y'all did a lot of hunting, I haven't heard any hunting stories, I know my family hunted for meat during the winter.

AL: Ours did too, in fact, Adams talks about his dad telling my dad to get out and get us some venison, and a bunch of deer running by, and blam blam blam, and he said, That's enough, Ralph!

SAM: Clayton Milton told me that story about two weeks before he died. I'm sure they'd had a little whisky, and he went out and we were on the Burney place. And he had Daddy's 30-30, and blam blam blam blam, he said five of them went down and he said Daddy said, think you've got enough, Rip? He called Uncle Ralph "Rip."

JEANIE: What did your dad do for a living?

SAM: Well, he was a rancher.

AL: He was the goat king.

SAM: The Adams family, it wasn't homesteading, but it was similar to homesteading. Grandpa Adams, way back when I don't even know what the year was, but he and his three brothers all settled, they got a section of land, 640 acres, and in either 7 years or 10 years it became theirs. In Sutton County, just across the Sutton County line. And so the Llano River was full of Adams back then.

AL: And we're glad we got one of them down in Center Point.

SAM: I guess, in 1945, I started school out there. Daddy stayed out because Mother was teaching down here, and I stayed at Aunt Polly's and they moved or something and so didn't have anybody to take care of me, so she told Mr. Burton, I'm gonna have to resign because there's nobody to take care of - I'd turned five on June 26. And he said, Heck, start him. Mother hated this early starting stuff, but it was a choice of that or not having a job, so she started, and then Al started, and Al's birthday is the 12th of December, and Gerald Witt was 6th September, he started, and Ann White. But anyway, my dad came down here and aw, he ranched down here for a while out on the Burney place and then moved to town when I was in 5th grade, and he worked several years at Legion, and then he died, he died fairly early.

JEANIE: Well, your two mothers were really strong women.

AL: Yeah, they were good friends way back before my mother even got interested in my Dad. Aunt Juanita and Ma were good buddies, always were.

JEANIE: I kind of felt like they were the backbone of the town, everybody knew, if anybody needed help, Aunt Polly was there. Aunt Juanita was...

SAM: We were fortunate, we were fortunate.

FRANCELLE: Well, thank you for your time, we've really enjoyed it. It's great to reminisce again.

AL: Well, thank you, it sure is.

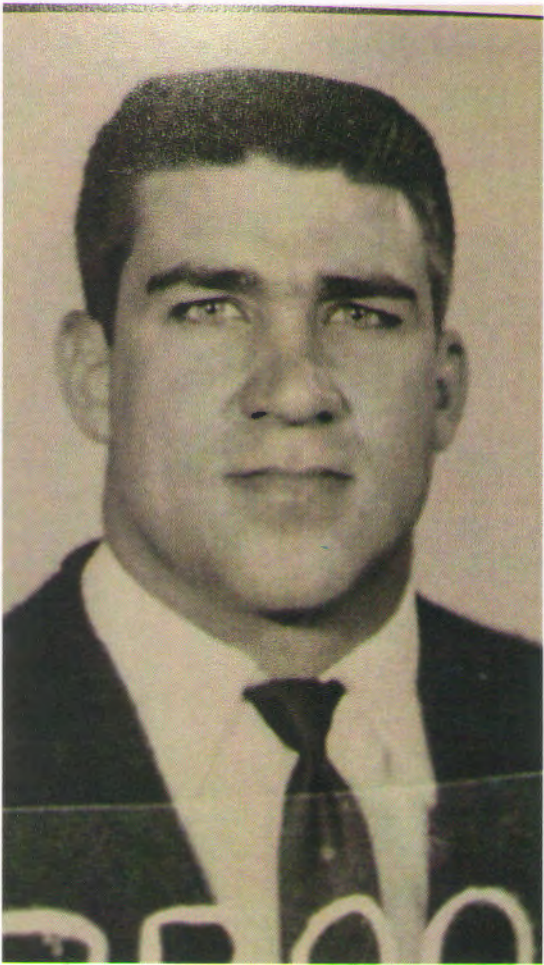
SAM: And thanks for putting up with all the bull.

JEANIE: How come y'all moved back to Center Point?

AL: Well, ironically we were living in Hollywood Park the last 40 years in San Antonio, it got to where the traffic.....(recording ends)

END





AL, SWT GRADUATION
1961

JANIE BISHOP, SAM, POW? GAYLE & ERIC
2004



ERIC & VIC BISHOP, PROM 1960



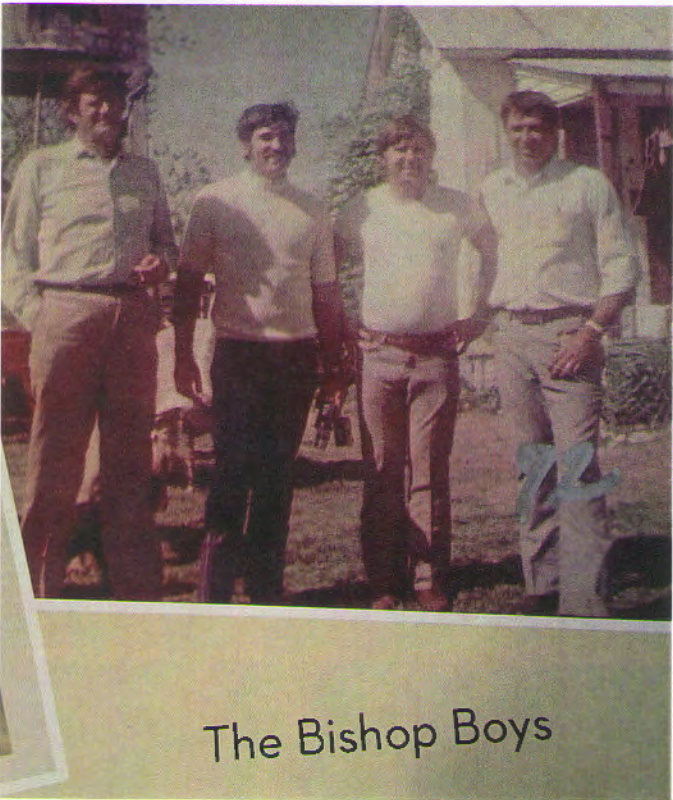
AL & JUDY'S WEDDING
1963



AL'S SONS CLAYT & CODY
2018

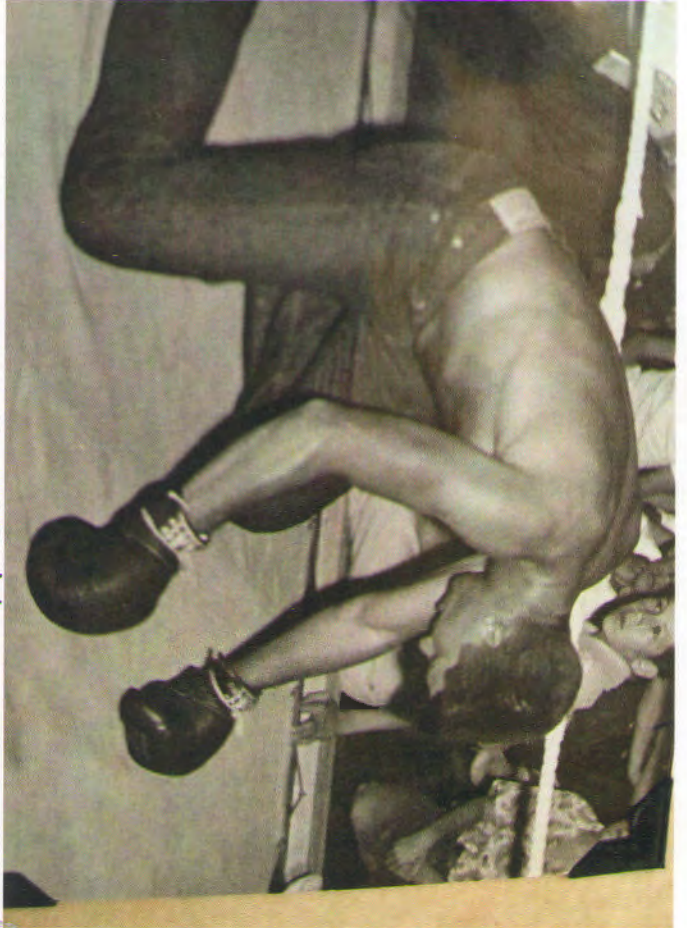


KESLY, AL & STEVE DEAN
2019



The Bishop Boys

RALPH, AL, VIC & ERIC
1970's



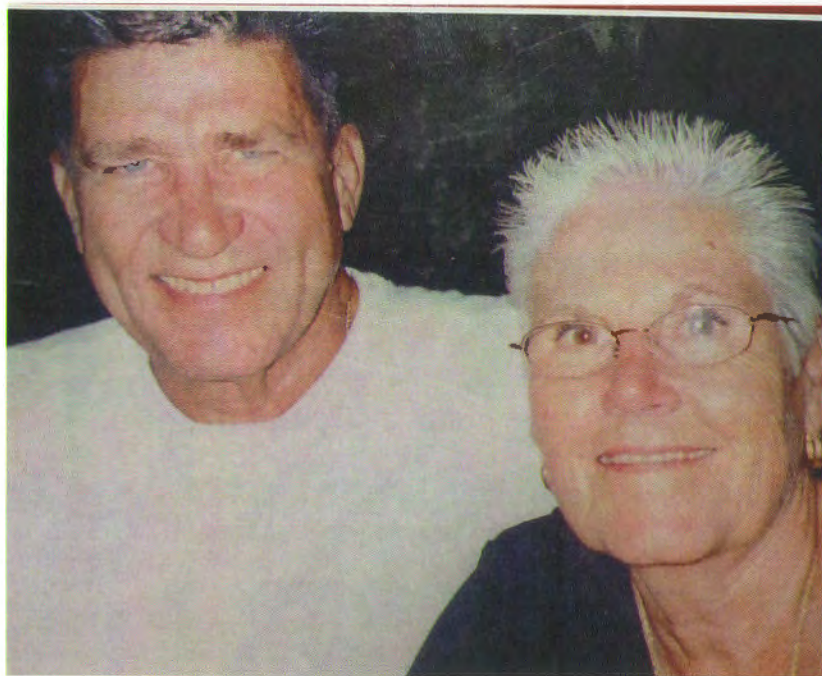
AL THE BOXER !!



ERIC, VIC & AL 1990'S



SUANITA ADAMS 80'S



AL & JUDY 2012

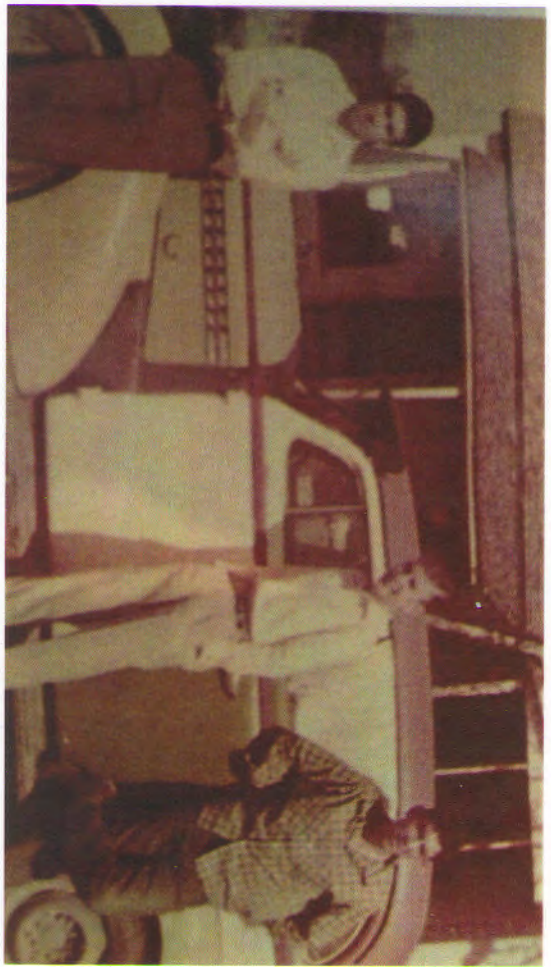


AL & SAM, CP REUNION 2010

SAM & AL
1943



AL, TOMMY & GEORGE, COKE COLDWELL
1954



Ma and Al
1030

AL & MOM POLLY 1939

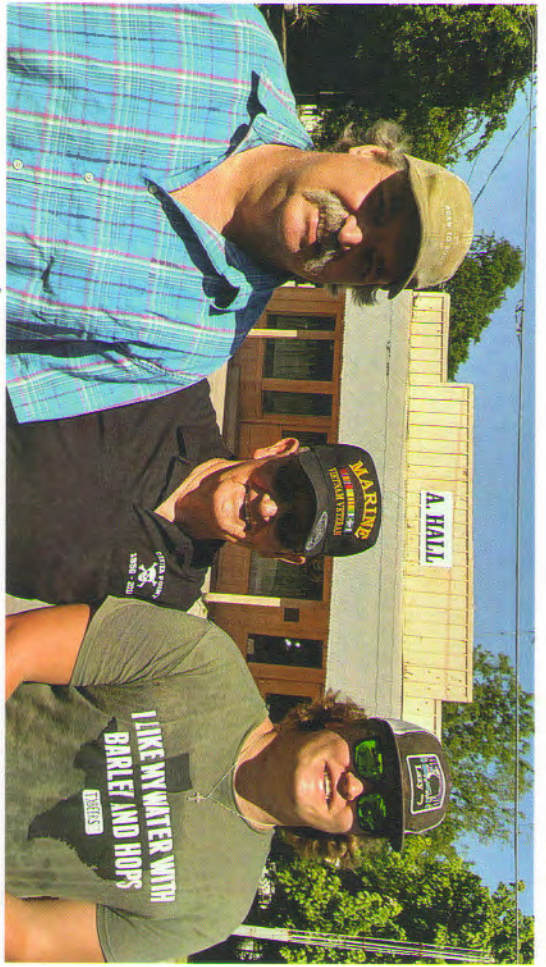


SAM & AL



SCHOOL DAYS 1951 '52
Center Point

SAM



AUGREY RAIGORD, SAM & GRANDSON TRAVIS
(SON-IN-LAW)



SAM & AL 2017



SAM SWT. 1957



SAM: AFTER RUN-IN WITH DEER



JUDY BISHOP & PAT ADAMS
2018



SAM ADAMS KATE 80'S



SAM & PAT



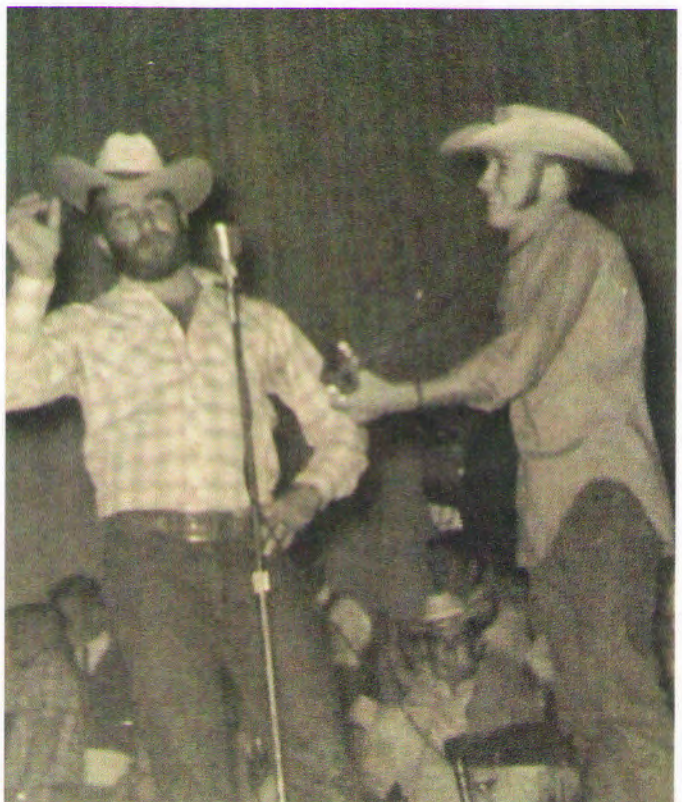
AL & GRANDSON TANNER



AL, MOTHER POLLY & POLLY GAYLE



AL & JUDY, SWT 1959



AL SINGING AT SWT
1959



POLLY BISHOP 2000



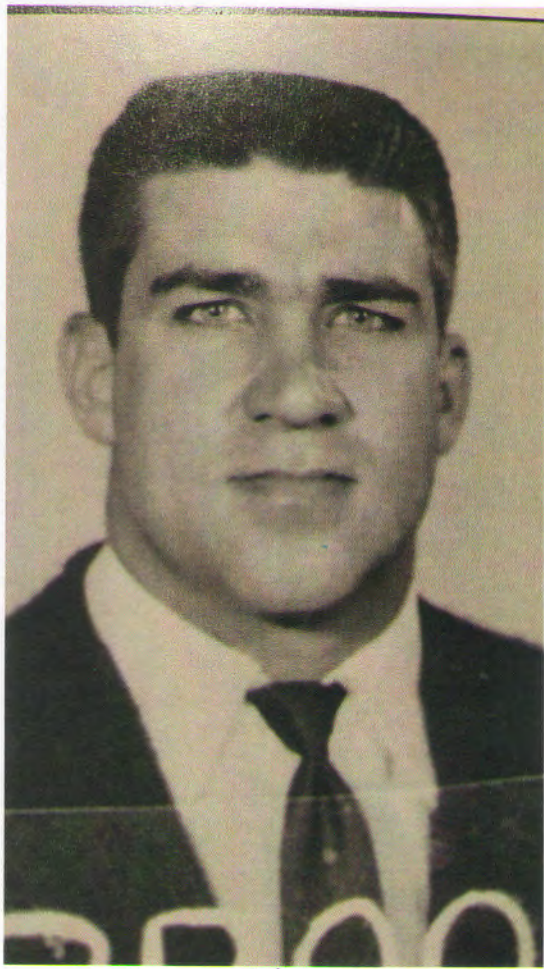
AL & SAM GRADUATION 1956



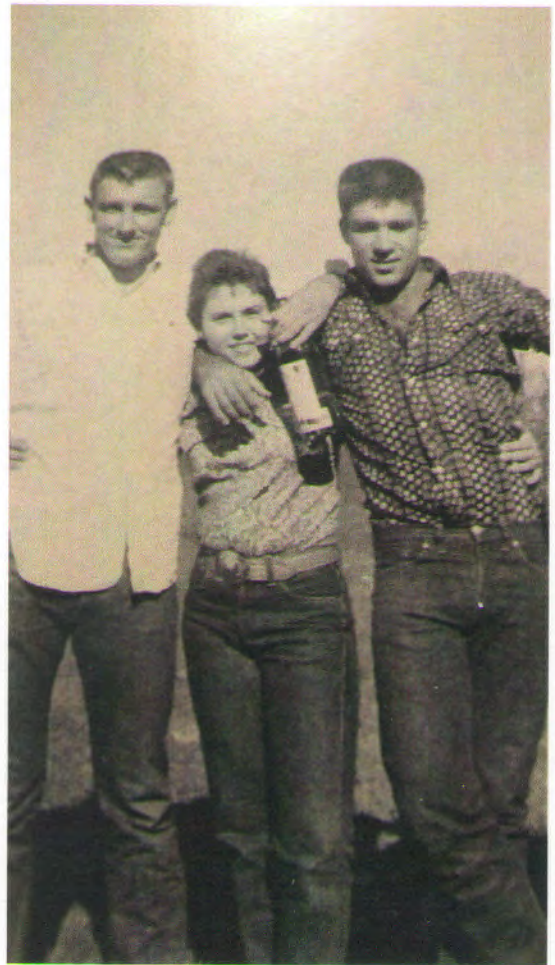
AULIE BEAKLEY, BEN & BOBBY STORMS & AL
1945



JUDGE SPENCER BROWN & AL



AL



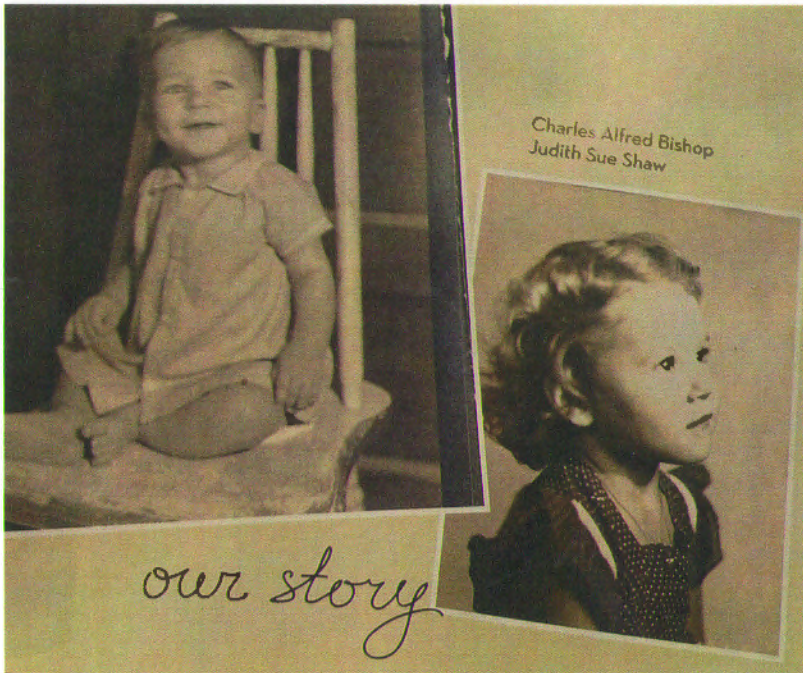
SAM, JUDY + AL
SWT 1959



SAM 2018



AL + SAM 1955



AL: AGE 1

WIFE JUDY: AGE 3