

National Museum of the Pacific War

Nimitz Education and Research Center

Fredericksburg, Texas

Telephone Interview with

Mr. Jack Carson

Date of Interview: November 14, 2013

National Museum of the Pacific War

Fredericksburg, Texas

Telephone Interview with Mr. Jack Carson

Telephone Interview in progress.

Pete Jensen: This is Pete Jensen. Today is November 14, 2013. I am interviewing Mr. Jack Carson. This interview is taking place by phone from Fredericksburg, Texas to Overland Park, Kansas. This interview is in support of the Nimitz Education and Research Center, archives for the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Historical Commission, for the preservation of historical information related to this site. And, Mr. Carson, if...if we can start by maybe you can tell us...where you were born; something about your family; where you went to school; various things that led up to your going into the military.

Mr. Carson: Uh, I was born in Keokuk, Iowa on 4/2/1923. A few months after I was born, we moved to a small town in Wisconsin called Waukesha; had about seventeen thousand, two hundred people. I went to grade school at Barstol (sp?) School, and Lincoln Junior High, and Waukesha High School leaving the high school in 1940. I then joined the United States Army Air Corps at Milwaukee, Wisconsin on the 7th of Novem...pardon me, on the 5th of November of 1940.

Pete Jensen: What...what reason...why'd you pick the Army Air Corps; any particular reason or just...?

Mr. Carson: At that time, the recruiting office was guaranteed a three-year tour in Hawaii.

Pete Jensen: Ah ha! (laughter)

Mr. Carson: And, of course, being...in Wisconsin and winter coming, it seemed like a logical idea...to take a three-year vacation in Honolulu.

Pete Jensen: That's ni...yeah! Great idea!

Mr. Carson: (Laughter)

Pete Jensen: Where...where did you go...boot camp then?

Mr. Carson: I...I never went to a boot camp.

Pete Jensen: Oh.

Mr. Carson: We...we left Milwaukee by train and went down to St. Louis, Missouri and got on buses and went out to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri where we stayed un...until...roughly the...oh, 30th of November...1st of December. We boarded a troop train and went across country from St. Louis to San Francisco. We then boarded a boat and went out to Angel Island in the bay...

Pete Jensen: Uh hum.

Mr. Carson: ...where we stayed about three days. Uh, we left Angel Island and went back to San Francisco and boarded the US Army Transport Grant, and we departed...Honolulu on the...pardon me, we de...departed San Francisco, again, on the 5th of December of 1940. It took us seven days to get over to Honolulu, so we arrived in Honolulu on the 12th of December, 1940.

Pete Jensen: Okay, uh...

Mr. Carson: So, we never...we never had a boot camp or any type of training like that.

Pete Jensen: Did you...were...did they give you training after you arrived in Hawaii or...?

Mr. Carson: We had on-the-job training down there. Of course, being a Private, I pulled my share of KP and...and police duty. And we had, oh, maybe...two weeks of...of marching on the tarmac.

Pete Jensen: Ah! (Pause) What...what were your...uh, duty assignments...besides KP and what...what'd you do?

Mr. Carson: I started out as a lifeguard...down on...by the crash boat crew at the entrance to Pearl Harbor. And...from there I moved up in...in...right before the war started, I...transferred over to Supply section and worked on the nineteen, odd-three, and the Colt 45s...became an Armor.

Pete Jensen: Hum! What, as a lifeguard, what...what were your duties as a lifeguard?
That sounds like a pretty good job!

Mr. Carson: Oh well, we...we had a huge dock and a crash boat crew...

Pete Jensen: Oh okay.

Mr. Carson: ...down at the end of the runway?

Pete Jensen: Uh huh.

Mr. Carson: And...that was right on...right on the Pacific Ocean...

Pete Jensen: Oh!

Mr. Carson: ...and they say also the entrance to Pearl Harbor was right there.

Pete Jensen: Right!

Mr. Carson: And so, we had a swimming area set up, and I...opened it at eight o'clock
in the morning and stayed there till...five o'clock in the evening.

Pete Jensen: You must have had a pretty good tan by the time...

Mr. Carson: Oh yes!

Pete Jensen: (Chuckles)

Mr. Carson: In fact, I'm paying for it now; I've had...two skin operations.

Pete Jensen: Oh, is that right?

Mr. Carson: Yeah (chuckles).

Pete Jensen: Uhm!

Mr. Carson: Well, it's a little...it's nothing; all they do is...is...freeze it and scrape it
off and it goes away.

Pete Jensen: And...you said you went to Supply; what'd you...uh, Supply Depot;
what'd you do there?

Mr. Carson: Well, it was a squad...what they called Squadron Supply.

Pete Jensen: Uh huh.

Mr. Carson: And I took...we had our...our guns at that time or rifles I should
say...were Springfield 1903s.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay.

Mr. Carson: And I took care of them. I repaired them and cleaned them and...the
other weapon was...we had two other weapons; we had a BAR, a
Browning Automatic Rifle, and we had some Colt 45s.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay.

Mr. Carson: And I...I kept them clean and...ready to go.

Pete Jensen: Where'd you...uh, you lived on base, I assume. Where...where'd you...what were your accommodations like?

Mr. Carson: Well, when we first got down there, we lived in the warehouse there...for about...two months because they...they were still building Hickam at that time.

Pete Jensen: Oh, I see.

Mr. Carson: We finally moved into the main barracks which was *huge*; it covered a whole city block and was three stories high.

Pete Jensen: Wow!

Mr. Carson: I believe there was one, two, three, four, five, six, seven wings to it.

Pete Jensen: Huh!

Mr. Carson: And all the squadrons were...were bay...were put into that building. Later on, right before the war started, once again, uh, they built some temporary wooden barracks along the...main road. I believe they put in eight of them, and they move...moved our squadron out to...the...the first or...or the second and third temporary building.

Pete Jensen: Well, they weren't as nice as the...where you were?

Mr. Carson: Well, no, they were brand new...

Pete Jensen: Oh.

Mr. Carson: ...but they were wooden buildings.

Pete Jensen: Yeah.

Mr. Carson: They were two-story.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay, hum.

Mr. Carson: The...we had, I believe, forty-one men in each building; twenty downstairs; twenty upstairs and then the Barracks Chief had his own little room.

Pete Jensen: Oh. Right. Hum! What was the...uh, what the food like; you have good...good meals there?

Mr. Carson: When we first got there, we all ate in...in the *huge* dining hall, and...like...they had two...two lines to get rid of your trays; one on each side of the...of the...room. And it...they had about five, six men manning each line plus all the guys working in the kitchen. The...the food was very, very good; enjoyed it immensely.

Pete Jensen: Uh, let's see, you were what...you were about...eighteen, nineteen at that time?

Mr. Carson: I was eighteen in 1941, yes.

Pete Jensen: What...did you go into town then or...what'd you do for recreation?

Mr. Carson: Uh, I...I joined a local swimming team at the Nu`uanu YMCA.

Pete Jensen: Yeah!

Mr. Carson: And...I (unintelligible) our...our practice pools at the University of Hawaii.

Pete Jensen: Oh!

Mr. Carson: So, I go to...go into town when I could and then would go up there and practice...swimming laps, etcetera.

Pete Jensen: Oh! Where...

Mr. Carson: And...

Pete Jensen: Yeah?

Mr. Carson: ...we worked until Saturday at noon, and from noon Saturday till six o'clock Monday morning we off. So, we could...we could to Waikiki or...

Pete Jensen: Ah!

Mr. Carson: ...anything we wanted. In the evenings there was a roller rink and I and a friend of mine, Blackie Edwards, uh, would go roller skating...probably three, four nights a week.

Pete Jensen: Where was Blackie from?

Mr. Carson: He was from...Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay.

Mr. Carson: This...this first group of people that went to Hawaii, uh, were just about all from Wisconsin.

Pete Jensen: Everybody wanted to get out of the snow.

Mr. Carson: Yeah, I guess so.

Pete Jensen: (Laughter)

Mr. Carson: Yeah, I remember...you know, some of the guys that I palled around with were all from...often little town that were around...the State of Wisconsin; some from Cudahy, South Milwaukee and a lot...a lot...some from a lot further north. There was...a guy named Chaney (sp?) was from a little town of about four hundred and fifty people in northern Wisconsin. I remember (unintelligible) well, and his best friend was a guy named Paul Chumley (sp?) who came from another small town in northern Wisconsin (chuckle).

Pete Jensen: Huh!

Mr. Carson: So, it was a pretty much of a Wisconsin group that went down there.

Pete Jensen: Uh...

Mr. Carson: That was from...that was from the first...first bunch, you know...

Pete Jensen: Right.

Mr. Carson: ...that went. Uh, of course, they came from other States, too, and by the time we all got together, there were probably...pretty close to...seven hundred of us...by the time we got to Honolulu.

Pete Jensen: Where...what were you doing when the war started...or when Pearl...when Pearl Harbor...

Mr. Carson: Wait, let me, let me get some sound here.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay. (Recording momentarily stopped)

Mr. Carson: Try it now.

Pete Jensen: Okay, uh, where were you...uh, when the Japanese attacked?

Mr. Carson: I...I was...sleeping on the second floor...one of the temporary buildings, T-2.

Pete Jensen: Uh huh.

Mr. Carson: And...I was...I was right down by the fire escape. I was the second bed from the fire escape. I heard all the clatter and the noise and the bombs

going off and everything, and I thought that there was...Pearl Harbor practicing on Sunday morning, and I was a little bit unhappy about it.

Pete Jensen: (Laughter)

Mr. Carson: I got out of bed to look over towards there, and I saw one single airpla...aircraft coming down the main road and he...he was just strafing...the main exchange and all of...of the buildings on that side...on the opposite side of the road from the barracks.

Pete Jensen: Uhm!

Mr. Carson: For some reason, uh, our barracks were never hit. One...one fire bomb would have destroyed the whole thing.

Pete Jensen: Wow!

Mr. Carson: But they never touched them; didn't shoot at them. Uh, another thing that was odd was that all that fuel...was never touched; they never bombed the fuel.

Pete Jensen: I...

Mr. Carson: There were probably hundreds of thousands of aviation gasoline there. So, that led us, at that time, the conclusion that they might be coming back or try to come back.

Pete Jensen: Hum! Yeah, I'd read where they didn't...if they'd had hit all of that fuel, that might have finished us off...sort of, I mean, uh...

Mr. Carson: Yeah, they would have had to bring...many, many tankers in there to...to refuel the...at first they [would have] had to rebuild the tanks so there wouldn't be any airplanes [that would] be able to come in there or go out of there.

Pete Jensen: Right.

Mr. Carson: 'Cause they wouldn't be able to refuel.

Pete Jensen: Was...your barracks...how...were they actually at Hickam Field or...?

Mr. Carson: Oh yes, we were right...we were right off the playground.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay.

Mr. Carson: There was the main barracks, then the playground and then our barracks.

Pete Jensen: Okay. What...what...what did Hickam Field look like after the attack?

Mr. Carson: Uh, well, we had two attacks. The first one...roughly around 7:55...

Pete Jensen: Right.

Mr. Carson: ...and they...I...I...on Saturday, the day before, they had had an inspection of aircraft and they were all lined on the...on the...uh, runway in perfect alignment. So, all they had to do was come down and strafe and bomb and they wiped out just about every aircraft we had on the field. They also bombed the Hawaiian Air Depot which was...they had two huge hangars there for repairing aircraft, and then they got...we had, I believe, twelve...other aircraft hangars that were bombed.

Pete Jensen: Uhm!

Mr. Carson: Uh, the second attack came in...and...it kept on bombing the...hangars and also the runway and there were deep, you know, six, seven foot deep holes in the runway.

Pete Jensen: Wow!

Mr. Carson: So, that was over probably about 9:15, 9:20. Uh, we then...gathered (cough), pardon me, (unintelligible) the Supply room...and got our guns out and...located ourselves up by the...main gate from...we...we had a...dug-in foxholes or trench-like affair from the main gates to down about a quarter of a mile along the fence between Hickam and...uh, Pearl Harbor.

Pete Jensen: Uhm!

Mr. Carson: (Cough)

Pete Jensen: I'd read where there was...uh, a group of B-17s that were coming in. I guess, most of those were able to land, but I guess some of those were destroyed also by the Japanese.

Mr. Carson: They were all destroyed.

Pete Jensen: Oh, they were *all* destroyed?!

Mr. Carson: There was only one, as I understand it, there was one B-17, one B-18 and two other aircraft that were able to fly at...at Hickam.

Pete Jensen: Wow!

Mr. Carson: We either was a little luckier because...they had a lot of their aircraft out at...in the middle of the canes...sugar cane fields.

Pete Jensen: Hum!

Mr. Carson: And so, they didn't destroy all the...Wheeler aircraft.

Pete Jensen: Well, was Wheeler, uh, was that an Army...?

Mr. Carson: That was an Army Air Corps base also.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay.

Mr. Carson: That was the fighter base.

Pete Jensen: Oh, fighter, okay. And yours was a...a bomber?

Mr. Carson: Ours was a bomber.

Pete Jensen: Okay, alright, I see now.

Mr. Carson: We had...uh, Martin B-10s, this is how far back it goes.

Pete Jensen: Uh hum.

Mr. Carson: Uh, Martin B-10s, Martin B-12s and then we got the newer airplane the Boeing B-17.

Pete Jensen: Okay.

Mr. Carson: (Cough), uh, Wheeler was...was flying...uh, P-26s, P-36s and got a few P-40s right before the war started.

Pete Jensen: P-40s were they the...what...which...was there one of them that had like...let's see how was it, two fuselages or...what...

Mr. Carson: (Cough)

Pete Jensen: ...what...what did the P-40 look like, do you remember? (clanking sound)

Mr. Carson: It was a...one of the first retractable landing gear aircraft.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay, okay.

Mr. Carson: And it was a sharp...sharp nose, in fact, the...CBI boys flew them and painted the shark face on them, the shark's teeth.

Pete Jensen: Uh huh, oh okay.

Mr. Carson: (Cough)

Pete Jensen: CB...the CBI, what...who's CBI?

Mr. Carson: The China Burma India.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay!

Mr. Carson: Yeah, all the guys that went to China to fight.

Pete Jensen: Okay, the ones that flew over the Hump and...

Mr. Carson: Yeah, see in 19...in 1941, there were guys...they were recruiting...air people to go down to China...to be with the Flying Tigers, Claire Lee Chennault's outfit.

Pete Jensen: Ah okay.

Mr. Carson: In fact, one...one of our friends from Kukona, a guy by the name of (pause), ah gosh, I can't think of his name now! It'll probably come to me, uh, got discharged and...and went down to...went down to China to work on the aircraft. (recording interference)

Pete Jensen: I guess the weather there was...pretty much the same all the time?

Mr. Carson: Oh yes.

Pete Jensen: (Unintelligible words)

Mr. Carson: It...it did get a little rainy and a little cool at time, but I would say...for my reckoning, three hundred and thirty days out of the year were perfect.

Pete Jensen: What'd you do then or...as far as...uh, a job and that? Did...did you stay in the Supply part of it or...?

Mr. Carson: No, I...I stayed out in the field...

Pete Jensen: Uh huh.

Mr. Carson: ...and I served for about three weeks, and...we were pulling...guard shift...for four hour on and four hour off...four hours on and four hours off...for about three weeks.

Pete Jensen: Uh huh.

Mr. Carson: And we were...had an area...along the fence be...between Pearl Harbor and J Company and then down into the NCO quarters, and we would walk...got the same route every time, but we...we would walk that area back and forth just...looking for anything suspicious.

Pete Jensen: Okay.

Mr. Carson: So, it was about three weeks before we moved back to the barracks.

Pete Jensen: What...after you moved back, uh, did you go back to your...old job or...?

Mr. Carson: Yeah, I sure did. I stayed there until...July of 1942...

Pete Jensen: Uh huh.

Mr. Carson: ...and then was flown down to the island of Fiji.

Pete Jensen: Okay.

Mr. Carson: And on Fiji...uh, we were a...fairly main supply...section. When the aircraft would come in there, we would unload batteries and...ammunition and all sorts of things. And...had big warehouses, and then we would ship it on to...to wherever it had to go – New Guinea or the Solomons or anything like that. So, I became, I guess, you'd say Aircraft Unloader.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay, huh!

Mr. Carson: So, I stayed...I stayed in the Fijis until...January of 1944, and then went back to Honolulu...and I can't remember much...what I did (unintelligible); I was only there for a couple of months. But I finally got back to the States, and...to Hamilton Field, California where I went to a Loadmaster School. And then from there to Miami for a...wetdishing (?) training. And from Miami, I was transferred to (unintelligible), West Africa as a Flight Traffic Clerk and Loadmaster.

Pete Jensen: Hum! (Unintelligible).

Mr. Carson: From (unintelligible), West Africa, I went to...Oran, Algiers and still hadn't started flying; I was still working in the...in the terminal booking passengers on...for...on aircraft to go over to Italy and...and...on to China, etcetera. We finally got transferred down to Casablanca and started flying.

Pete Jensen: Huh!

Mr. Carson: And we flew from Casablanca to...Tripoli, and then from Tripoli over to Italy...or from Tripoli on into Cairo, Egypt, and then back to Casablanca. I flew C-46s and C-47s during this time. I flew in them as...as the...Loadmaster/Flight Steward.

Pete Jensen: Wow.

Mr. Carson: And...enjoyed the job very much.

Pete Jensen: Get to see a lot of country!

Mr. Carson: Oh yeah, we went...we'd fly...Casablanca to Oran to Tunis...Tunisia to Benghazi to Tripoli, Libya...over to...uh, Naples, Italy or Gibraltar. Or if we went down east, we...we went on to...into Cairo, Egypt.

Pete Jensen: Wow.

Mr. Carson: (Cough)

Pete Jensen: Uhm, (pauses) so...

Mr. Carson: I came...I came back to the States...uh, oh I guess about right after the war ended in...in Germany. And I had...I had amassed a total of, I believe, a hundred and fourteen points, so I was...just about high point man for...for return in...in the...North African Division. And I went to Stockton, California, and my route flying in was from Stockton, California to Denver, Colorado and it was mainly taking...returning...uh, east coast soldiers to east coast and west coast soldiers back to the west coast.

Pete Jensen: Hum! How long did you do that?

Mr. Carson: Uh, not very long; I got out of the service in...August of '45...I was finally discharged, and it was right after the Japanese surrendered. And I went back to college at College of the Pacific.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay. What...where were you when you heard about the...dropping of the A bomb?

Mr. Carson: Uh, I had to be at Stockton at that time. (Pause)

Pete Jensen: Hum. Uh, what do you...what's your feeling of the Japanese today?

Mr. Carson: Well, I went back to Hawaii in 1963...

Pete Jensen: Uh huh.

Mr. Carson: ...and did a four-year tour, and I had...Japanese living on both sides of me, and of course, we had...we had them...before the war started, too.

Pete Jensen: Sure.

Mr. Carson: Let me change phones here.

Pete Jensen: Sure. (Recording momentarily interrupted)

Mr. Carson: Yeah, I guess this is better.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, that sounds good.

Mr. Carson: (Laughter), but I...I never really had any...any animosity as such because at the time I was...I guess I was too young to even think about that.

Pete Jensen: Right.

Mr. Carson: And then...having been in Honolulu with so many Japanese all my life that...it just...it didn't bother me that much, I guess.

Pete Jensen: You went back in '63 for four years?

Mr. Carson: Yeah.

Pete Jensen: What was that...uh, you...in the military or...just to go back to Hawaii?

Mr. Carson: I was still in the military.

Pete Jensen: Oh, you're still in the mil...?

Mr. Carson: Yeah.

Pete Jensen: ...oh, when you...got out you were what...still in the Reserves or...?

Mr. Carson: No, no, I...I went to college for two years out in California.

Pete Jensen: Right.

Mr. Carson: And then in December of '46 I reenlisted.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay.

Mr. Carson: And went down to Hamilton Field, California; didn't do much down there, and...I finally ended up as a...a Reserve Trainer in Chicago, Illinois...out at O'Hare Field.

Pete Jensen: Oh yes!

Mr. Carson: And that's where I...I met my wife there in 1948 and married her in 1949.

Pete Jensen: Ah. What was she doing?

Mr. Carson: And we went to Washington National in Washington D.C.

Pete Jensen: Oh!

Mr. Carson: And there I...I made trips to the Flight Steward for...somewhere along the line, I'd learned to cook and so, I...I flew such persons as Porter

Hardy from the Porter Hardy Committee in the...in the House [of Representatives].

Pete Jensen: Uh hum.

Mr. Carson: I flew a...I made a trip with General Bradley and his wife...

Pete Jensen: Oh!

Mr. Carson: ...over to Europe. And uh, so I stayed from 1949 on...I stayed...I was in flying status. I spent...four years...oh, we went to Bermuda for two and half years.

Pete Jensen: Well, you picked some...tough duty!

Mr. Carson: Yeah, and then we went to...uh, Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas; I was a United States Air Force Security Service...

Pete Jensen: Oh!

Mr. Carson: ...and...flew as a Flight Steward with...lot...with General Sprague who was the...in charge of the...Security Service, and we'd make one trip around the world; it took us forty-five days.

Pete Jensen: Wow!

Mr. Carson: We had a C-97 and fixed it up real good; put a cabin in that and a couple of beds and...conference tables, and we'd take all these...uh, leading people out of Security Service and off we'd go.

Pete Jensen: You say you did this how often?

Mr. Carson: Uh, once a year we'd go around the world. At other times, we flew to Washington D.C.; flew to Germany, England. I even went up to Peshawar, Turkey up by the Khyber Pass.

Pete Jensen: Yeah. Well, what...on this here...around the world trip for the year, what'd you do during that trip?

Mr. Carson: I was the Flight Steward; I took care of all the...passengers.

Pete Jensen: Okay, and what'd the passengers do...I mean, what was the...uh, what was the point of this around the world trip?

Mr. Carson: Well, the General visited every one of our bases.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay; I see! Okay.

Mr. Carson: We ended up...uh, from Hawaii...from Hawaii we went to...to the Aleutian Islands. We had a little...little base up...little base up there.

Pete Jensen: Who...who was the General?

Mr. Carson: Gen...uh, Millard Lewis.

Pete Jensen: Oh Lewis.

Mr. Carson: His brother was Fulton Lewis, Jr.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay.

Mr. Carson: You've heard of Fulton, I'm sure.

Pete Jensen: Yes, yes.

Mr. Carson: General...General Lewis was known as the Father of the B-25. I guess he babied it all the way through.

Pete Jensen: Huh! (Pause) So...so a whole year, wow!

Mr. Carson: And then...when I went over to Hawaii, I...I flew...two different ways. I'd...I'd go west...or depending on how you look at it...

Pete Jensen: But...

Mr. Carson: ...to go west to Japan and go east to San Francisco.

Pete Jensen: Huh! I'll be darned.

Mr. Carson: And...in 1965, I went in to what they called the VIP Squadron, a Very Important People Squadron, and uh, in...in '60...uh, probably, yeah, '66 and '67, I was flying in a C-135 as...as Steward for...uh, General Westmoreland.

Pete Jensen: Oh geez.

Mr. Carson: His wife and children were...were living in the Philippines and...and he would...fly back from Vietnam and we'd pick him...him and his wife up there and take them wherever he had to go...either Washington D.C. or down to Texas or whatever.

Pete Jensen: Hum!

Mr. Carson: In '67 I came back to...the United States and was assigned to...the 4650th Combat Support Squadron at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base in Missouri, and our task there...we supported B-58 squadrons out of Utah, and whenever they'd go overseas, we'd take the tools and troops and

everything...and bring them on over to them. So, they...well, we'd go first and then they'd bring the airplanes in.

Pete Jensen: What...what'd you fly in when you went over there?

Mr. Carson: Uh, we...we over here in the States we were flying...uh, C-118s.

Pete Jensen: Okay, hum.

Mr. Carson: General Westmoreland's plane was a...was a...Blue Eagle C-135.

Pete Jensen: How long were you in the service then?

Mr. Carson: I did twenty-nine years and seven months. I was, in fact, I just getting ready to reenlist and I got orders to go back to Vietnam, so I...I retired.

Pete Jensen: Oh! Hum.

Mr. Carson: I'd been...we'd already done forty-four missions in Vietnam, and I figured that was enough.

Pete Jensen: Wow! When...your missions, was it...your missions in Vietnam was the...uh,...

Mr. Carson: We flew from Hawaii to Vietnam.

Pete Jensen: For sup...uh, bringing in supplies?

Mr. Carson: No, we carried...IG Teams, Inspector General Teams, and then we went all over Vietnam – DaNang, Nha Trang, Tan Son Nhut...

Pete Jensen: Uh huh.

Mr. Carson: ...uh, Cam Ranh Bay, and that was a lovely place. They had ten thousand feet of runway and all of it was aluminum.

Pete Jensen: Aluminum?!

Mr. Carson: Yeah, they had made...aluminum squares about, oh I guess, they were probably eight inches by eight inches or ten inches by ten inches...by ten inches by ten inches and they laid them down for a runway.

Pete Jensen: (Chuckle)

Mr. Carson: So, when the gen...when the Viet Cong took over Cam Ranh Bay, they had all that aluminum (chuckle).

Pete Jensen: Wow! Huh!

Mr. Carson: It was so sandy there you couldn't land an airplane; that's why they had to put the...aluminum runway down.

Pete Jensen: What'd you do, uh, after you...after you...left the service?

Mr. Carson: I went back to...Longview College for two years and got my AA and then went to the University of Missouri Kansas City for two more years. After I started working, I...I had some wonderful jobs. I was the...Restaurant Manager for the Kansas City Chiefs.

Pete Jensen: Whoa!

Mr. Carson: And I worked in the stadium there and...the...Lamar Hunt was just a wonderful man to work for.

Pete Jensen: Wow.

Mr. Carson: So, then...I...I was the manager of a...a golf course here for a couple of years, and finally in '78, I believe it was, I went out to Richards-Gebaur as the Assistant Club Manager of the...Com...what they called the Com Club, and I stayed there ten years; the last three years as Manager.

Pete Jensen: What is a...what's the Com Club?

Mr. Carson: Yeah, that's a...it's a...it was a single club for officers and enlisted men.

Pete Jensen: Oh!

Mr. Carson: Every...everybody mingled together in it.

Pete Jensen: And where was this at?

Mr. Carson: At Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri; it's right outside of Grandview...

Pete Jensen: Okay.

Mr. Carson: ...near Kansas City.

Pete Jensen: You had some very good jobs!

Mr. Carson: Oh yes, I really enjoyed it!

Pete Jensen: Yeah, interesting jobs!

Mr. Carson: I...like I said, I would have enlisted for six more years if it wasn't for that one set of orders.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, for Vietnam!

Mr. Carson: (Laughter)

Pete Jensen: (Laughter)

Mr. Carson: Well, about that time, you know, I had...I had five children...

Pete Jensen: Wow!

Mr. Carson: ...and...I just...just didn't feel it was worth...worth going to Vietnam for that.

Pete Jensen: Sure.

Mr. Carson: Easier to retire.

Pete Jensen: Uhm, when you were in the ser...service, did you...did you hear from your folks some? Like...when you were in Hawaii...when you first went in over there, did you get letters from the folks or...?

Mr. Carson: Oh yeah! About...uh, in fact, I got more from them than I did when I went to Fiji.

Pete Jensen: Oh!

Mr. Carson: It was...it was a long flight from Honolulu to...to the Fiji Islands in...in the C-47; had taken...everything out of the inside of the C-47 and put...four huge rubber barrels on each side of the aircraft and filled them with fuel, so you couldn't smoke.

Pete Jensen: Oh geez!

Mr. Carson: (Laughter), yeah, and at that time I was great smoker!

Pete Jensen: Uh!

Mr. Carson: But I quit...in '71.

Pete Jensen: Huh.

Mr. Carson: So, we...we went...when I went to Fiji, we flew from...Honolulu over Christmas Island and it's...it's not all they say about it in the song. Christmas Island is nothing but coconut trees.

Pete Jensen: Is that right?! (laughter)

Mr. Carson: Yeah, all they...really do is raise (unintelligible) down there.

Pete Jensen: Hum!

Mr. Carson: And from there, we went to...uh, Midway and Midway on down to Fiji, I believe.

Pete Jensen: When you were supplying...let's see where...you were...let's see if I can remember here...in Fuji [s/b Fiji], you were...uh, Fiji...you unloaded planes (unintelligible) there; how close were you to any of the battles?

Mr. Carson: I think we were six...six hundred and seventy-five miles...from the Solomons.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay.

Mr. Carson: And we were pretty...we were near Rabaul and Port Moresby. In fact, two things really saved...saved us and saved the islands and everything else...is in the Battle of Midway on June of 1942...

Pete Jensen: Uh hum.

Mr. Carson: ...we sunk seven Japanese carriers...the Air Force did. And that broke the back.

Pete Jensen: Yeah!

Mr. Carson: And then the second thing...they were...they were bringing a...the Japanese were bringing a load of battleships and cruisers and destroyers...down along and enroute from the Solomons and...they...they did what the Navy calls "crossing a T." All our battleships and everything were waiting for them...

Pete Jensen: Uhm.

Mr. Carson: ...and as they went by just...they...as they cross the T, they just gunned the hell out of all of them and sunk them and damaged them all, and that's...and that's what saved the rest of the Pacific Islands.

Pete Jensen: When you were there, did you run into any...like Australians or British or...or...uh, soldiers or...?

Mr. Carson: No, I ran into them during...when I was over in North Africa.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay, that's right.

Mr. Carson: Up at Wheeler Field...up in Tripoli.

Pete Jensen: And you were...you were a supply person there, too?

Mr. Carson: No, I...I was flying then.

Pete Jensen: Oh, you were flying then; that's right, okay.

Mr. Carson: Yeah.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, wow!

Mr. Carson: We...we went to Australia...probably four or five times when I was stationed in Hawaii.

Pete Jensen: Uh, and what'd you do there?

Mr. Carson: Oh, I...I kept airplanes cleaned up and ready to go, and then I was off.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay.

Mr. Carson: I just...went around and had a good time; drank some of that good Aussie beer.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, yeah (chuckle). So, there were a lot of...a lot of the troops, I guess, there went there...or...went there for...R&R.

Mr. Carson: Yeah.

Pete Jensen: (Recording interference) Any other things you can remember from...like Hawaii...around Pearl Harbor...when it happened.

Mr. Carson: Well, aft...after the bombing, of course, it was...it was...uh, just boring, you know, pulling guard duty; walking around in a certain area is...is...was not much fun for four hours.

Pete Jensen: Yeah.

Mr. Carson: And you couldn't go to town. One of the things we did...after the second attack, we went down to our hangar and...and got a...what they call a tug; it's a small tractor-like, and...

Pete Jensen: Right.

Mr. Carson: ...and we pulled...put carts on behind it, and they came out and they said, "Don't drink the water; the water's poisoned!" So, on the way back from...with our tug, we stopped at the local beer garden and liberated forty-four cases of beer...

Pete Jensen: (Laughter)

Mr. Carson: ...and...took them up to...uh, where the Sergeant, First Sergeant, was in Supply...or wasn't in Supply...in the...tent up there and...they give us a bottle of beer with our sandwich...

Pete Jensen: Ah! Was it...?

Mr. Carson: ...until we found out the water wasn't poisoned.

Pete Jensen: uh, warm beer?

Mr. Carson: Yeah.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, I guess that's better than no beer, right?

Mr. Carson: Yes, (chuckle) (unintelligible) liquid is better than nothing, I'll tell you!

Pete Jensen: (Laughter)

Mr. Carson: But then, you know, what I find interesting is...is...we have a gentleman up here named Gary Swanson who heads our Honor Flights.

Pete Jensen: Uh huh.

Mr. Carson: And he's really into...into studying all these things about the war, and this gentleman came out, not Gary, but a...this guy came out with a book...somehow or another, he got all the...plans for...the attack on Pearl Harbor...or...not Pearl Harbor...the attack on Japan.

Pete Jensen: Uh huh.

Mr. Carson: And this, if you can, I'm telling you, you ought to get the book or...

Pete Jensen: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Carson: Someone in the library will know about it, uh, where...it details...the...how they were going to attack. And they were going to attack Japan on the 1st of August of 1945; they had all the boats ready; the landing ships, everything, and there was...there was...there was going to be no help from anyone except the British.

Pete Jensen: Wow!

Mr. Carson: And they estimated...that on the southern attack that...there would be two hundred and fifty thousand casualties.

Pete Jensen: Of...of Americans?

Mr. Carson: Of Americans.

Pete Jensen: Plus, yeah.

Mr. Carson: And then...and then the second attack was to...was to be April 1st of 1946, and that was going into Tokyo proper, and they estimated a million casualties.

Pete Jensen: Ooh wow!

Mr. Carson: But they said...they said in this book that the Japanese...did not send their crack divisions up to these islands...that they were, you know, secondary...

Pete Jensen: Oh, so you...

Mr. Carson: ...of battalions, I guess, or...regiments or whatever they were. And they had four crack regiments. And of course, every...every Japanese had a gun, every kid that...that could fire a gun had one. And they found out that the Japanese had nine hundred aircraft and they had stored them underneath bridges, in warehouses, any place they could store an aircraft, and *we didn't know* they had these nine hundred aircraft!

Pete Jensen: Wow! I never...I had never heard that! I knew...

Mr. Carson: Yes! And then the third thing was...that they had, I guess, a thousand or more frogmen.

Pete Jensen: Wow!

Mr. Carson: And they were on the beaches (unintelligible) when the ships started coming in, they were...they were to go out...with these (unintelligible) bombs and attach them to the hull and blow the ships up.

Pete Jensen: So, they kept...

Mr. Carson: That's where they all...the casualties were coming from. It's a tremendous book; I can't remember the name of it, but...

Pete Jensen: I'll...

Mr. Carson: ...this...this man got the...got the plans from...from Freedom of Press thing...and...and wrote this book about it.

Pete Jensen: I'll have to look on the internet and...see if I can find...just go in "plans of Japanese attack," and see if I can come up with something.

Mr. Carson: Yeah, that'll probably tell you what to do.

Pete Jensen: Be interesting...to read. So, they kept their...best people there to protect the homeland?

Mr. Carson: That's what this...report says.

Pete Jensen: Hum! Talking about Honor Flight...have you gone to the...on that...one of those Honor Flights?

Mr. Carson: Yes, I did...about three years ago.

Pete Jensen: Yeah. We just...

Mr. Carson: Very lucky, I...I met Senator Bob Dole...

Pete Jensen: Uh huh.

Mr. Carson: ...from my home state.

Pete Jensen: Yeah.

Mr. Carson: And...there was cute story there. My...my daughter in law works for the government...not my daughter in law, my granddaughter...

Pete Jensen: (Chuckle)

Mr. Carson: ...works for the...government...

Pete Jensen: Uh huh.

Mr. Carson: ...and so, she met me in Washington and...and down at the memorial. Well, Bob Dole said, "Are there any father and son people here?" And I says, "No," I said, "but how about...how about a grandfather and a...and a granddaughter?" And he says, "Put that pretty girl next to me!"

(laughter)

Pete Jensen: (Laughter)

Mr. Carson: (Laughter), so he still had a good eye!

Pete Jensen: Yeah, yeah! Bob, yeah, Bob always had a good eye!

Mr. Carson: Yeah.

Pete Jensen: Ah, yeah, we just had a...a group from...here at Gillespie County...went up, oh, couple of months ago...Honor Flight.

Mr. Carson: Oh!

Pete Jensen: So...

Mr. Carson: When we were in Fredericksburg, we stayed in that...uh, motel on the main street.

Pete Jensen: Uh...

Mr. Carson: Probably about four or five blocks out of the main part of town.

Pete Jensen: Yes, yes.

Mr. Carson: There was a nice old motel there, and we had a wonderful time.

Pete Jensen: Good!

Mr. Carson: We just...we just enjoyed the hell out of it. Little kids would stop me in the street and say, "Can I get (unintelligible words) Pearl Harbor book," and they'd say, "Can I get your autograph, please?"

Pete Jensen: What...what year were you here?

Mr. Carson: I was trying to think; I think it was '96...1996...they had the...had the...Nimitz Museum...it was...where everybody signed in.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, let's see, '96...

Mr. Carson: And that...that was the year they built...the park down about a block or so from there...

Pete Jensen: Oh yes, yeah!

Mr. Carson: ...and they put all the veh...all the motor vehicles in it.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, yeah. They got...that...this...they do a re-enactment there. Oh geez, I guess, almost every weekend in the summer.

Mr. Carson: I'll be darned!

Pete Jensen: They have a re, you know, a...a re-enactment of the...of the war, and...

Mr. Carson: Uh hum.

Pete Jensen: ...so, that attracts a lot of people...every week.

Mr. Carson: Yeah, my wife bought three q...three quilts down there...

Pete Jensen: Oh!

Mr. Carson: ...at a little quilt store right downtown on the corner.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Carson: So, she had to get some quilts (laughter).

Pete Jensen: (Laughter

Mr. Carson: But we had a wonderful time, and we certainly enjoyed it; the people were just...just fantastic!

Pete Jensen: Well, I'm glad...I'm...very happy.

Mr. Carson: Yeah, we had a...they had a big banquet down there and it...looked like sort of a stockyard building and they had a huge bull there; that damned thing must have weighed a ton!

Pete Jensen: Huh!

Mr. Carson: And you could go up and have your picture taken with the bull.

Pete Jensen: I'm trying to think where that's at...which one, huh!

Mr. Carson: It...it...I know it was down...down near the center of town because we walked from there back to the...to the motel.

Pete Jensen: Okay, hum!

Mr. Carson: It was a *huge* building. And then we must have had about a thousand people down there.

Pete Jensen: Wow, was this during one of the...what time of the year was it?

Mr. Carson: December 7th.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay, so it was...I wonder if this...

Mr. Carson: It was a Pearl Harbor Convention area.

Pete Jensen: Okay, because...yeah, they have something every year, but I was trying to think...I started doing these oral histories when they had the 60th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, so that would have been...2000 and...2001, I guess, yeah.

Mr. Carson: Yeah.

Pete Jensen: So, but...have you been back since that time?

Mr. Carson: Oh yeah, we were down...we went down for the 65th.

Pete Jensen: Okay.

Mr. Carson: We...yeah, we went to the 50th...

Pete Jensen: Yeah, okay.

Mr. Carson: ...the 55th...

Pete Jensen: 65th, okay.

Mr. Carson: ...and uh, and then we went to Fredericksburg, and then we went to...went back in...uh, 2006...

Pete Jensen: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Carson: ...was the last time we were there...'cause this...this past year in 2011...they disbanded the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

Pete Jensen: Ah! Hum!

Mr. Carson: So we...our gang up here, there's three of us, there were four...one passed away here short time ago. We have a guy from Wheeler Field, Ed Russell, myself and a sailor off the USS Nevada named Dorwin Lamkin.

Pete Jensen: Uh hum.

Mr. Carson: And we...we...all of us meet every month or every, pardon me, every two months at a local restaurant; they have a big room down there and they let us have the room, and then the widows come and...other...other

World War II veterans come. And we had...we have invited some Korean veterans; we've had some...uh, Vietnam veterans down there.

Pete Jensen: That's great!

Mr. Carson: We have...anywhere from sixteen to twenty-four people.

Pete Jensen: That's great!

Mr. Carson: And we meet every two months. Now, this December 7th, every year on December 7th, we meet at the Sylvester Paul (sp?) building in...Mission, Kansas which is a small town right down below Overland Park.

Pete Jensen: Uh hum.

Mr. Carson: And...the three of us, well the four of us at that time, we...they set up tables; we put our mementos on the table and we...we sit up front and we have an Honor Guard. We...we invite a gr...a...elementary school to come, the eighth graders.

Pete Jensen: Ah!

Mr. Carson: And last year we had five busloads of eighth graders and then all the civilian population is allowed, so we had about...uh, three hundred and fifty people there. And we do this every year; in fact, we're getting ready to do it next month again.

Pete Jensen: Yeah! Well, that's great!

Mr. Carson: We do this every year and then the...the four...four of us would sit up front and each tell a little story, and then would take questions from the...thing, and it's supposed to be over at 12:05. And we don't get out of there...1:00 o'clock or so (chuckles) when they start the questions, so last year we had them write questions on cards and then they...someone forwards the cards on and just...look for the most pertinent questions and ask them.

Pete Jensen: Now when you told a story...

Mr. Carson: So, we got out a little earlier (laughter), yeah!

Pete Jensen: ...when you were telling...when you're telling stories, were they...true...some of those stories?

Mr. Carson: Oh yeah!

Pete Jensen: (Laughter)

Mr. Carson: Now, my friend Dorwin Lamkin has...on...on the [USS] Nevada, they...they got their ship underway in forty-five minutes; normally it takes about...a day and a half to get a battleship ready to go to sea.

Pete Jensen: Wow!

Mr. Carson: To get the steam up and everything. Evidently, they have reserve steam on there some place, and they rerouted the steam into the engines and they got it going. And they were just about to the mouth of the harbor to go out into the ocean, and a torpedo plane came down...and...dropped a torpedo and tore a hole in the hull...forty by seventy feet.

Pete Jensen: Wow!

Mr. Carson: The Yard Captain saw the...damage done to the ship and...called three tugs into service right away, and they got onto the side of the Nevada and they pushed it up on shore and beached it.

Pete Jensen: Hum!

Mr. Carson: Then about...it took them almost a year, but they repaired that...hull and they took that ship back to Bremerton, Washington to refurbish it, and they were traveling at six knots an hour across the ocean.

Pete Jensen: Wow....six...

Mr. Carson: And that's not very fast.

Pete Jensen: ...six knots per hour?!

Mr. Carson: (Laughter), six knots an hour...all the way back to...from Honolulu to Bremerton.

Pete Jensen: You could walk faster than that!

Mr. Carson: Yeah! Then they...uh, after they refurbished and fixed up brand new, it went over and...and was in the...invasion of...of France and Germany.

Pete Jensen: Wow! Huh!

Mr. Carson: Dor...Don...Dorwin doesn't like Japanese at all.

Pete Jensen: Oh, is that right?

Mr. Carson: He's...no, he's really...dead set against them even today. And he goes over to Norway every year for his birthday part...uh, for his family celebration.

Pete Jensen: Uh hum.

Mr. Carson: And...he...flew into Germany and landed (unintelligible); he rented a...Honda or rented a...Opal rather...whatever the German car is...

Pete Jensen: Yeah, (unintelligible words).

Mr. Carson: ...rented a German car is...

Pete Jensen: Yeah.

Mr. Carson: ...and drove up to Norway. And he and his cousin the next day were getting ready to...go to the family reunion, and...and his cousin says, "We'll take my car," and they walked outside and his cousin had a Honda.

Pete Jensen: Ooh!

Mr. Carson: Dorwin would not get in the car!

Pete Jensen: (Laughter)

Mr. Carson: He says, "We'll take my car." They walked around the other side of the...the house and there...there sits a German car, and the cousin wouldn't get in the German car.

Pete Jensen: (Laughter)

Mr. Carson: So, there they sat. Finally...finally one of the...other family members drove up in a Saab, so they did get to this family celebration (chuckles).

Pete Jensen: Yeah, it...it's interesting, and I guess it depends on the people's experience, but the veterans I've interviewed...it's, you know, like you say...some have no animosity toward the Japanese and others just won't, you know.

Mr. Carson: Yeah, he...he still can't stand them.

Pete Jensen: Hum! Wow!

Mr. Carson: And like I say, it just...it didn't bother me that much.

Pete Jensen: Well, you know, I...it's like some veterans have said, you know, they were just doing what...we were doing. I mean...

Mr. Carson: That's right.

Pete Jensen: ...just...just following orders.

Mr. Carson: I didn't like the way they did it...

Pete Jensen: Yeah.

Mr. Carson: ...but...

Pete Jensen: That's right, hum.

Mr. Carson: But I...I still think that they had planned on making a landing there at some time.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, I guess...'cause I'd always heard they figured they'd lose...probably a million people, at least, if...if they ever tried to attack Japan.

Mr. Carson: Yeah.

Pete Jensen: So, I guess the bomb was...

Mr. Carson: Har...hell, when Harry dropped that bomb, that ended it boy!

Pete Jensen: Yeah, he did a...a...well, he...although, of course, it killed a lot of people there, but in...in...when you look back at it, there would have probably been a lot more people killed...if he hadn't of done that.

Mr. Carson: Oh, I'm sure!

Pete Jensen: Uhm!

Mr. Carson: Many, many more. And then they would be killing young...all the young kids would be gone...

Pete Jensen: Yeah.

Mr. Carson: ...because maybe they'd have guns. It would have been a terrible thing. (Unintelligible words), I'm going to have to look at my discharge date again, but I think I was discharged right after the...well, about the 7th or 8th of August...around in there.

Pete Jensen: Right after...

Mr. Carson: Right after he dropped the bomb.

Pete Jensen: Wow! Uhm!

Mr. Carson: Because I would have been flying from...San Francisco to Hawaii and on farther for...then.

Pete Jensen: Hum.

Mr. Carson: Dorwin was a Hospital Corpsman and...and he was...after the...Iwo Jima...or the Okinawa attack, uh, he...he went to hospital over on Guam, and they were building a *huge*, tremendous hospital. Dorwin said they had the footings laid for it...

Pete Jensen: Uh hum.

Mr. Carson: ...and it must have been...two city blocks large.

Pete Jensen: Wow!

Mr. Carson: And...and so, you can see they were planning on...many wounded people coming in there...

Pete Jensen: Yeah.

Mr. Carson: ...into Guam.

Pete Jensen: Uhm, uhm! (recording interference)

Mr. Carson: If you'd like to talk to Dorwin, I can give you his phone number.

Pete Jensen: Uh, I think...uh, well what...what's his last name?

Mr. Carson: Lamkin, L-a-m-k-i-n.

Pete Jensen: Well, I tell you what, a gentleman already interviewed him...just...

Mr. Carson: Oh!

Pete Jensen: ...uh, two days ago.

Mr. Carson: I'll be darned!

Pete Jensen: There was yourself, uh, was...is there a Charles Sullivan?

Mr. Carson: No, Ed Russell.

Pete Jensen: But, Lamkin...'causes there's three of you in that area, and I know that one of the other guys here...he...on the 12th he interviewed Darwin [s/b Dorwin], and who...who's the third gentleman?

Mr. Carson: Ed...Ed Russell.

Pete Jensen: Oh, Ed Russell, okay. Let me write that down because...uh, as far as I know, I was told...when I was...asked if I would, you know, do the interview...with you, they said there was three gentlemen there from...from...in Kansas and so, I know...that of them...done, but I'll check on this Ed Russell and see...'cause I'm pretty sure...they had the

phone numbers of three individuals, and I'll have to see who...who's interviewed him or...if they've done it yet.

Mr. Carson: Yeah, Ed started out as a...enlisted man, and I believe he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Pete Jensen: Wow!

Mr. Carson: He went to school, uh, became a Navigator, and then he...then after he got discharged from the Air Force, he joined the Air Force Reserve. And he was stationed out here at Richards-Gebaur.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay. Huh. Yeah, I'll check...with the...gentleman here that...sort of handles all the...uh, interviews, or you know, he...sort of signs or says, "Hey, will you call so and so, or...or will you interview a particular individual?" So, I'll check with him and see...if Ed's uh...do you happen to have his phone number?

Mr. Carson: Just a second; I think I have.

Pete Jensen: 'Cause I could write it down. If...if they don't have it at least we could...

Mr. Carson: Let me go turn my CNI on over here.

Pete Jensen: Okay.

Mr. Carson: Ed, here it is.

Pete Jensen: Yeah.

Mr. Carson: 913-

Pete Jensen: 913-

Mr. Carson: 894-

Pete Jensen: 894-

Mr. Carson: 1451

Pete Jensen: 1451, okay.

Mr. Carson: Yeah.

Pete Jensen: And I will check that out. If they have not...uh, contacted (unintelligible)...

Mr. Carson: Yeah, he's got a couple of funny stories to tell also.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, good, I'd like to...

Mr. Carson: (Laughter)

Pete Jensen: (Laughter)...like to...well, we'll make sure we get in touch with him.

Mr. Carson: There's two others...there...there were two a couple of years ago; they came down to our December 7th meeting and they were in wheelchairs.

Pete Jensen: Ah.

Mr. Carson: But they...and then I...I called them up...I called...both of them up, in fact, for the...February get together, and one of them...his son had to drive him around and his son couldn't take off from work because we have our...our luncheon on Thursday, and the other one is in a...in a...was in an assisted living home.

Pete Jensen: Uhm! Hum.

Mr. Carson: And...but they were both in wheelchairs, and I didn't even get their names.

Pete Jensen: But they were Pearl Harbor?

Mr. Carson: That...evi...they told us they were, yes.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, hum.

Mr. Carson: So, there were five of us here, but I...I don't know what happened to the other two.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, well, uh, like I said, I will...check on and make sure that we get...if we haven't already, get with Ed Russell.

Mr. Carson: Yeah, they estimate there's between...worldwide twenty-hundred and thirty-five hundred Pearl Harbor survivors still going.

Pete Jensen: Uh, did you happen to...I was...happened to watch...the...on the internet, the guys that were...Doolittle Raiders.

Mr. Carson: Oh yes!

Pete Jensen: And one of those gentlemen, uh, the guy actually stood up and did the toast and opened a bottle...of cognac. He's from Comfort which is about...twenty miles south of here.

Mr. Carson: I'll be durned!

Pete Jensen: In fact, a friend of mine who's a Pilot, uh, says he meets with him about every week. But I thought that was very interesting story, uh, so...yeah,

he lives just...in fact, I want to meet him sometime. He lives just...south of here.

Mr. Carson: I'd get over there in a hurry.

Pete Jensen: Yeah!

Mr. Carson: (Laughter)

Pete Jensen: Well, he, you know, he's...yeah, 'cause he's ninety-eight (chuckles). How...how..., uh, Jack, how old are you?

Mr. Carson: I was ninety the 4th of June.

Pete Jensen: Oh okay, so you're still a youngster.

Mr. Carson: Yeah. I'm still pretty...pretty active.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, you sound good! I tell you! What do you do; you...you got hobbies or you...?

Mr. Carson: Well, we go to a lot of auctions.

Pete Jensen: Uh huh.

Mr. Carson: I still collect stamps and first aid covers.

Pete Jensen: Uh huh.

Mr. Carson: And we had a huge auction, a collection of stuff we bought...over the years, and we sold that out in...2010 we finally cleaned everything out of the house.

Pete Jensen: Uhm!

Mr. Carson: And...but I still drive. Well, in fact, I went to an auction last night and bought...a book full of postcards and four books full of first-aid covers.

Pete Jensen: Ah! Do you golf?

Mr. Carson: Not anymore; I...when I ran the country club I did.

Pete Jensen: That's...that's...that's why I asked 'cause I figured that you did.

Mr. Carson: Yeah.

Pete Jensen: Huh!

Mr. Carson: Yeah, I played nine, at least, nine holes every day when I was out there.

Pete Jensen: Wow (laughter).

Mr. Carson: I was...I was going pretty good.

Pete Jensen: I'll tell you, you get a...you had a pretty good life between lifeguard and...

Mr. Carson: Yeah!

Pete Jensen: ...and the golf course; cooking...

Mr. Carson: And then working for the Chiefs.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, you still...you still do a lot of cooking?

Mr. Carson: I did...in fact, I do all. My wife has Alzheimer's, so I do all the cooking.

Pete Jensen: Ah, I'm sorry to hear that.

Mr. Carson: Yeah, I am, too (chuckles).

Pete Jensen: Yeah, huh. Wow! And how...you have what...five children?

Mr. Carson: Yeah.

Pete Jensen: How many grandchildren?

Mr. Carson: Uh, nine grandchildren and...one, two, three...three and a half great-grandchildren.

Pete Jensen: Three and a half, huh? One's on the way?

Mr. Carson: Yeah, it'll be here in April.

Pete Jensen: Ah, that's good! Well, I guess...I can't think of anything else right now.

Mr. Carson: No, that's too bad.

Pete Jensen: Yeah, unless you have something else.

Mr. Carson: No, I'm...I'm going downstairs and do the laundry now (laughter).

Pete Jensen: Okay, well, if...if I...uh, if I think of something else and if you don't mind, I might call you in the future.

Mr. Carson: That's fine; no problem at all, Pete.

Pete Jensen: Alright, I appreciate it a lot.

Mr. Carson: Great.

Pete Jensen: Uh, conversation and...well, just (unintelligible).

Mr. Carson: Glad to hear from you.

Pete Jensen: Have a great day!

Mr. Carson: Okay, thank you!

Pete Jensen: Thank you!

Mr. Carson: Bye, bye.

Pete Jensen: Uh huh, bye, bye.
(end of interview)

FINAL copy

CD – #OH04063 – Mr. Jack Carson

Transcribed by: K. Matras

Houston, TX

March 28, 2019