

**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR**

**Nimitz Education and Research Center  
Fredericksburg, Texas**

**An Interview With**

**Clyde B. Covey**

**Cleveland, Texas**

**July 17, 2019**

**U.S. Navy**

**PCE - 870**

**PCE - 852**

Mr. Misenhimer:

My name is Richard Misenhimer, today is July 17, 2019. I am interviewing Mr. Clyde B. Covey by telephone. His phone number is 936-524-4340. His address is 707 Duncan, Cleveland, Texas, 77327. This interview is in support of the National Museum of the Pacific War, the Nimitz Education and Research Center, for the preservation of historical information related to World War II.

Clyde, I want to thank you for taking time to do this interview today and I want to thank you for your service to our country during World War II.

Mr. Covey:

Okay.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now the first thing I need to do is read to you this agreement with the museum to make sure this is okay with you.

Mr. Covey:

Alright.

Mr. Misenhimer:

*"Agreement Read."*

Is that okay with you?

Mr. Covey:

Yes it is.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now what is your middle initial?

Mr. Covey:

B as in Baker.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now the next thing I need to do is get an alternative contact. We find out that sometimes several

years down the road try to get back in contact with a veteran, he's moved or something. Do you have a son, or a daughter, or someone we could contact if we needed to find you?

Mr. Covey:

Well I have a daughter, have two boys and a daughter.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What's your daughter's name?

Mr. Covey:

Robin Leal, L-e-a-l.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Do you have a phone number for her?

Mr. Covey:

Oh boy yeah, but it's on my cell phone and I'm on my cell phone right now.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I'll get it from you later. What town does she live in?

Mr. Covey:

Lives in Cleveland, she lives right next door to me.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And her address is what?

Mr. Covey:

It's 1802 Southline, Southline is one word. Her house faces Southline and my house faces Duncan.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now your address is 707 Duncan, is that correct?

Mr. Covey:

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

We'll get that phone number later. And hopefully I'll never need that. Now what is your

birthdate?

Mr. Covey:

December 18, 1927.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where were you born?

Mr. Covey:

In Corpus Christi.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Covey:

I had a brother and four sisters.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Was your brother in World War II?

Mr. Covey:

No he was deferred because of his employment. His employment was more important than fighting a war.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now what were your mother's and father's first names?

Mr. Covey:

My mother's first name was Lola, L-o-l-a. My dad's name was George.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now you grew up during the depression, how did the depression affect you and your family?

Mr. Covey:

Pretty difficult. My dad was in business with his father-in-law. His father-in-law died in '30 and he was the one that had the business and dad took it over and run his own business. And it was rough during the depression.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What kind of business was it?

Mr. Covey:

He was a lock and gunsmith, outboard motor mechanic.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now December 7, '41 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, do you recall hearing about that?

Mr. Covey:

I sure do.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How did you hear and what?

Mr. Covey:

It was Sunday about two o'clock in the afternoon, I was reading the funny papers and my dad was reading the paper and the news came over the radio that Pearl Harbor has been attacked by Japanese.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And when you heard that how did you think that would affect you?

Mr. Covey:

Well it was kind of a surprise because we didn't know where Pearl Harbor was. And dad got the globe down and they mentioned Honolulu and he found Honolulu on there, on the globe. We had a good idea of where it was though.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you think you would have to go into the service?

Mr. Covey:

At that point no.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now where did you go to high school?

Mr. Covey:

Corpus Christi.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And when did you graduate?

Mr. Covey:

In May of 1945.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then when did you enter the service?

Mr. Covey:

I entered the service on 10/10/45. I had a hard time convincing my dad to sign the papers so I could join the Navy when I was still a minor.

Mr. Misenhimer:

This was before the war was over though, right? I mean after the war was over?

Mr. Covey:

Yep. It was after the combat was over but before the peace treaty was signed.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you went into the Navy?

Mr. Covey:

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How did you choose the Navy?

Mr. Covey:

Corpus Christi had the Naval Airbase down there and we had a bunch of sailors at our church. I was impressed with them and I wanted to choose what kind of uniform I wore when I was in the service. And I knew I was going to be drafted because there was nothing to keep me out of it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you went in on October 10<sup>th</sup> of '45?

Mr. Covey:

Yes, um-huh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where did you go for your boot camp?

Mr. Covey:

At San Diego.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How did you travel out there?

Mr. Covey:

By train.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was that train trip?

Mr. Covey:

Oh boy, well it was about a two and a half day trip I think it took us to get out there.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Had you been that far from home before?

Mr. Covey:

No, uh-uh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Back in those days people didn't do much traveling.

Mr. Covey:

Well it was the southern part of Oklahoma, on a one trip deal.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Tell me about boot camp, what all happened there?

Mr. Covey:

I got into all kinds of trouble. Number one I was out there about two weeks still in medical retention, but I came down with pneumonia. They put me in the hospital for about a month and then they sent me back to duty and about ten days later I had a relapse. At that time I was real, real sick, so sick that they finally got me cured up, they gave me a thirty day convalescence leave

to go home. And then when I went back I couldn't get back in boot camp because my hair had grown out, I'd already been promoted to Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup>. They couldn't fit me back in boot camp so they put me in fireman school. And I graduated from fireman school, then I was taken to Pearl Harbor for my assignment.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Covey:

When I got to Pearl Harbor I was assigned my first ship, a Patrol Craft Escort, 870.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So after the fireman school you went to Pearl Harbor then, right?

Mr. Covey:

Yes, uh-huh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And how did you travel over there?

Mr. Covey:

They put a bunch of us on an empty LST, up from San Diego to Pearl Harbor. Nine days of bobbing on top of the ocean, no weight, no cargo in the thing except about fifty guys.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then when you got to Hawaii what happened there?

Mr. Covey:

When I got there I was assigned to my first ship.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And that was what?

Mr. Covey:

A Patrol Craft Escort, a PCE, number 870.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Tell me about that ship, I'm not really familiar with the PCE.



Mr. Covey:

Well it had a crew of forty-eight enlisted men and four officers. The ship is about 180 feet long and 37 feet wide. And during the conflict the ship actually had two submarines and seven aircraft to its credit. So the ship's seen battle. Then when we went aboard ship to start with it was almost a complete turn over of crew because we had three new officers go aboard and all new members. Well, we had a couple of petty officer chiefs that stayed aboard and an electrician's mate and a 3<sup>rd</sup> class motor mac. Those two guys would train us how to operate that ship. All young people were sent home. We relieved the guys that were in the Reserves.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So it had a pretty good time during World War II then?

Mr. Covey:

Yes, uh-huh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what was your job on the ship?

Mr. Covey:

Well as a fireman I was in the engine room, a full duty operating the engines. Also I had the responsibility of maintaining two six-cylinder Cummins diesels that were driving generators.

Mr. Misenhimer:

These were diesel engines?

Mr. Covey:

Yes, uh-huh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And they ran what, generators?

Mr. Covey:

The six-cylinder Cummins diesels. In the forward engine room there was a Fairbanks Morse engine driving the generator, in the forward engine room.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now these six-cylinder diesels what did they drive?

Mr. Covey:

They drive generators. The Cummins diesel drove 175 kilowatt generators and the Fairbanks Morse drove a 375 kilowatt generator.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What actually propelled the ship, electric generators or what?

Mr. Covey:

Those two diesels, 900 horsepower diesels going through main engines.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How many propellers did it have?

Mr. Covey:

Two. Had a main engine in forward engine room and a main engine in the aft engine room.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what did it have on it in the way of guns?

Mr. Covey:

On the forecastle it had a 3-inch gun, it had four banks of dual 20-millimeter aircraft guns. It had two depth charge racks on the back. It had two y shaped guns, one on each side for depth charges. Had a, I think it was four turrets that had 50-caliber machine guns with them.

Mr. Misenhimer:

It was well armored then?

Mr. Covey:

Yes it was.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you got on ship what happened?

Mr. Covey:

Well we toured patrols out of Pearl Harbor, we'd sail out for thirty days and come back to Pearl for eighteen and then back out to sea again. We had patrol points from west of Hawaii to west of

Wake Island. And we operated from the equator to the Aleutians. There's about nine different posts out there that we'd go out and patrol those posts and send up weather balloons with transmitters. Get the information and radio that information back to Pearl Harbor, weather information.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you were on this were you with other ships or by yourself?

Mr. Covey:

Oh no we were out there individually.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Just one ship?

Mr. Covey:

Yeah, there were other ships in the fleet that patrolled the other, there's normally a ship on each post and we rotated. The skipper that we had was a Lieutenant Commander where normally the Captains are Lieutenants on a ship that size. But we were the flag ship as a fleet since he had the highest rank.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what were you looking for out there?

Mr. Covey:

Watching for other vessels and looking for floating sea mines. See there's a lot of those that were left over and we exploded them.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What else did you do?

Mr. Covey:

*(Laughs)* We fished for sharks. Every once in awhile we'd go swimming in the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you find many mines or anything like that?

Mr. Covey:

Yes, we spotted quite a few of them and when we did the skipper would shut everything down and break out the small arms. Whoever blew that mine up got a three day pass when we got back to Pearl.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you would shoot them with small arms?

Mr. Covey:

Yes, uh-huh, rifles.

Mr. Misenhimer:

About how many did you get, you have any idea?

Mr. Covey:

Oh boy, I don't remember.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now how many different times did you go out on that?

Mr. Covey:

Well we'd go out for thirty days and back in for eighteen and back out for thirty. And I was on that ship I guess about sixteen, almost seventeen months.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And during that whole time that's what you were doing, is that correct?

Mr. Covey:

Yes, uh-huh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you made quite a few different trips out there then?

Mr. Covey:

Yeah, be on different posts. Crossed the International Dateline four times.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you ever cross the equator?

Mr. Covey:

No. Been down close to it, but didn't cross it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you crossed the Dateline did you have any kind of a ceremony or program or anything?

Mr. Covey:

No, we just noted it on the logs and everything.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What's some other things that happened?

Mr. Covey:

Oh boy. Just before I came back to the States we had a Lieutenant come aboard from the submarine service who learned how to operate the ship to replace the Captain because the Captain was getting ready to come back for land duty and then his retirement. And we used to take a mattress pad, which is a piece of heavy canvas, like 24, 26 inches wide and about 6 ½ feet long with grommets that we'd laced. Lace inside a metal frame for a support for a mattress on it in a bunk. Take one of those things and tie it to a heaving line and throw it over the side in the back. The Captain would break out the small arms and we'd have target practice on that mat. And this Lieutenant one day when the Captain is out there and his 45-caliber pistol, he said, "Captain instead of shooting the mat why don't you shoot the heaving line in front of it?" This thing is bouncing around in the prop wash back there pretty good. The Captain looked at him, put the gun on safety, and handed it to him. He kind of got used to the gun and took it off safety and raised up and shot one deal and mattress pad stayed back there in the water. We brought our frayed heaving line back in. This Lieutenant put the thing back on safety and handed the gun back to him. Then he went straight to his stateroom and locked the doors. But he also would come out and sit on the fantail in the evening. And we're sitting out there shooting the breeze, you know loud to each other, and he was sitting there talking about how great a marksman he was. He said, "There's nobody on this ship anymore surprised than what I was when that happened." Said, "To keep from having to talk about it I went back to my stateroom and locked the doors." But we had a lot of fun with him on that score. But he was

going to be on there about three months to learn how to operate that ship. And that was when I was sent back to the States.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Covey:

I came back to the States and got on a kind of a troop ship thing and we landed at Treasure Island. Had orders to go to San Diego to go to motor mac school. I went down there and after we finished school I graduated as honor man of class. And then I had a thirty day leave to go home. I had seven days to travel from Diego to Norfolk, Virginia, where they said my ship was when I finished school.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now what is motor mac school? What does that do?

Mr. Covey:

It was a classroom and lab work on diesels. Diesel theories and everything. And then we actually paired off in groups and tore a diesel down and measured everything, marked everything and replaced worn parts and this sort of thing, and cleaned everything up and put it back together and operated it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you learned how to work on them and that sort of thing?

Mr. Covey:

Yeah, you learned how to work on them, of course the theory behind how they operated.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How long was that school?

Mr. Covey:

I think it was ten weeks.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And then what did you say happened after that?

Mr. Covey:

I went home on thirty day leave. Then I had seven days to go from San Diego to Norfolk, Virginia. Because I was told the ship had come back through the canal and was at Norfolk, Virginia when I finished school.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what happened?

Mr. Covey:

Well I showed up in Norfolk, Virginia and I found out the ship had been decommissioned and turned over to the Greek Navy. So then I was reassigned to my second ship.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what ship was that?

Mr. Covey:

It was a PCE 852 that armaments had been stripped off of it, had a big room built on the main deck. And that room was filled with electronic and business machines and all. We operated out of the Underwater Sound Laboratories in New London, Connecticut. Operated with submarines to develop underwater communication.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you developed underwater communication, huh?

Mr. Covey:

Yes, uh-huh. It wasn't fully developed when my enlistment was up. But about a year after my discharge it was developed. That allowed nuclear submarines to stay submerged for thirty days and send and receive messages.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And about how long were you on the 852?

Mr. Covey:

About seventeen months, just short of eighteen.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now that's on the second ship or the first ship?

Mr. Covey:

The second ship.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Seventeen months there also, right?

Mr. Covey:

Yes, uh-huh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You were about seventeen months on the first one did you say?

Mr. Covey:

Yes it was, about seventeen on both of them.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you joined how long did you sign up for?

Mr. Covey:

I signed up for what's called a "kid's cruise." You go in when you're seventeen, you discharge a day before you're twenty-one. So I was in there like three years and two months something like that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now what was the highest rank you got to?

Mr. Covey:

A Fireman Engineer 1<sup>st</sup> Class. I couldn't get rated because there were, there's so many war veterans that signed over because of the recession that was in play. They couldn't get jobs, so they were staying in the military.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, then what happened?

Mr. Covey:

Well then a week before my discharge I was sent over to the submarine base to be discharged.



Mr. Misenhimer:

So what date were you discharged?

Mr. Covey:

On December the 17<sup>th</sup>, 1948.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you'd been in, you went in on 10/10/45, right?

Mr. Covey:

Right.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Like you say you got out a day before your birthday.

Mr. Covey:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you stay in the Reserves?

Mr. Covey:

No.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what did you do?

Mr. Covey:

Well when I went home I goofed off for a couple of weeks and got a construction job.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you use your G.I. Bill for anything?

Mr. Covey:

Yes, in June of '49 I started school to get my Bachelor's in Science and Mechanical Engineering.

Used my G.I. Bill for that. I used my G.I. Bill to buy my first house.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And did you graduate from college?

Mr. Covey:

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When did you graduate?

Mr. Covey:

I graduated in June of 1953.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what was your major?

Mr. Covey:

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Oh I see, BS in Mechanical Engineering. And where did you go to college?

Mr. Covey:

At the University of Houston.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Anything particular happen while you were in college?

Mr. Covey:

Well just before I went to college I met this good looking little red head. My first year in college we got married.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Oh, congratulations.

Mr. Covey:

That was a big event.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Are you still married to her?

Mr. Covey:

She passed away in 2012.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Oh I'm sorry to hear that. Now when you were on that ship overseas how was the morale on that ship?

Mr. Covey:

It was pretty good. Had a lot of fun.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Was there any time you ever felt frightened?

Mr. Covey:

Yes. On my first ship we were at posts in the Aleutians and a tidal wave that wiped out Hilo, Hawaii, we rode that thing out at sea. And I've seen the bow dive into a wave and the wave completely washed it. Main deck of the ship had an incline meter in the aft engine room and it was red lined at 29 degrees, I saw a 31 degree roll to the right and a 32 degree roll to the left. Every one of us was praying.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Oh yeah I can imagine. Were there ever any other times you also felt frightened or threatened?

Mr. Covey:

No I think that was about the only one, it was pretty calm and everything.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you get home from your time in the service with any souvenirs?

Mr. Covey:

Nothing but the memories.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You didn't get a gun or anything like that?

Mr. Covey:

No, uh-uh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you ever see any USO shows? Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, anybody like that or anything?

Mr. Covey:

No, uh-uh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any experience with the Red Cross?

Mr. Covey:

Yeah, but it left a bad taste in my mouth.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Oh, what happened?

Mr. Covey:

When we were in Pearl Harbor at the dock the Red Cross had a donut stand and coffee stand on the dock. We called them Gedunk sites. And about two blocks away the Salvation Army had one. The Red Cross charged you a nickel for coffee and a dime for a donut and the Salvation Army was giving them to you.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I've heard that quite a few times before. Red Cross didn't make too many fans during World War II.

Mr. Covey:

No they didn't.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were you ever in any typhoons or any bad storms, you mentioned the one, any other ones besides that one?

Mr. Covey:

No, just that tidal wave. Sometimes in the Pacific that water would be as calm as a lake would be, you know.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now this is before you went in the Navy but on April 12<sup>th</sup> of '45 President Roosevelt died. What did people think when they heard that?

Mr. Covey:

Well I don't remember. But I remember December the 8<sup>th</sup> of '41 when he made his speech to the Joint Session of Congress and asked them to declare war. I listened to that whole speech he made.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yeah, I think we all heard that. Now on May the 8<sup>th</sup> of '45 Germany surrendered. This was before you went in, but did y'all have any kind of a celebration then?

Mr. Covey:

There was there, yes, uh-huh. VE day?

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yeah VE day, right. Then on August the 6<sup>th</sup> when they dropped the first atomic bomb did you hear about that?

Mr. Covey:

Oh yeah, oh yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what reaction did people have when they heard that?

Mr. Covey:

One reaction was that's awesome, you know, that is awesome. I'm sorry the Japanese decided not to surrender when we dropped that first bomb, had to drop the second one to convince them that we had something. I'm glad that Truman made that decision, because it saved a lot of lives.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That's right it did, on both sides.

Mr. Covey:

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then on August the 9<sup>th</sup> when they dropped the second atomic bomb did you hear about that?

Mr. Covey:

Oh yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And when Japan surrendered on August the 14<sup>th</sup> any kind of a celebration then?

Mr. Covey:

I don't remember a celebration, no. Just as surprised that we even had the thing.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I'm talking about August the 14<sup>th</sup> when Japan surrendered. There were big celebrations everywhere then, did you have one?

Mr. Covey:

Yes we did.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You remember the picture of the sailor kissing the girl in Time's Square?

Mr. Covey:

Oh yeah, that thing was everywhere.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I've interviewed him.

Mr. Covey:

Oh boy.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yeah, he had quite an experience.

Mr. Covey:

Yeah. And Kilroy was everywhere.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yeah, Kilroy. That was still going on when you were in?

Mr. Covey:

Oh yeah, oh yeah. Kilroy was there.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Have you had any reunions since you've been out?

Mr. Covey:

No, uh-huh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you keep up with anybody you were in the service with?

Mr. Covey:

I did for a couple of them, but I kind of got wrapped up in what I was trying to do in my own life.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Have you been on the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.?

Mr. Covey:

Yes. It was good.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was that?

Mr. Covey:

That was great, that was great.

Mr. Misenhimer:

They do a good job.

Mr. Covey:

They sure do. I thought, man, in a few days you can't do much, but it was so organized that we done it all and we had plenty of time at each of the monuments, you know, they didn't rush you. But it was organized, it was good. I've told other people about it, let them know that it's available.

Mr. Misenhimer:

It's a good organization.

Mr. Covey:

Yes. I've got an audience here right now.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Oh do you, who is that?

Mr. Covey:

My daughter came in and she's been listening to some of this. And my son-in-law just came in. But you want my daughter's telephone number you say?

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yes, uh-huh I do.

Mr. Covey:

Okay, you want to tell him what it is hon?

Mrs. Leal:

281-432-8372.

Mr. Misenhimer:

281-432-8372.

Mrs. Leal:

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay good, thank you. What is her last name?

Mrs. Leal.

L-e-a-l, Leal.

Misenhimer:

Of course when you were in Tokyo Rose wasn't around anymore was she?

Mr. Covey:

Do what now?

Mr. Misenhimer:

Tokyo Rose, you ever hear of her?

Mr. Covey:

The lady we're talking about, Tokyo Rose?



Mr. Misenhimer:

Yeah Tokyo Rose, yes.

Mr. Covey:

Oh yeah, oh yeah. People were upset with her.

Mr. Misenhimer:

She was gone by the time you got in.

Mr. Covey:

Listened to her a lot. Got aggravated every time we heard her.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now what ribbons and medals did you get?

Mr. Covey:

I had the War World II Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. And back then they had ribbons, one for the Pacific Fleet and one for the Atlantic Fleet, didn't have medals just the ribbons. But when I asked for my medals to replace some of them, they sent me one that was Asian Pacific Campaign Medal. They sent me three medals.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well Clyde is there anything else you remember from your time in the service?

Mr. Covey:

Well one time we had, it was Navy Day, went from New London, Connecticut up to Mystic, Massachusetts. For Navy Day the skipper was supposed to speak at the Chamber of Commerce dinner that night and they invited everybody that was not on duty to the dinner. And we'd had the ship in tip top shape you know, with everything painted and everything else. But they painted the main deck just before we left New London. On the way up there overnight ran into a real rain storm and it washed a lot of the paint off going up. And so when we got up there the first they'd done was dry the deck and paint it again. And it was interesting when we had the open ship and people would come aboard to look things over and all. So we had that big dinner that night. That was an experience that I remember.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well that's all the questions I have unless you've thought of something else.

Mr. Leal:

Hello sir?

Mr. Covey:

This is my son-in-law.

Mr. Leal:

This is the son-in-law. I wanted, I came in late into the interview, but I wondered if my father-in-law had said anything about penicillin? He came down with pneumonia there in, was it boot camp?

Mr. Covey:

Yeah.

Mr. Leal:

And he was very, very sick, as a matter of fact they sent a telegram to his mother telling them that yeah he probably will die. But they were going to try this new experimental drug called penicillin. And while he was there they gave it to him and he's here today.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, good, yes, right. Anything else you recall that we didn't get in the interview?

Mr. Covey:

Well the only thing is they tried to cure me with sulfa drugs and I'm allergic to sulfa drugs. And they liked to lost me with that. That's when they changed over to penicillin and they cured me with that. Before I went home on convalescence leave I had to sit on the stage of an amphitheater, it was filled with doctors that asked me all kinds of questions about how the climate I lived in when I was growing up, the number of colds I had during the year. And my goodness, there were so many questions I didn't have all the answers. I have a request.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, go ahead.

Mr. Covey:

Are you going to put this out in printed form?

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yes I am, right.

Mr. Covey:

Could you send me a copy?

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yes, we will. Well Clyde thanks again for your time today and thank you for your service to our country.

Mr. Covey:

Well I thank you for your devotion to do what you're doing.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Thank you, alright. Alright we'll keep in contact and when I get it transcribed I'll talk back with you then.

Mr. Covey:

Alright sir. Sure do thank you.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Alright, have a good day.

Mr. Covey:

You have a good day. Bye.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Thank you, bye.

*(End of interview.)*

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