

HHA # 00390
Interviewee: Forrest Sadler
Interviewer: Steven Wiltz
Interview Date: April 3, 2003
Interview Site: Lafayette, LA
Interview Module & No.: MMS: SW045
Transcriber: Lauren Penney

[Transcriber's note: The majority of the interviewer's backchanneling has not been transcribed for the purposes of readability. The voices are very low and difficult to hear.]

Ethnographic preface:

Born in 1921, Forrest Sadler grew up in east Texas in the small town of Troup. His father worked in the oilfield firing boilers and would take Forrest to work with him when he was just a child. During high school, he worked summers in the oilfields. After he was discharged from the Navy in 1946, he went to work for Texaco in south Texas. Six years later, he went to work for a service company, Christianson Diamond Products Company, in Henderson, Texas. In 1958, he moved to Shreveport and was made district manager. Four years later he was transferred to Lafayette to get the district going. In 1969, he became sales coordinator for the Eastern Hemisphere and moved to London. After spending four years in that position, he was transferred to Singapore where he served as manager of Southeast Asia. He left Christianson in 1975, moved back to Lafayette, and then went to work as the Rocky Mountain manager for Hycalog in Casper, Wyoming; a year later, he was transferred to Singapore.

TRANSCRIPTION

Interviewer initials: [SW]

Interviewee initials: [FS]

SW: Yeah, I just like to see [what you look like?]. Here we go. Interview with Mister Forrest Sadler, April third, 2003, in his home. First question I wanted to ask you, I see your last name is Sadler, are you originally from this area?

FS: No, I grew up in east Texas. Yeah, I was transferred here by my company in nineteen-, in '62.

SW: Arrived here in Lafayette in 1962.

FS: Right.

SW: What um, what, what got you involved in the oilfield?

FS: Well I grew up in the oilfield. I grew up in i-, in oilfield back in east Texas. Or, I grew up at the edge of the oilfield and my father was oilfield person. You know, when I grew up that was the thing. That was about the only jobs available. So I, like everybody else, went out and started to work when I was just a kid.

SW: What are the um, you said that was about all that was available, what else could you have done?

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FS: Well, in that area that I lived in, it was usually, it was a small farming area. And uh, and it wasn't, there was not any manufacturing or anything down there. There has been since then, it didn't, the, the little town of Troup is where I, the area that I grew up in. But it's close to Tyler, and Henderson, and Kilgore, and all those, those areas. And it's uh, it was just uh... it was just... a poor area, really. It was just small farmers is what it was. So bunch, most of us went to work in the oilfield.

SW: It was somethin', it was employment.

FS: That's right. Yeah.

SW: Was it, was it good employment or was it-

FS: It was, it was, it was fair employment. It was uh, as good as you could find anywhere. And that's just what, that's just where I started as a kid. In fact I was, my dad was workin' up in Talco, Texas, that's up in the north. And I was about 15 years old and I, and when I was out of school I'd go up there and work, I'd do somethin'. So I was workin' derricks, pullin' tubin', and rods and tubin' when I was 15 years old. And, you know, I was just, I had a job, you know. In the area that I grew up in, it was a very poor area, but no, no one thought of themselves as bein' poor. We never, that never crossed our mind that we were poor or underprivileged or anything, because we just didn't think like that back then. In fact uh, on May the eighteenth this year I will be 82 years old. A lot of things has happened uh, in, since I was a kid. [Pause]

SW: What did your uh, if you don't mind my askin', what did your, what did your father in oilfield what he do? Was he a derrick hand or-

FS: No he worked uh, he, he, he, I guess started off as a roughneck. He fired boilers, he was a boil-, you know, back then they run all those rigs. But I'll tell you a little story that uh, that I've told several people and sometimes it's hard to believe, but I was just a little fella, but I w-, my dad take me to work with him. And uh, in fact he taught me how to fire boilers, I guess, when was seven or eight years old. And uh, I was out and they were, they were riggin' up an old jack post rig. And uh, that's one of the older, older rigs. And they, they would have uh, a chain to go from the, from the draw works to the, to the, to the rollers. And they was tryin' to hook up this chain, was a big old rotary chain. And there was a small man; I remember he was small, because he was about the size of my uncle. And uh, he got his little finger cut off. Caught in there and just mashed it off or cut it off. Well they took a handkerchief and wrapped his finger up and I guess put sort of a tourniquet to stop the blood. And uh [Pause] I asked my dad, I said, uh, "Are they gonna take him to a hospital?" He said, "No, no. We take him to a doctor, he'll lose his job." And uh, so that m-, and now he, over and over with my dad, you know, kept, and I kept watchin' that man, he never lost a day's work. He had his little finger cut off and he, he kept workin' because he had to. He had to. He probably had a wife and kids somewhere and he had to feed 'em. And uh, a lot of people, they, what they did, they poured kerosene on that after they wrapped it up, poured kerosene. And I guess that sort of protected it. But that fella had a cut off finger and he never did, never did stop work. Because there was people sittin' around all around the rig waitin' for somebody to get hurt where they could get the job. I mean-

SW: A bit different from today.

FS: Yes, a bit different from today. And there was no such thing as lawsuits and stuff like that. You just, just a different, different time. [Pause]

SW: So you, you said you 15 years old, would you uh, back there in the summer and things like that?

FS: Yeah, yeah, we, yeah.

SW: [Inaudible, overlapping speech] out there working.

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FS: Yeah.

SW: You finished high school, did you go to college?

FS: No. I didn't. I didn't have a chance to go to college.

SW: You went straight out to the workforce?

FS: Into the workforce. [Pause]

SW: What uh, you said you got here in Lafayette, you arrived here in Lafayette in 1962. What company did you work for?

FS: I worked Christianson Diamond Products Company. We were, we were, it was an industrial diamond company, really. Buildin' equipment for coring and for drilling, deeper drilling. And that's when they transferred me here from Shreveport. In fact I, I was a district manager in Shreveport at that time. And I came here to really sort of get this district goin'. And we did. And I, I lived here until 1969. And my company transferred me to London, England. [Pause]

SW: For sort of the same thing?

FS: Yeah, uh hm.

SW: To get the office goin' over there?

FS: Well no, they already had, they already had a, a office. But they, in fact they sent me there as a sales coordinator, a sales coord-, coordinator for the Eastern Hemisphere, that was my title. And uh, it meant that I worked everywhere, really, is what it amount to.

SW: Eastern Hemisphere [Inaudible]-

FS: Eh, well I didn't, it was English-speakin', English-speakin' except for the communist countries, I didn't go [into them?]. Various spo-, responsibility was um... Africa, the Middle East, and oh, India. Then I, after, oh, about a little over three years they transferred me from London to Singapore. And I went there to, was the manager of that Southeast Asia, from Japan to... Indonesia, Thailand, and still I kept, I kept the India part, also. [Inaudible]-

SW: So they had you goin' all over the place.

FS: I lived on airplane for many, many years. Ethiopia. All that, but, oh, Middle East, and North Africa, West Africa. Uh, South Africa didn't come into my area, but uh, or, or East Africa, Kenya and that, places like that, I didn't get to them, but all of West Africa. Egypt and, you know, north, North Africa. And Middle East.

SW: Did you, you flew out to these places a lot from, from your base in London and Singapore?

FS: Well, I'd leave, I'd leave, I'd leave London, when I went to London, I'd leave London and uh, I've been, the longest trip I make was six weeks. Six weeks. Just goin' to the places that we had activity.

SW: Where they had drilling and things goin' on-

FS: Had drilling and uh-

SW: You guys were selling bits.

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FS: We were selling bits and, and equipment. Coring, there's a lot of coring in-, well now they, they've come up with ways I think now to keep from having to do so much of it, but there's a lot of cor-, a lot of uh, deep hole drilling. When we'd get into the deep stuff, well, we could usually, when they get in the smaller holes, you know, you, you start at the top of the big hole and you keep goin' down. And when we'd get down in the smaller holes, we could stay in h-, we could stay in the hole longer. If your 15 or 18,000 feet, it takes a long time to make a trip, you know, to pull that pipe out and go back. So if you can stay on bottom and keep drillin', and even if you don't drill quite as fast, and usually we could go just about as fast, uh, they might have to make a trip every 12 hours [or a rock bed?]. And, and we could uh, stay in the hole for three or four days. So we'd save a lot of trip and a lot of rate. And that was, that was the uh, that was a sellin' point and that's the way it was.

SW: So when drilling, you go in the hole for awhile and the bit starts to wear down, they have to come back and reattach it and then go back in.

FS: So if you can stay in the hole longer and, and make uh, make a lot, lot more hole without makin' a trip, you're savin' a lot of rig time, 'cause those rigs, those big rigs are expensive. So that was one of the things [Inaudible] business we were in. Plus the coring.

SW: What other kind of um, you say you were selling diamond tipped bits.

FS: Yeah.

SW: What other kind of bits are there?

FS: Oh, uh, Hughes Tool makes uh, uh, all kinds of bits. But they're made of steel, you know, steel teeth, [Inaudible], and that sort of thing. But uh, ours is diamond bits.

SW: Those work the best you think?

FS: Well it, it depends. It depends. They work the best in certain formations and at certain depths.

SW: Seems to me they might be more expensive.

FS: They are very expensive. But they, but, you know, it's, it's not the expense. They, if you can stay in the hole, if you save money with somethin', well then it's less expensive. It might cost you 10,000 dollars for a bit, uh, against uh, uh, 500, but that's very, not very important depending on what you can do with it [Inaudible].

SW: And you might spend 500 with a steel bit, but it's gonna wear out a lot faster.

FS: That's right, that's right. That, that rig time is what's expensive. You don't have, you don't have to save much rig time to make the difference.

SW: It sounds like-

FS: Some, in some cases a few minutes almost will make a difference. I mean, if you're payin' 60 or 70 or... 80,000 dollars a day for a rig, and I, I'm just usin' those numbers, because that's, that's the ballpark, dependin' on the rig and where it is and stuff. [Pause]

SW: Sounds like you had a good selling point.

FS: Oh yeah. [Pause]

SW: What was it like, did you have a, a wife and family at the time when you doing all this traveling?

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FS: I had a, I had a wife, yeah, but uh, my marriage fell apart due to [Pause] my work, really, I believe. I've thought back over it, I think uh, if I'd've had a eight to five job well it [Inaudible] [Pause] I think probably wouldn't have fallen apart. The way I, and I was sort of a workaholic anyway. I was one of those guys that, I've got a brother right now that's uh, close to my age and still is a consultant and still works at times. Because really, back then, that's about all we knew what to do. Because you come up [kids?].

SW: Right.

FS: Like up in east Texas where I grew up. When I was growin' up, people, I never heard of people takin' vacation. [Chuckling] "You people go on vacation?" The only vacation they had was uh, certain times of the year they'd take it a little easier than others. But there was no such things as vacations. In the area that I grew up we, when I grew up.

SW: Now it's part of the package when you get hired. [Chuckles]

FS: Part of the package. A different world altogether. At east Texas, uh, thing up there was, well, it only happened once because it was such a big operation. The time and everything. We just, we just almost slave labor is what [Inaudible] in that area. That's the way it was.

SW: They were just using you, people in the area who didn't have farm jobs or didn't want to work in the farm industry, so they worked for oil, but maybe the conditions weren't that great.

FS: No, no. Conditions were [Inaudible], people, I've, when I was um, calling on people, used to I'd run into people that were, that had been, that grew up in the area. And I remember one fella, uh, he was a young engineer back then. But he said that uh, I believe, he said in Kilgore, Texas, his father, they, they lived in a tent. And uh, of course there was tents everywhere. People would come in there and, with families. And he was a little boy and he, he said they had a wood floor. And he said the only toy he'd ever had was drivin' nails in that wood floor [Laughing] of that tent. He was just [Chuckles] reminiscing back. [Pause]

SW: Different times periods. [Laughs]

FS: Different time, different world altogether. I'm, it's like I have a friend here, name is [Barney Foreman?]. He says uh, "The only thing about those good old days, I'm glad they're over." [SW chuckles] But you'd tell people about, you'd try to tell people about uh, what went on and they're really not interested. Even your kids are not interested. They think you're just tellin' tall stories. [Slight pause]

SW: How long did you, did you work out there in east Texas before you moved to Shreveport? [Pause]

FS: Well just about from the time I was a kid off and on. I moved to Shreveport, now I got a, when I came out the military, I came out of the Navy in 1946. And I went to work for Texaco in south Texas. And uh, I worked uh, I worked uh... Texaco about six years. And I had two sons and, I was in the drilling department. And we movin'. And I uh, was tryin' to get those two sons in school where I could leave 'em. And that's the reason I left Texaco and went to work for, for a ser-, service company, which was Christianson Diamond. And uh, I first lived in Henderson, Texas, and then, then they transferred me over to uh, to Shreveport. And I worked out of Shreveport... 1958 uh. They gave me the district there and I worked for the district, uh, was the district manager until 1962 when they transferred me here. And then from here in 1969 I went over to England. And-

SW: Three years and moved.

FS: Yeah, three years then. And then I, and then in '72 I guess I was transferred to Singapore. [Pause]

SW: How did you end up back here in Lafayette?

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FS: Well, uh, I r-, I retired, well, I, I left Christianson back in nineteen... oh, '75. And I moved, and I moved back here. And then I went back overseas for another, for N. L. Hycalog. I went back to doing the same thing for Hycalog and I spent uh, four more years, four or five more years. Five more years and then, and then, you know, I just reached retirement age. I retired and then I went back to work. But uh, but they, when I, when I retired, I had been on somebody's payroll everyday for 40 years. That was before I worked in, as a kid, and then, you know, I, I worked about 50 years actually. Well I worked all the time. [Pause] Still do work for, I, I work at home and I work for, I'm a Shriner and uh, I do work there. In fact I got a call this mornin' [Clears throat] I'm on the advisory board for the Salvation Army, so I gotta meet them at about eight. And uh, you know, I d-, I do somethin'.

SW: Stay busy.

FS: I don't sit around. Yeah.

SW: You, Hycalog, I've heard of that company, you doin' the same thing for Hycalog as you were doin' for Christianson Diamond?

FS: Yeah. Yeah. Same thing. Same thing. I went for, went to work for Hycalog and I first, they transferred me to Casper, Wyoming for a year and I, I was just markin' time, really, I, I went there as their Rocky Mountain manager. And uh, waitin' to go overseas. So they wanted me to go back overseas, so. Then transferred me back to Singapore. [Pause]

SW: You, you moved around a lot, you go where the oil is, right?

FS: Well that's what everybody does. You go where, go where the work is. Oil, oilfield, they transfer people. All the big companies, they tra-, they leave anybody anywhere very long. And I guess there's different reasons for that. Get into all that, but there's a lot of good reasons for it I think. Leave somebody in a place too long that has to do with complacency and a lot of stuff.

SW: Keep challengin' you by moving-

FS: Keep challenging, keep, keep the challenge there.

SW: It's a good way to put it. [Slight pause] You mentioned that uh [Clears throat] the fella that worked with your father, his uh, pinky cut off. So for awhile you, you were doin' that kind of work, you were in that kind of dangerous atmosphere.

FS: Oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah.

SW: Did you ever get hurt or a injury?

FS: No. No, I, I worked uh, the reason I didn't get hurt, 'cause I had a dad in front of me that uh, was safety-minded and kept me uh, saw to it. I, uh [Pause] uh, I worked derricks on the old [friggle board?] where you had the, you have to use line burns. So what you do, you, you got the blocks up with these line burners. See, so what you do, you, you drive the blocks up with these line burners. Push 'em out and then, of course, you'd have to [latch them?] [Inaudible], you know. And uh, most people oil patch don't even know what that is anymore, but I was just a kid and I was workin' derricks. That not, not in the production, but in the drilling. And my dad always said that you have to turn those line burners loose, they're a piece of pipe that, you know, that split and put a where you can hold it to hold, burn those lines. And uh, you couldn't hardly find anybody that ever worked like that that didn't, hadn't lost some fingers. And he said always be careful and don't get your fingers caught in those blocks, it'll cut 'em off. Well I was aware of that sort of thing and never did when I. And I've always been safety-minded anyway. And when I went to work for Texaco after I came out the service, we had uh, we had a safety, it was a safety-minded company and we'd shut the rig down and

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have safety meetings. And uh, so, you know, I just, I just grew up safety about due, due to someone in front of me that was safety-minded person. No, I never did get hurt. Had some close calls like anybody, but uh, and I, back, back then I, when I was just a kid, I make about 18 years old, I drove a tru-, oilfield truck all, moved all kind of equipment and that sort of thing. [Sighing] And then later on, when I was here, you know, runnin' this district here, I had uh, we, I first, when I first transferred here, my company uh, left it up to me on what to do. And I bought a big boat, 'cause we had to make those rigs out in the bays and canals and what have you. And I thought, well, could probably do it [on a boat?], I, I think I've got a b-, bought a 22 foot uh, big boat with two big engines on it. And it didn't take me long to find out we couldn't do it. So I went to my company and I said, uh, uh, "I'm gonna have to have an airplane if I get this job done." So they let me uh, buy a, a 182, Cessna-182 on floats. And we used it for a couple of years I guess. And uh, and then I was able to buy a 185, new 185 on floats. But I had a pilot and we were just workin' him to death. So I'd either had to ha-, had to hire another pilot or I had to get busy and start flyin'. So I went out and checked out in a float plane and I started uh, flyin'. And I wound up flyin' about as much as he did. 'Cause I'd fly usually on the weekends. He'd fly two or three days and then I'd fly the rest of the week, 'cause we, we delivered all of our equipment and everything, and float in that float plane to rigs and, you know, it was just a workhorse. So I flew a lot, got a lot of hours flyin' that float plane. That was during [Paul Fornet's?] time. Yeah, he was a great guy. You know, I was out there, they pickin' some people up. And uh, went to Paul Fornet's, but it's not the same place, but, but it, it's uh, it was, I looked out there and I s-, and they don't have any, that place used to be covered with float planes, just float planes sittin' all over the place, 'cause everybody was usin' them the same way we were usin' 'em. But that was a good experience.

SW: Um, you had your pilot's license?

FS: Yeah, yeah.

SW: Did you get that [Inaudible]

FS: Yeah, I had, yeah, I had my single-engine landin' C. I didn't, I didn't want a twin, I didn't need it, but mine was single engine landing C.

SW: And you'd gotten experience in the Navy? Uh, uh-

FS: No. I didn't have it in the Navy, I, well, I just, when I was a kid, I, I was interested in flyin', but I spent a little time, but I got most of it right here. I just went out [airway?]. Got checked out, got my [Pause] I got, really, I did my solo back here. I did a solo once before, but that amounted to nothin'. But uh, I did it here and I just went on and got my, got my license and, you know, one thing I, back when I grew up, now I know you've got to have a, somethin' to show what you know. Back then if you could do it, if you could do the job, you could do the job. And that's what we were lookin' for was people that could do the job. I think a lot of good people are probably looked over today because you can't do anything unless you've got a university, a college degree. And uh, some of, some of very successful people that I know, I got a brother, half brother that's uh, multi, multi-millionaire today. He finished high school. Uh, I've got a cousin up in Henderson, Texas, that uh, his company, do you ever see the Sadler Barbeque? He does, the last account I had about 70 million a year. He had a high school education. Uh, I've got another cousin that's uh, does the same kind of business and, a similar business. He got, he might have gone to college a couple of years, but not over that. And uh, these people in the, if they've got good job now, or even any job, nobody would've hired 'em, but they've been very successful. So a lot people that don't have, back when I grew up, just didn't have the opportunity to, to go further in school, and uh, for a lot of them today like that would just be completely looked over. They wouldn't be able to, to show what they can do. But when I came along, if you could do the, if you could get out there and carry the mail so to speak, you could, you could, you could do your job. But it's, like I say, I don't know, it's [Pause] [Sighs] keep sayin' we live in a different world, we really do. You know what I'm talkin' about I guess.

SW: Definitely. Can see the differences myself. Uh, so even, even uh, if you could fly that plane, but you didn't have a pilot's license-

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FS: Well I had a pilot's license. Oh you have to have a, you, you have to have a pilot's license.

SW: You just have to get up there and fly.

FS: Yeah. Yeah. I didn't have to have a degree to do it, though. But I had to be able to prove that could fly. And I could fly float planes as well as my pilot. And I could.

SW: So you guys were delivering um, delivering you said equipment, the bits and things like that.

FS: Bits and bits and p-

SW: Not, not large cargo.

FS: No, no. Bits and people and uh, and also we just checked on the rigs. We just go and check on them. Uh, have to find out what they're needs, we had to keep, we tried to keep in contact with the people on the rigs. And [Pause] it was rewarding, but it was a lot of hard work. In the summertime a float plane is, is, is hard work. You know, to get out there you're, many of those canals are below, you know, the water's way down low and you're flyin' and the banks are on each side of you and then uh, when it's 80 or 90 degrees, well, gettin' that uh, if you've got a float, if you've got uh, amphib, if it's an amphib. If you don't have, if you got just a straight float, that's a little bit easier, but if you got a amphib where you can land out here on the runway uh, you had [edo?] floats. Uh, that's the type of floats that we had. And y-, you have to, you have to sort of finesse that old airplane out of that ditch that it's in into the air. But uh, and [wait to you, wait to you?] learn how to fly, you know.

SW: You guys ever use helicopters at all to transfer stuff?

FS: We didn't. Other companies did. Companies, the companies did that, but uh, service companies, we, we were out there, we was on the other side of the fence, you know, we were out there tryin' to, tryin' to sell a product.

SW: So that predicated the way you guys did things? You-

FS: Yeah.

SW: Had to get that, those drill bits to those guys. Did they do, they used a lot of diamond, diamond drill bits offshore or onshore?

FS: Oh, all over, all over. Depending on depth and then what they were doing. Uh, if it was shallow or deep core, core, with core you would use 'em at any depth. But when you get to the drill bits, well usually you were getting deep. You had the rig time uh, that was usually a real, main reason for using it. [Pause]

SW: So you didn't, you were, I guess you were fortunate that you worked in the drilling aspect and when you moved to something else you could kind of have a-

FS: Well I had a background, I had a background from my child, from a kid, you know, I had a background in drilling and, and uh, as you, as you, as you grow up in somethin' you observe a lot. And if you're interested in learning, well you'll observe even more. Someone, some people have worked 20 years and they've got uh, one good year experience. 'Cause after that one year, they never, they never go to the trouble to learn anything anymore or, you know, learn more. But if you go out there and work at uh, work at uh, at uh... I don't know, my dad told me, he said, when I was kid somewhere along the line, said, uh, "Continue to try to educate yourself. Spend some of your money to educate yourself. And spend some of your money for uh, uh... keep, keep yourself well-groomed." You know, and uh, and it do-, my dad, I think he had probably a, uh, grammar school education, but uh, he told me some things that, that really have stayed with me. And I'll tell you one little story, I mean, I don't know, this might be gettin' completely off the subject, but, but uh, I was, I guess, 10 or 12 years old. One time he, he told me, he said, "One of these days

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you're gonna dress yourself up." That's what they called it back then. You know, go buy a suit and, you know. And he said, "When you do, the first thing you do is buy a good hat." Everybody wore a hat, you know. And he said, "Buy a good pair of shoes. And then take what's left and buy your suit, because," he said, "you can buy the best suit in the store, and if you haven't got a good hat and a good pair of shoes, you look like a tramp." Now that was told to me when I was 12 years old, 10 or 12 years old by my dad. And he was a guy that lived out in the country and worked in the oilfield. He had a, he had a lot of good level-headed sense. And I've always remembered that, you know. Take the best suit in the store and if you haven't got shoes or, and I, I saw that so much in England. I'd see a guy in a pinstripe suit with a pair of uh... suede lookin' shoes on. What are called hush puppies. They wore hush puppies. Now I don't care how well a guy dressed, he would still wear those same hush puppies. And uh, every time I saw that I thought of what my dad told me. [Chuckling] Yeah, he does look like a tramp.

SW: That's interesting. Sounds like your father had some good advice.

FS: He did. He did, absolutely. Well I tryin' to remember a lot of things that he, he uh [Pause] and that, that was one.

SW: I know movin' around a lot, they do that, but uh, also the up and down part of the oilfield, were you ever worried about job security?

FS: I never was. I never was. I, I never, I worked all my life and I never uh, I never went through unemployment in my life. I, I just uh, I didn't do that. I was always able to work. And uh, the only thing I, I look back, back when I was, you get with, with a company and you'd stay. I probably should've moved on to other companies. People do now, I don't think anybody stays anywhere very long, because [they're all?], but uh, back then you get with somebody and you become pretty loyal to that company. And there was reasons for it, they treated you right. But uh, now, I don't think anybody can depend on anything with a company. 'Cause they, they look at the bottom line.

SW: Think there's loyalty either way these days from either the employee or employers.

FS: That's right, there's none at all. There's no, and, and that's a shame, because we used to stay and uh, people appreciated us and, you know. But. [Pause]

SW: I've, I've heard from guys like you many times if you could, you could start with a company and if you gave them hard work, you could expect that they took care of you.

FS: That's right. I stayed with a company 25 years. And uh, I stayed with Christianson Diamond. And uh, everything went [Pause] you know, they was a good company to work for.

SW: Twenty-five years now with another company they might, they might cut you loose.

FS: Well, well, that's right. That's right. They might uh, cut you loose and then uh, and you, very few, I don't guess any-, very few people stay with a company 25 years anymore.

SW: [Inaudible]

FS: Sure, sure.

SW: I guess uh, you're, try to take care of yourself if they're not gonna take care of you.

FS: That's right, that's right.

SW: It's a different ballgame now.

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FS: Different ballgame, different world we live in. And I don't know, I think sometimes I heard someone say and I agree with him, that we probably live in this country when it was the best it'll ever be. I hope that's not true, but uh, we, we might have. We got uh [Pause] hate to get in politics, but uh, look at California. They're in a mess. They're in a terrible mess. And uh [Pause] and it's their politics that's doin' it. It's the politics of [skip/implicit?]. This state right here in the shape it's been in, and it's the politics in California that's killin' it. But I don't think anybody's gonna change it. It's the way they, it's the way they think. My eyes are runnin' a little bit, I've got this cold. [Pause] I don't know what else to.

SW: I've, I've got some, some more questions, if you don't mind.

FS: Okay, what-

SW: I know that you're waiting for a phone call, so whenever that happens we, we can cut it off. Um, I'm kind of interested in, in Lafayette, when you got here in Lafayette at uh, from '62 to '69 when you-

FS: Uh hm.

SW: What, what did this town look like when you got here as compared to now?

FS: It was a lot different. For one thing we didn't have a traffic problem. And uh [Pause] it was, it was a nice, Lafayette's still nice place to live, it's a nice place to live. Then back when I moved here, Four Corners was the center. I mean, that's where all the guys went to get a job and what have you. You went to Four Corners to Jacob's Restaurant to eat and gas up and [Slight pause] meet people and it was just the center of operation out there. 'Course then the Oil Center came along, but when I first moved I, you know where uh, you know where um... uh, [Hub?] City Ironworks is?

SW: Uh hm.

FS: Hub City Ironworks. We had a little uh, building across the street from there on [Redding?] for our office. And we used that and I finally talked to my company and my boss and I moved on into the Oil Center. You know where the little [Puddytat?] Restaurant used to be? I had an office right there, pretty close to there. [Sighs] Then later on I, was growin', I needed uh, to do something different and I uh, you know, you know, where Knight Oil Tool's office is? You know that brick front building by, by, you know where they are now? I had that building built.

SW: Oh, okay.

FS: I had-

SW: I know where you're talkin' about.

FS: I, I, we, we built that building. And my company, I had to make a 20 year forecast, can you believe that? Twenty-year forecast, because they wanted to, they was gonna move around and continue to grow, they wanted to know somethin'. And I missed, I didn't, I didn't miss at all. They just lucky that from a time I gave that forecast uh, it was about 20 years 'til, end what was in '82, '80, somewhere along there when things fell apart. That had been 20 years since [Inaudible]. But uh [Pause] I had a boss back then, when they uh, transferred me from Shreveport down here, we had a meeting in Houston. And I, at the meeting my boss told me to come by his office. I mean, his room, 'cause he, he was [Inaudible], so I went by. And he said, "I know you've got a pretty tough job." Hycalog and [Inaudible] Drilling Service had really taken this area over. And he said, "You've got a tough job." He said, "Don't come to me a year or two from now and say, 'Well if you'd've given me this and if you would've done, given me that, I would've been able to do it, but I wasn't able to do my job, because.'" He said, "It's your job to pound on my desk hard enough to get what you need." But I, and that was the best advice I ever had. But I worked with people that would listen to me. And,

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like I said, I first started with one airplane, then another airplane, and we, we were, we were doin' really well when I was transferred from here, out of this country. And we had uh, it was nothing but hard work and, and people that would listen to my needs. When I needed an oi-, uh, out, another office, I was able to get it when I needed it. Whatever I needed, I was able to get. And, but then uh, the company that I worked for didn't have to go through a bunch of other people. Now, I understand from what I have read, that one of the problems in business today is there's so many people that can't make a decision. If the guy down here where I was, if, if [Clears throat] he can't make a decision, then the guy above him, if he goes to him, he can't make a decision, and it goes on and on. And I read somethin' recently, well, not recently, but in the last couple of years that said one of the, one of the weaknesses in business today is findin' people. And one of the problems in business today is findin' people that can make decisions. When you make a decision, you know, you, you might uh... you got to be right more than 51 percent of the time [Chuckling] but, but uh, you, you've got to be right. [Slight pause] You, you gonna make some mistakes, but you have to be right also. But you got to work for company that will give you a chance to prove whether you right or wrong. And I was lucky enough to be with a company like that. And I was successful here and everywhere else I've [landed?]. I think that was one of the main reasons for it.

SW: Sounds like you were callin' a lot of shots and uh-

FS: That's right.

SW: Looks like you were even more than 50 p-, 51 percent right. [Chuckles]

FS: Oh I was fifty-, I was, I was lucky enough to be right a lot.

SW: A lot higher than that.

FS: Lucky. Lucky. And, and the times had somethin' to do with it. You can't do anything unless the business is there. If the business is there, then you go out and get it if you do it right. And that's what we were able to do.

SW: So the thing was boomin' in the '60s?

FS: Boomin', really boomin'. And it was a boomtown here and when I was, when I was transferred to England it was uh, a boom over there. And when I was transferred to Southeast Asia, it was really boomin' there. So everywhere I went-

SW: Hence the transfers.

FS: Yeah. Yeah, everywhere I went uh, business was get it if you go out and get it. And uh, I uh, I was in Singapore, I had a man, I think he was with uh, uh... E and W or one of those companies. Came to me one day and he said, "How in the world are you doin' what you're doin'?" He said, "You, you're, you look like uh, Halliburton or somebody like that out here." And I said, "I know you're gettin'," I don't know how he knew I was gettin' things done, but I was. And I said, "Well, uh, I've hired people to help me." I said, uh, "I don't even speak uh, Bahasa in Indonesia, so I've hired somebody down there to help me with the Visas, gettin' our people in and out. I've hired somebody to give me tax uh, the same guy, to give me a hand, keep us out of trouble with the tax, our tax and everything else that has to do with doing business in Indonesia." And that's what I did, I hired, I hired good people to help me. And I was able to, I would just always remember that uh, if you, if you get a job done, you've gotta have good people around you. So, you, and you, and nobody can do everything, I guarantee you that. No way. You'll get nowhere with that, there's just too much to know. And that's been the success of my brother, the one that uh, he's in, does ins-, uh, uh... insulation. You know, this uh, industrial insulation in refineries. And, and uh, chemical plants all up and down the [Inaudible, plane flying overhead] that whole area down there. And uh, I talked to him years ago about that when he was gettin' in the business. I said, "Get good people." And today he's been able to hire people and he's just stepped back and, and uh, he does a lot of entertainment, but he has had time the last year and, and uh, last year, he was chosen the big, the

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number one big game hunter of the world. Hunts all over the world. And uh, and has done, he belongs to that international game hunting group and he was the number one in the world for that uh, last year.

SW: I've seen those guys on TV.

FS: Yeah.

SW: There's a channel where they have a lot of hunting and fishing.

FS: Uh hm, uh hm.

SW: So I might see your brother on TV-

FS: Might be.

SW: If I watch that channel?

FS: But uh-

SW: I'd like to know somebody famous.

FS: I beg your pardon?

SW: I said, I'd like to know the famous people [Inaudible]-

FS: Well he, he's, he's, he's a very low-key guy and he don't uh, in fact, we're going out to his ranch in uh, oh, close to San Antonio on the seventeenth. We're gonna be out there for a few days. Sort of a birthday get-together. [Pause] Go ahead, what else?

SW: Uh. [Pause] Well I, I keep uh, I keep coming back to uh, to [Slight pause] Lafayette [Inaudible]. You said, you said things were booming, see those years, '62 to '69. [Pause] Where did you guys live when you first got here in 1962? Did they have a rental house or-

FS: No, no, I, I, I, no, I rented a house. Over on, o-, over off Pinhook. I rented a house, but then I uh, I, soon after I got here, I started lookin' for a place to build or buy. And this uh, I, I built this, I moved, had this house built in 1963.

SW: This house here?

FS: Yes, this little house right here and I just kept it because I liked where it is and I like the neighborhood. No need to move around. I, I kept it rented out for years.

SW: Oh, so when you went overseas you, you rented out, that, that was one of the questions, so when, so when you came back from Singapore and other places like that, you uh-

FS: Yeah.

SW: You had a place.

FS: Yeah, uh hm. [Inaudible]

SW: Somethin', somethin' permanent.

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FS: Uh huh, that's right. I, I left my bankin' and everything here. [Inaudible]

SW: What uh, was uh, [Inaudible] landmarks. Nineteen sixty-three when you built this place that must've on the outside of town.

FS: I was on the outside of town, in fact it was a dirt street. But they told me it would be, they would pave it within the next three or four months. And they did.

SW: So the city was growing out this way?

FS: Oh yeah, growin' in this direction.

SW: Did y'all have a, city utilities or did that take awhile to get out here?

FS: No, utilities was here. We had utilities. And they had the street built, they just didn't have it paved. So this uh, this was a big open field b-, I guess back then, back then. And by the time I, that house was already built when I came here and a few houses on down the street were built, they went on and finished it. So, you know. And back this way, back towards Pinhook all of those houses had been built. And the new part of the street started right here and went on down.

SW: What was Johnston Street like?

FS: Oh it was just a... it had traffic, but nothing, nothing even like today. But by the time I left in 1969 it was beginning to get traffic. I, and I remember telling someone that I hoped the traffic problem been solved by the time I got back. But when I, by the time I got back, it was really was bad.

SW: That's wishful thinkin'. [Chuckles]

FS: Yeah, and you know, this thing had took so many years to get this bridge across [Camilla?]. I think that's just uh, uncalled for. Just no reason for that to take that long. Just don't procrastinate that long with anything. I know there was a lot of problems, but 'course one of the big problems during the [Kenny Bowen?] time, his last time, as mayor nothin' happened in this city. I mean they, all they did was fight each other. It was just the biggest mess that I have, that just almost criminal the way this place was treated those few years. And I don't know whose fault it was. [Slight pause]

SW: Back to politics. [Chuckles]

FS: Yeah. [Slight pause] But-

SW: Did-

FS: Go ahead.

SW: Oh I'm sorry, did you, you have something to-

FS: No no. Go ahead.

SW: To tie into another question, when you moved to Shreveport then you moved to Lafayette then you moved to London. You moved around for these companies. Did they have uh, how did they, when they relocated you, did they set that up or did you, did they assist you in finding a place to stay-

FS: When I went-

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SW: How did that work?

FS: What I uh, when I moved from Shreveport here what the company, if you moved across the street they would give you 2,000 dollars. They said it cost that much to move across the street. So if you moved, but they picked up all the moving expenses. When I moved to London, they had a big apartment right in the center of London, right off Hyde Park. It was a big, nice apartment. That's where I lived when I was in London. And then when I went to Singapore, um, I rented an apartment, but the company uh, they were, you know, they, they took care of my expense. When I moved... I moved one time when I was with Christianson to another apartment. But uh, you know, that was no problem places to live. The company supported us when we were overseas.

SW: I guess my question was more designed when you first get there you're being thrust into a new place.

FS: Oh-

SW: The company's asking you to move, so they didn't just drop you into a new location, have you fend for yourself.

FS: I'll tell you they, they uh, the company put a lot of confidence in us and uh, for me, when I went to London I got a little bit of assistance, but I started traveling and uh, one of thing, I traveled to all, to all the countries, and I traveled on my own. I didn't have somebody nursemaiding me when I got there or what have you, you know. I just went everywhere and I didn't'... I think of all these politicians that go around, they got somebody to meet 'em and uh, roll out the red car-, they don't learn much, you know. If you get out there on your own you learn a lot. And you learn to be low-key. You don't, you don't... you don't-

SW: Draw a lot of attention to yourself.

FS: You don't throw your weight around, you know. You wanna stay out of trouble. [Slight pause]

SW: Especially if you don't look exactly like the local population.

FS: That's right. [Chuckles] You don't uh, speak exactly the way they do.

SW: I've lived in Asia for awhile-

FS: Where'd you live in Asia?

SW: I lived in Japan.

FS: Did you?

SW: Yes, so I know what you mean. [Chuckles]

FS: Yeah. I mean, I've traveled, I was in and out of Japan all the time.

SW: Their eyes are already on you

FS: All the time.

SW: So you need to make sure you don't do anything-

FS: Yeah, when you go, when you go to sit down with people in Japan to have a meeting, you will be there and they'll have about 10 or 15 people around you and they're all talking and you don't know what they're saying. And...

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SW: If you don't know what's going on, yeah, it's a little. [Chuckles]

FS: Yeah.

SW: Interesting. [Pause] You think uh, do you think this city, that the oil industry was better for the city than this city than it was worse for it or?

FS: Oh I think it was better for it, no doubt. It's better for it. [Inaudible] I think that the people in this city in the petroleum business they have done a great job, always have. Versus, but I don't think it's the, I don't think it's the politics of Lafayette that's been a problem a lot, but for Louisiana, that's the way I see it. I think it's... well I won't get into all that. [Chuckles]

SW: It's another can of worms right there.

FS: That's another, that's a sorry can of worms [some of it?]. [Chuckles]

SW: But uh, from what I'm hearing from you and I've heard from others, is that cities and towns tend to grow. A place like Lafayette's centrally located. It was, it was bound to grow anyway.

FS: Yeah.

SW: But that the oilfield really accelerated that process.

FS: Oh it sure has. Oh the oil-, oilfield here has really, still is, still is happening. Although a lot of it has moved away, but it's still a lot of manufacturing here that's being sent all over the world. I mean this uh... I just saw something on the TV last night I believe, yeah, last night, that had to do with these uh, these boxets, boxes that are being built. I think it's in this area somewhere. That, that everybody's using. They're footlockers and things like that for the service people. Did you see that?

SW: Yeah, storage boxes.

FS: Yeah, storage boxes. They're almost [indenus-, structable?]. They're not, they're being built here aren't they?

SW: I think so.

FS: Yeah, some of 'em here. There's a lot of small businesses around here that are doing a great job. And uh, lot of stuff, the people here, a lot of people doing a lot of trading overseas. I'm glad to see that. [Pause]

SW: Do you have anything that you wanted to add or?

FS: Oh I don't know. I'm-

SW: A story? Some interesting thing that happened here in Lafayette or?

FS: I saw this place grow, you know, until I left in '69 and it's continued to grow. But, and it's quite a medical center. And I know you, probably you hear also from time to, some people wonder where all the money's coming from. There's a lot of money around here. Wonder what's going on. It's, at times. But I guess uh, it's like you said awhile ago, we're in a good location, we've got a lot of different things going on, farming, I guess you could call some of it ranching.

SW: It's also [like?], well, I guess during, were you here during the big bust in the '80s? [Slight pause]

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FS: Uh, I was overseas. See I came back in... I came back in '75. And then I went back in '77. I was over until '82. [Slight pause] Uh, it had just happened when I came back.

SW: Well what was that like?

FS: Well-

SW: I've heard a lot-

FS: Every-, everybody thought, everybody kept sayin', "Well, it's gonna come back." They didn't believe this thing would last. But it did, it lasted. You know, no one could hardly believe [and I don't think?], uh, when I was out in Singapore I, I was at Petroleum Club one day and I heard some people talkin'. And one of these guys said, "Well I sold everything I can sell. You know my company, it was just behind. I can't get ahold of anything else to sell until I," you know. And I told him, I said, "Well you better be, you better enjoy it because that's not gonna last." When, when people think uh, think things are, can't change, just give it time. And it did. Just went on and on and people lost their jobs and lost companies. And I, I saw people that I knew just wound up that were, had more money than they knew how to spend, uh, six months later were flat broke. It was sort of a shame to see. But uh, that's the way it was, because well, what happened, you know what happened. They had, they had property and everything up for collateral and then they wasn't worth anything. So the banks weren't go along with them anymore. So they put 'em out of business.

SW: Yeah, a domino effect.

FS: Put 'em out of business.

SW: Happened to too many people all at once.

FS: Yeah, yeah. One of my dear friends, he was, well he was worth, oh, probably eight, or 10, or 15 million. He lost it all. You know, just went, but he wasn't the only.

SW: Yeah, yeah there were too many. I was very young when it happened. I, I was raised here in this town, but I was-

FS: You raised here?

SW: Yeah. I was uh, 'course I had, I wasn't even in high school in the early '80s yet, so it was sort of understandin' that things weren't' good, but as a child I couldn't-

FS: How old are you now? How-

SW: Thirty.

FS: Uh, you're just a little younger than my son, W., W. Sadler. Do you know him, [Doug McCarren]??

SW: Seems like I've heard his name before.

FS: He went to, he went to Lafayette High.

SW: Is he here in town now?

FS: Yeah, he's the manager of uh, a service company.

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SW: Seems like I've heard his name before, maybe, maybe I've, thinkin' I have. When you, when you came back and worked for Hycalog at that time, did you know a fellow by the name of David Burke?

FS: David Burke?

SW: Young guy.

FS: I don't believe I did.

SW: 'Cause I know him and he worked for Hycalog.

FS: Yeah.

SW: Right, right around in that time. But uh, may-, maybe I do know Doug or maybe-

FS: You might know him if you see him. He married Karen Meredith.

SW: Karen Meredith?

FS: Yeah. The Meredith Family here. Lived over here on [Kim?].

SW: Oh right there, so it's right there?

FS: Yeah.

SW: But did he, did he go to UL? Or USO?

FS: He went for awhile. He went for a year or two. A couple years I guess.

SW: Okay. That's maybe where I might've known him.

FS: And he got, got married. But he, he's worked, gosh, he's worked all over too. He worked in Iran and he's worked uh, in Southeast Asia, he worked for Otis Engineers.

SW: Father, and then you, all in the oilfield.

FS: Yeah. I've got another son, got another son lives in Denver. He didn't want no part of it. [SW chuckles]

SW: Nothin' to do with it.

FS: Both of 'em, both of 'em roughnecked, though, in school, yeah.

SW: That's a good education.

FS: Oh yeah. Well saw to it that they did. And Doug he was a good hand and so was Ken. Ken uh, this might be off the beaten path, but I'll tell you it was an oilfield story. He was in college up at uh, he was goin' to uh... it was Texas Tech up in, or no, Louisiana Tech at Rustin. Rustin, up at Rustin. But anyway, I had a friend, his name was Jim [Penson?]. We, for years, we boated together. We, our kids would ski together and that sort of thing. So he knew Ken. And he said, "What's Ken gonna do when he gets out of school?" I mean out, you know, for summer. I said, "Well he's lookin' for a job." He said, "Well send him by, send him down to me and I'll give him a job." So he did. And uh, he had worked about a week or two I guess and he, I still livin' in Shreveport, this was just before I moved here. He said, "Dad I'm gonna have to quit that job." And I said, "Quit your job?" I said, "Why?" He said, "Well they're just

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makin' it so, you know, how they treat young people out on those rigs." He said, "They makin' it so rough on me and so I'm just not gonna be able to stay." I said, "What are you gonna tell Mister Penson?" [Chuckles] There was a long silence. And he said, "Fine," he said, "Well if I go back out there, I'll have to fight." I said, "Fight. They'll whip your ass. But fight it. You're gonna fight it, go fight. You get your butt out there and you go to work." Well he went, went on and went out. He uh, when he got out there of course they started on him. He invited one of those roughnecks off the floor, Jim Penson told me this. They got out on the ground and the guy kicked him in the butt and said, "Get back up there and you go to work boy." And uh, he went back and went to work, you know. But uh, I, I just told him, I said, "[You done fightin' it?]." But uh, he didn't have to fight. But he offered, he, he gave him a chance to fight. But he was a kid. You know, I figured they'd slap him around, slap him around a little bit. But they didn't even do that. But I, that's the way I felt about both of my sons. I mean, I, I knew they was gonna have to meet the real world. And I, I remember tellin' them when they were about oh, 10 or 12 years old, both of 'em, I set 'em down one day and I told 'em, I said, "As long as you are right, I'm behind you. You can depend on it. But if you get caught up in this dope thing and any of that," I said, "Don't, I won't be there. Don't depend on me one ounce." I said, "If I find out about it, I'll call the cops." And I meant it. They knew I meant it. I never had any problems with either one of 'em, 'cause they knew as long as they were right, I was behind 'em. But when they were wrong, they were on their own. And I think that uh, a lot of people don't do enough of that. You just don't, you just don't uh... and I, I think, you just don't stand behind somebody that's doin' things wrong. If they're wrong, they have to pay, they have to pay the price. I convinced both of 'em that uh, I would help 'em every way I could as long as they were doin' things right. Don't mess around. And they never did. And I, I'll tell you another thing that I did. I grew up at a different time, I would hate to be raisin' a child now. I don't know if even talkin' to 'em would help. But I would uh, I would hate to, you know, it's, again, I'll say again, it's a different world. But it worked for me back then on both of my sons. I have reason to be proud of both of 'em because they have been, they've done quite well. My oldest son he does electrical design work. I mean, big stuff. Now he works for a company in Denver and they do all kinds of really sophisticated electrical design work for, you know, the government [Inaudible]. So.

SW: Things worked out.

FS: Things worked out for both of mine, [real good?].

SW: I liked that uh, I wrote that down here, I might use that in some of the writings I do. Roughneck education.

FS: Yeah.

SW: I like that-

FS: You learn to do everything. When I, I worked with Texac-, Texaco down in uh, Preno-, [Premont?], Texas. And we was uh, we was working on, out on the ranch, at [Tieranna?] Ranch out there. And they had a 136 foot derrick and was skidding from one location to the other. It'd take us about 30 days as I remember to finish [Inaudible] then we'd skid that derrick to another location.

SW: [You'd move the whole thing?]

FS: Move the whole thing, standin' up. You roll it over. And uh, after you moved that derrick two or three times, well the old bolts start to get loose and ordinarily now, 'course you call the rig builders to come out there. Well you were the rig builders. We'd go from [haulin?] that derrick to roughnecks. And the derrick man [was workin'?], I was a derrick man back then. And you would go all over that rig with [an old spud?] wrench. And uh, you'd tighten all those bolts. Well we did it, we didn't, they didn't call rig builders to do it. Just get out there and [go from girt to girt?].

SW: Was it a wooden derrick or a steel-

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FS: No, a steel derrick. Steel derrick. Big old 136 foot steel derrick. And uh, and you know, back when I worked the derricks, you, back then you ride the elevators up. You know, you'd ride, ride on up and [Inaudible] you'd get off. And uh... but now you can't do that. They won't let you do that, that's too dangerous. [Slight pause] We, I don't know, there wasn't too many accidents.

SW: Have to be careful [Inaudible].

FS: Oh yeah.

SW: But that's, that's just the nature of the beast. [Chuckles]

FS: That's the nature of it, that's right. That's the nature of the beast, just get out there. Well if you, and of course, like I said, they taught safety. [Pause] [But they're just out there?]-

SW: They, they still do it now, but uh, I've heard, maybe you've heard of this, I've heard it from some other individuals that worked back in the day just like you. It was uh, there weren't a lot of accidents, because people were more careful.

FS: Uh hm.

SW: Now you see, some people have told me that they have more safety meetings now, but some people just don't pay attention.

FS: Don't pay attention-

SW: They don't think what they're doin' is dangerous.

FS: And, and you've got a lot of people now just hopin' they get hurt enough to have a lawsuit. And we never even, that never crossed our minds.

SW: That's another difference.

FS: Never crossed your mind if you got hurt. And we used to, if you uh, if you got hurt you was a little ashamed of it, you know. You'd been careless or somethin'. But you, you just didn't want to get hurt. Because you felt bad about yourself if you get out there and, and get yourself hurt. Just like my old football coach when I was at East T-, uh, what's now [Price?], Texas, we called it Carlisle back then, it was in the east Texas oilfield. When you'd get skinned up or hurt a little bit playin' football he'd, uh, he would sympathize by saying, "If you was in shape, you wouldn't've got hurt." So and that's a lot of that's true, too. If you're in good shape playin', you was at football or any of those, the better shape you're in, the less chance there are to get hurt. So, you know, it's sort of tied together.

SW: The same thing. And I know, well the same comparison back in the day if you, if you got hurt you played with it because you didn't want to lose your position on the team.

FS: [Chuckling] That's right.

SW: Nowadays they don't do that.

FS: No. I...

SW: I think they have rules against getting rid of you if you get hurt, you can't lose your position [Inaudible].

FS: I didn't even know that was goin' on then. And I, I [have a lot of things to learn now?], I don't know if they-

Interviewee: Sadler, Forrest

Interview Date: April 3, 2003

SW: I'm talkin' about the professional leagues-

FS: Yeah, I know, I know.

SW: They uh, they have little lawyers and everybody involved now. You, you can't, you can't cut a player because he's hurt. They, they actually keep a player on the roster while he's hurt. And they give him medical rehab. If they don't want him anymore after, the minute he gets better, he's [feeling better?].

FS: Then they let him go.

SW: [Chuckling] Then they cut him.

FS: Well it's-

SW: Play those little games.

FS: It's something else. [Inaudible].

SW: But it sort of fits with what you're saying exactly the same analogy you, analogy you're using there that uh, that those guys were proud of their position and wanted to keep it.

FS: Uh hm.

SW: So just a little injury-

FS: Oh no, you didn't think-

SW: [You didn't worry about that?].

FS: No, you get skinned up a little bit, you just put something on it and get well. No, it's uh, they didn't nursemaid us. You know, we just go out there and work hard and play hard.

SW: That was life.

FS: That's life. But I don't know, seems to me like a lot of, a lot of that not enough of that is being taught to today. Just uh. [Slight pause]

SW: We're getting soft. [Chuckles]

FS: We are, we are. I, but I'll tell you, we've got some pretty tough guys over there fightin' this war. Oh I'll tell you, they're, they're doin' a hell of a job. Got the hard job comin' up right there in [Bangkok?] but uh, they, they were gonna get it done. [Pause]

SW: I don't want to take too much more of your time.

FS: Well, I mean-

SW: I appreciate the information-

FS: I don't feel like I've told you much, but uh-

SW: But you have the, you told me the experiences and that's, that's what we need. So-

