

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

Interviewee **Robin Dale Frazier**

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Interviewer: Jane Goodsill

Transcriber: Bob Gaffney

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Fort Street, Richmond, Texas 77469

16 Pages



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Transcript

GOODSILL: Today is November 3rd, 2014, and I am interviewing Robin Dale Frazier with the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Department. This is the Fort Bend County Historic Commission oral history project related to the Office of Emergency Management building. It's my understanding that this building has had several different uses. In 1954 it was the Fort Bend County Jail. In 1981 it was used as a juvenile probation detention center. In 2005 it became the Office of Emergency Management. I wonder where your career interfaced with this facility?

FRAZIER: I interfaced with all three of them. I was a young guy going to college when I decided to become a state trooper. I went through the school in 1973. Fort Bend County was actually my second duty station.

GOODSILL: Are you from this area?

FRAZIER: I was born in Fort Bend County, in Richmond, on February 5, 1952. I was born in Polly Ryon Memorial Hospital. The hospital name was changed in 2004 to the Oakbend Medical Center.

My first duty station was in Houston in Drivers Licenses because I didn't have enough college. I was actually one of the few people in DPS (Texas Department of Public Safety) that had to sign a waiver to get more college when I got out. I went to Drivers Licenses as a day job and went to college at night to get my few hours. I transferred into highway patrol in Fort Bend County. I wound up being stationed here in the mid-1970s.

GOODSILL: And what was your job?

FRAZIER: I was in highway patrol. We had one sergeant and we had, maybe, eight to eleven troopers here. We weren't called troopers back then. We were called highway patrolmen.

GOODSILL: Did you like highway patrol?

FRAZIER: Yes, ma'am. I did it for 26 years. That's a state police position. I transferred to License and Weight sometime in the late nineties.

GOODSILL: What's that?

FRAZIER: That's another section in DPS like Drivers Licenses was a uniform section, Highway Patrol was another and License and Weight was the weight division for commercial vehicle traffic. We were weighing trucks. Overweight trucks were tearing up the roads and they had bad brakes. We had a lot of collisions with heavy trucks and cars and trains.

GOODSILL: You did that after your 26 years in patrol?

FRAZIER: Yeah. My last four or five years in DPS was with License and Weights. They changed it to Commercial Vehicle Inspection but it's the same thing, weighed trucks. I retired with DPS with a little over 30 years and went to work at Precinct 4 Constable's Office where the current sheriff, Troy Nehls called me from a military phone in Iraq and asked me to leave DPS and go to work for him as a constable, so I did.

GOODSILL: He was deployed overseas?

FRAZIER: Yes.

GOODSILL: Was he already the Constable?

FRAZIER: No.

GOODSILL: But you knew he was going to be the Constable?

FRAZIER: No. Let me explain. His twin brother campaigned for him while he was in Iraq and he called me up and said he was going to win the election and for me to leave DPS and go to work for him. That's what happened. During my tenure with the Constable's Office, I wound up working over here in the OEM office with Danny Jan. I worked the Logistics console and the Law Enforcement console steady. That was when (Hurricane) Katrina and (Hurricane) Rita came on. I went back and forth between the Logistics and Law Enforcement consoles because this was kind of new. The Sheriff's Office was sent over here to do it so I was running back and forth between both of them. Prior to that this building was the juvenile facility and prior to that, when I was a highway patrolman, this was the county jail. I booked people into this jail. Ervin Hurta was the Sheriff in the early to mid-seventies. He was the sheriff for a pretty long time. He didn't have a lot of people working for him back then. I remember one of the dispatcher's names was Cole McClellan. Actually his father and mother lived on the same road I currently live on. There was a road named after his father. He went to the University of Texas and got a bunch of different degrees but he was working here as a Dispatcher/Jailer.

What was funny about that is that I remember coming on the radio. There might be one trooper out for the whole county and two deputies and that was it. We would run all over the county because the county is just as big as it is now but most of it was rural in those days. There was no Highway 59. It stopped at Highway 6. I remember Cole coming on the radio saying, "Hey, don't run any traffic through the sheriff's office because I'm going to be booking a prisoner." So we couldn't run any traffic and the deputies couldn't run any traffic. As state troopers we had two radios, a county radio and a state radio so we could still run traffic through DPS but not through the county. I remember him saying don't run any traffic because he was booking a prisoner and that's what he would do. He'd stop doing communication work and go book a prisoner, take them upstairs, and lock them up and come back downstairs and resume his communications duties.

GOODSILL: Here in this building?

FRAZIER: Here in this building. It was downstairs.

GOODSILL: So he's just trying to do paperwork?

FRAZIER: Oh, yeah. We didn't have quite as much paperwork as we do now. Everything was by hand. There were no computers or anything like that. No cell phones. It was pretty primitive in those days. I remember the steps we just walked up. There was no vinyl covering on them. They were like the steps in the courthouse. It was like marble. After a period of time (with) people walking in the middle of the steps, it wears the surface out.

GOODSILL: And looks just like that [mimics a swoop in the middle of the step]
(CHUCKLES).

FRAZIER: A lot of history, a lot of people, if you think about it, walking up and down.

GOODSILL: A lot of footsteps.

FRAZIER: Lots of footsteps. In our case reports that we would have to type, it was horrible because we would have to use manual typewriters and we'd have to use three sheets of carbon paper so you could hardly read that last sheet if it was old carbon paper.

GOODSILL: What if you made a mistake?

FRAZIER: Oh, believe me. My first DWI (driving while under the influence) was one paragraph and it was horrible. It was like, "Saw drunk, arrested same." I remember my first trial because when they got me up on the witness stand to testify, they got me as a young trooper. I looked like I was a high school kid, probably. They said, "Can you tell us what happened on this traffic stop and I talked for 45 minutes. Of course, the defense attorney said, "I don't understand this at all. Is this your report?" I saw it. It was horrible. It was one paragraph. I just turned and looked at the jury and said, "If all you people knew how long it took me to type that..." Of course, they believed me and got a conviction but it was just unbelievable in the day. You see where we're at now technology-wise and where we were then. It was so primitive, you know, with the old cars. They did run good but they got horrible gas mileage.

But to get back to the building here, we used to come in through the sally port on the west side of the building. We'd always say, "We're at the west door." That was terminology we'd say to the sheriff's office to let them know to open up the door so we could come in with our prisoner. That was where we'd drive up, get our prisoner out, leave our car and pistols, because they didn't want any guns inside the jail and there was no place in the jail to store them. We have lockers for weapons now. We would come into the jail and book our prisoner and take him on upstairs. We'd walk him up there with the jailer. That was about 40 years ago when this happened.

GOODSILL: This room we're sitting in now was a jail cell, right?

FRAZIER: I don't know exactly what this room was; it might have been jail cells because they had them on both sides. I think when they did the reconstruction for the juvenile facility, they didn't want to take out the cells so they just left that for storage and then they built this wing right in here. When "juvie" moved out and they decided to create OEM, that's when I wound up working with Danny Jan in here on several events that occurred.

GOODSILL: Did you have anything to do with this office when it was juvenile probation?

FRAZIER: No ma'am. I just knew that came after the Sheriff's Department because they built the new Sheriff's Department where we're at now.

GOODSILL: Before we get on to OEM, were there ever any incidents, stories, odd things that happened in this building that you remember?

FRAZIER: Well, not in this building, but out in the parking lot I remember one time I worked a wreck on a Hispanic gentleman that had hit a deer. He was in a station wagon and he had the deer lying on the back of the tailgate. Marvin Buller had to let it down. We only had two game wardens back then, Marvin Buller and James Johnson. Marvin Buller has passed away but James Johnson is still alive. If you can get in touch with him, he can tell you some stories about this building when it was a Sheriff's Office.

GOODSILL: The deer's on the back...

FRAZIER: So the deer's on the back. They called me to the Sheriff's Office to tell me that there was a wreck and the guy was at the Sheriff's Office. So I drove over here and of course it's one car and he's driving down the road and hits this deer. He has his whole family with him and he says, "Can we have the deer?" I'm writing all this paperwork up and I said, "Well, I guess so. It damaged your car." Well, about that time Marvin Buller comes by and he says, "What's that guy doing with that deer?" I told him, "Well, he ran over it and it damaged his car." He says, "Well, he's in violation of having a dead deer." I said, "It's just damaged James's car. If it's the state's animal and it's out on the road and his car hit it, why can't he have it?" Marvin says, "I'm going to write him a ticket for that." I said, "Well, when you finish that I'm going to write you a ticket for your expired inspection sticker." He said, "You do that." because it was expired. I said, "I'm not writing you a ticket for that." Anyway, I think we resolved it and we let James go off with the dead deer. It wouldn't be any different than letting him take the meat to a processing place because he had freshly killed it, road kill if you want to call it that. But that was kind of funny. That happened here and we drank many a cup of coffee downstairs right where the kitchen is. That's kind of where the break room was.

GOODSILL: There actually was a kitchen there with a big stove and everything?

FRAZIER: That's where they prepared all the means for the convicts.

GOODSILL: What was the food like? Did you ever have the food?

FRAZIER: Yeah. We could come and eat breakfast here in the morning. We used to eat at the prison farm, too. That was a long time ago. That kind of stuff doesn't happen anymore but we did eat breakfast here and had lots of coffee and told lots of stories. If only that kitchen could talk. There were so many guns that went off in the time that I was here.

GOODSILL: Why would a gun go off?

FRAZIER: That's why they call them "accidental discharge". They're not meant to go off on purpose. Unfortunately that's a bad thing. It did happen on more than one occasion. I think that refrigerator got shot a time or two. (Goodsill Laughing) The ceiling got shot. The wall got shot. Floor got shot.

GOODSILL: I do have a picture of a tile they said was a bullet hole.

FRAZIER: I'm sure they repaired a lot of that stuff over the years.

GOODSILL: You can't repair that tile.

FRAZIER: Fortunately I was not there when those incidents happened.

GOODSILL: Fortunately it wasn't one of your weapons! Tell us about the T. C. Jester prison unit.

FRAZIER: Jester I, II, III, and Central. Well, we used to go over to Central and we could eat dinner and breakfast there. I'll relate one story to you that's true. Again, we can't do things nowadays the way we used to. The Statute of Limitations has passed on this one. I knew the warden there, Warden Jones. I think my partner and I ate lunch and we were leaving. We could eat lunch there free. We were coming down the main road and I saw this little boy selling watermelons. Well, it was Warden Jones' son. I guess he was maybe eight years old and, of course, he got the watermelon free from the watermelon patch behind his house. They were in three buckets and they were sliced and he had ice in there so they were all cold. I got this wild hair to mess with him a little bit so I got out of the car and said, "What are you doing, son?" He said, "I'm selling watermelon, sir." I said, "You're selling watermelon in a No Watermelon Selling Zone." He said, "Well, my dad's the warden." I pointed to a patch and I said, "This is part of Texas. You're in violation of selling watermelon in a No Watermelon Selling Zone." He didn't know what to say. I said, "We're going to have to confiscate all this watermelon. How much are you selling it for?" I think he said it was ten cents a slice. So I think we gave him five dollars and picked up all three buckets, which was a lot more money than he was going to make. I wrote him a citation but it was on a warning sheet. "What's your name, son?" and he told me the name, Jones. I wrote it down. He was probably just on the verge of crying and I almost probably went overboard on this but he maintained his cool and sat there and took it. I said, "Sign your name here." and we took off.

So he went home and, unbeknownst to me, he told his dad, the warden, who knew me. "Dad, I got a ticket from the Highway Patrol." He said, "What do you mean?" and he said, "He wrote it to me." Well, I have a stamp down where my name was so you can read it real clear. He saw my name and he knew it was a warning and he read it and it said, "Selling watermelon in a No Watermelon Selling Zone" and he just shook his head. In the meantime, I take the watermelon to the DPS office and the secretaries and everybody had some watermelon and I took the cans back to his dad. When I walked in to his house, he goes "Rob, I can't believe you did that." I said, "Did he tell you that he got \$5?" He said, "Yeah, he showed it to me." So it was pretty funny.

Fast forward twenty years and I'm in WalMart and this gentleman comes up to me and taps me on the shoulder and he says, "Excuse me, sir. You probably don't remember me but my name is so-and-so Jones." I just looked at him and said, "Are you the one I wrote the ticket to?" and he said, "Yes, sir. I have it in a frame." He's going to college or something and he remembered me. I guess I didn't look too much different and he stopped me. I was still a trooper back then so he recognized me! When we had manhunts they fed us Johnny's Little Sandwiches. They'd bring the dogs out. Fort Bend County was a very, very rural county back in the seventies.

GOODSILL: Was it easy to escape? Is that why they'd have a manhunt?

FRAZIER: No, they had Trustees and sometimes they'd just decide they wanted to take off and go.

GOODSILL: Tell the people what a Trustees is.

FRAZIER: A Trustee is somebody who gains a little bigger status from being trustworthy. They might get an outside job whereas the inside guys would just sweep floors. They'll allow Trustees to come outside and work. They still have people watching you in the yards or other places. They'd have people working in the fields and obviously, there'd be times when somebody would take off. They'd have a count and they'd come up short and they'd start looking for a guy and they'd send dogs after him.

GOODSILL: Were you walking, riding, or driving?

FRAZIER: We were in our patrol cars and we would be staged in strategic locations. I remember one time working a wreck out in a rural part of Fort Bend County and we had to call the TDC dogs to come and look for it the escapee. We had a DPS helicopter and the dogs were looking for him.

Probably within 45 minutes or an hour we found him but he was five miles from the accident scene. He was running. He said he could get away from the helicopter but he couldn't get away from the dogs. I've enjoyed my whole police career. I've been a state trooper, a constable, and a Deputy Sheriff. I'm a captain with the Sheriff's Department now.

GOODSILL: What's your job responsibility now?

FRAZIER: The sheriff asked me to take over Support Services. That encompasses the Finance Department, the fleet, the inventory, and the I/T Section.

GOODSILL: You're kidding?

FRAZIER: No. That's what I told him.

GOODSILL: I'm thinking that's a lot.

FRAZIER: I have very, very competent people. I just kind of manage it. Believe me, I don't even handle the finances in my own house; my wife does that. We have a real great finance team; we have people that do the inventory. I just manage everything.

GOODSILL: Tell me about the IT Department.

FRAZIER: Our Technology Section is responsible for the whole phone system at the Sheriff's Office. Keep in mind that it's totally different now than what it was when we had landlines. Nobody had cell phones back in the day. It's a recent phenomenon. We had landlines and you wonder how we ever got in touch with anybody because there was no such things as pagers. Bag phones [the colloquial name for a line of personal, transportable cellular telephones manufactured by Motorola, Inc. from 1990 to 2000] were way down the road.

The Technology Section has a lieutenant and five or six other people. We program all the radios for Fort Bend County. Because of a Federal requirement, we're getting ready to go from analog to digital, kind of like what they did with TV's a couple of years back. Remember when you couldn't buy a regular analog TV because everything was going digital? Well that's what happened with the radios. Of course, the radios are high ticket items. We have portables and mobiles. Mobiles go in the car and portables are the ones you see policemen have on their belts and a microphone on their shoulder.

We have to program all those radios not just for the Sherriff's Office but for all four constables and different other agencies within the county, like Juvenile, Road and Bridge, and Environmental Services. So as these radios come in we're going to have to program them. In the next two years we have to get all these radios purchased and programmed because the radios we currently have are not going to be any good anymore. Just the Radio Section alone is a lot because we have the MDTs and our communications system. Danny Jan is the captain over communications right now. [See separate interview of Danny Jan.]

GOODSILL: What's MDT?

FRAZIER: Oh, Mobile Data Terminal. It's the computer with a keyboard like a regular desk top and it has a screen. But the screen's more heavy duty than this because it's inside a car and it's on a mount so the officer's can send stuff back and forth instead of just using the radio. They can get Dispatch through the MDT and get messages back and forth and they can run license plates and all sorts of things through the MDT.

OEM handles their own structure. When Danny Jan left the fire department he came over here and worked for Jeff Braun. He was instrumental in getting all of the equipment set up here. He and Jeff got all of these things set up; the consoles, bought most of the stuff through grant money that they got through the Federal government to set up for a disaster. At that time, we didn't really have anything set up. I think Mel Speed was kind of a forerunner to Jeff Braun. This county has grown so much in the last 35 to 40 years that I've been here. But I grew up here.

GOODSILL: Go back to the 1960's. Hurricane Carla hits. What was it like?

FRAZIER: You just fly by the seat of your pants, decide a course of action as you go along using your own initiative and perceptions rather than a pre-determined plan or mechanical aids. We didn't have radio communications; we didn't have the satellite stuff that we have now or TV. We didn't have cable news telling you forecasts. They did have Doppler Radar back then. Now we have instant news, instant visual of what's getting ready to happen not just here but all over the world. Back in the early seventies it wasn't the Stone Age [an extremely backward or primitive era or state], but compared to now it was pretty close. It was a different era back then. People were different. People treated people differently. The county's grown a lot. I don't know what the population was back in the early to mid-seventies but it's over 400,000 now. It keeps growing and getting bigger and bigger.

Like I said, US Highway 90-A, the street three or four blocks north of us, that was the main drag in Fort Bend County. US 90 Alternate was the main road. Now Interstate Highway 59 is the main drag, because that's the corridor that heads south. When I was here US 90-A was the main road and it stopped at Highway 6. US 59 stopped at Highway 6, made a right turn and went down to 90A, took a left and passed the prison farm on your right. The song The Midnight Special was written in the Sugar Land Central (DPS) Unit, from what I understand. "Shine the ever lovin' light on me."

NOTE: The Midnight Special was a real train: the Southern Pacific Golden Gate Limited. The song, "The Midnight Special", was a traditional folk song popularized by Leadbelly (Huddie William Ledbetter – b/d 1889-1949) upon his release from Sugar Land prison in Texas, where he could hear the Midnight Special come through. In the song, the light of the train gives the inmates hope – if it shines on them they take it as a sign they will soon go free.

GOODSILL: Did you ever have anything to do with this building when it was juvenile detention?

FRAZIER: No, ma'am.

GOODSILL: I asked you about the doors to the cells and you said you didn't have the key, the Jailer had the key. Explain to me the hierarchy.

FRAZIER: The Jailer was the one that actually put prisoners in there but we would go up with him because he was the only one. If he had an unruly prisoner he'd always have some help going up there to put a prisoner in.

GOODSILL: Were the prisoners in handcuffs or any kind of restraint? Then he'd put them in the cell and take the handcuffs off and lock them up? The Jailer was the guy who would open the doors, close the doors, and...?

FRAZIER: During the daytime, they might have a matron that would help out. I remember it was really a skeleton crew, one guy. It wasn't until the early eighties when they started getting some more help.

GOODSILL: Was the jail very full?

FRAZIER: Well, everybody brought their prisoners to the jail. It didn't matter what city you were in. Needville back then they didn't have a police department. They had a night watchman. Staff would have maybe one or two people.

GOODSILL: So tell me about the jail that's north of here by the railroad tracks.

FRAZIER: That was the first jail in Fort Bend County. That's the old Fort Bend County Jail. It's a historical site and somehow or other it became the Richmond Police Department.

GOODSILL: So that came first, then they built this. The articles downstairs said this was a state-of-the-art most modern building.

FRAZIER: At the time, it might have been. I think the Sheriff's Office was where they have the conference room now. I think that's where Ervin Hurta's office was. Then they had a Chief Deputy and some other people.

GOODSILL: Let's see, it was built in 1954 so you were just a baby. I understand the way it was built was pretty much like a fortress.

FRAZIER: That's why it's the OEM building right now. It's one of the few places in the county that could probably withstand a Force 4 or 5 hurricane. It's very well built because it was built to be a jail. There's more concrete, iron, and steel in it than most buildings.

GOODSILL: You hear anybody tell any spooky stories or ghost stories?

FRAZIER: Nope, not in this building. I heard some spooky stories in the old Fort Bend County (Jail) in Richmond when they were reconstructing. I heard a bunch of people were afraid to go back in there. They'd get all scared and things. I don't know.

GOODSILL: If there was going to be an emergency event, would you still be in this room or would you be at the Sheriff's Department?

FRAZIER: If there is an emergency in Fort Bend County, this is the hub right here. I saw the County Judge back here with all the people discussing transferring equipment and things that we would need from other counties. One County Judge will talk with another County Judge because they are the head of the County during a disaster. It's like the governor is the head of Texas when there is a disaster. He's the one that can send state relief to different places. Judge Hebert did a fantastic job during Hurricane Ike. He coordinated all kinds of things. I was with Precinct 4 when they had to evacuate all the people from the Richmond State School and send them up to Brenham/Giddings. They needed an escort. Even though I was working the console here, I heard they couldn't get deputies to do it so I said, "We have some extra people at Precinct 4. We can have one in the front and one in the back and we'll lead the bus."

GOODSILL: Well, that's good, everybody working together.

FRAZIER: Oh, yeah. You have to work as a team here in this deal because there are just so many aspects of a disaster. That's why they have a law enforcement console, logistics console, transportation console. Paulette was in charge of the Transportation and she's the one that got the busses ready. We used school buses and school bus drivers to drive. There is a Finance Planning Section; they're the ones that write down who's going to get paid what later.

GOODSILL: Everybody has to be reimbursed.

FRAZIER: I went with some of the people to WalMart and K-Mart to buy water and we would disperse it to the different entities. We had traffic stacked up on Highway 90 where cars were just stopped. We had all kinds of situations arise. We had people whose dog died in their car because it was so hot. We had police cars driving down the shoulder of the road giving people water until traffic could move. We didn't have the plans in place that we have now for traffic evacuation and corridors to get people moving from Galveston to the interior. We're not a "stop" county, we're a "pass through" county.

GOODSILL: We learned a lot.

FRAZIER: We made some mistakes but we learned a lot from them. We had a good County Judge. Then there are people on dialysis machines. There are a lot of different things that happen during an event, hurricane, or earthquake. We're prominently involved with hurricanes because it's a bad deal for us but we could have an explosion or something like that, that we have to deal with. A bad plane crash could happen here. Alan Spears, who's the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator of the OEM, was my Sergeant in the Highway Patrol.

GOODSILL: Really? How does he go from the Highway Patrol to having the job he has now?

FRAZIER: He retired, just like I did. I just stayed in police work and he came over here. I remember when OEM was getting started, he asked me and another highway patrolman, Billy Teague, to go write down all the roads and if they were evacuation routes. That was the beginning of the plan we have now. If you could get in touch with Billy Teague he could tell you a bunch about this building here. He lives in Richmond.

GOODSILL: Is he retired?

FRAZIER: Yes, he's retired. He was a Deputy Sheriff when I came over here. He was a trooper with me for a long time. He retired from here and went to Richmond and worked as a policeman in that old building where they're at now. He's actually older than me and he can tell you some stories, too.

GOODSILL: You may want to cut this out when you do the editing but just out of curiosity, what was your favorite of all the positions you had in law enforcement?

FRAZIER: I like all of them. I'm one of the few people that can say I left the state police and I was happy, didn't have to burn any bridges. It was time for me to go because I was old enough to retire. I was thinking about going to work in the public sector. That's why I got in License and Weights because I thought I'd be a truck safety inspector for a trucking company. Another trooper was doing that and that's when Troy called and asked me to leave DPS and go to work for him.

GOODSILL: Did you enjoy the civil part of Precinct 4.

FRAZIER: Oh, yeah, I actually did. It was something different. I never really knew what Constables did. I knew they served papers.

GOODSILL: Tell us the thumbnail sketch.

FRAZIER: Constables are responsible for providing a Bailiff for the JP (Justice of the Peace), and serving civil processes. One other thing that we did was provide supplemental security to subdivision contracts. Like New Territory and Sweetwater. That's where we were. We had those two contracts.

GOODSILL: Even in the ETJ's (Extra Territorial Jurisdictions)?

FRAZIER: Yes. Sweetwater is inside the city limits of Sugar Land. People in Sweetwater want supplemental security, so they pay for it. The County Judge said if they're willing to pay for it, we want to keep those people happy. The response time might be a little better having the constables there. To be honest with you, who's going to rob a place when every time you turn around you see a policeman in a police car driving around? So they're going to go someplace else. Troy asked me to be the Lieutenant over firearms over those contracts.

GOODSILL: A Lieutenant over firearms. What does that mean?

FRAZIER: Everybody in the police department had to qualify with a pistol. Since I was a firearms instructor with DPS, I continued that when I was over there. I'm still a firearms instructor but I just don't do it anymore.

GOODSILL: Did you also help to serve civil warrants?

FRAZIER: Oh, yeah. I learned to do that. That was a new position. I liked it because I was going to start on a second retirement if I stayed long enough. There was the previous Sheriff and his lieutenant and over patrols were ex-DPS people who came over here. They kept their DPS insurance and became county employees. They both stayed long enough to get a county retirement. That's what I'm hoping I'll do. I have eight years with the County at Precinct 4 and now I'm coming up on two years with the Sheriff's Office. He's got two more years on his current term and he'll run for re-election and we'll see what happens. I've enjoyed every facet of my law enforcement career, which is a little over forty years now.

GOODSILL: But you're doing a lot of things now that were not in your job description.

FRAZIER: When I was a young trooper, I didn't do any of that. I just went out on the road, wrote tickets, put people in jail, and now, the last ten years, I've been more of an administrator. Even though the last 16 years in DPS I was a Senior Corporal and I did most of the report checking.

GOODSILL: Are you better at writing reports now than when you were brand new? One paragraph?

FRAZIER: Yeah, a little bit. That one paragraph was pretty bad. Michael Orsak was the beneficiary of that. He was a brand new "rookie". He just graduated from law school and was working for Logene Foster, who used to be a Highway Patrolman in the 1960's.

GOODSILL: Is that right?

FRAZIER: Foster was a trooper for several years. It wasn't long I don't think. He went to college in Houston and graduated there with a law degree. He wound up being an attorney in Fort Bend County, started his practice in Sugar Land. He practiced different facets of law but he was a good DWI attorney. He hired Mike Orsak, who's a pretty good attorney now, he's a lot older. He'd see a one-paragraph DWI and tell him, "Here, go 'cut your teeth' and beat this guy." Then a young trooper who doesn't know anything testifies for 45 minutes and winds up beating him in court. To this day, every time I see Michael I say, "Hey, Mike, you remember that first DWI?" and he just tells me to "go pound sand."

GOODSILL: What else? We talked about your history with this building. We talked about your career. We talked about how the Office of Emergency Management works.

FRAZIER: There's a lot more to it than what I said because there's just so many facets and everybody has to work together. I'm sure Danny Jan told you about the NIMS training. It's mandatory that you take this NIMS training now. Depending on what level you are as far up in the hierarchy of your agency you're required to take NIMS training. I took classes that were way over my head but I took them anyway. You just never know when it all works in and it's a national deal because so many disasters happen all over the country. They have fires over in California and Arizona. They have floods up in the east coast. Mostly in the gulf coast region we have the hurricanes and flooding. Most of the time, like this year, we were fortunate, knock on wood, we didn't have a hurricane.

GOODSILL: It's not over yet.

FRAZIER: Hopefully we won't have to activate this unit. But when it does get activated, we have personnel who will come and man these positions and try to work twelve-hour shifts.

GOODSILL: Where would you be in the middle of an emergency?

FRAZIER: I would be doing whatever the Sheriff tasked me to do. We have our own assignments. When Alan Spears was the Sergeant (with DPS), we went and did the road corridors. We assigned policemen at different intersections throughout the County to help with traffic flow. When something like that happens you're going to work twelve hour shifts. You try to rotate people around, they have to get fed and they have to have something to drink. If the weather's really, really bad you have to make sure you have the right equipment. Moving traffic is a big deal to keep people moving. When traffic stops that's when you start having problems and tempers start flaring. The last thing you want to be doing is arresting somebody when you need to be moving people.

GOODSILL: That's right! Rubbernecking! Well that feels like a good interview.

FRAZIER: I really had a good time with my whole police career and it's not over yet.

GOODSILL: I'm glad for you.

Interview ends