

**Interview of Dr. James A. Butler**  
**By Nyomi M. Gonzalez**  
**Philadelphia, PA**  
**March 26, 2012**

[Part two of our interview was recorded on April 2, 2012]

Audio File 1:

Gonzalez: Nyomi Gonzalez here with Dr. James Butler, in his office at Olney Hall 161. Do I have your permission to record Dr. Butler?<sup>1</sup>

Butler: Yes, happy to talk.

Gonzalez: Alright, thank you very much. Let's just start with the basics for right now. Tell me a little bit about yourself. When you were born? Where you were born?

Butler: I am not a baby boomer, I am the greatest generation by a couple of months. I was born on May 18, 1945 and I was born in Wilksburg, Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup>

Gonzalez: Ok, where is that located?

Butler: It's near Pittsburgh, it has a border with Pittsburgh.

Gonzalez: Ok.

Butler: So, it's a free standing place of about 30,000. Much smaller now than when I lived there, as is Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh has lost a lot of population. But uh – I guess I – most people I would talk to I would say I was in Pittsburgh, but since uh – I really tended to think of myself as a Wilksburg person. I went to elementary school there. We actually would not go in to Pittsburgh very much, other than to go to the baseball games or other things there.

Gonzalez: Ok, do you have any siblings?

Butler: I do. I have three brothers, one of them is dead. It's a family where there's a split, the um – there are eight or nine years between two sets of boys. And I suspect the Second World War had something to do with that. So, in one – my equivalent almost to the primal scene, I found in my parents' closet once, stamps for sugar and flower or whatever with my name on [them]. I

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<sup>1</sup> Olney Hall is located on La Salle University's campus and Dr. Butler's office is on the first floor at the very end of the hallway, on the right.

<sup>2</sup> Wilksburg, Pennsylvania is a borough in Allegheny County, right outside the city of Pittsburgh. As of the 2010 census, the population of Wilksburg was just under 16,000.

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always had a secret suspicion that I was conceived because they needed gasoline and sugar cube bonds for the war.<sup>3</sup>

Gonzalez: Aw... that's so... [laughs]

Butler: [laughs]

Gonzalez: I don't think that was true. [laughs] Maybe it was just a happenstance.

Butler: Could be

Gonzalez: What was it like growing up in Wilksburg in the late 40s early 1950s?

Butler: Well it wasn't quite *Happy Days* time, but it was something like that. It was a very nice community. [Out of] 30,000 people, it had maybe 35 churches. The kind of rivalries for baseball and softball games were between the various churches. There was just one Catholic church. There was a separate Catholic school, so I went there. And then there was a Wilksburg – couple of elementary schools and high schools there. But I think people tended to get along very well, it was a nice community to grow up in.<sup>4</sup>

Gonzalez: Were you and your family very close growing up?

Butler: Yes, I think so. We had – there were people scattered in the community who were relatives, the baker was a relative on my mother's side. And I worked there out of school, I would – in elementary school, I would – there's a bread slicer and you take, if you're brave, you take your hand and you shove the stuff through the kind of slashing up and down thing and if you're not so brave there's a board you shove – so I cut bread and sold baked goods and things of that sort. My mother is – I guess is typical of people from that generation. My mother stayed at home, but she was very busy doing things. For a while she ran dance classes, but [it] never seemed to take with me. No rhythm. [laughs]

Gonzalez: [laughs] So you have two left feet?

Butler: Yeah, something like that. And my father worked in Pittsburgh, he worked – he worked in a neat place. He worked underneath Forbes Field, which was then the Pittsburgh Pirates' stadium.<sup>5</sup> He was a lithographer, involved with doing bank stationery.<sup>6</sup> And when I got older I

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<sup>3</sup> Dr. Butler was the third son to parents Myrtle and Ralph. He has two older brothers, Philip (deceased) and Lawrence. And one younger brother, Thomas. Information gathered post interview, via email. 18

<sup>4</sup> *Happy Days* was a television series which aired from January 1974 – September 1984. It followed the Cunningham family and presented an idealized version of life in the 1950s and 1960s.

<sup>5</sup> Forbes Field was a baseball park located in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh, PA. Erected in 1909 for the Pittsburgh Pirates, the team played at the stadium until 1970. One year later the site was demolished. During its lifespan, Forbes Field was also host to the Pittsburgh Steelers. For thirty years, Forbes Field was the first home to the Steelers.

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worked as a night watchman underneath Forbes Field, the stadium. I would work on weekends. So it was very weird to go there and you'd um – so everybody would be going to the ballgame and I was going to the stadium but I was working underneath the field. And the other people are watching the game but I'd listen to the game on the radio. And um – so I was in my own little area there where I could listen to the game and hear the crowd, but I couldn't see the game at all. I was working underneath the field rather than above it.

Gonzalez: Did you ever happen to meet any of the players?

Butler: I met some and then – my fathers' company printed some of the materials. So we did get some Pirates memorabilia and signed things. But I use the standard thing everyone says about those valuable things that have disappeared, my mother must have thrown them all out. *[laughs]* so I don't know where they are now.

Gonzalez: Aw, that's a shame.

Butler: *[laughs]* Like my baseball cards and all those things, they disappeared.

Gonzalez: Mothers do have a tendency to throw those kinds of things out. It's a shame.

Butler: But the street we lived on was a street that didn't have much traffic. So, we played baseball in the street and I think – looking at my grandchildren and my children as well I think the differences that – we would sometimes disappear for the whole day and my parents had no particular interest in knowing where we were. So you'd leave in the morning at 9 and go here and play baseball or go down and talk to my aunt who ran the bakery. I mean, as long as you showed up for dinner, *[they]* didn't seem to worry too much about where you were.

Gonzalez: It sounds like it was a lot safer when you were growing up then it is now.

Butler: It was. And the community now is um – has had – does have a number of problems. So that it's um – in some ways it's a sad place, I think for what has happened to that community. It um – I think they had some – the problem with gangs and drugs and maybe a typical American story in some ways for the inner ring of suburbs.

Gonzalez: Yeah, it's happened to a lot of suburbs.

Butler: Yeah. I didn't have – when you say suburbs, you think of all these houses with big lawns around them. We weren't that. The houses were quite tight, quite close together, and old. They were – I think my house was built *[in]* 1920 or so. So they weren't modern houses, but it was –

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<sup>6</sup> A lithographer uses a process of printing called lithography. Lithography uses a simple chemical process to create an image(s). Invented in 1796 by Alois Senefelder as a cheap printing method, modern lithography is used to produce a variety of things, including books, posters, maps etc.

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and it wasn't really terribly much different. The end of our street was Pittsburgh. And the housing didn't change, so it was um – just a different political unit.<sup>7</sup> *[computer sound]*

Gonzalez: Do you get to go back much? Or have you – has it been a while since you last visited?

Butler: I went back – last time I was there, about ten years ago. And I looked at it on Google Earth, you know, walking down the street seeing what – many fewer houses. I guess there were some fires maybe and um – the house I grew up in, for example, had maybe five or six bedrooms, three baths, fireplace in every room and it was for sale recently – for sale for about \$29,000. So clearly the neighborhood is not what it was.

Gonzalez: No, not with a housing price that low.

Butler: So in some – and again, its um – so much sadness you went through, because of course one's – the stupid thing one's expecting to see are all the people who *[laughs]* lived on the street at the same age when you were there before. And there's nobody there anymore who was there when I was there.

Gonzalez: I know that you mentioned just a while ago that there was only one Catholic Church.

Butler: Yes.

Gonzalez: So were Catholics a minority in the community?

Butler: Um, it was probably – it was a large church. Since so much of the social life and other things for us centered around the Catholic Church, I didn't particularly feel like a minority. I guess it was a minority, maybe – might have been two or three thousand Catholics out of 30,000. But I – The baseball – the church baseball team I played for was for Second United Presbyterian Church.<sup>8</sup> So, I didn't play baseball for the Catholic Church. I played for the Second United Presbyterians because the Presbyterian Minister lived on our street and many of my friends were Presbyterians so um – it wasn't – I mean in some ways it was a category. Became a – actually became a more important category as you got older. Because you um – there was a high school and lots of the things revolved around the public high school. And the high school I went too was five or six miles away in Pittsburgh. So – and again one's social life would revolve around that place. So, a kind of split took place a little bit later. But earlier on I didn't feel there was, you know, much tension, much religious tension of any sort. And I – it um – I didn't feel that there was much ethnic tension at all. The place was not racially mixed. Which I think is – well as I look back on it, I was not particularly struck by that when I was growing up. You look at something and think “well, this is just the way the world is” but when I began to think about it, I realized it was a fairly white environment with few members of ethnic minorities certainly.

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<sup>7</sup> A computer sound (almost beep like) can be heard; most likely to alert Dr. Butler to a new email.

<sup>8</sup> Second United Presbyterian Church is located at 300 Hay Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15221.

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Gonzalez: When you went to high school, was it still, you know, primarily white? Or was there any kind of ethnicities present?

Butler: Um, there were. My high school was more diverse, but uh – there was a man in my class, first year; August Wilson, who became a playwright, a fairly well known playwright, a Pulitzer Prize winning playwright.<sup>9</sup> But he only stayed for one semester – one year – one semester, one year I'm not sure. And he wrote that he felt – he wrote that he was the only African American in the class, the entire group of twelve classes that made up freshman year. And I know that's not true because I had other friends who were black, but that's not to say that he didn't feel that way because it was probably 96% - 97% white. So it was um – and I think what – it's hard to say, I don't know exactly how the money worked there, but it was a school – the Pittsburgh higher – the Pittsburgh high schools operated differently from Philadelphia, where there are many, many Philadelphia diocesan high schools. But in Pittsburgh for boys, there was really only one. So it, it was somewhat competitive and it was also – there was – I don't know whether parents paid much for it, but the parishes paid for it. So, for example, you'd get your report cards, not in school, they'd be given to you by your parish Priest. And if you did not do well, he gave you a little talk on "I'm paying for you to get this, you're wasting my money!" [laughs] So – and I think it's partly – was a somewhat lesser representation in the African American community of people who were Catholic, that may have had something to do with it as well. I think Hispanics – I think – I mean, it's actually a stupid thing to say but I think it's probably what's true in my life. I did not carry in my head, growing up, a category for Black and Hispanic. I wouldn't – if somebody – I don't pass this off as virtue, I cast it off as maybe, inability to observe anything. But I didn't register whether people were Hispanic or even whether people were Black sometimes. It didn't – it wasn't a category for me. So – I remember in a debate tournament once, it was on a racial issue – the racial issue was part of it, I don't remember exactly how it fit in to this topic, but it didn't occur to me until about three quarters the way through the debate that one of the other debaters was Black. I said, "I hope I didn't say anything wrong over there." It somehow didn't register, it wasn't a category.

Gonzalez: So, you never really saw race. You just saw a person.

Butler: Yeah well – when you say that, that sounds like "Oh, aren't I a holy person." [laughs] I think it's more – maybe I was an unobservant person rather than somebody who is – I don't know, it just didn't – I really don't have much sense of that in my elementary school. I don't – it didn't – again as I say, I didn't think about it as a category. It's very much a category now. And – I think not in my life particularly, but in, I think, the way communities think of their compositions and, it didn't seem as big an issue then somehow. So, I don't know.

Gonzalez: That's really interesting. What – you didn't mention, what name – what was your high school's name?

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<sup>9</sup> August Wilson was born Frederick August Kittel Jr. on April 27, 1945 in Pittsburgh, PA and died on October 2, 2005. He wrote a series of plays titled *The Pittsburgh Cycle* which took an impressionistic account of African Americans throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Each play was set in a different decade.

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Butler: The high school was Central Catholic. It was a Christian Brother's school.<sup>10</sup>

Gonzalez: Oh, a Christian Brother's school...

Butler: So that's my connection with the brothers, it goes back a long way. And my elementary school was St. James in Wilkinsburg.<sup>11</sup> The brother's school was a little bigger now – it still survives, still booming actually – it was a little bigger when I was there. I think it's about – might be about 1,200 now, I think it was about 1,600 students when I was there. And – The Christian Brothers, even from the time I was very young, we often had Christian Brothers at the table. We would invite them out for dinner. And my mother was head of the Mother's Club at the high school; my father was head of the Father's Club. So they were kind of involved, very involved with the Christian Brothers. And – so my Christian Brothers' connection started very early and they've run for, you know all my life. I think I'm the only person in the world who can say this; that I went to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a man, a Christian Brother – 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Christian Brother and I went to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary for him married to my mother. When my father died my mother married a Christian Brother, Brother Genebern Thomas. Thomas Deeney was his given name, and he died couple of years ago. My mother predeceased him.

Gonzalez: I didn't realize Christian Brothers could marry.

Butler: They don't.

Gonzalez: Had he left...?

Butler: He left the Christian brothers to marry my mother.

Gonzalez: Ok.

Butler: And it didn't seem – I mean there were – we knew each other very well before that. I knew his parents – actually, when I was a student here – my freshman year was the year Kennedy was killed, and the weekend he was killed was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of La Salle. I think it was November 23<sup>rd</sup> there was to be a big dance, I was a freshman and I asked a girl from home who was at the University of Dayton there.<sup>12</sup> And – I went out to borrow a friend's car to pick her up and – so on the train on the way out, on the Paoli Local, conductor came down, tears streaming down his face saying “The President is dead! The President is dead!” So I didn't have that moment where, a lot of people in my generation, where they heard he was shot and then they

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<sup>10</sup> Central Catholic is located at 4720 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Learn more about CCHS here: <http://www.centralcatholicchs.com/>

<sup>11</sup> St. James is a Catholic elementary school located at 721 Rebecca Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. They serve students from PK – 8<sup>th</sup> grade and currently have 160 students enrolled. Learn more here: <http://www.centralcatholicchs.com/>

<sup>12</sup> Located in Dayton, Ohio, the University of Dayton “is a top-tier Catholic university with offerings from the undergraduate to the doctoral levels. We are a diverse community committed, in the Marianist tradition, to educating the whole person and to linking learning and scholarship with leadership and service.” <http://www.udavton.edu/>

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heard he died. Just I heard from this conductor with these tears down his face. But where my girlfriend was staying was with the parents of Thomas Deeney on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. So – this was long before he married my mother. So, there were a lot of connections with that family before then.<sup>13</sup>

Gonzalez: Is your connection with the Christian Brothers why you came to La Salle as a college freshman, so far from home?

Butler: Yes, I was involved with the speech and debate team and at that time La Salle had a sponsored – I think it may have been between Christmas and New Years; I'm not sure – over the Christmas break, funny I forget that. But they ran a debate tournament, and some years – most of the people who were invited to the debate tournament were Christian Brothers' high schools. And I think they were using this partly as a recruiting technique and it worked. So, I – and I don't – I can't actually remember applying to other places. I wanted to go away from home. And I like Philadelphia and I like the Christian Brothers. And it seemed sort of a somewhat familiar environment because I knew so many Christian Brothers there. And for me it turned out to be exactly the right place. I was a little shy for the first year [un]til I sort of figured out what I was doing.

Gonzalez: I think a lot of college freshmen are that way. It takes a little while to kind of adjust.

Butler: There was so few resident students too. There would be – in our residence hall there might be – a good many of the people went home on weekends. And sometimes there'd only be five or six people in the hall, in the residence hall who were around for the weekends. So that obviously also didn't sort of lend itself to a sense of doing much on weekends because there was very little happening on weekends.

Gonzalez: So were most, it sounds like most of the students there were local that they could go home on the weekends? [*computer sound*]<sup>14</sup>

Butler: Right. There were fewer residents to start with and of the residents a lot of them were from 30, 40, 50 miles away. And people from Pittsburgh, 300 miles away or for further afield were relatively rare.

Gonzalez: You had a really huge historical event happen when – your freshmen year, you mentioned earlier, when Kennedy was shot. Do you remember how the rest of the campus reacted?

Butler: Yeah I was off campus – as I say I was on the Paoli Local, you know, so I wasn't here. The – and because this girl, who I later married by the way, this girl, because she was there, we didn't spend a lot of time on the campus. The events we were going to attend were all cancelled. So, I wasn't here that weekend. So, I remember we drove to Atlantic City and walked up and

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<sup>13</sup> President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed in Dallas, Texas, by Lee Harvey Oswald on November 22, 1963.

<sup>14</sup> A computer sound (almost beep like) can be heard; most likely to alert Dr. Butler to a new email.

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down the boardwalk and – no idea why we did that, but it was deserted. But mostly we just sat and watched television. What I did do – she left on Saturday or, the Saturday or the Sunday – but what I did do, with a friend from Pittsburgh named Jim Gregory, who I'm still in contact with, we went to the funeral, to Kennedy's funeral.<sup>15</sup> So we took the bus down to Washington. And it was very cold. And – so we wanted to get in line to go past the body which was in the Capitol. But a very kind policeman was passing down – and I mean, people were very upset, you know crying, and he very gently went down and said that you wouldn't be able to get in, that the line was too long and you wouldn't – whenever they had to close the Capitol to prepare for the funeral. So we went to just get along the line of the parade, this was probably one or two in the morning. And we thought well we'll just stand there and sit there and wait. *[laughs]* We're eighteen what do we – but it was very cold. And, again people were very – it's like the whole city of Washington was being kind to everybody that weekend in the face of this disaster. I went in to a hotel, I said to the guy, I asked if he had a room – I had a credit card, which were relatively rare then. And he said, "no, we're all booked up." And I said, "it's so cold." And he said, "I tell you what, you can sleep here in the lobby just don't sleep across a, you know, place where people walk." I said, "how much?" and he said "nothing." So, we slept in this – on the floor of this very fancy hotel lobby and then we watched the procession the next day when everything went by. And then we came back. So – but, I'm glad we went. Yeah, it's sort of – its not a weekend that one forgets.

Gonzalez: No, definitely not.

Butler: Right, so...

Gonzalez: So throughout your...

Butler: Just one other thing to say about that. We – the weekend, the Friday he died we were to have a writer, a writer of novels, T. H. White.<sup>16</sup> There was a writer of political commentary named T. H. White as well.<sup>17</sup> But he was to speak here and he didn't. He wrote a very successful book called *The Once and Future King*, about the Arthurian Legend. And he was to speak here on the Friday but he was sick in Texas and couldn't come. But he came back in December. But between the time that he was to appear here and the time he came back, the other T.H. White, the political writer, interviewed Mrs. Kennedy. And she said that they'd put on the record of *Camelot* when – *Camelot, the musical* was based on the book by T.H. White the novelist and they'd put the record on and – "don't let it be forgot, that once there was a spot known as

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<sup>15</sup> At least one million Americans lined the streets for JFK's funeral procession on November 25, 1963. His casket could be viewed from the Capitol to St. Matthew's Cathedral, where a mass was held for the late President. His body was laid at Arlington National Cemetery.

<sup>16</sup> T.H. White the novelist is the author of *The Once and Future King*, published in 1958.

<sup>17</sup> T.H. White the political writer, was born on May 6, 1915 in Massachusetts as Theodore H. White. An author of many political books, he became well known for his interview of Mrs. Kennedy for *LIFE* magazine. He died in 1986 after a stroke. Learn more about him here: <http://www.bookrags.com/biography/t-h-white/>



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Camelot.”<sup>18</sup> So, the name Camelot applied to Kennedy years, came from the political writer T.H. White interviewing Mrs. Kennedy about the novelist T.H. White. So, when he came back in December, he was a famous man because passing through Kennedy’s assassination his book became the name of an era. He spoke – that was one of the most moving talks of my life. In part, he was a great writer and *[turns in chair]* he said something which I have kept my entire life and now I have it laminated; “The best thing for being sad is to learn something. That is the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics or know your honor trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then, to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. This is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust and never dream of regretting.” So – thought that, thought about that [for] the last forty years and sort of kept the thing. And that’s one of the things he said when he was at La Salle.

Gonzalez: Do you think maybe other of La Salle’s men, because it was still an all male college...

Butler: Yeah, we were all male then.

Gonzalez: Do you think they were as moved by his speech?

Butler: Yeah, I don’t know. I mean, I – I don’t think I’ve ever talked to anybody in my class particularly about it. I mean there were a lot of – that was the year of La Salle’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we’re now on the verge of going in to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. So, we had wonderful speakers, a lot of wonderful speakers that – You know in their incredible list of things, you kind of look back at the people who talked that year, we couldn’t – La Salle couldn’t come near affording any of them today. But, I don’t know. I should also say that we had read that book, *The Once and Future King* – we used to read books over the summer before you came [to La Salle], there were four books you had to read. And then there would be talks about the books. So, that had something to do with it. And that’s probably why he came, because his book was being read by all of the freshmen class. So, I don’t know the answer to that. Uh, [it] stuck with me.

Gonzalez: You know I actually tried to read that book. I started, I got a few chapters in but I just haven’t been able to finish it *[laughs]*

Butler: It’s an odd book because the first part of it reads like a children’s book. In fact it became *the Sword in the Stone*, the Disney cartoon.<sup>19</sup> And – but it’s the later parts that I’m more impressed by. So, stick with it.

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<sup>18</sup> *Camelot*, the musical was based on T.H. White’s novel *The Once and Future King*. It opened on Broadway in 1960 and ran 873 performances. Learn more: <http://www2.netdoor.com/~moulder/thwhite/biograph.html>

<sup>19</sup> *The Sword in the Stone* was written by T.H. White as a stand-alone work in 1938 but became the first part of *The Once and Future King*. It was adapted in to a Disney cartoon movie which was released in 1963. Learn more here: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0057546/> and here: <http://www2.netdoor.com/~moulder/thwhite/biograph.html>

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Gonzalez: Yeah, I think I'm gonna have to re-open it now. I still have it, I couldn't – at least I hope I still have it. I hope I haven't donated it.

Butler: One of the things I – I collected T.H. White after that. And, like many things I started – when I started doing this, these books were very cheap. And first editions – I have a couple – I have one T.H. White letter – but uh, [it] became a fairly large collection. And I gave it to the library; it's in Special Collections now, they have a T.H. White Special Collection. So, I'm glad it's found a happy home there. So, that there's some memorial of T.H. White's visit to La Salle, in December 1963, in the library – in the library's Special Collection.<sup>20</sup>

Gonzalez: So other people can enjoy it as well.

Butler: Yeah, right its – it's not a vast collection but I was surprised when it was appraised for tax deduction that it – I was surprised how much it was worth. Maybe I shouldn't have given it [away] *[laughs]* but it did have a lot of first editions and there's – there must be other T.H. White collectors in the world if the books were appraised at what they were. I was surprised, things I bought for 25 and 30 cents *[laughs]* or whatever, all of a sudden seem to be worth things.

Gonzalez: Yeah, I can't believe books were that inexpensive. They're so expensive now.

Butler: Well, I bought a lot of things at the library sales and things.

Gonzalez: So, other than Kennedy's death, kind of marking your first year as a college – in college. What was La Salle's campus like in the 1960s?

Butler: Well, all men. The – very, in some ways, very large representations from some local high schools; Cardinal Dougherty for example, which doesn't exist anymore.<sup>21</sup> And I – I'd be guessing at the numbers, but the number might be a hundred, maybe a hundred students from Cardinal Dougherty or something. And so this, this produced a lack of – and again, I have no idea of the *[moves in chair]* actual number, so that's out of my, out of my head – but the campus was less diverse then because people, people who had been to high school together and ate together in high school all eat together all the way through college. So, that it had a somewhat balkanized sense of that. It um – I – most of my memories – so I – and again, there were many fewer resident students and very few resident students who would be here on a weekend. The um – I eventually became a Residence Counselor in the dormitories; I did that for two years, I think, my junior and senior year. The people who were – many of the resident students were from small towns. I think it's – I think we're much more cosmopolitan now. But I mean, maybe small,

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<sup>20</sup> The T.H. White collection is part of Special Research Topics of Connelly Library's Special Collection.

<sup>21</sup> Cardinal Dougherty was a Catholic HS in Philadelphia. Named after Cardinal Dennis Joseph Dougherty, once Archbishop of Philadelphia, the school opened in 1956. Sadly, due to budget cuts and a decrease in student attendance, Cardinal Dougherty HS closed in June 2010, the end of the 2009-2010 academic year. In its 50+ years it graduated an estimated 40,000 men and women. Learn more here: <http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/breaking/North-Catholic-Cardinal-Dougherty-to-Close-63799472.html> and here: <http://www.cardinaldougherty.org/?pid=1>

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upstate towns, [in] someway unsophisticated, much more unsophisticated. Maybe the whole world is. Eighteen year olds are less sophisticated *[laughs]* you know, then they are now. The – I think it had very good teachers, I was – I felt challenged and I felt that I was learning a good many things. I was very happy with the people I had in class, the teachers that taught me. [I] had a great teacher, Charles Kelly, who became Head of the English Department. So, I guess they're mostly academic memories; and – I made some good friends – the school did an unfortunate thing in a way to me, which took me almost a while, took me a while to work out. I had what's now called a Christian Brother's scholarship, *[cough]* and the – what they did with Christian Brother's scholarships is they put them all in single rooms in the dorm. And you know I was coming from a distance and then they toss me in to a single room. Of course, not knowing anybody and they toss you in a single room, so it's very hard to meet people *[laughs]* when you're...

Gonzalez: Yeah, when you're just living by yourself.

Butler: I think I'd have been much happier – so after that I lived in double rooms with people. The library, it was not there, we had a much, much, much tinier library. The – we didn't own the Belfield Estate.<sup>22</sup> The campus itself was physically much, much smaller, much, much more compact than it is now.<sup>23</sup> Yeah, I think that's my primary memory of the – of some of the differences; and of course no women. So you would – some places would have occasional dances to which a great number of high school girls, some of whom looked like they were twelve *[laughs]* you know, came. You got a little beanie you had to wear during orientation. And the tradition was you had to take – you got rid of the beanie – they had a dance after the end of this, or maybe a week after orientation, and you had to take a girl up on the stage, kiss her and give her your beanie. And I told this story to somebody and he said, "Oh, I still have my beanie!" *[laughs]* And I said, "Oh, really?!" And I remember, I never got to the kissing the girl on stage part but I did hug her and give her my beanie. *[laughs]* So...

Gonzalez: Aw, in front of everyone, that would be very embarrassing.

Butler: *[Laughs]* It was very [embarrassing] I mean I was a, I was a shy guy – I wasn't gonna – I was much shyer then than I am now.

Gonzalez: I think, yeah maybe when you get older you tend to just...

Butler: Right, so, anyhow. So, in fact she was a very pleasant girl, very nice girl. I liked her.

Gonzalez: Now, um...

Butler: She ended up with one of my best friends for a while *[laughs]*

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<sup>22</sup> For a full history on the Belfield Estate please visit <http://www.lasalle.edu/digital/exhibits/belfield.php> and read Dr. Butler's book *Charles Willson Peale's "Belfield: A History of a National Historic Landmark, 1684-1984*

<sup>23</sup> For a look at La Salle's campus in the early 1960s please see the Picture Appendix

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Gonzalez: Oh, really?

Butler: Yeah

Gonzalez: That's kind of – that's a little scandalous maybe.

Butler: No, it wasn't really.

Gonzalez: Ok, were the students or was La Salle's campus affected at all by the Civil Rights Movement or the beginning of Vietnam?

Butler: Yeah, I think probably in the middle [19]60s or so the – there was a – Martin Luther King, I remember, [he] appeared at the Civic Center in Philadelphia, now I think torn down, I don't think it was in the main hall, which is very, very big, it was in a somewhat smaller facility there.<sup>24</sup> And I went to see him. And I was – I was – I don't know how I quite got involved with this group. But I was involved in a group called the Faith Inter-racial Choir, that was just thrown together for this occasion with – for Martin Luther King. So he, the guy who – a very good choir director, who took this group of racially mixed folk and – I think we only practiced for an hour or two [*laughs*] before we made this grand public appearance singing for Martin Luther King. But he was great, he really beat us in to a good, good choir group. And so, we were kind of backing Martin Luther King, we sang before. And so I was probably as close to King as I am to you. And for me that was – I mean, there was a lot of energy in the man, [*laughs*] and a lot of charisma. He was smaller – he was shorter than I [thought] – I don't know how tall he was, 5'7, 5'8, some place there, because in my mind he was 7'8. [*laughs*] So – but I – so – and I was involved with the Collegian, we did a lot of things about Civil Rights and a lot of things about, about Vietnam. I was in various marches here – I can't say, I can't say I was – I became more politically radical maybe at Cornell, where I went after here. But I, I think my heart was in the right place if my, even if my feet always weren't. So – but the – but yeah I think in the – it took the format I guess of protest against mandatory Reserve Officer Training Course, or ROTC[rot-see], everybody – one other difference I didn't mention is – I think it was, maybe on Tuesdays and Thursdays or maybe just Tuesdays – but, among freshman courses everybody would be in uniform that day, because we were – we had mandatory Reserve Officer's Training Core, so you had a military uniform and you drilled those days.<sup>25</sup> It was mandatory, when I started for two years. And – I mean it was a bizarre thing. We – on St. Barbara's Day in December I think, we would march down to Holy Child Church for some sort of ceremony, all of us in our military uniforms.<sup>26</sup> The upperclassmen would all wave handkerchiefs or throw snow balls and yell

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<sup>24</sup> The Civic Center is a series of buildings originating from 1899. The center held concerts, political debates etc. until it's destruction in 2005, the last building being imploded in 2007. The Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine, which opened in 2008, now stands on the site of the Civic Center. To learn more:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphia\\_Convention\\_Hall\\_and\\_Civic\\_Center#cite\\_ref-inflation-US\\_0-0](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphia_Convention_Hall_and_Civic_Center#cite_ref-inflation-US_0-0)

<sup>25</sup> The ROTC program was created in 1950 and deactivated in 1991. The program still exists in conjunction with another school, either Penn or Drexel. For more information please see Brother Joe Grabenstein in the archives.

<sup>26</sup> Named after St. Barbara, patron Saint of military men, St. Barbara's Day is on December 4<sup>th</sup> and is celebrated by some military branches with a formal dinner and presentation of the Order of St. Barbara, "an honorary military society of the United States Field Artillery." To learn more: [http://www.saintbarbara.us/feast\\_of\\_st\\_barbara.html](http://www.saintbarbara.us/feast_of_st_barbara.html)

36:17

“Goodbye! Goodbye!” But it – but I think around the mandatory nature of ROTC crystallized some of the protest against the war. And – you didn’t have any choice, if you were here for – you had to spend two years in this group and then you could sign on after that to spend another two years. So, in [19]64 or [19]65 some, some people I knew signed on for the extra two years – they saw it [as] a way – it was reserve officers because then you would just be in the reserves for a couple years and then you’d have all the benefits of education, having served in the army. But by – but it didn’t work that way, because the people who went in to that all ended up in Vietnam. So that it, it wasn’t a safe thing to do, to end up in the Reserve Officers Training Core. They were training Second Lieutenants and a number of them went to Vietnam. So – I think La Salle had relatively few people killed in Vietnam, but there were some.

Gonzalez: Did you know any of them?

Butler: I knew one and I can’t remember his name at the moment. There’s a little plaque for him in one of the college unions, one of the college union buildings. I did not know him very well. The person I knew best who was killed in Vietnam was a man named Charles Bongartz. He was the – he and I were kind of back and forth of who was going to be the speaker at graduation from Central. And Charlie, who was interested in Physics and Math beat me out, so I gave the Salutatory or welcoming speech. And he was very shaky about giving the Valedictorian speech and – we’re both sitting on stage and he turned to me and said, he said “I can’t do it, I can’t do it.” I said, “Yes, you can. You can do this, it’ll work,” and he said, “I can’t do it.” And they called his name and he was just frozen, and I sort of lifted him up and pushed him toward the podium. And he did it, and he did a fine job. The sad part of the story is he was dead within four or five months. Because he went to Chicago, his parents were both killed in a car crash, and he was a dropout at Chicago, got drafted, went to Vietnam and was killed. And – so then my memory, my last memory of him – and [a] very bright guy, a friend, not a close friend but a friend and – I just remember sort of pushing him toward this microphone. And he – very bright at Physics, you know, a whole career ahead of him and [he was] killed in the war. I’ve gone down to the wall to run my finger over his name. So and I think that’s the, the death – the closest I knew someone who died in Vietnam.

Gonzalez: I’m very sorry that he was, you know cut down in his prime.

Butler: Yeah, I mean I just – I just think – I mean he was so bright I wonder – you wonder, what would he ever – what would he have accomplished. He was just a brilliant guy. And especially because – maybe he seemed especially brilliant because I couldn’t – I was pretty good in Math but Physics was kind of beyond me. *[laughs]*

Gonzalez: Yeah, I think that’s beyond everyone.

Butler: Right, so it was not beyond Charlie Bongartz. So, but I mean the thing – the irony of – I mean, just the tragedy – his parents are killed, he drops out of school – which [is] understandable because both his parents die – and then he gets drafted. His – I think when the body came back, his, I think his sister was very unhappy and wouldn’t let them put the American Flag on the

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casket. But I don't know that that's true for sure. I've heard that but I don't know if it's true. So, I was not there, I was here. So – I forgot what the question was, *[laughs]* that it sort of led down that avenue of investigation.

Gonzalez: That's ok. It's very interesting, very sad story, but still interesting. I mean, I'm sure a lot of young men were very bright, that were lost during that war.

Butler: *[sigh]* Yeah. I mean, the people – I eat lunch every day with John Baky, who was a Vietnam vet. And it doesn't work this semester because of his schedule but usually with Joe Volpe, who was a Vietnam vet, and neither one of them talk about it very much. But I mean I do have a sense they have a – they know things I don't and they both would like to forget things I've never seen.

Gonzalez: Sometimes it's better to just kind of...

Butler: Right.

Gonzalez: ... leave it buried and move on and try to be positive.

Butler: We do have a very good Vietnam Collection in the library that John Baky has put together, on imaginative representations of the Vietnam War.<sup>27</sup> So – But I make – certainly – by the time I left here and went to Cornell to the – to get an English Ph.D., I worked for the summer between as a features editor for – I'm not sure that's – there's no title, but for the Catholic Standard and Times, which was the Catholic newspaper in Philadelphia.<sup>28</sup> At that time it had a very large circulation. The – there were – it was put together by four of us. It was twenty – four pages, Inquirer sized pages. It was written by four people. One of them was the new guy on the block, who was hired the same times I was, was a guy, a priest who had gone to Columbia School of Journalism and his name is John Foley. And he became, not only the Pope's Press Secretary, [he] became a Cardinal. And he died last year. So, he was – I learned a lot from him. But, when I went from – leaving here I won two fellowships, one called a Woodrow Wilson [and] one called a Danforth, [and] the Danforth people had a conference, over the summer in Michigan.<sup>29</sup> And the chaplain was a man named Daniel Berrigan, who was very involved in the war. Actually spent – bought on draft card records and burned draft card records, spent time in prison. And I – I think through him at Cornell I got involved with some more radical politics. So, Dan Berrigan eventually went on the lam from – did something and went on the lam from the FBI. The priest who baptized our first child was also – had turned in his draft card record and baptized our first child in a bowl in our kitchen sink. *[laughs]* So, it was – but Dan Berrigan was very good about not contacting any of us because – I mean he didn't want to suck any of us in to the FBI hunt for him. So – he's still alive; he's working with AIDS patients in New York. And maybe, I don't know, maybe he was – we had him speak at La Salle maybe eight or ten years ago

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<sup>27</sup> To learn more please visit: <http://www.lasalle.edu/library/speccoll/vietnam.php>

<sup>28</sup> The Catholic Standard and Times is the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. <http://catholicphilly.com/>

<sup>29</sup> Graduate fellowships that allowed Dr. Butler to attend Cornell at the graduate level.

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and I introduced him. It's one of those moments where you, you do something where you have like the whole sense of your past – you know my Cornell years there and doing the introduction for Dan, Dan Berrigan. His brother Phil just died recently and he was also very active [*moves in chair, grabs something and shows me a picture of Phil*] that's Phil. [*laughs*] Ok. So.

Gonzalez: I hope Dan's no longer wanted by the FBI.

Butler: [*moves in chair*] No, I think he's – it was bizarre. He was – he would appear on talk shows, “Hi, I'm Dan Berrigan. I'm being sought by the FBI,” you know. Oh and the FBI run off to the studio and he'd [*moves in chair*] have left by that time. [*laughs*] It was just – eventually he and another guy they were looking for was – were apprehended on an island, they were bird watching. [*laughs*] So he was – but he was definite – the whole, kind of, group around us at Cornell was a very radical group. And I kept writing for the – there was a group like the Associated Press called the National Catholic News Service, and I wrote stories for them.<sup>30</sup> And Dan – the first prisoner release of American prisoners by Hanoi, Hanoi refused to release the prisoners to the Americans, to American forces, but they released them to the American Friends Service Committee, I think.<sup>31</sup> And Dan Berrigan was the representative of this. So they – the first prisoner release, they released prisoners to Dan Berrigan. And then he and somebody else, I forget the other guys name, brought the prisoners, the American prisoners back. But Dan was very leery about talking to the press. And I – but he talked to me because he knew me. So, I wrote some stories for the National Catholic News Service about that. The only other thing to say, and I'm – I just pass this on, I'm neither proud of this or feel guilty about it. At this time I had a one year draft deferment at Cornell and then I would've been 1A after that. And, if you – at that stage if you became a father you were, you got a deferment of 3A I think it was. So, I had been married in [19]67 a couple days after I graduated from here. And – so the – my wife was pregnant by Christmas time and then I was – the draft board heard pretty much before her mother heard, I think – so I was then deferred from that. So, deferred and – I – I don't know. You look back and say, was that fair? And no, it positively was not fair. That's – there's no way that should happen. Was I glad that I didn't have to go? Yes, I was glad I didn't have to go. So. So I feel something in between – I don't know – I don't know what I feel about that. But, there it is.

Gonzalez: It's just a happy chance. It's kind of one of those, you're...

Butler: Well there's – I mean you think – I don't know. I mean, it's easy to overdramatize there and say that it's – the whole system of the draft was so unfair. There were at that time, there were drawings, nationally televised, where they would pull out the – all the birthdays in order. I forget what I was – I was someplace, I think in the top 100 or so. So, I remember one of these –

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<sup>30</sup> The Catholic News Services' mission is to “spread the Gospel through contemporary means of communication.”  
<http://www.catholicnews.com/aboutcns.htm>

<sup>31</sup> To learn more about the prisoner release please visit:  
<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/big/0212.html> and to learn more about the American Friends Service Committee please visit: <http://afsc.org/>



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somebody in our group – somebody in the residence halls here – I think – this may be a false memory but I think this happened while I was here in St.<sup>32</sup> – in the lounge, but somebody in our group, they pulled his number out and one person in just the people watching said “Hey, that’s my birthday!” And you know, we all said “Yeah, yeah, yeah you got number one.” I mean it’s – but of course, he really did have number one, you know. And then – I have no idea what happened to him. I don’t know. So. I think like a lot of people, looking back on this time, there’s a lot – there’s enough bundle of conflicts to go around. So – and I – it’s not that I don’t know what I think, it’s I think, if I think about it very much I’m going to feel upset about what I think *[laughs]* so I don’t think about it much. And that’s hardly a good intellectual attitude to have, but there it is.

Gonzalez: It’s nothing to be ashamed of. It’s ok.

Butler: Well – I mean, it’s not – I’m not sure what I feel – I’m not sure it’s shame, I don’t know what I feel. I don’t know. I feel a lot of people died who didn’t have to die. And I did not. And do I feel guilty about not dying? No. But I wish a lot of people who died did not die.

Gonzalez: Well, that’s very understandable.

Butler: Yeah.

Gonzalez: I feel – I think, with the current war a lot of people are feeling something similar.

Butler: The difference though, from now is that the draft doesn’t hang over this. So, it’s more – it’s more volunteer. So, again none of this says anybody deserves to die, that’s not what I’m saying. But the – at least in colleges and universities the kind of omnipresence of the draft produced lots of unrest.

Gonzalez: I know they mentioned the possibility of a draft a few years ago and everyone was just up in arms about it. I know I was – I was only in high school at the time, but.

Butler: Yeah, it’s – one can be cynical about this to say that, I mean it’s – in terms of the politics of the thing, if there’s a draft *[cough]* there would be much more – I think there would be much more protest about things, if there were a draft. That’s *[cough]* not a reason to have a draft. I don’t know the answers to these big ones, I can’t – when I was 22 I knew the answer to everything, now I know the answer to nothing. I was smarter then, or stupider *[laughs]* So, where are we – where have we reached *[laughs]* I don’t know where we are. We’re over in grad school, I think.

Gonzalez: *[laughs]* I think – yeah I think we’re just gonna start at you starting at Cornell. But I do wanna ask a quick question about your wife...

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<sup>32</sup> He was in St. Albert’s residence hall.



51:11

Butler: Yes.

Gonzalez: How did you meet her?

Butler: We both went to the same elementary school in Wilkinsburg.

Gonzalez: Oh, wow.

Butler: Yes, we're no longer married. But we were married for about thirty years.

Gonzalez: That's a very long time.

Butler: Yeah.

Gonzalez: What was...

Butler: And I saw – I still see her. I saw her over the weekend. We were up – we were visiting grandchildren. So, he was in a – in the eighth grade play. So, we both went up to see him. So, we get on fine. We've gone different directions.

Gonzalez: What's her name?

Butler: Her name is Joanne, all one word. J-O-A-N-N-E.<sup>33</sup>

Gonzalez: Ok

Butler: So – I probably met her in kindergarten [*laughs*]. And then she went to an all girl's school in Pittsburgh, Sacred Heart, which was the – not the closest girls school to Central, but one of the ones that were, was quite close.

Gonzalez: And you married, you guys married shortly after you graduated?

Butler: We did. We were married in 1967, so I was 22 then.<sup>34</sup>

Gonzalez: Wow, that's very young.

Butler: Yeah, yeah I guess it was young.

Gonzalez: Compared to today.

Butler: Right. Yeah, people today seem to get married much later.

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<sup>33</sup> Maiden name, Joanne Buck

<sup>34</sup> They were married in June 1967, a few days after graduation.

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Gonzalez: How many children did you two have?

Butler: Three children. So, the one – we saw the middle one over the weekend and she’s Amy Lynn. And there’s a Christine Anne, she lives in New Jersey. She’s – has an autistic child and she now is – she runs a non-profit for autistic – for working with autistic children in schools. So what they’re trying to do is to help the children who are not autistic understand what an autistic child is and to work on trying to make sure people don’t get taunted and things of that sort. So it’s called Just Two Moms.<sup>35</sup> So you can Google it, see what she’s doing. She appears in a lot of – she does a lot of school assemblies. And the – she told me at one stage, she said “Oh, we have this non-profit. We made a little film and we show it.” And I said, “Oh, that’s nice, you did a little film.” So, I went to see the little film. *[laughs]* I said – you know, it was just this incredible production. I said, “Oh my God, who made that!” She said, “Oh, you know, my partners...” – the other woman involved in this, *[her]* husband works for NFL films. And I said, “Oh, I understand this now.” This was – So it’s – I’ve seen their film at, what’s the name of the stadium right on the other side of Philadelphia that the minor league team plays in, it’s right underneath I think, Ben Franklin bridge.<sup>36</sup> But – not the Camden River Sharks, they’re further north. But, they had an autistic fundraiser there and I saw her – they played her film on the – got a big screen in center field. So, I was impressed. So, she has two children. My daughter Amy in – who lives in Easton, they have – she has twins. And they’re just about to turn thirteen.

Gonzalez: Oh boy.

Butler: Uh, right. *[laughs]* You said it. Again, it’s – I said to somebody today, it’s – I look at my granddaughter and she’s delicately balanced between stuffed animals and boys *[laughs]* So, thirteen’s a very, very strange age *[laughs]* in some ways.

Gonzalez: Yeah I think as soon as thirteen hits there might be swaying a little more to the boys.

Butler: Yeah, I suspect so. And then I have a daughter who lives in Akron. She’s married as well and there are no grandchildren there yet. She works at the Akron Zoo.<sup>37</sup>

Gonzalez: Do you enjoy being a grandfather?

Butler: Yup, good things. Yup. It’s – I think it’s why I partially retired. I can spend more time in doing – I mean, it seems like – I’m not sure I have the energy to be a parent these days, there’s all this stuff going on. *[laughs]* I don’t know, just a lot of things happening. I mean, it just – I don’t quite remember just sort of – I guess what is different is, to go back to what I said before, I mean my – you know we’d get up, we’d have breakfast, we’d disappear all day. And my mother just knew we were someplace in this relatively safe community, *[laughs]* and we’d come back for dinner. But – what the hell, everybody gets driven everywhere and everybody’s taking Judo, playing soccer and – lots of moving around here, lots of scheduling.

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<sup>35</sup> <http://www.just2moms.com/>

<sup>36</sup> Dr. Butler might be talking about Waterfront Park, where the Trenton Thunder play.

<sup>37</sup> Anne – Kate (Butler) Mathews

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Gonzalez: Yeah, a lot of tight scheduling.

Butler: Right. Yeah.

Gonzalez: Always having to bring one kid to soccer practice and another to a music...

Butler: Both of the – the two Easton grandchildren are much – they're in to Karate, so they're I guess, one step short of black belt.

Gonzalez: Oh, wow.

Butler: And my one granddaughter, who'll be turning thirteen, she's just – she's under five foot and very thin but she's pretty good at tossing people around *[laughs]* So it's fun – I don't know, interesting to watch. *[laughs]*

Gonzalez: *[laughs]* That's a little scary. I don't – I don't want to be tossed around. *[laughs]*

Butler: Well, I guess the idea of Karate is for you to do the tossing *[laughs]* and the other people to get tossed.

Gonzalez: Yeah, be nice to those people with black belts.

Butler: Right. Yeah.

Gonzalez: So, you started at Cornell in the fall of [19]67.<sup>38</sup> Was that...

Butler: That's right, yes.

Gonzalez: And you moved...?

Butler: We moved from here to – well we lived in Elkins Park for the summer and then we moved to Ithaca. We were in Ithaca for three years. The – I was still connected with Cornell but I did my dissertation abroad. I did it in England at.<sup>39</sup> I was working on the poet William Wordsworth and working with manuscripts there.<sup>40</sup> The – I went to Cornell because they had very good 19<sup>th</sup> century poetry, romantic poetry people. *[cough]* And the – I worked with a man named Steven Parrish who just died, he was 90. And I'm actually going up this summer for his memorial service on the second of June. And I worked with a man named M.H. Abrams who is still alive, he turns a hundred this year. So I'll see him at this too. So that – both of those people

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<sup>38</sup> Located in Ithaca, New York, Cornell was once called "The first American University". To learn more please visit: <http://www.cornell.edu/>

<sup>39</sup> For more information please visit: <http://www.grasmere.com/>

<sup>40</sup> William Wordsworth, an English poet, was born in 1770 and died in 1850. He is credited with "ushering in the English Romantic Movement with the publication of *Lyrical Ballads* (1798) in collaboration with Samuel Taylor Coleridge." <http://www.online-literature.com/wordsworth/>

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became very good friends and both were very – were certainly instrumental in the scholarly career. The – he was not doing this right when I started at Cornell. It was a man named John Albin Finch who was second in command of the Wordsworth series that Steve Parrish was working on. And the day I was [cough] accepted [cough] excuse me, at Cornell from here – so I got the letter [and] I was very pleased, [I] had a scholarship – I had too actually, some outside scholarships that were – so I had my own external scholarships that I brought to Cornell, the Wilson and a Danforth scholarship. But on the day I was accepted at Cornell, I was – somebody came in and said, “Hey, Cornell is on the news next door.” And I – it was the second – third floor of the Union, I was in the Collegian office. So I went over and sat down to watch this. And there was a fire in a residence hall, and one of the faculty members who lived in the residence hall died in the fire. He was – he died heroically, he kept going back in and pulling students out, and back in, and back in, and the last time he didn’t get out. So – but [cough] he was [cough] he was the second person in this Wordsworth series with Steve Parrish. And – so when I got there, Steve was – he was in charge of the special program, a six year Ph.D program where all the students – eight or nine students died in the fire. And – so, I – I mean I needed somebody to teach me how to be a – you know, how to – to get me in to this profession and think the way as professionals do and teaching literature. And I think what he needed is somebody because he was really down about the death of his friend. And I didn’t exactly – I don’t want to say took the place of this guy because this guy could do many things that I couldn’t do – but in that Wordsworth series – and I became involved with that and I was involved in it [un]til we finished it in 1996. So it ran for – I was involved with it from the [19]60s in to 1990. And it was – I don’t know how many volumes there are, twenty – three, twenty – four volumes of it. So the Wordsworth part of – stuff – and I did three volumes within the series – and because I was involved with this series, all the manuscripts were at Grasmere, an English Lake District in the North of England. So we lived there for – sometimes for a year, up to a year, sometimes for six months. Our kids went to school there, developed wicked English accents. And I think we were – you know, became a pretty good part of that community. I think when we put our kids in the local school, you know that’s obviously what integrates you in to a community. So it was – so for the – for our kids and to a lesser extent for us, we had another home. We didn’t own the building, but we rented. But all in all we probably lived there for four or five years. And I think that was, that was great fun. I’d like to get back there again, I don’t know, we’ll see. So many of the people I knew there are not there anymore, have died. The – so that was the sort of Wordsworth stuff and then I got involved with some Wister stuff, and then I got involved with some Peale and Belfield stuff. There’s always – it’s like the T.H. White quote – [cough] one of the things somebody said about that quotation, which says “The best thing for being sad is to learn something,” so people who have learned a whole lot of things must have had a very sad life. [laughs] But I don’t quite feel that. But there is joy in learning things. So.

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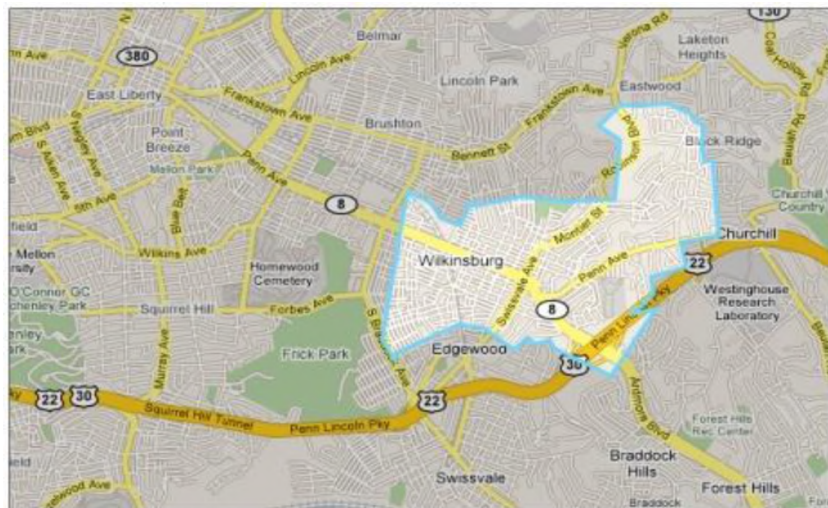
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**Picture Appendix**

**Pennsylvania**



Map of Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania



Another map of Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania





Map of La Salle College's Campus, circa early 1960s



Aerial view of La Salle College's campus, circa early 1960s



Members of La Salle's ROTC program, late 1950s/early 1960s  
Dr. Butler is in the second row from the left, closest to the camera



Members of La Salle's ROTC program, late 1950s/early 1960s



Picture of Dr. James Butler  
ROTC fitting session, Fall 1963