

This transcript was not approved by the interviewee.

**History 650: Oral History: Theory and Practice**

**Summer 2009**

**Dr. Barbara C. Allen**

**Date: August 6, 2009**

**Final Interview Transcript**

**By Nobu McPherson**

**Subject:** A La Salle University Alum experience in the Korean Conflict

**Date and place of interview:** Friday, July 3, 2009, 10am – La Salle University's campus Admissions Office, Philadelphia, PA

**Interviewer:** Nobu McPherson

**Interviewee:** Robert Schaefer, "54"

**Ethnicity:** Caucasian

**Marital Status:** Married

**Age:** 76

**Date of Birth:** September 17, 1932

**Religion:** Catholic

**Current residence:** North Wales, Pennsylvania

**Disc #1**

**0 hrs. 0 mins. 0 sec. mark**

**Nobu:** This is Nobu McPherson, with Mr. Robert Schaefer. Today is Friday, July the 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009, and it is mid-morning here in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We are here today on La Salle University's campus inside the Admissions Office to conduct an oral history

interview. For the record Mr. Schaefer do I have your permission to begin the interview?

**Schaefer:** Yes.

**Nobu:** Okay, also for the record – are - you are aware - you do agree to allow the information contained in this recording to be accessible to the public via historical archives?

**Schaefer:** Yes.

**Nobu:** Great, Okay, at this point we can begin the interview with some general background questions. You mentioned that you wanted to talk about when you went into – got into Korea \* – so we're going to go - background and move into that if that's Okay?

(\*Prior to beginning the recording, Mr. Schaefer started to talk about his Korean experience. I had to interrupt him to suggest that in order to get a better understanding of his experience, I felt it was important to first try to understand him as a person in order to understand how he reacted to this experience by starting with his personal background).

**Schaefer:** Mr. Schaefer nodding his head to indicate to me that it was okay.

**0 hr. 0 min. 59 sec. mark**

**Nobu:** Would you please tell me when and where you were born?

**Schaefer:** Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 17, 1932.

**Nobu:** So, that would make you how old?

**Schaefer:** 76, going on 77.

Nobu: Congratulations - wow! How would you describe your neighborhood during your childhood?

**Schaefer:** (Pause) Childhood was pre-World War II, pre-World War II, I lived in North Philadelphia (Pause) after the war it was a changing neighborhood – it was a middle-class neighborhood – I lived at 25<sup>th</sup> and Cumberland.

(Long pause)

**Nobu:** I know that area – Did you enjoy the environment or environments during your childhood?

**Schaefer:** Sure, all of my friends were there.

**Nobu:** Were your parents originally from this area?

**Schaefer:** Yes, both were from Philadelphia.

**Nobu:** Any particular area?

**Schaefer:** North Philadelphia.

**Nobu:** North Philadelphia – What were their names?

**0 hr. 2 min. 1.6 sec. mark**

**Schaefer:** My father was Harry Schaefer, my mother was Margaret Welsh Schaefer

**Nobu:** And what did you parents do for a living?

**Schaefer:** My father was a salesman, my mother was a homemaker. Except during the war when my father got drafted – my mother worked for the same company my father worked for - I guess, before he got drafted, and he got drafted in 1943 (Pause) fortunately he went into the Navy \_\_\_\_\_?? - there was a youngster across the street from us that got drafted the same day as my dad, and he was killed in action in North Africa before my father got out of boot camp – and we had, on our street, Smalls Street, Firth Street, F-I-R-T-H Street, we had three boys killed in action, my Uncle Joe – was killed on D-Day, Bobby Clausen, the boy across the street that got drafted the same day as my father, I don't know the exact date of his death, the other fellow was Freddy Berrel?? who was in the Air Force and his plane went down over the English Channel and they never found him. We had three kids that died in the war, two very badly wounded

(long pause)

**At this point is seemed that he was becoming a little emotional recalling these memories.**

**Schaefer:** Information you don't need.

**Nobu:** No, this is great - no, this is going to be very valuable for me. Do you have any brothers and sisters?

**Schaefer:** I have one sister

**Nobu:** Are they older, what you position?-

**Schaefer:** I'm the oldest

**Nobu:** How did you two get along?

**Schaefer:** Fine! (with great affection and a large smile)

**Nobu:** (Laughs) Good, Good

**Schaefer:** We are still very close, she is a very close friend of my wife.

**Nobu:** I'm fortunate to have the same thing, we all get along well together, and that's a wonderful thing in a family if you don't have that in a family it can cause conflict and can be very disruptive. Let me ask you this did you work during your childhood?

**Schaefer:** Did I work? Sure. I worked at the Robin Hood Dell – sold candy out there during the evening performances in the summer, I've sold newspapers outside Shi \_\_\_?? Park – before the ballgames the Daily News was two cents then it went up to three cents – before ballgames, and then I worked for a butchers shop – delivery orders.

**0 hr. 4. min. 47.6 sec. mark**

**Nobu:** You wanted to work – how did you like working?

**Schaefer:** I thought it was fine, it put money in you pocket.

**Nobu:** (Laughs) How old were you when you started?

**Schaefer:** I guess ten or eleven. (Pause)

**Nobu:** And most of your friends and family started the same – did you work with those?

**Schaefer:** Some of my boy friends from the same street we sold newspapers together and we worked Robin Hood Dell – we worked for Freed Gerber selling candy. We weren't big enough to carry the soda bottles. This was the start of, around the war. There weren't many guys around -, everybody was drafted, so it was easy for ten or eleven year old to get a job

**Nobu:** I could imagine, my memory of Robin Hood Dell had a lot of concerts and things, was it the same?-

**Schaefer:** All concerts, all classical music at that time, you could always sell during the intermissions, so you could sit back and listen to the concert and you could go out in the day time and you could, I can't think, I think it was two cents a bottle for picking up the bottles that were left - after the concert, and you could listen to the rehearsals. Dimitri Tiomkim was the conductor of the orchestra at time

**Nobu:** How much did you make at the time?

**Schaefer:** You got paid commission, so I'd make a couple of bucks - no body was making much money during the war. Make a couple of bucks.

**Nobu:** Now you did mention you grew-up during the World War II era, and you had family member and friends involved – who saw combat, and unfortunately some of were killed. Do remember your family discussing the war over the dinner table or anything like that, were there any discussions?

**0 hr. 06 min. 51.3 sec. mark**

**Schaefer:** With so many fellows from the street in the war that my uncle and his friends – there was always some sort of conversation someone was either home or someone was – I remember - all the mail was censored you couldn't find out where the devil where anybody was and my father, he was in the Navy, he sent a letter home and he mentioned Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson was the insurance man. My mother said, "Why in the name of God is he mentioning Mr. Johnson?" We didn't find out the Mr. Johnson worked for Prudential. Prudential has the "Rock of Gibraltar" as their logo, and that's where he was (laughs) he was in the Mediterranean at that point. He thought he would give us a clue. We didn't get it. We didn't pick it up - we just wonder why Mr. Johnson was mentioned in his letter. The war, and of course the war was in the paper everyday , and there was discussions in schools. I went to St. Columbus Parochial School at one point during the war - guess I was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at this time so that would make it 1943, 42,43 somewhere around then. There was a shortage of coal, that was how the place was heated, we went in on a short day, we went in later and finished early, didn't go home for lunch\_\_\_\_\_?? The day was short so they could save, conserve on fuel

**Nobu:** Was that a big problem most people ran into finding their love ones, was haphazard. You were at the mercy of -

**Schaefer:** Oh, you mean as far as were they were\_

**Nobu:** Where they were?

**Schaefer:** Most of us didn't –you know, we knew the were overseas, you knew they were in the European sector, or the south Pacific (pause) Mail was good as I recall, but I

was a kid – I know with my dad, mail was not so great for the guys in the Navy on a ship- my father was on a destroyer escort DE-338 the Martin\_\_\_tray from writing to him, and ah, I guess their home port was Boston, and when they came in, I think he may have been the oldest guy on the ship, he was drafted at age 33, he always got home when he got into port. I still have souvenirs that he brought me from various places.

**Nobu:** Now, outside of the home, do you remember people discussing the war, either at school, at play, do you remember anyone talking about- your friends or - ?

**0 hr. 10 min. 19.9 sec. mark**

**Schaefer:** Sure,

**Nobu:** Younger kids?

**Schaefer:** The thing that came out about the war-at least-they were called “War Cards”. They came in ah, kids have them now, you can get them in the store package of cards. These came with bubble gum as I recall. And they were at – many of them were about the atrocities in the South Pacific – I don’t know why I remember that, I do. And but you would get the war card. So you would play war games, you would see something in the movies\_ it was constantly on your mind because things were rationed. You didn’t have- on our street there was one car, one family had a car, no one else, everybody else use public transportation to get around- and gas was rationed and you had the A, B, or C little sticker on the windshield- I’m trying to think, I don’t remember now which was the best one to have to get a little more gas with\_ I remember ration books that we had, and stamps, ration stamps – take them to – I don’t remember a big supermarket like there are now, there was an Acme- near us. And every neighborhood had several butchers

shops we went to- the big supermarket weren't around so after the war- you have to take the ration books there, they would tear out whatever you needed, so many stamps to get meat, if they had meat in the store, chicken all that stuff you know.

**Nobu:** You mentioned the atrocities in the Pacific theater, did you, any of your friends, relatives-served in the\_

**Schaefer:** Yes, very dear friend of ours, my uncles, one of his best friends, and Jack Hogan was his name, and he went to Penn State and got commissioned into the Marine Corp and Jack was very badly wounded at Iwo Jima. He was a major in the Marine Corp when \_\_\_\_\_?? Young guy when he got shot up over there and Iwo Jima, he was the first guy at the war who got a car. It was an Oldsmobile it was the first time I ever saw an automatic transmission. Because he was wounded he lost all the power in the one arm.

**Nobu:** Did they share any of their war experiences or war stories with you as a child?

**Schaefer:** No, I don't remember, you know, anybody, except to say it's good to be home. My uncle John, my uncle John Barratt, he was at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked, and he never really got over that. He died some years later- he died when I was in the service. But he was never over the Pearl Harbor.

**Nobu:** So, basically, no one really shared these things to impact you on-

**Schaefer:** No, how difficult it is (pause) I think most remember the good times. And didn't want to tell a kid how horrible things could be.

**Nobu:** Now, do remember how your family or your views about the German, Italians or the Japanese before the war?

**Schaefer:** No, my name is German- there was some, I remember as a kid – my mother was Irish, my father mother was Irish, but we always consider ourselves as being Irish, but I remember coming home from school and someone would say get off my pavement- Kraut! I could not understand- I asked my mother what does this mean? Some people are not reasonable.

**0 hr. 15 min. 04.3 sec. mark**

**Nobu:** Do you remember how that made you feel? Did it really upset you?

**Schaefer:** What the hell, what are you talking about? My dad was in the service, my uncle's were in the service - (pause) "Don't walk on my pavement!" I always thought that was strange - one of the few things that stuck with me - I don't like that.

**(He was visibly shaken by this memory)**

**Nobu:** I can imagine, how about after the war? Were there any change?

**Schaefer:** No, No, no problem.

**Nobu:** Now, going back to your young adult life. High School, where did you go?

**Schaefer:** Roman Catholic.

**Nobu:** Roman Catholic.

**Schaefer:** Broad and Vine.

**Nobu:** I know it well, that's one of my schools. I'm the counselor for that, Roman Catholic. Can you tell me about your experience there?

**Schaefer:** Oh, it was a wonderful experience - (pause) The first year that we went to an annex, the school was small, went to an annex at 9<sup>th</sup> and Hutchinson, at St. Bonaventure, it was a very German parish. All the kids that we met up with there, I was very comfortable (chuckles) they had all very German names (more chuckles). The first time I really came across that that was a very interesting experience down there - one trolley car ride and a short walk, and then going to Roman. When I went there we had some remarkable athletic teams, probably the best football team that ever played in the City of Philadelphia - was the class of 1948. Just marvelous, marvelous guys, good football players, and one of my favorite players and a friend, we got to be friends on the track team, was a black kid by the name of Bob Evans. Who was the first black captain, African-American I guess now at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Nobu:** Wow

**Schaefer:** He played with Eddie Bell, just an sensational guy, and we use to walk home from Cahill field together after a track meet, this guy was a football player, track star, bright guy, and he died a few years ago – good friend. I had a lot of good friends and they are still good friends of mine. I go back every year, we have a communion breakfast- our class has about fifty, sixty guys that come back, it's a lot but as we get older (chuckles) and you start to thin out (more chuckles) that was a good experience.

**Nobu:** And what sport did you participate in?

**Schaefer:** I was track and cross country team.

**Nobu:** Oh Okay, many of you friends from that school go onto college?

**Schaefer:** Yes (pause) two of my friends that I went of grammar and high school with, we went to college together. We've been to one another weddings, and one of them Bill Wingle-he went to Korea with me.

**Nobu:** Wow!

**Schaefer:** And we were roommates in Korea.

**Nobu:** And you still-

**Schaefer:** Still see him.

**Nobu:** You have a long history together. That's wonderful.

**Schaefer:** I believe from my group, I have to think about this one for a second, (pause) there was about fifteen guys who went, who came from Roman to La Salle. And we were all in the class of "54". Some may have come a year or so later-at least fifteen guys, I have to look in the yearbook.

**Nobu:** I know we were happy to get them (laugh)

**Schaefer:** (laugh)

**Nobu:** Helped us getting our class, right? How about your sister? Did she go to college?

**Schaefer:** My sister? Yes, she did. She went to Gywnedd Mercy (pause) she went to high school and then she went to college.

**Nobu:** Now, we have already established that you are a La Salle alum, graduating class of “54” is it?

**Schaefer:** “54”

**Nobu:** A fellow Explorer right? I also graduated here. What was your major?

**Schaefer:** Marketing.

**Nobu:** Marketing, Did you eventually go into business after?

**Schaefer:** Yes, I did, but I – actually, I was the editor of the “Collegian” when I was a student here.

**Nobu:** Really.

**0 hr. 20 min. 16.6 sec. mark**

**Schaefer:** And I tended more- I was more interested in the advertising-public relation side, and I came to work here in nineteen – 1957. I came to work here as the Director of Public Relations, and I stayed here in that job, till four years, I worked with Jack McCloskey, I don’t know if you know him.

**Nobu:** No, I’m not familiar with him.

**Schaefer:** Jack- was Mr. La Salle, he was - he did everything, when we were students. Jack was working here then, he ran the bookstore, wound-up being the Vice President of the University. As year \_\_\_\_\_?? Brother Daniel Bernian was the President, and he’s the guy who set-up the – all of the institutional \_\_\_\_? They have different names for

them now, but the fund raising part of it was Jack's - Terrific guy, just an absolutely terrific guy.

**Nobu:** You know your old department was combined with the department I use to work with the Annual Fund, Advancement they are all together now and there is a guy, well you know Jim, (laugh) Jim Gulick, he's involved with them.

**Schaefer:** Yea, Yea, he, I guess he took Jim McDonald's place, Jim McDonald is a friend of mine who was a head of the Alumni Association, before Jim Gulick took over, I don't know, - my wife is, knows Mike McGinnis very well I'll give you some connections that how we go about La Salle, I don't know if you are interested in this or not?

**Nobu:** Oh, no absolutely!

**Schaefer:** I went, I went here okay, my wife went to Gywnedd Mercy College, but than she worked at La Salle High School when it was on the campus here, she worked here for ten years, and so she worked for Brother Francis who was principal of the high School who knows a lot of the Brothers from when they were kids in high school. We had seven children, five of them had degrees, at least one degree from La Salle. My oldest son is a Christian Brother he's the principal of Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School, so the relationship goes back to a long time and a lot. Two guys who did not graduate from La Salle, Mike went to St. Bonaventura, but he did take some graduate course here, but he got moved by his company to Syracuse so he never picked up a degree, and my youngest son Brian is a carpenter and is working on the building.

**Nobu:** That's, that is incredible. You have such a rich history with La Salle. Now, you mentioned your other son Brother Schaefer.

**Schaefer:** Brother Bob Schaefer

**Nobu:** I may meet him, or may have met him because I have Pennsylvania, ah Pittsburgh and-

**Schaefer:** He's the principal out there, took over yesterday, the first of July.

**Nobu:** In fact, I think I did meet him because we went to the auditorium to have a college fair, and he was bringing all of these students to me, and he was really talking up La Salle and I'm pretty sure it was him. And I'm-

**Schaefer:** That's him!

**Nobu:** And I'm going back soon

**Schaefer:** He was the Vice Principal, and he just came back, he was in Rome for six months. He was over from October until May I guess it was, and then he was here on campus, I don't know what he was doing here a month or so ago, he's back in Pittsburgh now.

**Nobu:** Now, you have such a rich history with La Salle, let me ask you this, as a young high school student, what drew you to La Salle?

**Schaefer:** (chuckle) A priest. It looked like I was going to go to Northwestern and my mother wasn't too fond of that, and a priest that I had in high school was the coach of the track team, Father Cancanon, said to me "I want you to go up and see Brother Clementon – up at La Salle. So, I dutifully, called up, got an appointment to see Brother Clementon, and I walked out with a stack of applications and that's how, myself and six other guys got here - (chuckle) So, that's how I got drawn to La Salle. After I got here,

probably the best thing that ever happened to me- - what a wonderful time we had here. What great people, teaching, and the sports were phenomenal, that's when we won two championships, what a great time.

**Nobu:** That was my next question. To describe your experience, but that wonderful you have such fond memories.

**Schaefer:** Oh yea, I was involved in a lot of activities, I was editor of the "Collegian", I was the Chancellor of the Basks, - I was in the ROTC Program, the inaugural class to come in, you know it was just about 59 years ago that the Korean War started, it was June of 1950. And we got enrolled in La Salle – during the summer they sent out information on the ROTC, and one of my uncles said, "Better be an officer than an enlisted man" (laughs) So try it, so I did try it, and stuck with it.

**0 hr. 25 min. 58.3 sec. mark**

**Nobu:** Good advice - (laugh) Good advice. Do you remember the general view about the Korean Conflict on campus amongst the student body at the time?

**Schaefer:** Yea, you know, I – I think when it first started, well it started before we got here, it started in June we came in September, and (pause) a lot of us didn't know where the hell Korea was, what was this Korea thing? Then, friends from the neighborhood and from high school were being drafted into the service, the draft was still on. The thing with all the colleges you had to maintain a 2.0 average or you became eligible for the draft again – which was an incentive to keep your marks up. – Were people anxious for a war? No. – Let's get this damn thing over with, or call it a war, you know it was never called a war, it was a police action – I'm not sure about this, but there was some point,

the guys who were servicing in the Korean War weren't sure that the benefits they were going to get as the G.I.'s from World War II, eventually they were incorporated in that. Were there anti-war protest? No, nothing like that. The only (chuckle) the only, \_\_\_\_\_?? On campus, there were two that I remember, one was a, ah, a boycott of the cafeteria, because (chuckles) the cafeteria was in one end of - Leonard Hall, which was a one story G.I. building and the \_\_\_\_\_?? Lounge was in \_\_\_\_\_?? And the cafeteria was at one end of it. Well, there was an uproar. I guess it was the class of "52" that started that one. To bring in better food in, or at least more than a ham sandwich (chuckles). And that did happen, that revolt ended happily for the students and everybody else. The other one was, in the election of 1952, the "Collegian" and I was on the "Collegian" staff at that time, and the "Collegian" ran a poll of the, between "who do you favor, Stevenson or Eisenhower?", and the - student body of La Salle, kind of reflected the attitude of Philadelphia - Stevenson won- big margin. And Brother Stanislaus was the president and I guess he got some heat - people outside, and I don't know where that newspaper is, it never came, it was printed, but it was never distributed. It was held somewhere because the "Inquirer" picked up the - the "Inquirer" the "Bulletin" picked up the story that, the headlines "La Salle backed Stevenson". In 1952, not the way the country went, but it certainly reflected the Philadelphia area.

**Nobu:** Interesting. What were your views, what were your personal views on it?

**Schaefer:** I've always been a Republican, so I was one of the lone - given the opportunity to - take a negative, the opposite view in the write-up - I don't remember what I wrote, but, I always believed in the will of the people, so if everybody were to vote that way, that's the way it goes. You don't have to love it, you live with it.

**0 hrs. 30 min. 31.8 sec. mark**

**Nobu:** Now you mentioned earlier a relative suggested going into the ROTC as an officer, believe that is how you got your entry into the military. But what was your personal feeling about the war itself? Or that war, conflict, police or what have you?

**Schaefer:** I thought that – it was a (pause) I'm trying to think back – when you are 18 years old (pause) I know people going into it, I thought that the Korean people needed some help because they were just overwhelmed – by the Chinese – coming down through North Korea. Quite honestly, I didn't think it would take long. You know – I suppose typical of the American people at the time – the, not knowing what forces the Chinese had, just that there was hell of a lot of them – and they shouldn't do that, you know. It wasn't right and ah (pause) I wasn't quite sure – I didn't think the war was last all that long, I really didn't. And when think of it now, it is 59 years ago that it started, we still have troops over there, 59 years later!

**Nobu:** How about that. You did, you mentioned one person from La Salle that you served with, and you also mention there were several other La Sallians that went to war – do you remember any of their names?

At this point he became quite enthusiastic, frequently leaning back and forth in his seat, slightly raise his voice with a subtle smile, he really seemed to like to talk about his fellow La Sallians during this time.

**Schaefer:** Absolutely, at Divisional Artillery Headquarters there was myself, Bill Wingle, Bob Bonner, Earl Wood. At the 31<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery there was Jim McCaffery, and Charley Hap, in the 24<sup>th</sup> Division there was Al Avalon and Ed Brewton, and there was

Ben Ackeon was, he was some place over there but he wasn't in any of the divisions, I don't know where Ben was, and I haven't seen since then, but there was at least nine of us there at that time. – out of the same class.

**Nobu:** And there was only one that you served with, or were there more?

**Schaefer:** No, there were three that served with me\_\_\_\_\_?? Bill Wingle, Earl Wood, Bob Bonner and me we were all at 7<sup>th</sup> Division Artillery Headquarters. And Charley Hap and Jim McCaffrey were either the 31<sup>st</sup> or 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion which was part of Division Artillery and Al Avalon, and Al just died in the last – year. Al Avalon and Ed Brewton were in the 24<sup>th</sup>. Al was an outstanding marksman, and he made the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Rifle Team and travel all over the far eastern, wound up coming back to the states for a competition.

**Nobu:** I also have some experience with the 24<sup>th</sup>, did they still have the “Terra Leaf”?

**Schaefer:** The 24<sup>th</sup> had the “Terra Leaf”, we had the “Crushed Beer Can”, the 7<sup>th</sup> had the - it looked - it's a “Seven this way, and a seven that way” (he demonstrated this with his hands), it was black with a red background.

**Nobu:** I spent six, no four years I'm sorry, at Fort Stewart. So let's see, you weren't drafted, you joined the ROTC and you completed your degree and went in as a 2<sup>nd</sup> “Louie? (Short for lieutenant)

**Schaefer:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, yea. Where we all went, there were. I guess there were twenty of us that were in the same classes at the OBC (believe it means “Officers Basic Course”), that's 110 of the OBC, and we went in the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, 1954. And went

out to Fort Sill, (Oklahoma) We went out \_\_\_\_\_ ??active duty the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, had until the 7<sup>th</sup> of December to report there, so we took – three cars, went out, it was about 9 or 10 of us, made a trip to New Orleans (laugh), went to see the basketball team play Loyola of the south – they played in New Orleans, and checked into Fort Sill. There were, I guess there were fourteen of us. Seven guys that were single and seven guys that were married, and we spent the first night in the army and the seven single guys each was adopted by one of guys that were married and spent the first night with them, and then the next we were assigned to our BOQ (Basic Officers' Quarters), at Fort Sills.

**Nobu:** What was your MOS (job), what was your specialty, as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant?

**Schaefer:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant didn't get a MOS, we were artillery. So we were all field artillery.

**Nobu:** From our conversation, your tour of duty took place after the armistice took hold, is that correct?

**Schaefer:** That's right.

**Nobu:** Where were you stationed?

Schaefer: I was stationed on the DMZ (Demilitarize Zone). My first assignment when I got over there was "D" Battery of the 15<sup>th</sup> Triple A Battalion, and we were to support the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. And we sat here and across the river from the Chinese. Right across from the \_\_\_\_\_ ??, so we were sitting on the DMZ.

**Nobu:** Now, I understand that there was a cease fire, could describe the tension, because it was so soon afterward?

**There is a brief pause here, I didn't to turn it off, Mr. Schaefer just went to re-fill his water, and we will resume shortly.**

**Nobu:** I don't know if there is a pause button, but don't know where it is (laugh)

**Schaefer:** When we got over there – couple funny stories getting there. So, I got stranded for 7 days in Hawaii, wasn't bad at all - (chuckle). We wound-up – 8<sup>th</sup> Army Headquarters; from there they sent us to Division Ha Chou?? , and we got to Division Ha Chou?? Bill Wingle and I were together, the fellow I went to grammar, high school, college with – I'm sending you officers to the 15<sup>th</sup> Triple A. Okay. So we got sent down to the 15<sup>th</sup> Triple A. And I don't know which – battery Bill got sent to, I was sent to "D" Battery, and there was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant how was there – had been there two week longer than me. Pat, Pat, Pat Edwards. And when we got down there and – there's the enemy over there someplace – Okay – everything is calm and peaceful. So we are talking, Pat Edwards was from Delaware, and he went to the University of Delaware, and he was an Anti-Aircraft Artillery, we were Field Artillery, I didn't know the first damn thing about anti-aircraft - the Army ain't all it was suppose to have been. To give you an indication, the CO (Commanding Officer) in table of organization for the 15<sup>th</sup> Triple A was forty-one, there were forty-one officers here. When Bill and I got there it totaled eleven. There was a Lieutenant Colonel, a Captain, and nine 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants - (chuckles) We were right up on the DMZ, ready to do battle (more chuckles).

**(At this point, you could see the excitement beginning to build, and fondness and the humor he felt recalling this memory)**

As I said, Pat had already been there two week longer than I had, so that the first night that we were there. We were in a tent, there were no buildings – tent, no running water, no electricity – lanterns, and so, stretched out on the cot in the tent, you had time - what's it's like over here – and all of a sudden there were two horrific explosions, the lamps started to sway – I'm up pretty much for war, I got the helmet on, and you know I'm kind of in my "skivvies" (underwear) – I couldn't even get the words out, and Pat his just stretched out over there and he said, "Ah don't worry about it, they're just some slicky boys", that's what they called them (laugh) the Koreans who would sneak in and steal – try to get food or whatever, and he said "we are situated in the middle of a mine field, so it is very dangerous for someone to come through that" - "mine field?" - (chuckle). So, going to the latrine you use to have the tubes for the casing, the shell casing. You would put them in the ground, and that's where you would relieve yourself. As I'm going out there that night, I'm still, if there still anybody still living from over there who was around – still talks about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant who went out very carefully going to the latrine (laughs) to make sure he didn't get hit by the mine field (more laughs). The way the terrain would change, literary, with the heavy rains, heavy rains start over there just about now in July, and they can change a hillside. And that so, you were walking before the rain was fine, well now it could be loaded with mines. I don't know I'm guessing that, in the fifty years since, I've been over there they've cleared a lot of that out. But it was still very treacherous.

**Nobu:** Hopefully they did.

**Schaefer:** Ya, ya! Of course guy was still getting hurt. Walking on the side of the road, Boom! It's like the problems, what did you call them - the IUD? - in the Middle East.

**Nobu:** Now, did you meet or were you friends with any other soldiers that actually saw combat, and were still stationed there?

**Schaefer:** Yes, there were a couple of guys who were on their second tour. There was one guy, he was a Puerto Rican fellow, from Puerto Rican, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.- I guess you was a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, he keep saying "How the hell did I get back here a second time?" Jesus Ramon Gortia Rodriguez, and he had been there fighting – and was there when the truce was signed. Now there were a couple of senior – (pause) a couple of majors \_\_\_\_\_?? - an old Lieutenant Colonel who had been there during the fighting earlier in the war. – The one thing they always complain about was the terrain; it was so, very difficult.

(pause)

**0 hr. 43. min. 09.8 sec. mark**

**Nobu:** In your opinion, when you think about the returning soldiers who saw combat, can you describe the general atmosphere among the returning soldiers after experiencing the horrors of warfare towards the Koreans they encountered everyday, but the allies the South Koreans, if that is possible?

**Schaefer:** The guys who, had seen combat, all were veterans of World War II as well – and most of them had been in Europe, as I recall talking to them, they did not serve in the South Pacific, I'm sure, you can't make that a blanket statement, but the ones I

remember talking to had served in Europe during World War II –they would compare the difference, that’s how they talked about – the terrain and the fighting. The, they were, we had a group called “Katusa” Korean, Augmentation to the United States Army, and they were much like the Iraqis are now (2009) with the –they were being trained to take over, and no one had a great deal of confidence in. People who had more, much more experience than the brand new 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenants coming over – didn’t think they could be relied upon (pause) they (pause) the attitude (pause) of the more senior officers – they had more respect for the Japanese than they did for the Koreans. They did not trust them, they – (pause) I guess, you know because everything had been destroyed over there – we didn’t see many we were out in the boon-docks – it really – I got out to Seoul a couple of times, not that often, we were twenty-five miles away – maybe thirty-five. There were two roads, #2 Wide and #23 Baker, I don’t know why I remember those things. You could ride down to Seoul on those roads, but when you got there it was just destruction. There wasn’t much left. Sigmund Reed (President) was still running – I was aid to camp, to the Commanding General – Division Artillery, and – at this time, Fourth of July weekend. Fourth of July, whatever day of the week it was. There were a lot of celebrations in Korea, General Steele and I had to go down to a number of receptions. And every time we went into the – to a reception, President Reed was there, Sigmund Reed, now he was an old man, and we’d go through the receiving line and his wife was there, his wife was European, I don’t remember if she was German or what, but she spoke English. And – every time we went through the line, I’d get up to meet (chuckle) President Reed and he would say, you had you name on, “Where are you from in the states? I’d say “from Philadelphia, sir”. And he would pass me along.

For about the third time we met that day, there were different receptions all over the place. His wife was still next to him, and when went through the line again, he'd say, "Where are you from?", and she turned and say, "You knew Lieutenant Schaefer is from Philadelphia" - (chuckle) - Really sharp lady. She's meeting all the same people that he is – but most of the seniors did not, there was not a lot of respect for the – for the Korean officers.

**0 hr. 47min. 49.8 sec. mark**

Nobu: Do you feel there was a clear distinction between the South and North Korea with the service members?

Schaefer: We never saw a North Korean. They were no where, one of them come over that got shot. There were – as I said we sat right on the DMZ, now the interesting thing about the DM at \_\_\_\_\_??, - there was a table like this (Mr. Schaefer pointed to the table we were sitting at during the interview) in the room, just like this, and the middle of the table was exactly on the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel, so the North Korean sat on one side and the U.S. and South Koreans sat on the other side. The U.S. was responsible for maintenance of the – and before the meeting were held we always turned the heat off. Because the American had the heavier jackets, Koreans had the one uniforms, so they always "stamp-out" (stamping your feet to keep warm) (chuckle) There was always this gamesmanship going on at the meetings. It was kind of interesting to see, I able, fortunate enough to get up there to see some the meeting, whether they were important or not I don't remember at this time, but the – diplomacy – and one-upmanship – was really interesting to watch.

Nobu: During your time there, did that attitude or impression of South Koreans change at all or by the time you left it was still the same?

Schaefer: I'd say pretty much the same. In retrospect, I think, the South Koreans – their nation was destroyed, there was nothing left, not running water, maybe a little bit of electricity in Seoul, but in the small towns the villages, there was nothing, there was absolutely no thing. And we were not allowed to mingle with them. I had friends who served in Europe who had great times, they were getting into towns, go to the bar at night and have a beer, you know all those great experiences, we couldn't do that. Near every American installation, all of sudden - would pop-up, what we called "class-two dependent housing". You get across the road from you some farmers coming in to work there, and the ladies of the evening would come up. – They were off-limits. A guy could get discharged for – for going over there. But we still – lot of the guys got over there – a lot of – "non-specific-urethritis" is what we use to call it, from venereal disease. When you got down into Seoul, - John – the name of the camp down there was, John Trent?- I don't recall – but he was a West Point guy who got killed early on in the Korean thing and they named a headquarters down there in the campus. But, people would line-up, mainly the women who line-up outside the camp and we would – come down – from – Camp Casey where we were stationed, come down to – into the PX (large store on military bases, similar to Wal-Mart today 2009), there was a huge PX down there, and an Officer's Club what have you. The girls would be lined up outside, 'take me in, take me in', because it was a place they could, get a meal. You know, you'd buy them dinner, and they could make any arrangements, Seoul – was not off-limits as the other towns were – so you could make arrangements – the attitude of most of the guys –

(pause) people were just not clear – the Japanese, with the - when you look forward to getting over to go to the “Ansa?”, which was the bath house, - that was the as a straight arrow, families would go there, and you could go in, and after getting. We had to make our own showers in Korea, it took 55 gallon drums – tank – cut in half, put an immersion heater in, and so the first guy in got a lukewarm shower, and after that (chuckles) and what they would do – I guess they were called K-Mags? –Korean something I forgot – but – they did – cleaning – they would – take 5 gallon – container of water, and fill these – tanks, turn the immersion heater on so you could have hot water. When I was up – D\_\_\_\_\_?? (a military acronym) Headquarters as an aid to camp, I had command of a “55” Chevy. That was the \_\_\_\_\_?? - Now there were what we called “Donut Dollies”, girls who worked for the Red Cross, and they would be at Division Headquarters, but when had a party, you could invite these people up, and they would come, these girls would come, if you sent the Chevy down. You would think it was a “Coupe Deville” or something, send the “Chevy” down for the ride. And we also had – I don’t know how helpful this is to you, we had people who traded things with you, you were in the service, - I’d call you up –“I got three gallons of white paint. I’m willing to trade that, what do you have to offer me?” Well, we wound-up with a toilet, a flush toilet. Now there is no running water. So we would have these parties, we’ll send the Chevy down for you, and we have a flush toilet. Well, it’s funny how, it sounds weird, but when you’re out one for eight months, ten months – someone had to stand on the roof, and take the 5 gallon water thing, and not - there were two kinds of water that came up, potable and the non-potable. You take the non-potable water so you could flush the john.

**0 hr. 56 min. 01.8 sec. mark**

**Nobu:** You guys were quite creative, weren't you?

**Schaefer:** Oh, I wish I could say that we did it, it was there before we got there. Funny.

**Nobu:** Now, from your description of the relationship between some of the Korean women, and the soldiers. Do you know anyone who established any, aside from the ladies of the night relationship; did you know anyone who had a more meaningful relationship with a South Korean at the time?

**Schaefer:** Here I am, a twenty-two year old 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, and I have a guy who come in to me who was older than my father – married and he wants to get a divorce from his wife and marry this Korean lady. I have no idea where she was from, or who she was, and I'm trying to \_\_\_\_?? - what the hell am going to tell this guy? And you know, at that time the tour of duty was sixteen months. Can be kind of long – I was not married at the time so I don't know what kind of problems the fellow was facing. What I had a, thank God – there was a priest over there ---?? From Philadelphia, and this man that I was – who came to see me – marrying the Korean lady, was not Catholic, I put him in touch with the only spiritual advisor (laugh)I could find (laugh), and I never knew what happened after that guy. There were some – most – down in Seoul, it was a better area for relationships because you could meet somebody other than just having them living just cross the way, but – they work for the government down there, they work for the Army and so that, there were people who made lasting relationships, and I know a couple of guys, extended their tour because they, one guy, and this is difficult to do. His, the girl he married - was able to arrange for a transfer, and this was difficult to do

from Korea to Japan, and he extended his tour of duty and assigned to Japan. So, that was a thing that worked.

**0 hr. 59 min. 05.4 sec. mark**

**Nobu:** Ah let's see, in general again, from what you witnessed from your time over there what was the – how did most soldiers react to such a marriage or planned marriage in your opinion if you can -?

**Schaefer:** I remember one who was over there, who had been there before – the girl that he wanted to marry was not Korean, she was Japanese, and he –he came back – hoping to get to Japan, and got sent to Korea, and was always trying to work a deal to get to Japan to marry the girl – I don't believe he was married to her at that time, and he did get married. There was a doctor over there, a great guy, Dick Schelzer?, he's written a number of books, and he was really a wonderful man. He – I've talk to him some years later, and he was telling me about, I don't if that fellow – rather if it's the same person or not, but who married a – all of these marriages were mainly to Japanese girls – and he had – I guess this was a – this was a guy who served with us, and was stationed in Japan, and he married a Japanese girl who was a nurse, and Dick's aid – when Dick got assigned to Japan (pause), but the relationships (pause), out in the boon-docks, there really, I don't think there was one, - I may be being naïve on this thing, but – if you were stationed in Seoul, and a lot of enlisted men were down there, that's where the marriages came from – they work together – where we were, it was an Army base, an Army camp – you maintained wartime conditions so there was no people coming in – we had, I think they were called “K-Mag”, Korean something or

another, they helped take care of – we had a houseboy, who would have three of the “James way” tents, and he took care of those. Our guy’s name was Frankie, number 127, God I didn’t know I would remember that. And he was a really nice kid who was – do you want to know how to speak English? “No” - (chuckle) He didn’t want any part of us, he just wanted to do the job, make his money, and take care of his family, wherever they may have been.

(Perhaps implying they could have been from the north for all we know, not sure)

As a matter of fact, I don’t know where, because they lived on the base, there were no women, but the guys who were doing this job lived on the base. - (pause) - Where we were was really - when I think about it now, I guess I never thought about it before, it was a combat area, there were no fraternization.

**Nobu:** Was that a direct order?

**Schaefer:** Yea

**Nobu:** Or that just the way things were?

**Schaefer:** That was it, you just didn’t fraternize.

**Nobu:** So, I would imagine, most of the relationships with other Asians, with Asian women, would be in Japan when they went on R & R (Rest and Relaxation) or if they were recuperating?

**Schaefer:** If they were down in a Metro – a non-combat situation – I don’t think, I don’t think I spent more than one night in Seoul. I spent days down there, drive down – or taking a helicopter down, for duty purposes.

**Nobu:** Back to the side interest I had for this interview as far as the relationship between American soldiers and Asian women. Considering we just finished fighting two Asian countries, and the actions of some Americans and their families of fallen or wounded soldiers, and the natural feelings they harbor here in America, in your opinion, this is just hypothetical, I don't know, do you believe it was a case of love conquer all, was this somewhat of a risky decision for these couples

**Schaefer:** You know I think it was a risky decision – in some cases, love conquers all, and it was just a wonder relationship that came about, but in other cases I think it was loneliness – when we came home, I was lucky enough to fly all the way back, now this was pre-jet, and so we had a couple of war brides, now I honestly couldn't tell you if they were Japanese or Korean, I don't know the answer to that, but they were Asian, war brides that came back on the plane with us. Now I was, I always wondered what the shock would be to those girls coming to this country after – and they may have been – from the gentry – in the far east – but that is a whole different cultural, and what that shock was to those poor girls getting off the plane. And what did the guys tell them, that they were coming back to. Did they know they were going – what was their image of the American future – tell the Irish that the streets were paved with gold? Well, is that what you think off coming? – and the shock that they would have. And the interracial mix-up, some of the with African-Americans, with Caucasians, and what were their acceptance going to be, when they got back here, were they aware of that? - If this marriage works you guys deserve all the credit in the world because you got a couple strikes against you going into this thing. And you know there's a – I was watching television two nights ago, the Phillies game was on, and camera in the stands picked

out a fellow and his wife sitting there, and he was, he used to be a broadcaster for Philadelphia, Andy Musser, I don't know how much a Philadelphian you are, but Andy Musser married a Korean girl. And their son – his name was Alan, he must be fortyish, I'm guessing at how old he is – and he and his wife were sitting in the stands with their kids, and his mother was a Korean girl who lives in Philadelphia and made the adjustment coming from the Far East. And you know, at that time, going back forty-fifty years ago, you couldn't get back. To go visit mom and dad – in Korea, you know. There were no commercial flights into K-14 (perhaps the name of the air field), - all military flights. When those kids, those girls left there, I mean, the left! To be admired, and also to be prayed for when they got here because I don't think they had any idea of what was happening. And nobody there or here know what was going to happen when they came in. The other thing was – conversely, at this moment, I live in North Wales, that could be Seoul North. - (laugh) - Seoul East, there are that many Koreans families up there. Now they're not a mixed marriage, but all Korean. The number of – Korean scientist who work for Merck (pharmaceutical company), fantastic – 1, 2,3,4,5 houses, out of the twenty-some houses in our area I would bet you that eleven of them are Korean – kind of interesting. From the time that they came here, and with the satellite TV none of this was available then, I mean they can pick-up the television from home. The can get KAL, Korean Air, and fly back in twelve hours. That wasn't available then at that time.

**Nobu:** Amazing how things have changed.

**1 hr. 09 min. 51.4 sec. mark**

**Schaefer:** Yea!

**Nobu:** I guess the last one is, did your views on Korea, or just Asian in general changed much after your time there?

**Schaefer:** I would think so. You know, we got to Japan twice on R & R. I was there a couple other times for travel with the General; of course we were there for a few days on our way over, a few days on our way back. There was a great deal of respect for the Japanese. Not as much for the Koreans. And that may be a bias on my part because we didn't see much other than up on the DMZ, I didn't see any of the schools, the schools or the work that Korean – I went to work at Hahnemann University. After I left La Salle, and – a really good friend, he's still there Quan Kim, a brilliant physician, and his wife was too, who just died recently – and they were from North Korea, and they were able to come down and get over. I don't know how he did it. Quan's accent was so strong I never figured it out. But they got over – and I guess I should have known from him that not everyone was not like the peasants we were dealing with – terrible thing to say. But, - it was interesting.

**Nobu:** I do have another question. This is more of a plug for La Salle. (laugh) In your view, do you think your La Salle education, their teaching philosophy help you deal with your experience?

**Schaefer:** Oh, yea, Oh yea. You know there is one thing that we did over there. – I turned over the material over to Brother Joe Grabenstein - Brother Joe. When we got over there was an orphan not far from us, and I went up, went up to the orphan, and it was just, they were just deplorable conditions, your heart would ache for this kids up there. And I can back, and I wrote to Ted Bronson how was then the P.R. Director that,

at La Salle, a classmate of mine. And – he is a retired, he retired now – he made Admiral or Captain in the Navy, but he’s back and there were all kinds of functions for La Salle, you can get in touch with –anyway, I wrote to Teddy, is there anything you could do to help out, anything the kids at La Salle would like to do? Well, they started a person-to-person program, and they sent me, I forget how many tons of clothing and blankets. And they shipped it out from La Salle, and there was a lot of publicity here. And we got, we got to Japan - that was the interesting part. Got to Japan, and the Japanese didn’t want to send it to Korea. So I had, I went from Korea to Japan up to Yokohoma – to try and get, for one of a better word, to clear customs. Some of it got, some of it got taken, it didn’t all get to Korea, but enough of it did - including six-hundred pounds of bubble gum. Sears use to be down the street here, on the other side of Broad, and guess Teddy must have gotten hold of – and so it all the guys, it was sent to all the guys from La Salle. And there are pictures, at, here that I gave Joe and the write-up of the newspapers, in the Army papers – in Korea, as well as, Inquire here – and – that would have been in “55” - (pause) yea, that would have been “55”. It was “55”, because one of the pictures has General Draber in it, and he was there, he was the commanding officer, before “56”. But, that relationship of the seven of us over there and – asking for some help for the kids, and the response from the student body here was phenomenal. – Our interest in taking care of the kids, I never expected it, as big as it was, a whole dams ship load of clothing coming over, blankets

**Nobu:** Well, is there anything you would like to add before we conclude the interview?

**Schaefer:** I kind of wandered all over the place you are going to have a hell of a time

(laugh)

**Nobu:** (laugh)

**Schaefer:** I don't know how helpful I've been, - it caused me to think a little bit as to what was I really thinking fifty years ago as a twenty-two old kid, ah, scared, with the bombs going off from the first night over there. To wondering about whether they were going to come over, across the DMZ. They use to teach us in the ROTC, the thing that the artillery do is that they, "move, shoot and communicate". Well, at one point over there, we couldn't move because the rains were so bad, up there in fanning in mud, we didn't have (laugh), we didn't have ammunition (laugh) and the radios were out. So you are sitting there and it was around the Fourth of July, we're sitting and – "we are in a hell of a fix". "We can't move we can't shoot, and we can't communicate" (laugh).

**Nobu:** That's something else!

**Schaefer:** The separation of the American forces from the indigenous personnel; I really hadn't given that a whole lot of thought. We were really isolated. You were confined to your base – and your interaction in our particular situation, didn't allow you to – now there were some guys that came over – we use to wear – they were made in Korea – name badges and they were made out of metal and two blank nails went through your uniform shirt, well when we left- you put your name tag up on – on the bar – it wasn't that crowded, when I left, but a year or so later, a fellow I think the class of "56" – and he was over there and wrote back, " My God, I walked into the bar, at the Officer's Club, and I see "Schaefer, Wingle, Wood, Bonner, all the names \_\_\_\_"? All the names in a row – I assume, I really didn't know anybody that well in the ROTC - two years after, other guys may have gone over there and may have seen a change. I - one friend, Earl

Wood, he got back to Korea, he worked for a company that makes baking pans, worked out of Kansas City. I don't know how it all turned out, but he got in with a Japanese company, and then was able to get into Korea, and said you wouldn't believe the difference. Another classmate of mine who had not been to Korea, Frank O'Hara was the captain of the basketball team when we won – the NCAA Championship, he was a lawyer. And he – who he was with – he went to Korea on business, and when he came back – the roads – the network was roads, every road was mud when we were there, there were no paved roads, as far as were concerned, no running water, no toilets, no electricity, so it was very primitive and you really didn't get to meet. One of the things that Jim Gulick mentioned to me when he said you were going to call was the reaction to the relationship between the American and the Japanese. After the war, after such a brutal, brutal war, and there was some animosity – not so much from the Japanese, the Japanese were not angry, if you will. We bombed the hell out of them, but the Americans, particularly those who had served in the South Pacific. There was, they were not very forgiving (pause) whether that is helpful to you or not

**Nobu:** It is, I can't tell you how much I appreciate your time. You have an incredible story - (laugh) - and with all of you history with La Salle, some the things that I've learned in this interview will help me a lot in the future

**Schaefer:** If you need anything call me.

**Nobu:** Absolutely!

**Schaefer:** And if you want to talk to any of the other guys, you can either call them directly, or from the Alumni Association, and tell them you talked to me, or call me and

I'll call them, and arrange – I thought when I was coming down here – you dumb ass (laugh) - just why – some of the guys, we were all just here the 31<sup>th</sup>, well I wasn't able to make the union this year. My 18<sup>th</sup> grandchild was baptized the day of the reunion.

**1 hr. 21 min. 59.7 sec. mark.**

## **Disc #2**

Due to human error, a second interview was required to continue exploring Mr. Schaefer' life in Korea, and the period immediately after his return, such as employment, marriage, and his return to a new world. However, 15 minutes into the interview, it was discovered that the digital voice recorder was off. Therefore, the beginning of the second disc will start in the middle of a question, but we were able to cover much of the loss material with the remaining time.

**0 hr. 0 min. 09.9 sec. mark**

The question was “what was it like when you returned to La Salle after the war?” After, I turned the recorder on Mr. Schaefer resumed answering the question.

**Nobu:** Yea, you can finish.

**Schaefer:** Okay, so we went to meet some friends, who were doing, working at the theater at La Salle, and we went down to play some shuffle-board, it was kind a shock walking in – what had been, I guess a predominately Jewish – it was all Black. And they looked at us like “where the hell did you guys come from?” and (referring to themselves) “where did you come from?”-(chuckle) And so the neighborhood began to change after that, and down 20<sup>th</sup> Street, down Uber Street. Slowly, but surely, ah , I guess at the

same time in West Philadelphia there was a – around the University of Pennsylvania and Powellenton Village – great re-development that took place there so there was a mass exodus of folks who lived there (Black), and they came – moved up here up Ogontz Avenue. That was – if happened so suddenly (pause)

**Nobu:** In the course of how many years?

**Schaefer:** Two years! Two years, I graduated in “54” – “56” maybe it was “57” (pause)

**Nobu:** Ah, let’s see, do you think your time in Korea changed you in any way, aside from getting older? - (laugh)

**Schaefer:** (laugh) Well, I think it was one of the best experiences I ever had. Twenty-two years old, and I wound-up in charge of a battalion, of a battery, - later I moved into the administrative offices, things that I could not possibly get, interaction with people, responsibility – that we had – as raw 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants. But I think I mentioned this to you before, when we got over there, the T.O.E (meaning unknown) for the battalion was forty-one officers. And what had were eleven. So, a Lieutenant Colonel, a Captain, and nine 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants – and the date of rank of the 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenants was, I was, if Bill and I were the youngest, were the newest ones that got there, the guys that were in wartime, were two weeks or three weeks more than we had. So, they said they were anxious to get combat arms officers over there, and so they rushed us through, and there were no one else over there at that time. I don’t know what caused it but – so that experience was absolutely marvelous, just wonderful – I still hold the opinion of the draft, I think they should have mandatory drafts, I think it would be good for kids. Getting out the

discipline - the obligation that you have to fulfill, I thought that was great. For awful lot of guys, - they learned an awful lot.

**Nobu:** I remember last time you were telling me you were on the DMZ. Your experience with the explosions and things, and I guess with that intense environment, day after day, not knowing that fighting could break out at any moment.

**Schaefer:** That's right.

**Nobu:** When you got back home, in a more calm environment, did you find any problems as far as an adrenaline rush withdraw or anything like that? Where thing became like boring, or anything like that? Or were happy to get back to-

**Schaefer:** Happy, - what we use to say – you may want to edit this out – we wanted to get back – to the land of the “all night generator, and the round-eye moose. That's what you wanted to get back to. – and – when we got home – you know, I didn't have any withdraw, I don't know if any of us had any withdraw, but I shouldn't speak for everyone. Because one fellow did have some problems, but I don't think it had anything to do with his time in Korea, he is dead now, but he had some psychological problems – I don't know what to attribute them to – it was several years later – but I think he may have had problems before, when he got over there.

**0 hrs. 04 min. 39.5 sec. mark**

**Nobu:** I remember – a few minutes ago, when you guys came back, you started, went back to your regular life within weeks. Did the VA (Veterans Administration) offer any type of counseling?

**Schaefer:** (much laughter) Ah my God, you're funny (laugh) I don't know if any of us knew where the VA Office was. No, that is not quite true, a couple of guys did go on to law school, and to graduate school with the G.I. Bill – we qualified for that. But until I went to work, and this would have been in, after I, I worked at La Salle for three or four years, and when I left I went to work as a Public Relations Director for the American Heart Association, and I met a man there, one of the nicest man, Harry Crossen his name was, and he was the head of the VA until her retired. He volunteered at the – Heart Association. Until I met him, I didn't know from "shinola" about, and the VA was then on Wissahicken Avenue. It wasn't that far from here, you know, a couple of nine irons. And – but – I really don't know anyone who took, any advantage of that immediately, when we first came back. I really don't. Now, there are a number of in that group who are taking advantage of the VA, since they made it some much – provided so much publicity on it – with Medicare assistance. You know, if you were in a particular time, and you don't – and you applied, you could get – medical services from the VA. A number of guys do that, which helps you save some money on your prescriptions.

**Nobu:** Now to change gears here - a little bit about you connection with La Salle, I'm not sure if the last time we spoke if it was on tape or not, but you have, you went to La Salle College, your wife worked at La Salle High School, you brought several La Salle High School classmates to La Salle right?

**Schaefer:** Yea, that's right

**Nobu:** Your brother is a Brother

**Schaefer:** Son.

**Nobu:** Your son is a Brother, and you have someone working on the construction of the science building.

**0 hr. 07 min. 13.8 sec. mark**

**Schaefer:** And my oldest daughter has her MBA from La Salle, works at La Salle High School, she is head of the Alumni at La Salle High School, which is strange for a woman to handle, she handles -

**Nobu:** Okay, I wanted to bring that up, just in case we did not, - you know, note all of your connections. I wanted to get to your son. Now, he's a Christian Brother, I think I met he in Pittsburgh – as a child, how did he get to that point where he wanted to devote his life to the order. I mean, did you see it early in him as a child, or was it is some experience?

**Schaefer:** Well, as I mentioned my wife was the assistance to the principal at La Salle High School for ten years, so we knew Brother Francis McClain extremely well, and they, at the house a lot for dinner, and she, Celeste would go over to there, and so of the earliest photographs that we have of – my oldest children Mary Francis and Bob are with the Brothers. You know a couple of brothers. And, then – when - I think Bob was in the second or third grade – early grammar school, the kids had, for Halloween, All Saints Day, had to dress as a saint – and so, Bob said he was going to – Saint John Baptist de La Salle, because he knew Brother Francis. I fellow who lived across the street from us was a former Brother. And so – he got Bob – so he was dressed up, and the picture we have from the Saint – Bob in a Brother outfit, which have next to a picture

of him when he took his vows. So, it was funny, was he a holy roller as a kid, no. He was the devil. (laugh) He was into everything, he was the president of the fraternity at La Salle University – he was active in everything you could possibly imagine. And then he started what they called a “Spiracy?? Program” and – he started that in high school – a week or two weeks during a retreat what have you. He did it all from college. And he worked a couple of summers out with the Brothers at Saint. Gab’s (Gabriel’s ?) Hall. And so that when he told us that this is what he wanted to do – Terrific! Go ahead. It’s your life, enjoy it.

**0 hr. 10 min. 05.1 sec. mark**

**Nobu:** So, that’s – that – he’s the second to the oldest?

**Schaefer:** He’s second to the oldest.

**Nobu:** What about your other children, you mentioned you had seven children, can you tell me about them, what they’re doing?

**Schaefer:** Sure.

**Nobu:** Their names, in order I guess.

**Schaefer:** Sure, Mary Francis is the oldest. She’s married, has four children, she has Bachelor Degree from Mt. St. Mary College, Newburg, and her Master’s from La Salle. She taught at La Salle, in the Marketing department – trying to think of the lady’s name, she taught who was the head of the department, really nice lady, her brother is a basketball official – it’s funny how you remember different things. – She now works at La Salle High School as the Director of the Alumni Association. – Next, we’ve gone over

Bob, number two - Paul, is number three, he graduated from La Salle a year after Bob, - he is a – he works for Harleysville Insurance, he's their authority on compensation. – Compensation claims. Number, the next one, John graduated from La Salle and he, if you ever look at the twelve o'clock news, on C, on channel six, or "Who wants to be a millionaire?" on channel six, you'll see this thing come up of "Universal Dentistry" John, and it says John as the speaker on there "John Schaefer, CEO" and with him is Lenny McDeral?? Who is a dentist who is also a graduate of La Salle. And they have this – dental business –Universal Dental business, and they have four offices, one in Allentown, one in Springfield, Delaware County, one in Turnersville, New Jersey, one in Bucks County. – and then Elizabeth, the next, and she is a – Bachelor from La Salle , she's a teacher in the – Council Rock, and she's married , her husband teaches at La Salle High School – and they have four children. And I just left them after I left the doctors, stopped there to have a bit to eat, and came down here. And the next one is Michael, and Michael lives – he has his Bachelors from Saint Bonaventure's, and he lives down at, in Syracuse, as a matter of fact, we Mike first came back after college he worked here at La Salle, and was going - taking some classes for – a Master's degree, but he took another job – and moved him to Syracuse. The youngest one is Brian who was working on the, he's a carpenter, and he was working on the science building. So, everybody kinds of winds themselves through here, eventually - (laugh). Even, Mike who went to Saint Bonnie's (St. Bonaventure) – at least five of them had degrees from La Salle.

**Nobu:** That's incredible. Now, I guess that says a lot about La Salle. (laugh)

Schaefer: Yea (laugh)

**Nobu:** (chuckle) That's some past. I guess what I want to ask you. In hindsight, which period, out of these two interviews – consider your favorite? – I guess – period in your life –quite rewarding – had the most memories – can you say that? I don't know.

**Schaefer:** - The most memorable period in my life from 1960 on when I got married, best time in my life! (with conviction!) - we were raising a family, I was President of the Alumni Association for three years – two years, two years, I served as a Broad of the Trustee of the University – after "65" - so there were happy times, and I had some, such wonderful friends , some of the folks – you - wouldn't have gotten to know because they gone to their final reward. But Brother David Pendergast, David Cassian -, a fantastic man, Brother Patrick Ellis who use to be the president, two very good friends of mine. – Brother Robert, who use to be the Dean, - it was just a wonderful place to be, my four years at La Salle – I think as a young man, - I met my best friends there, they're still my friends, I see them with great regularity, I'm probably the biggest pain in the ass at La Salle's basketball games, because I die with the team. – When we were at Fort Sills, Oklahoma, (pause) when we went to OBC (I think is stands for sometime of Officer training program) – La Salle got to the championship for the second time. We won it my senior year, but then my first year out of school "55" – we got together, eight cars. Now we drove from Fort Sills, Oklahoma to Kansas City, Missouri through the night. Didn't have a ticket (to the game), and so it was my job to round-up tickets. And a classmate of my who was working at La Salle, Teddy Bronson, he was just a fantastic guy, I talk to him sometimes, was a Naval pilot, retired from the Navy as a captain, great guy, he helped, we stayed up all night getting tickets. We finally, got the ticket to the ball game, we were going out to dinner, I sat down on a chair and fell to sleep - (laugh) I woke up,

and I'm all by myself, and I said "Wholly". I got to, - racing over to the hotel, and the basketball team was getting ready to go the game, because it was right across the street to the Anneberg??area. And so, I said "I don't have a ticket, my ticket is at the game! They gave me a basketball, and I walked in with the team - (laugh)

Nobu: (laugh) - That was great!

Schaefer: (laugh) Yea! That was a great time. And it was funny as I said we came up from Fort Sills, Oklahoma and this was March so we have been in the Army since the **1<sup>st</sup> of December**, and a number of the ROTC personnel were at the game that day too, so we got a chance to see them a little bit, to see we were making out. Interesting time.

**0 hr. 17.min. 16.0 sec. mark**

**Nobu:** One of the interviews -, one of the presentation last night, they, he mentioned that at one time, I don't know if it was the same time that you were here, that ROTC was mandatory – is that how got involved?

**Schaefer:** My freshmen year here was the first year of the ROTC. ROTC came on board sometime- sometime in the summer of 1950. And, when we came on board – it was voluntary my freshmen year. And stayed voluntary for my class all the way through the next year, I think it was my sophomore year – it became a required course. And sot that, the guys – it's either the class behind me or two classes behind me, were it became mandatory. And then, when that happened – the ROTC got humongous, because it was not mandatory with our group – a lot of my friends did not join them, but I did. And then after the first two years, then they select – I don't – I think we graduated – thirty-one guys got commissioned, but there were more than that in class that dropped

out, and as I recall, it was not easy to drop-out once you signed up for it. They paid us the princely sum of ninety cents a day.

Nobu: Wow! That much?

Schaefer: Twenty-two dollars and seventy cents – months. That was the number they gave us. And that helped a number go guys pay their tuition, to – went to school. Because as I mentioned to you the last time, when we started here, our tuition was two-hundred and fifty dollars a semester. And the guarantee coming in that it would never go up while we were students here. Now, that didn't mean it wouldn't go up for classes behind us, because indeed it did, but our tuition stayed two-hundred and fifty dollars a month for four years. And some of the guys paid on a monthly bases where if you had a part-time job, you had the twenty-two, particular in your junior and senior year coming in that helped pay half you tuition.

Nobu: That was a pretty good deal.

Schaefer: Yea, yea.

Nobu: So, at the end of those two years you were not obligated to go into the regular Army?

Schaefer: You were obligated to go into active duty.

Nobu: And what was that commitment?

Schaefer: Two years, two years active duty, six year in-active reserve. So, you didn't have to go into – in our class, we did not have to go into the active reserve. Now, a bunch – when we came home –just getting over there – looked around to see about a

reserve unity – and most – this isn't for me – took the six years inactive reserve, and the end of that period of time – that would have been 1962, we finally got our discharge.

**0 hr. 20 min. 24.8 sec. mark**

**Nobu:** So how did you – I'm not too clear on this, you are obligated two years, not you class, but after, but after, two years ROTC while you're here at La Salle, correct?

**Schaefer:** Four years

**Nobu:** The fours that you were here, you had to do two?

**Schaefer:** No, we could have quit at anytime.

**Nobu:** Okay.

**Schaefer:** It was voluntary, you would have lost a mark, depending upon –going to stay until the end of the semester – after – I guess I was a junior - it was a mandatory class for everybody for two years. After two years, you were selected for the advance course, and you could take or not take it, there were no hard feelings.

**Nobu:** Okay, that was were I was a little confused. Well, like me ask you this, Mr. Schaefer, any regrets?

**Schaefer:** Any regrets? Frank Sinatra use to say, "I had a few, but than again, too few to mention" – (pause) – I think, every once in awhile, particularly the older you get – sit back and say, "I wonder if I've taken another career path, I wonder what would have happened there? Suppose I – one of the things – I always would have liked – was teaching. – when the stock market was doing all sorts of things, that would have been

interesting to be in – why didn't I want to be into that? And, then I remember back - Jim Henry, who use to be a "sainted memory" around here, I guess maybe he still lives, I don't know if anyone remembers him, but Jim was the Athletic Director, and he also taught – finance- it was an awful class - (laugh) – that's why I didn't go into that field – (laugh), gee, if someone else was teaching that seems to be now an area that I would have been interested in –(pause) – no, I don't have – I have – I'm delighted with my choice of ah, the school to go to, ah, sometimes I wonder, as I just mentioned, the job opportunities- - did I make the right choices? And – when I first got out, I went to work within three weeks, and it was really like, BOOM! I went to work for, ah, Leamen Brothers, and this was not for me. Being up in Scranton (Pennsylvania), Wilkes-Barre area, and "Lucks-in-four-colors" just came out and "Mr. Clean", no, not Mr. Clean. I had "Wisk" – "Anything" – anything – how the hell did that jiggle go? "Anything powders and wash, Wisk can wash better, Wisk – they were the two products that I was selling at the time. And while I was up there, I meet a guy, from La Salle, John Kelly, who was a Public Relations, and had been in Public Relations at La Salle for awhile, while I was here – and he – "What the hell are you doing up here?" I said, " I'm selling soap". He said, "There's going to be an opening down at La Salle, in the Public Relations office, I going to put your name in it," and I said "Sure". Brother Stanislaus called me and that's another La Salle connection.

**Nobu:** You guys were meant to be La Sallians

**Schaefer:** (laugh)

**Nobu:** We have a few minutes, because of the malfunctions, is there anything you wanted to add, that we didn't cover, ah Korea, life at La Salle, maybe, ah -

**Schaefer:** You were asking, the last time I was here, and I began to think about it more – the relationships between the peoples, if you will.

**Nobu:** Yes.

**Schaefer:** We did not have much of a relationship with the Korean population. It was still a combat zone. So, that when we were on – where we were –everything else was off-limits. So, you didn't get to see the – people in the town, because we weren't able to get into the town. You couldn't get down to Seoul, you didn't have the free time to go down there - I don't – that anybody – we went down a couple of nights for a party or something. But, that was like – going to a bigger tent. Most of the guys, didn't get a weekend pass – that was not – I don't remember the enlisted men getting them either. You got R & R to go to Japan. Now, Japan was an absolute treat! - a wonderful treat. Now, they had been our enemy five years before or whatever, ten years before. But, the people – so clean - It was so clean. Korea was not – they didn't have anything, but Japan was, people smelled to good. When you walked down the street, it was just, it was just pleasant to be – I don't think – I was talking to some of the guys about this, I don't think that we thought of ourselves as conquering heroes. We were just a bunch of guys over here – in another country. There were a lot of American influence. There was an entertainer, Larry Allen. Larry Allen, he was a black fella, that never went home after the war. He could play the piano and sing, he was – and he played a number of clubs on the economy (paid in Japanese currency) He was not just on Army post. You

could walk down the “Ginzu” (market place?) and buy his records. So he made a nice living over there, and he was never going to come back – I’m very happy here. We met him , and you could go in any restaurant - sometimes you get too many guys over there, and sometimes someone put on “beer muscles” , and that really bothered you. But the \_\_\_\_\_?? Tea room, I remember going there, and – a fight broke out one night. Guys came out in uniform, and one guy had on 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Badge – one fellow was sitting over there, and had a few poppers in him, and said, “Well, well, well, a horse the never rode, the line they never crossed, and the color tell you what they are!” There were three of us together, “Let’s get out of here.” (laugh) – and that was literally, I never seen a bar fight in my life. But people were actually going through the air. We got out of there and left the area. The funny thing about it was, the only thing we had with was military clothes, so when you went on R & R, your really dressed up, you know they won’t know, firs of that you weren’t Asian – (laugh) – you got brown shoes on, khaki pants, and a Hawaiian shirt. At that point, some guys - were able to go –to the tailor shops where you could get clothes made, and some of my friends were able to take an R & R to Hong Kong, I was not able to that because I was the aid to camp to the commanding General – so the guys would go, I couldn’t go –some place else – so they went down there and had clothes made, and shipped home. I guess we were on the downward slide – maybe less the six months, - had shoes made over there. We’re making two-hundred, two-hundred and twenty-two dollars a month as 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenants at that point. So, you know it wasn’t expensive (laugh). And that was the other thing in Korea. I brought a car, before I went over there, but I paid for it when I was over there because I had nothing else to spend the money on. – a drink was twenty cents, - you

could get a beer for – we didn't have any beers, but the beers we had over there, cost us as much as ah , bottle of – Seagram Seven or whatever, because it took up the same amount of space to come over in a box. – so when - someone is trying to sale it at the – the Officer's Club, twenty cents was what a drink cost. Unless, you were an hell of an boozer, you didn't spend a lot of money. You would be running around all day long we had formal dinners at that nigh at D \_\_\_\_\_?? Headquarters, maybe you had a drink or two afterwards. I don't remember, - I didn't anyhow. I'm not much of a drinker. Played some pool – and go to bed. So, you would be up the next morning and do the same thing all over again. Your have been there, you know -

**Nobu:** Your are right. Wow, quite a story.

**Schaefer:** Well, I think that the thing that I like best about, thinking about the past is the time here and the friends I made – they are still friends and that's fun, a lot of fun. – I was unable to make, we had our Fifty-fifth Reunion, May 30<sup>th</sup>, because our eighteenth grandchild was being baptized, in Syracuse, so I didn't – I was with four of the guys – Tuesday, past Tuesday for lunch, and saw the pictures – they sent- I guess the public relations office – sent all of who attended photographs of who attended and so I got to see -

**Nobu:** Speaking of grandchildren, how many do you have now?

**Schaefer:** Eighteen.

**Nobu:** And how many are going to be La Sallians? Ten, fifteen (laugh)

**Schaefer:** (laugh) Well, my oldest son goes to, my oldest grandson, goes to La Salle High School, he will be a junior. And the next one, Austin starts in September, and will be a freshman – Rob is in Duke or - so I don't have anything to say about that, my daughter, Mary Francis, married a guy from St. Joe's, so what am I going to do? Right?

**Nobu:** The nerve, right?

**Schaefer:** Yes! But the kids are not St. José's fans at all, so I've gotten that much in. Mike's boy's are too young, Michael will start the first grade this year, and Andrew I guess he goes to pre-school. But now that the girls are eligible anything can happen. Like my second daughter, Elizabeth, the school teacher, her oldest daughter, Mary, she's going to Princeton, - since she was three years old, she wanted to got to Princeton. And she has a Princeton sweatshirt, and she is a "Tiger" – Tiger.

**Nobu:** Good for her.

**Schaefer:** So, I don't know what going to happen. A lot of things over the next fifteen years – who can write a check? Or what happens with education. Boy!

**0 hr. 34 min. 11.5. sec. mark**

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