

**Nevada Test Site Oral History Project**  
**University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

**Interview with**  
**Harrie F. Hess**

**March 5, 2005**  
**Mesquite, Nevada**

Interview Conducted By  
Mary Palevsky

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Produced by:

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[00:00:00] Begin Track 2, Disc 1.

**Mary Palevsky:** *Mr. Hess, thank you for speaking with me this morning. I thought we could begin by having you tell me a little bit of your background: your full name, place of birth, date of birth, and something about your upbringing and your education.*

**Harrie F. Hess:** I was born in Hammond, Indiana. My name is Harrie Fox Hess. And I was born March 1, 1929. I—

[00:00:41] End Track 2, Disc 1.

[00:00:00] Begin Track 3, Disc 1.

*OK, so you were saying you were born in 1929.*

Yes, in Hammond, Indiana, which is up in the northwest corner of Indiana. I was the second of three boys in the “sibship” at that time. Later, a couple more came along by second marriage of each of my parents. In Hammond, I attended elementary school, junior high school, and the first three years of high school. And I moved to Las Vegas [Nevada] when I was seventeen years old and had finished my junior year of high school, then I graduated from Las Vegas High School in the spring of 1947.

*Now what brought your family to Las Vegas?*

Well, I’m glad to go back a little bit to the Hammond experience. I lived with my Grandfather Fox and my mother and brothers. My mother was divorced from my father, Louis C. Hess, who was an architect, when I was seven years old; we had to live with my grandfather in Hammond. He was a physician and had a nice big home, so we grew up in very nice circumstances, except that we were in the middle of the Great Depression. It was an interesting situation because

Grandfather often had to take barter for his services because people didn't have money. And so he received usually agricultural products and things like that, although Hammond was a city and not a rural area. Whatever people could barter, he would take, and of course he also was paid cash in some cases. My grandfather was one of the biggest influences upon me because he became a father figure since I lost to divorce my father so early.

About six years later, however, my mother remarried to Bill Deutsch, who actually is M. William Deutsch, and he became a prominent figure in Las Vegas, as my mother did. He was the Vegas Bill who wrote a column for the *Las Vegas Sun* and he had an insurance business. And Mother was prominent in Las Vegas later because she was the president of everything, all the women's organizations. She was a delightful person with a great sense of humor, often laughing. You see her photograph on the wall.

*Yes. Beautiful.*

And she was a beautiful woman, too.

*Now what was her name?*

Adelaide Estelle Fox was her maiden name, and of course that's where I get the Fox for my middle name, from the maternal side of the family. And she went by the name of Adelaide. Then when I was a young child, it was Adelaide Fox Hess. Then it became Adelaide Fox Deutsch.

We moved to Las Vegas because Bill was of a Jewish family and his parents had a hard time accepting the marriage between Adelaide and Bill. And they owned the hotel in which we lived after they got married. It was an apartment hotel. We had two suites in the apartment hotel. The boys had one, the parents had the other. Then along came another brother and so then at that point there were four of us boys, the brother being Marshall William Deutsch, who is in the

[00:05:00] insurance business, too. In fact, he sort of inherited it and then continued to develop Bill's business.

*So the Deutsches owned a hotel in Las Vegas.*

No, in Hammond.

*In Hammond.*

Yes. And Bill was, oh, bookkeeper-manager of the hotel. And after Mother married Bill, she was executive housekeeper for the hotel and she managed the maids and the services there.

Bill chafed at the parental domination and knew that there was no real future there at the hotel, so he left his job to his younger brother, Jules, who also married a *Shiksa*, much to the dismay of his parents.

*Now what about your grandfather? Did he have any negative feelings about the marriage?*

He never revealed any if he had any. I was actually brought up in an extremely tolerant environment. Grandfather Fox had a little problem pronouncing the name Deutsch because it looked to him like Dutch, but other than that, he never showed any problem at all.

*And what was your family's religious faith?*

Protestant. Actually Presbyterian, specifically. But I rebelled against that very early. I simply at that stage of my life was not interested in religion and I didn't want to be forced to go to church. And Mother, quite dramatically at one time said that I must go and I responded no, I can't. So that was never brought up again after that. It was OK.

But I got a real lesson in tolerance, living with Bill Deutsch. He was such a fine fellow. And he was several years younger than my mother. He bought the hull of a sailboat and he asked my brother and me to recondition it, my older brother, Lou. Brother wasn't much interested in the work, so I did a lot of the work on it. But eventually it turned out that the hull was not really

reconditionable. We worked on it a long time. And then Bill's application for membership at the marina was denied on the basis that he was a Jew. And that was my first, say, direct involvement with any prejudice. I was amazed and I was dismayed. And I adopted Bill's attitude, and I thank him for this. Incidentally, he was a genius. He graduated from the University of Michigan, age 19 and Phi Beta Kappa. He wrote very well, and he had written a few short stories. He had hoped maybe to make a career in writing, but he did not. He worked as bookkeeper and manager, got some motels when we moved to Vegas. That is, he managed the motels but he didn't own them. He had very little capital, although he had some capital which he earned by working two jobs. During the Second World War, he worked at the Pullman Standard Corporation. They made the Pullman cars. However, they transferred to building tanks, and so it became a war plant. And he made *very* good wages at the war factory because for one thing, his brilliance; he was [00:10:00] quickly moved into a responsible position on the production line, operating one of these aerial cranes which moved the tanks from one place to another.

*And where was that factory?*

Pullman Standard Factory in Hammond, Indiana. Hammond was an industrial town right at the south shore of Lake Michigan. It bordered on Illinois and on Lake Michigan, and its northern border on the west side was with the city of Chicago. It's just adjacent to Chicago. Up there is where this Wolf Lake was, a very popular place for sailing. It was south of Lake Michigan but sort of in the marsh lands, and that's where we were denied membership because he was a Jew.

Anyway, that ended our sailing plans. When we got to Las Vegas, several years later, we acquired boats and we sailed. The folks acquired a houseboat. I acquired a sailboat. And so we got that taken care of. And of course Bill loved to go out sailing.

*And that's a picture of him?*

Here we have Bill at the helm, and this is just a photograph.

*Let me get a better look at that. That's a great boating picture. Now what specifically brought the family here? I understand getting away from the—*

That's very easy to answer because after my Grandma Cassie's death—that's Adelaide's mother—about a year later, Grandfather Fox married a nurse at one of the hospitals, and her name was Hazel. At the moment, I can't remember her last name.

*That's OK.*

And Hazel and he moved out here to Las Vegas, about 1942. Now that begs the question, why did they choose Las Vegas? Here's Las Vegas, a dusty little desert town at that time, with eighteen thousand people or fewer at that time. Well, he moved here because his sister, Stella Fox, after whom my mother got her middle name, married Frank Beam. And you know Frank and Estella Beam were donors of some of the buildings on the UNLV [University of Nevada, Las Vegas] campus. Well, actually Tom Beam, their son, was the donor but one of the buildings was named after the Beams. Well, they had wandered around the West during Tom Beam's childhood: Seattle [Washington], California, and they came to Las Vegas—I think it was after Tommy was born. I think he was nine or thirteen years older than I, born in 1918, something like that. And they moved to Las Vegas, probably about 1924. And Frank established the Frank Beam Lumber Company, which was on Main Street. And you will still see pictures of that in the photo histories of Las Vegas. And I have a booklet which was the commemoration of the Frank and Estella Beam Hall there at UNLV, and I will share that with you, or you can find a copy.

**[00:15:00]** *I'll look at yours and then they'll probably have it at the library.*

I think you can probably get it at the library, sure.

*Yes, my office is right near the Frank and Estella Beam area, I think of the [College of] Hotel Administration.*

Hotel Administration, yes. Business and Hotel.

OK, so they came to Vegas in '24. Stella, well, I guess she had some of Adelaide's personality. She became a very important woman around town, although she, of course, was an aunt—that was her [Adelaide's] Aunt Stella—and she was of the previous generation to my mother. Stella was born in, oh, about 1879, and she graduated from Wellesley College. Can you imagine that? She graduated from Wellesley in 1906, I believe it was. It was three years after my mother was born. Mother was born in '03. I still have Stella's Wellesley pin because it was given by Tommy's family to my mother and upon her death I got it. It's on a charm bracelet that Stella Beam and later my mother used to wear.

So upon retirement from medicine, Grandpa Fox came to Las Vegas because his sister and brother-in-law were there and they told him what a nice climate it was; so he came, and in fact, Stella sold him a duplex on South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 605 and 607 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street. It was not long before Grandfather had persuaded Mother and Bill to come out to Las Vegas to join them, and then in 1946 we did. And of course I was all for it. I was sort of popular and successful in my class at Hammond, but I did want some adventure, and my best friend and I had sort of dreamed of going west. That was Gordon Uhle. And we had even designed our Spanish design—what they call now the Santa Fe design—adobe kind of building that we wanted to build. And at that time we had never dreamed of marriage, but we thought that this was where Gordie and Harrie would live. I guess we thought, well, if we had some girlfriends, that'd be all right, too.

So I was in favor of the move immediately, in spite of the fact that I would miss my senior year. My brother at that time, Lou, the older brother, was in Germany. He was two years

older than I, but the draft caught him for the Second World War and it just missed me. So Lou was not around when we moved west.

My next brother, Peter, was at that time thirteen, and he went to Las Vegas Junior High School. He may have started at the elementary school, then went to the junior high school which was on South Las Vegas Boulevard, just about the two hundred south block. They have a government building there now, I think. Some of the old school may still stand.

And I, of course, then entered my senior year with Vegas High School. And I made friends. I had good friends right away. I did a lot in school. I was on the track team, things like that, at the school. As I think back on it now, I wish that I had just transferred those credits to [00:20:00] Hammond High School and graduated from Hammond High, or had diplomas from both schools. The reason being that I found as the years went by, my attachment was much closer to my Hammond friends than to my Las Vegas friends; not so much on my own part—well, yes, as the years went by, it was largely on my part, too—but you know I dearly loved my new Las Vegas friends, but nothing can compare with that cohort with which you grow up. So I started attending high school reunions and I attended Las Vegas High School reunions and I attended Hammond High School reunions. And I found that the people who went to the Las Vegas High School reunions hardly knew me after several years, whereas the people from Hammond High School still remembered and valued me as a friend, even though I didn't graduate with them.

*Right. That makes sense.*

Then I went to the University of Nevada, the only campus of which at that time was in Reno. And Bill, having been in business and having become a role model for me, influenced me to study business, which I did the first couple of years. I took courses in business and economics.

But I had become exempt from some courses because I had high entrance scores. In my freshman year, I didn't have to take freshman English. Well, I asked around and I said, what can I take? All these other courses are for sophomores. And there was a psychology course and they said it was for sophomores. And they said, well, we'll let you in if you were exempt from English. So I did. I applied to get in that course and I took it and I enjoyed the subject. I hadn't fallen in love with it. But I took some additional psychology courses later, and I took business and economics, and took Spanish.

It ended up I graduated in 1952, which was a year late because I developed mononucleosis from too much romancing with a girlfriend, I think, and I had to miss a semester. And then the girlfriend and I got married and that made us miss another semester where we had to get financially prepared to return. She was a year behind me in school, but by going enough to summer school, she graduated just a few months after I did.

And then I was to be drafted into the Army. Now we're talking about 1952. I was married in 1950.

*Now what was your wife's name?*

Beverly Rose Jones. She was a pretty redheaded girl, the daughter of Pearl and Uther Jones, used to live down on Earl Street in Las Vegas. She was a year behind me in Las Vegas High School. But when she came up to register at the university of course I was the big upperclassman by then. I was a sophomore, was an upperclassman. And she made the mistake of flirting with me a little bit and I thought that was indeed a gift because at that time the ratio of men to women at the University of Nevada was three or four men to every woman. Right after the war, GIs just engorged the universities. So I was happy to have a girlfriend, and it led to marriage. That [00:25:00] was 1948 by the time she came up on campus, and we went together that year and the

following year. We got married in '50, went back to school, guess it was '51, and graduated in '52.

I graduated at the top of my class, well, top man. One girl, a Las Vegas classmate, had a higher G.P.A. I had a knack for academics. But I missed designation as a graduation speaker because I wasn't part of that class either, not really part of it, you know, and that would've been unfair to the others who went through under different circumstances. So I didn't earn any honors except they had a Phi Kappa Phi chapter at that time at UN and I won a Phi Kappa Phi key.

*Had you studied any more psychology after that freshman class?*

Oh, yes. I took psychology classes regularly and I liked it more and more. I ended up with two majors and two minors at the university. Minored in economics and education, because it became clear pretty early in the game that Beverly and I would be married and there was always the possibility of children and I thought, well, I'll be ready to teach school. I did teach school. Practiced teaching at Reno High School. I taught English and Spanish. That was my practice teaching in the summer.

*And your majors were...? Your minors were education and economics.*

My minors were education and economics. My majors were Spanish and psychology. I loved my Spanish teacher, Mary Ancho, who later married a hero on the football team of UNR. Of course, it was just UN at that time. But she was the most wonderful introduction to Spanish. First of all, she could speak it almost like a native, although I think probably her native background was Basque because they had a lot of Basques. And she came, I believe, from like Elko area or maybe one of those little burgs over on that side. So, of course, that was a great introduction, simply because I *would not* disappoint that teacher. And another notable teacher I might've mentioned was Dr. Melz, M-E-L-Z. He was German, but he taught Spanish. And he was another

one of those teachers that you just would not disappoint. He was just too good a person. It was a wonder just to learn. And again, Spanish, I had Mrs. Mabel Brown who was another notable teacher. I had a lot of fun in her class, too. She was a good teacher.

I ended up majoring in those things and I decided, well, what if I get out of the Army? I'll either be a Foreign Service representative, I'll go to like the Woodrow Wilson Graduate School for Foreign Service, or I will become a psychologist. Those were my career thoughts. And I applied to the Woodrow Wilson School, Foreign Service, and this was after I got out of the Army. I was discharged in Colorado. Colorado had a law which said that if you are discharged from the military service in Colorado, you can go to the state universities tuition-free. Now that was a big boon. I applied to Stanford and I applied to University of Colorado and to [00:30:00] Woodrow Wilson. I was admitted to Stanford, Colorado, but not to Wilson. Stanford had *very* high tuition. Colorado had none. So I went to the University of Colorado and took my doctorate. They had a good program at Colorado, too. I was fortunate in that respect.

*I would imagine they would.*

And Vic Raimy was the head of that program. And he had gathered a notable faculty. Karl Muenzinger was a professor, past chairman, and Vic took over the chairmanship. But Muenzinger was a big name in psychology in those days.

*Let me ask you something about what the theories were. Was psychology in those days based primarily on Freudian theory, psychoanalytic kinds of things?*

Yes. You know there was a greater emphasis on schools; they called them, schools of psychology.

*That's what I should be saying rather than theories. Schools.*

And you have the psychoanalytic school of thought, which is more or less the clinical approach, and then there was also the behavioral school in which [B.F.] Skinner was a big name at that time. And then there were things like the Gestalt group and the Gestalt approach.

*Fritz Perls right, wasn't that Gestalt? Was that Fritz Perls?*

Yes, he was in that group. Of course, the German Gestaltists were Max Wertheimer and his disciples. Wertheimer was something. His son, Mike Wertheimer, was a faculty member at Colorado.

But then I was in the clinical program because I had already decided I was going to open up a children's clinic or something in Las Vegas when I got out. And my emphasis did change somewhat as I went through school. But I got my degree in 1959.

I had been in the Army till '55. Then with the Korean War over, they were discharging people right and left. I was a lieutenant at that time. I had gone to OCS [Officer Candidate School]. After training in Fort Ord [California], I became an infantry lieutenant, but then I went to what they called Medical Service School, which was medical administration primarily. Essentially I was trained to do the kind of thing the M.A.S.H. [Mobile Army Surgical Hospital] hospitals [did] but simply on the administrative end, although they taught me the first aid stuff and that, too. I applied for early release because as an officer I was locked in for another year and a half or so, but they had lots of young lieutenants that they didn't need anymore, so they were happy to let me out in January of '55.

I got up on the University of Colorado campus and I started the second semester in '55. And I graduated in '59. I spent a year [of] clinical internship on the Denver campus, Colorado Psychopathic Hospital, Colorado General Hospital, in various assignments. Got my degree. Had two job opportunities going out. I had one at Harvard and one out of the University of Oregon

Medical School, for medical school. I visited both places. The weather was terrible back at Boston [Massachusetts], [00:35:00] although my reception was favorable. I went to visit the campus, all at their expense. I graduated at a great time. Ph.D.s were needed everywhere for this influx of students coming along. So they flew me both to Oregon and to Boston. And Oregon, it was sunny and nice, and the chairman diabolically asked me to bring my skis. And so we went skiing up on Mount Hood, and I was hooked, so I went to Oregon. And then I stayed there just one year because I was homesick for Las Vegas. I wanted to get back in proximity to my parents and other family members because the whole family was down there at that time. And moreover, I did not like the authoritarian leadership in our department.

*The authoritarian leadership. I'm going to pause this for one second.*

[00:36:32] End Track 3, Disc 1.

[00:00:00] Begin Track 4, Disc 1.

*OK. So you were saying the authoritarian structure at the hospital?*

I enjoyed many things about working at the University of Oregon, but the authoritarian disregard of democratic rights within a department I did not like. And then there's this other thing, that I wanted to go to Las Vegas anyway, go back home, because I had immediately adopted Vegas as my home. I loved the Spring Mountain range of Mount Charleston, I'd hiked all over it and somehow—well, I think it has been established that people often tend to sort of become fixated on a geographic location. And so I wanted to go back. And at that time, I was still with Beverly and I had a son who was at that time five years old.

So we moved down to Vegas and I took a job with the Nevada State Department of Health as the psychologist for a special children's clinic. And I worked in the same building on Shadow Lane there where they had the mental health center also. So we were adjacent to each

other and I was able to interact with their staff. And that was a good job which I enjoyed for a few years. Paid more than the university job.

And then I got a little bit tired of that after three years or four years, and so in 1964 I moved back to Oregon. I got offered a job as Chief Psychologist at their clinic up there. In the interim, Beverly and I had been divorced and she gave me custody of my son.

*And your son's name?*

Bryant, B-R-Y-A-N-T. Bryant is no longer living. He was killed in an automobile accident in the year 2000. He was forty-five years old at that time, I believe. Beverly died in 1973, just about ten years after we were divorced, from cancer. I think I mentioned that she had been a pretty redhead. Well, you can imagine a redhead's skin and the southwestern United States don't get along very well, and she did get melanoma and it killed her.

So Bryant and I spent a year up in Oregon on Lake Oswego. And I worked for the Community Child Guidance Clinic. But again, I just wasn't happy up in the Northwest, and so back to Las Vegas. I think I probably forgot, one factor was the climate up there, too. And we had a lovely home. We had a lovely housekeeper, Jean Reynolds. She was a seventy-five-year-old lady when we were up in Oregon. I had hired her shortly after the divorce, and maybe she was, oh, just seventy or seventy-one at the time I hired her. She was a retired [00:05:00] lady, very gracious, a reader. She always wore a uniform. Didn't have to request it. She had the house immaculate at all times. She was a great mother figure for Bryant. And she always called me Dr. Hess; it was never Harrie or anything like that. She'd answer the phone, "Dr. Hess's residence." I didn't even have to teach her. I probably would have taught her some of these things, but I never had to teach her. Anyway, she was great. She remained as long as I was single, and then when I remarried in 1966, she left at the request of my new wife, and that hurt me: I had to decide

whether I would go along with the wishes of the new wife, Michelle, or rather defy my new wife and keep Mrs. Reynolds as housekeeper. Bryant and I visited Mrs. Reynolds a few times after that. She moved into a nice place and she bore no animosity toward us for that.

So we're back in Las Vegas now in '65, and this time it was as an associate professor in the Department of Psychology at UNLV. So we took a house out in Royal Crest area, which is near the university, just a couple of blocks, within walking distance.

Perhaps you should guide me now as to what we ought to talk about next.

*OK. So let's go from you're hired as an associate professor and teaching.*

Yes.

*And this is '66 now. So how does the work with the [Nevada] test site [NTS] and when does the work with the test site come about?*

Well, almost immediately after going to the university, I started a part-time private practice and shared an office with some other psychologists.

*And what kind of patients would you have in a private practice at that time?*

Just about anything you can imagine. It was a fairly broad range. It was early in my career as a clinician and I had not specialized, but I did a great deal of psychological assessment and, as a matter of fact, that turned out to be my specialty as the years went by. It appealed to the scientist in me because every case was a new problem to solve. It would appeal to my mercenary side because it paid better than psychotherapy. It also appealed to my scientific side in that they classify psychologists into the hardnosed experimental types and the soft brained clinical types. I was more of the hardnosed type. I worked very well with some types of clients, usually the intellectual type who could maintain objectivity and tolerate my sort of direct interventions in trying to teach them what they were doing wrong. Some patients can't even accept that they

might be doing something wrong. And so anyway, I had a practice and my practice became *increasingly* doing assessment throughout the years.

**[00:10:00]** *Let me ask you a question about that. Are you using established instruments? Are you developing instruments for assessment? What does that involve?*

Generally using the established instruments, but I did develop some of my own procedures for the assessment of the Nevada Test Site people, and that started in 1968. George Stobie contacted me.

*Stobie?*

Stobie, S-T-O-B-I-E. Because in the meantime, I had earned my diplomate in clinical psychology, and I did that in 1964. And then Stobie's advisory from Washington about whom he should hire included preferential selection of a diplomate, and I was the only diplomate in Nevada at that time. So he came to me first and I said, *Gee, it sounds right down my alley. I'd love to do the work.*

*Now what was his position at the time?*

He was a manager for EG&G [Edgerton, Germeshausen, and Grier], and EG&G, evidently, was designated to manage this personnel assurance program. Stobie remained my contact with the administration, I would say for at least ten to fifteen years, and then he retired from EG&G. And by that time, the security people outnumbered the technology people: most of my scheduling and dealings with the administration and program were through Virginia Callahan who was in a human relations position for WSI, Wackenhut.

*Right. So let me understand a couple of things about this. Mr. Stobie's with EG&G and when he first approaches you about the position, what is the job description, basically? What does a consulting job consist of?*

To set up a testing program for screening for reliability of the men—they were all men at that time—the men who had the capacity to detonate the nuclear devices. That is, they are in proximity with the devices and had the knowledge to detonate the devices. Now, when I set up the program to screen psychologically, they had a number of safeguards in effect already. One was sort of the buddy, the team approach: there was always to be a team of at least two present with the device at any time. They had, Q-clearance screening which was a *very* detailed background screening, and of course I had to go through that myself. There was the management observation of people to determine if there might be a problem which would result in any other—malicious or accidental detonation of a nuclear device. And so the psychological aspect was another. They felt this was an area that they hadn't adequately covered, so I was to set up the program.

So I designed a program and showed it to Stobie, and then he submitted it to other people. We had some meetings in which it was discussed, and then it was implemented in the **[00:15:00]** form that I had submitted it.

*Two background questions here. How much knowledge did you have of the test site over the years and then when this came along?*

I had no direct exposure to the test site before Stobie contacted me. After that, I did have several visits to the test site and lots of meetings with people from the test site. I became acquainted with the program at the test site, of course, when it started back around, you know, 1949 or '50—

*Early fifties, yes, '51, '52.*

And at that time I was up at the University of Nevada till '52, except for about a year that I spent in Vegas on that sort of year off from the university because of illness and courtship. Then I went into the military right after—I think this was the part I failed to mention. I volunteered for OCS,

which meant first I had to go to infantry basic training and then leadership school. And I was at Fort Ord for about a year-and-a-half before I entered OCS down in Fort Benning, Georgia. While I was at Fort Ord, I sometimes would come home to Las Vegas on weekend leaves. I would usually bring a friend. I remember hitchhiking home to Vegas from Fort Ord. It was easy to hitchhike in those days, for a soldier to hitchhike in uniform. And I would usually have a buddy come to Vegas with me and then that way, I would get to see Beverly and I would see my parents and hitchhike back to the fort. And I remember walking by the side of the road with my friend Ben Clark, there were a couple of occasions when they were testing nuclear devices and we'd be down somewhere like Barstow or Baker, California—and we would see the big flash in the sky because perhaps this would be very early in the morning. And that was about the extent of my contact with the test site before those days.

Then I continued in that position as psychological consultant to the test site for thirty years until '98.

*So let me go back to the inception of your program. I would assume that some directive had come that they needed this psychological component in addition to the other safeguards that they had.*

Yes.

*And how did you go about—what's some of the science behind it? How do you go about designing something like that? What's involved in that?*

Well, first I had to ask the question, what personal characteristics might lead one to accidentally or maliciously or even delusionally set off a nuclear device? And the answers were pretty simple. It would be a fairly serious degree of psychopathology, which could be personality disorder or [00:20:00] psychosis, probably *not* neurosis. Well, the instruments I selected would screen for

severe neurosis also. So I needed to screen for psychosis and personality disorder—personality disorder being really higher on the list than psychosis because psychosis shows up in a lot of ways but personality disorder can be hidden. And then there would be the issue of drug use or brain damage, and so I had to probe the likelihood that an individual suffered from either of these conditions.

*Was alcohol use a consideration?*

Yes, it was a consideration but it was—see, alcoholism would be a serious consideration. If somebody went out and got drunk off the test site that in itself was a matter of concern; they weren't supposed to do that. But sometimes they did and then would be appropriately reprimanded. Sometimes when somebody's in a behavioral situation, like getting into a fight while drunk, they would be referred to me for special evaluation.

We learned about the personnel *from* the personnel also. They were encouraged to report behavioral instability among their colleagues. Now there was a lot of resistance to that, of course, but at the same time there was some degree of compliance with that, too, because at some point they too would become more worried that so-and-so is not sufficiently stable to continue to work.

*So what were the instruments that you used to test for these things?*

Well, I used the MMPI, Minnesota Multiphasic [Personality Inventory]. Later I used the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory. And incidentally, I used enough of these devices that I could rotate them. I wouldn't have to give the same procedures year after year. I would see these men every year.

*Would you?*

And at some point we had, oh, 160 or 180 people on the current list, and cumulatively over the years I probably saw less than 1,000 but more than 600 or 700 different people.

*So now this raises some questions. EG&G's the government contractor that hires you.*

Yes.

*But if you're talking about people who actually had the ability to push the buttons, then you're talking about government officials, I would imagine, managers of the test site, these kinds of people, that you're testing, is that right?*

Yes, I tested not managers but engineers and high level technicians, people who were in the control room, timing and firing crews.

*So you're testing EG&G employees?*

Not exclusively, no. For example, they would have people come from Lawrence Livermore [00:25:00] [National Laboratory] and from Los Alamos [National Laboratory]. And there was the security people—a knowledgeable person without technical knowledge but with the knowledge of weapons: how a nuclear device might be detonated by a weapon. The security people had to be examined for that reason, one, that they might have the capability of detonating the devices, and secondly, that their trustworthiness had to be determined so that they wouldn't permit someone else to have access to the devices.

*All right, so my question then is—am I understanding correctly—that if someone were in later years a Department of Energy [DOE] manager of the test site who had control over the tests, this is not the kind of person that you would have. It would be the technical people that were working for the government? That's what I'm trying to get clear on.*

Yes, the people with the hands-on capability who worked in proximity to the devices. The managers would generally be in their offices, and if they did work in proximity to the devices, then they might be on my list, but I'm not sure about that.

*So you had a list when you performed these—*

Well, they would set up appointments with my office, and then once they had an appointment for an examination, they were on my list. That's what I'm talking about.

*OK, got it.*

And yes, I did have some high level individuals, particularly at the beginning. I think one reason that they sent some managerial personnel, and I do recall examining several of those, was to get the cooperation of the lower level personnel. When we say everybody with the capability gets examined, that's exactly what we mean, and we'll start off at the top. Then I remember they hired a new manager, it was probably in the 1980s, I remember one or two, two at least, new managers that came in and I examined them, too. So the policy, I guess, remained the same throughout the years.

*We have about five minutes left on this disc, so let me ask you this question. Do you know what the particular impetus was for instituting this kind of examination? Had there been a problem or was it because psychology was becoming to be understood as being a factor? Do you have a sense of what it was?*

Well, I'm sure that there had been incidents, behavioral incidents, which worried them greatly. They knew that this was something that had to be decreased, just always working with probabilities but they felt that a serious psychological screening program, an effective one, could greatly reduce the probability of behavioral malfunction.

During the course of my evaluation of these people, there were a number of incidents in [00:30:00] which people who were on my annual list to see got in trouble of one sort or another. I'm speaking about hundreds, mostly men, almost exclusively men. As the years went by, some of the women got into security work and into management and even into engineering, so I did begin to see some women. But for many years, it was almost exclusively men, so we're dealing with a population of several hundred young and middle-aged men, and in any population like that, you're going to get some behavioral problems. And we did. We had gun incidents. Lots of domestic violence incidents. We had a few incidents of unstable behavior at the test site itself, of inappropriate use of firearms, and this was with one of the most highly screened groups of people that you could imagine: Q-clearances, psychological clearances. But when something happened, then they were sent back to me and the situation would be analyzed. When you have a concrete behavioral problem and you have a history of psychological testing which shows behavioral propensities, then you can put together a pretty firm decision on whether or not this person ought to continue.

*Interesting.*

And as a result of incidents that came up with people on the list, there were, over the years, several who were disqualified from the program. The policy was that no one would be terminated on the basis of a psychological evaluation, but they would be transferred out of what was called a sensitive assignment.

*Right. Let's stop here.*

OK.

[00:32:48] End Track 4, Disc 1.

[00:00:00] Begin Track 2, Disc 2.

*So why don't you go ahead and you were just saying about your paper?*

Yes.

*Just let me say one thing, that if there's any concern about clearance issues, you can let me know once you read the transcript and we can always—we can check those things with the classification officer in Las Vegas. But if there's anything, reviewing your paper, that you go beyond with me, you just tell me if there's a concern about a clearance issue.*

All right, I will.

*OK? You just let me know.*

But right now, I don't believe there is any problem.

*Doesn't seem like there should be.*

I have spoken in generalities, for example, when it comes to behavioral problems. I haven't mentioned specific things.

*Right. So you said when we took our break that maybe you could say something more about the various tools that you used for the evaluation?*

Yes. I used the couple that I have mentioned. I used the Rorschach test part of the time, perhaps every few years, with the examinees because although it is said to be unreliable, with many cases the Rorschach penetrates defenses. People don't understand how it reveals something about the person, and it's obscure in that sense. I felt it was a worthwhile technique sometimes, and so we used it. I used a sentence completion form, which is what they call a projective technique in that it's open-ended. It allows the person to express something which of course would be idiosyncratic to that person because that person has to invent the end of a sentence. And the sentences, I used a standard sentence completion blank which was done by Julian Rotter at Ohio State University. That was a standard sentence completion procedure that was in vogue at that

time. And then I added specific items which pertained to the workplace and work colleagues and the test site and the stresses and so on. So I was able to evaluate not only, say, in a generic sense, with Rotter's procedure, but I was able to look at their specific situation.

*Do you remember an approximate example of what something that would be test site-related or work-related might be?*

An example of such an item?

Yes.

I should remember some of the items themselves.

*I'm putting you on the spot, I know, but I'm curious.*

I'm afraid if I made one up now, it might not resemble very closely some of those which I used.

*OK. But give me an idea of what you're trying to get at with those kinds of things, just so I understand it better.*

Well, the responses to the items can reveal something about matters upon which the individual is in conflict. For example, if I should ask them about relationships, I'll have a sentence down, and I'll invent one. "One thing that concerns me about my work at NTS is my relationship with..." [00:05:00] and then a blank. It gives one an opportunity to say something about relationships with their coworkers. If I got a very defensive or a very conflictful type of response to that, then I always interviewed the people after I did this procedure and then I would ask them to expand on it.

*So they're writing the answers in the sentence completion and then if you see something, you'll talk to them about it.*

Sure. It doesn't merely produce some sort of psychometric score, although it does that, but it also is a good takeoff for a relevant interview. The examination we were told about consisted of—and

I've mentioned about four or five psychological test procedures—an interview was always a big part of the examination, and it would follow their taking the psychological test. When they came to my office, they would spend generally three to five hours at the office doing these procedures and then talking with me. And in a day, I could see generally three men, and that would keep me pretty busy for the day. There were some days when we might've scheduled four. But some of the men were writing their written procedures, then I would be interviewing other men.

*So would you have someone scoring immediately afterwards?*

Yes. Those which could be quantitatively scored by clerical personnel were scored, and then we did computer analyses. We had computer programs like for the MMPI and the Millon, and the Guilford Zimmerman [Temperament Survey, GZTS] is another one which we used. It was a good test and it had a little more focus on work and neuroticism. It had a scale of emotional stability. It tended to be more acceptable to the test site people because it was designed for use in industrial situations.

I would say that probably we used as many as fifteen or twenty procedures which we would alternate over the years and out of which we could make a tailored examination for a specific problem if we wished.

*You brought up something when you said some tests were more, I can't even remember your exact word, "acceptable" to the test site because they were used in industrial settings.*

More acceptable to the workers, yes.

*Oh, to the workers. OK.*

In all your psychology testing courses, you may have come across the terms of face validity *versus* actual empirical validity. And face validity refers to the fact that to the examinee, the test [00:10:00] appears to be valid, and so that's the kind of procedure that I'm referring to. The

procedures that seem more valid are done with a greater degree of cooperation by the examinees. On the other hand, those whose validity is not readily apparent meet resistance. The MMPI has both of these characteristics; the MMPI has items like: "Sometimes I think I might be going crazy." That's an item that has face validity but the empirical validity may not be as good as an item which doesn't appear to be valid at all such as, I like mechanics magazines. True/False. All of them on the MMPI are true/false. They would always complain about the MMPI. It's long and tedious and a lot of it seems to be irrelevant. But at the same time, it's a very valuable procedure, but not if you have to give it year after year after year, so I didn't do that. Sometimes they would come in and say, This isn't the year when I've got to take that MMPI again, is it? And I'd say, No, relax, we're not going to do that this year.

*Interesting. What was the response when the procedure to do this testing was first instituted?*

*Were you aware of resistance or acceptance on the part of the workers who had to go?*

You're speaking of the beginning, when we started this?

*At the beginning.*

It wasn't bad, but again the attitude of the worker was very revealing psychologically. If I had someone who was really paranoid about it, I had to ask myself the question and had to investigate, is this a characteristic that the person carries across all situations, and is it indicative of psychopathology, or is this a union-based attitude? If the union says oppose it? And I did have some union officers who were among the group, and yet in their attitude toward the testing, they varied greatly. Some of them were just nice fellows who accepted the procedures as necessary.

*So did you have any official union questioning?*

Protests?

*Yes.*

I wouldn't be the one who had to face that. It would be—

*True enough.*

Management would have to face that.

*That's true.*

And the protest came when somebody was disqualified, and then it would turn into a lawsuit, and we had a few of those.

*You did?*

Yes, and they would get into issues like: the sharing of the test results, can they see the raw test results? And they would question the validity of the test results. And an appeal procedure was worked out so they could appeal. And I'm sure we kept a few lawyers pretty busy. I personally was sued, oh, two or three times over these cases.

*Personally?*

Oh, sure. You know, when they sue somebody, they sue not only the employer—the employers were almost always sued—but then I was always named also.

**[00:15:00]** *Sure. What kinds of—generally – I know you probably can't give me specifics, but generally what kinds of things would cause you to say this person really shouldn't be doing this kind of work?*

Chronic significant psychopathology was one.

*That would manifest itself how? How would you see that?*

Well, number one hearing was about depression. We had a couple of hearings regarding personality disorders. I think in all the hearings, my judgment was upheld. They would have reevaluation by other experts, and I don't think that any of them ever disagreed with me.

*I'm imagining now that getting into this kind of work which is so specialized must have been a learning experience for you, as well. Do you see it that way over the years?*

Oh, certainly. Yes. It spurred me to read, to learn what other psychologists were doing at other locations, and to experiment myself just with repeated examinations and what does it do to profiles on repeated examinations. And I had some of my students do at least one or two studies on what retesting did because the literature is very sparse on that subject.

*On what happens with continued retesting?*

Yes. So we did some reevaluations, and we found a little bit in the literature on that. So that was a learning experience. And of course I did a lot of specialized reading in the specialized field. Evaluation for reliability.

So I started out as a young psychologist, fairly—I was going to say fairly confident, rash, and overconfident, having more faith in the procedures than was warranted and more faith in my own judgment than may have been warranted, but I quickly learned the game and did it better as the years went by. Then I was able to transfer my knowledge to my successor—whom I chose because they did not know whom to choose as a successor—somebody who would know this that I had found. And the psychologist that I had hired to be in my practice, she was extremely bright and competent and knowledgeable in psychological assessment generally. So then I started breaking her in in becoming acquainted with this, all with the permission of the executive that I [00:20:00] was working with through Wackenhut at that time who was the funnel that came to me from the administration.

*Let me understand this. You start with EG&G, then when and how does Wackenhut come in?*

*Was it simultaneous or—?*

No. I think they added the security personnel a few years after we started doing the engineering and technical and the scientists, the engineers, the technicians.

*Did you screen all of the Wackenhut people?*

Just those who had assignment within proximity with the nuclear devices.

*OK. Same deal.*

But there were fairly large numbers of those.

*Right. And did you see a difference in that cohort of people, the security guards versus the technical types, as far as the testing? Was it the same procedure?*

Used basically the same procedures. The educational level between Wackenhut personnel and the technical personnel was quite different, so I had to do some adjusting of the procedures to recognize that. I should also say that there was among the Wackenhut personnel probably more variation in that some of them were very bright and well educated people. And they were working security because it was a well paying job and it usually, because of the way their shifts were organized, allowed opportunity for other kinds of activities.

*You mean because you could work a night shift and then have some other work or? I'm not sure what you mean.*

Well, they could work twelve-hour shifts or ten-hour shifts out at the test site. Twelve hours was more likely. And they would stay at the test site, so they would be there for three-and-a-half or four days, work their quota of hours for the week which would be minimum of forty or so, and then they could go back to Vegas and they'd have minimum of three days off, sometimes they would have more than that.

*Right. So I had a question about Wackenhut. So these are the people that are guarding in the vicinity of the device, basically.*

Yes. But there were some of the peripheral guards also that were examined. The ones at the entrance. I think they felt that they were very important because they controlled who got on the test site. And for a few years, they had helicopter crews at the test site. They decided that they could cover the test site better from helicopters. And the helicopter crews, the pilots and the men who flew that very special duty, they had a sort of a tactical force that was this elite guard force, and they had to be examined also. Then one of the helicopters crashed and killed five, and shortly thereafter the helicopter, I think, was replaced by ground vehicles. They still had their elite guard force.

**[00:25:00]** *It just occurs to me, as you're talking about the crash, the stress levels that people who are working in this kind of work must be under and the responsibility that you must feel in this business.*

Yes.

*Was there any counseling aspect to your work at all, or would you ever recommend that kind of thing?*

Yes. I did not do counseling myself, but when an employee showed evidence of stress stemming from work or from domestic relations or whatever, then the Human Relations Department would have the first chance to make the referral to a private therapist. Then if the employee did not accept that, then the person would be referred to me and we would discuss the situation and I would generally persuade them to talk with someone. Sometimes people would be taken off duty for a while when stress levels got too high as a result of anything.

*In your world of evaluation, would needing that kind of counseling support be seen as a mark against doing that kind of work? I ask because my understanding is sometimes in the Q-*

*clearance process, psychological problems in and of themselves are seen as problematic for your reliability.*

Yes.

*So that would seem like it would get sort of complex, then, if your job is to identify it. Does the identifying of it automatically mean the person's not reliable in some sense?*

If the person had a low tolerance for stress, even if it did show up on the psychological procedures as disqualifying, chances are it would *not* be disqualifying. But after a history of repeated incidents, management would become convinced that the individual had to be taken off of the sensitive assignment, and sometimes they would rely on a special evaluation by me to buttress their view.

*Because they're seeing the behavior on the job, I guess.*

Right. You've got peer ratings, you got supervisors' ratings, and when those start waving a flag, management could take him off duty, and they didn't need to consult with me. Sometimes they did.

*I see. So in a sense, there's a predictive quality to what you're doing. You're trying to help them know whether there's a good chance that this person is going to be able to do the job when you do the evaluation?*

The correspondence which I sent to them, we learned early in the game, was to give them either a yes or no. I would never tell them the details of the psychological evaluation. For one reason, they were not professionally trained to make decisions on the basis of psychological data. So my letters which I sent out, I would send a letter on each individual and generally it was a simple statement that on such-and-such a date I examined Mr. So-and-so with the standard evaluation.

**[00:30:00]** Mr. So-and-so performed satisfactorily and I recommend him for continued

employment at his present position. That would be my correspondence. And sometimes I would say that I wanted to discuss the case with management. Sometimes I would say we need some further information. But in those cases, then, the recertification, assuming that this was a person already certified for the Personnel Assurance Program, the recertification would be delayed, if that was management's preference. I'm sure there were times when some people worked for short periods without being recertified while we were looking into something.

*Right. So I should have caught this before but I just need clarification on this. The Personnel Assurance Program certification was something that you had to have in order to be working in these sensitive areas.*

Yes.

*And did this program predate your involvement or was your coming on part of this establishment of this program?*

I helped in the design of the program—

*OK, so that was the same—*

—upon communication with Mr. Stobie. He asked me to design the program. You know my little part of it because some facets of the program were already in place, so my design was the psychological evaluation program. I may have made some recommendations regarding the other facets of the program. They had the physical examination they had to pass, and had the peer supervision part, the peer reporting, supervisors' reporting, and the Q-clearance, and mine. Of course, I had nothing to do with the Q-clearances except getting Q-cleared myself. So that was the extent of my—

*You probably said this early on but now I'm understanding that EG&G decided to implement this program and there were these different pieces of it and your piece was the psychological piece.*

They implemented the program, I believe, at the demand of AEC [Atomic Energy Commission] because AEC had made these observations that you brought up a while ago, or that you were asking about a while ago. Incidents were happening which caused a lot of consternation and they wanted to reduce such incidents. So AEC made the program mandatory at all sites in which nuclear devices were being manufactured, stored, tested or assembled. The Nevada Test Site fell under the testing category. There were a couple of sites in the country where manufacturing was taking place, and there was a big site in Colorado where storage was taking place.

*You touched on this before about looking at what your colleagues were doing at the other programs. Did you all ever meet to discuss—?*

**[00:35:00]** Yes, we did. There were, in the course of those years, a few meetings which were mostly held in Las Vegas. Easy to get people to come to Las Vegas. Even then Las Vegas was an attractive destination. But I think we did meet in Bethesda [Maryland] at least once.

*I'm wondering, this must be the point at which EG&G has subsumed REECo [Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Company] as the manager, the big contractor at the test site for EG&G. Maybe not, because they were the timing and firing people. They had those technical people on their payroll at that time.*

Yes. I think it was not before EG&G.

*I can look that up.*

Yes. I don't think—you know, I can't even remember exactly what happened with REECo and EG&G. Was it EG&G that acquired REECo?

*Yes. I shouldn't have even mentioned it. I was just talking to a REECo executive the other day and he mentioned the date of that merger or acquisition or whatever, and so it's in the back of my mind as you're talking to me, where was that on the time line. But it's really not relevant to our conversation. But then WSI comes on because they bring them into the program, as well.*

Yes, and that was fairly early, I think it was several years before WSI got any large number of employees on the examination list.

*Am I correct in assuming when someone new came on, you have to evaluate when the program starts those who were already in those positions, then if you have a new hire, is that psychological testing a piece of their initial thing that they have to go through?*

Yes. I'm not sure whether their employment was contingent upon passing the psych eval[uation].

I think that at least some of the contractors may have made that a stipulation. But that was a management decision.

*Sure.*

But it was always done near the beginning of the employment. I told you about some managers that did come on later whom I examined. Very near the time when they showed up at the test site, I did examine them, and whether they would have been terminated or not hired without my approval, I don't know. Fortunately, these ones that I remember were such highly selected people that there were no problems that ever came across.

*That raises the next question, which was, I don't know if you can tell me this, but was there ever a situation where a more high level person, a manager-type of person, was problematic to you?*

*Because you seem to have said that that was part of—to get compliance was to make sure that the managers did it. So was it more than—?*

Well, it was not supposed to be superficial or fraudulent at all. I just gave a regular examination and reported on it. I can see where if I had failed some of those persons and said: "Does not qualify," that that might have created a bigger management problem, but it wouldn't really have [00:40:00] created any problem for me, so I just— But I do not recall having higher level persons disqualify on that basis.

*No, I wasn't implying that it would've been a problem for you. I just was wondering if you recall that ever happening.*

No, I don't.

*OK. To what extent, or to any extent, did the kinds of things that you talked about with people go into classified areas, say, in the terms of an interview or a test? How much would you be hearing or be privy to those kinds of things?*

I did not probe into anything that I thought would be a classified area. And they, of course, had been schooled not to talk about such things. So I would say that really never became an issue. The things I would probe would be such things as their adjustment, their domestic lives and happiness and relationships. I would say that most of the problems that occurred during the years that I was associated with the programs, spreading out of relationships. There were some cases where illness would disqualify the person or when, psychopathology, which is more or less independent of relationships. But when it came to behavior problems such as violence, use of firearms, that was the kind of thing that sprang out of disturbed relationships, either work relationships or family relationships.

*Interesting.*

And that's what I probed. I probed the general happiness and adjustment of the people, and I probed their interest in things outside of themselves. What about entertainment, art, music,

travel? Is this person doing the kinds of things—is this person engaged in life in such a way that reveals he's not lost in introspection or paranoia, something like that? What is the person's investment in life? Does the person have meaningful relationships and plans in which he has invested so much that the end of this, with a criminal act, would enhance his life in any way? And raising that kind of issue is always most profitable to me.

*That's interesting, because as you're speaking, as someone who's not in the test site world. One thing that's always been a question in my mind is the psychological impact of having to live and work in a classified world to begin with. When I've interviewed people over this last little over a year, and I'm not a psychologist but I have some knowledge of some of these things, so I'm [00:45:00] curious, what is the impact of living a life where you can't, say, talk to your wife about what your work is when you get home from work, or your children don't know what you do? Or sometimes even when I interview people, I can see—OK, I'm not going to step over this line, which is, of course, I don't want them to step over the line—but there's a way that the person has to relate to the world that's not usual for someone's work, not the norm. So the question arises as you're talking, there has to be a sort of a hyper-vigilance about a whole area of one's work. But you can't judge that kind of hyper-vigilance as deviant or outside the norm if that's the work itself. So are you looking at adjustment to that kind of thing?*

Well, in my experience, the adjustment was not difficult. People can talk about their work with their spouse. Now they can't talk about technical things or the aims of the work, but that's not what people generally talk about when they talk about their work anyway. What they talk about is relationships on the job and they can talk about that: I'm not getting along. What's the matter, Sweetheart? Well, it's a mess out there and I'm just so—somebody's trying to get my job or what—the kinds of stresses that people get at work. Or say even the people in the timing and firing and people in the control room, their stresses, they could say—a

fellow might go home and have his wife say, Hey, you look kind of tired and stressed-out tonight. Yeah. We were on duty for twelve consecutive hours, waiting for clearance. We didn't get it. We were tired. We had to stay at a high level of readiness. Those things can be communicated. You don't have to talk simply about some complicated safety device malfunctioned or that, you know.

*Right. No, I'm just responding to the fact that sometimes spouses have said to me—but one, of course, would have to know what this really meant—[spouses have said], I had no idea what he did for thirty years. Now, of course, that's not saying that they didn't say the job was stressful, but when you hear that kind of thing you say that's "he never talked to me about work," you know, so that's where my question comes from. But your point is really well taken because you can paint things with too broad of a brush, I guess.*

First of all, I don't think the family wants to know any secrets that the person's supposed to keep, and they just don't have to talk about it. I don't think that's a very hard adjustment to make.

There's no burning need for someone to talk about the classified aspects of their work. And I didn't. I didn't learn about a lot of things, except on my visits to the test site. I would go out there with one of the managers and they might take me around. That was all very enlightening for me to understand the context within which they worked, but I was glad that they came in to my office instead of my having to go to the test site to examine them.

*And your office was where? I think you mentioned but remind me, where was your office during these years?*

**[00:50:00]** I had an office on East Flamingo, 1771 East Flamingo, for several years. I can't remember how many. And then I had one on East Sahara for several years. Had one on Maryland Parkway. Those are three places I can think where the examinees came to be examined. And I

wouldn't be surprised if there was another one, because the office did move from time to time due to expanding staff and so on.

*Sure. And of course, you're teaching during all this time, as well.*

Yes.

*So in what ways did this kind of consulting work and testing impact your teaching? How did that work?*

I think that my clinical work in general, all of the assessment I did for the test site, for the Bureau of Disability, for the Rehabilitation Division, for the court and attorneys—I evaluated for criminal cases, for the state hospital and the commitment cases. I examined something like 8,000 patients over a period of perhaps fifteen years where I worked for the hospitals and that all contributed to the university teaching by my learning these things and then being able to better teach the students in the assessment courses and other clinical courses. So there was that relationship. I really think that if a person is going to teach clinical psychology, that he needs to practice clinical psychology at least part of the time. So I worked very hard for many years, but there was an overlap of about twenty years in which I was doing both the private practice and the university work. But I was one of those hardworking professional men who just thinks that this is what he ought to be doing; although I confess, I look back now at my appointment books for those years and if it's not insane, it was at least something I could not do now. No way! I mean I'm lucky to get up and get a few simple responsibilities done now because I'm taking care of myself, doing the housework because I've got a working wife who teaches school. I do some housework. I don't do it all. I don't even do a fair share, but I do the dishes. But I can't do that anymore. Those were hardworking years and I was just having a great time.

*Well, they were productive years, for sure.*

Yes. I was hustling, very involved in professional affairs and in legislation. I was the president of professional organizations. It was a crazy pace. I don't know how I survived with it.

*"Professional affairs" among psychologists for the state, is that what you're saying?*

Yes.

**[00:55:00]** *Licensing issues or things like that?*

Licensing issues. A small group of us—when I came to the State of Nevada, there was no licensure for psychologists here. And Paul McCullough and I, and Robert McQueen and Robert Ornstein, those were four psychologists I need to mention, Wayne Pearson. All of us, let's say the five of us, with a *lot* of help from other psychologists, we mobilized them and we got the legislation through in 1964. But that's the kind of thing I was in, and then there were other things that came up along the way. And I became president of the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association and a representative on Council of the American Psychological Association. I was the president of the American Board of Examiners in Professional Psychology, and then of course I was on the Board of Directors there for several years. It was just a youthful endurance run, and I regret now that that resulted in neglect of my family. It's the old story, you know.

*Well, you've given me lots of really interesting information. I thank you for that. Before we close, there are about fifteen minutes left on this CD, and I don't want to take much more of your time, is there anything about the specific work at the NTS that as you reflect you could add or I should've figured out to ask you or anything you want to add to that piece of the story?*

I'm sure there have been aspects which I have failed—

*No, I don't mean that. Just anything that comes to mind that talking about it has brought up that you want to add.*

No. With regard to the NTS, I think I'm probably reaching the point of not exhaustion but satiation where unfortunately my mind doesn't want to go there anymore.

*No. I just want to make sure. Sometimes people have a niggling thing. You're a psychologist.*

*There's a little thing that they're waiting to be asked and I never ask it and then they say, I meant to tell you this, so that's all I'm asking. If you're sated—*

When you get older, you don't get those niggling feelings because you can't remember.

*Good point. That's a good one.*

I do recall this. Maybe you'd want to talk some more—I think you expressed some interest about Bill and Adelaide Deutsch, my parents.

*Yes.*

I haven't spoken of their activities after we got to Las Vegas.

*Let's talk about that. That's a great way to close. It'll bring us full circle with the conversation.*

All right. Bill became a kind of a well known person in the community. He was active politically, and as you might guess from his background, he was active in favor of liberal causes, human relations types of things. He ran for elective office but was not elected. That was for the County Board. He was active politically in the campaign—[01:00:00] the Republican Party was the liberal party in Clark County, and there's still some very right wing orientation on the part of the Democratic Party. So Bill and Mother became active in the Republican Party. They campaigned for a series of Republican candidates. Mother was elected a representative and went back when Dwight Eisenhower was nominated, she went to the national convention. And Hank Greenspun ran for governor and they supported him. I think he was on the Republican ticket, as liberal as Greenspun was, but at any rate they did support him at the time he ran, if my memory serves me correctly.

So they were involved politically along the way. Bill, one of his biggest responsibilities was on the Nevada Tax Commission Board, which at that time also functioned as the Gaming Control Board, and he was on that for several years. I don't remember how many. He gained some prominence through that and through his writing a column for the *Las Vegas Sun*. He became a lay preacher, a lay minister, and he was asked to fill in at many churches throughout the valley. And he was eclectic; he would speak at any church if the minister or the preacher got ill, and he would travel to little outlying communities, too, if they would ask him to speak. He was a good speaker.

*So had he converted to Christianity or—?*

Yes. When they came to Vegas—I don't even know if it's necessary to convert, but they joined the First Methodist Church. There was no Presbyterian church at that time at that time in Vegas. But they were instrumental—I don't want to overstate their contribution, but they were among those who founded the Presbyterian church in Las Vegas, and so eventually they left the Methodists.

And religious-wise, he was eclectic. He wrote a book. *After Adam and Eve*, I think was the name of it. I may have it. But it was sort of an interpretation of the Bible in a small book. Remember, Bill was a scholar and he really liked that. You might find the book at the library, if you should want to look at it sometime.

*I would.*

I've got a copy here. I just have to find it on the shelves. I've got books all over the house.

*I see.*

I'm not quite sure where I would find that one. I ran across a manuscript copy just a couple days ago.

Now Mother, in the meantime, was pursuing these things on the distaff side where she [01:05:00] became president of so many organizations in Las Vegas, business and professional. What else was she into? The University Women Club. Then there was a big social club, the Mesquite Club, she became president of. And the ladies just liked her jolly nature, her being completely at ease in almost any situation.

When she was seventy-two years old, Adelaide asked me, Harrie, could you speak at our sorority meeting sometime soon?

I said, OK. What do you want me to speak about?

She says, well, sex in middle age?

And I said, OK, OK.

But at that time, I thought I was middle-aged. I know she was seventy-two.

*That's great.*

She was quite a lady.

*So you gave the talk, I assume?*

Yes. But it never stuck in my memory the way that my mother's question did. I don't suppose the talk was particularly distinguished.

*Now when did your mother die?*

Nineteen ninety-one. She would have been eighty-six had she lived—no, she would've been eight-seven had she lived a couple of months longer. A few months longer.

*Good long life.*

Yes. The last part was very bad. The last three years or so, her health was very bad.

Bill died the year after Mother died. He was younger than she, and he died just before his eighty-third birthday.

*Well, you have given me a lot of information. I think we can stop here unless there's something else.*

OK.

**[01:08:31]** End Track 2, Disc 2.

[End of interview]