

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

AN INTERVIEW WITH PERRY GOAD

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KURT PIEHLER: This begins an interview with Perry G. Goad on April 5, 2001, in Knoxville, Tennessee with Kurt Piehler and ...

DARRYL AUSTIN: Darryl Austin.

PIELHER: ... and, if I could begin by asking, when were you born, and where were you born?

PERRY GOAD: Albany, Kentucky—1932.

PHIELER: And what were your parents' names—the names of your parents?

GOAD: Perry and Lottie Goad.

PIEHLER: And were they also from Kentucky?

GOAD: My mother was.

PIEHLER: And your father was from Tennessee?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Do you know how your parents met?

GOAD: In a coal mine in eastern Kentucky. He was a coal miner and she worked in the boardinghouse as a cook.

PIEHLER: What town was it in? It was Cook—was the town Cook, or the county?

GOAD: She was a cook in a boardinghouse.

PIEHLER: Oh, she was a cook ... [in a] boardinghouse. What town did they meet in?

GOAD: It was back in eastern Kentucky; the town's probably not even there now. Just a coal mining community and they pack up and leave when the mine plays out.

PIEHLER: Was your father's father, your great grandfather—was your grandfather a coal miner?

GOAD: No, he died when my dad was just a kid, so none of us knew him.

PIEHLER: None of you knew him or even what he had done?

GOAD: Mm mm [No].

PIEHLER: Your parents met, he was a coal miner, she was a cook—was your father a coal miner when you were growing up?

GOAD: No, he was a grocery clerk in stores.

PIEHLER: Which stores was he a clerk in?

GOAD: In and around Sunbright.

PIEHLER: Now, Sunbright, as I said I am so new to Tennessee, where is Sunbright?

GOAD: Well, it would be hard to tell you. (Laughter).

PIEHLER: Well, roughly ...

GOAD: Well, you go on through north of Oak Ridge.

PIEHLER: North of Oak Ridge? But it sounds like quite far north of Oak Ridge.

GOAD: Well, not too far, maybe twenty-five miles, something like that. And we didn't—back then, when I was growing up we didn't have electricity, and ... until the TVA come in and things started opening up, but I was raised up without electricity.

PIEHLER: So when did your parents finally get electricity?

GOAD: In the early '50s.

PIEHLER: Oh, it was that late?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: So you had already gone off to war before ...

GOAD: Yeah. When I left I had never seen a roll of toilet paper or turned a light switch on.

AUSTIN: Was that coal mining town ... that they met at was that near Vicco where they got married?

GOAD: That was the name of the [town], but I've looked it up on the map and there's no Vicco.

AUSTIN: Just not there at all?

GOAD: Hazard would probably be the closest town that exists now.

PIEHLER: Why did your father leave coal mining? Did he ever tell you why?

GOAD: Well he got hurt in the coal mines, and he worked a little while longer. They said he was shoveling coal and bent over, and a big rock slipped off the ledge and hit him in the back of the head and shoved his head down between his legs, and they like to have never got him out. And, I had an uncle—Dad’s half-brother—he helped get him out, and they took him on to Lexington to stay in the hospital. And, my uncle said, “After I helped get him out,” he said, “I never looked back at that hole in the ground. I kept walking and never did go back to the coal mines again.”

PIEHLER: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

GOAD: Two sisters.

PIEHLER: Were they older or younger?

GOAD: Younger. That’s his mama and her ... farmers, I guess you’d call it. My other sister was a telephone operator.

PIEHLER: Did you--growing up, it sounds like, you mentioned in a lot of ways without saying it, you didn’t have a lot of money ...

GOAD: No, no we didn’t have money. We had to scrimp and save, sold grit, newspapers, sold a little scrap iron, odd jobs around like that.

PIEHLER: How old were you when you started selling grit?

GOAD: Probably, thirteen—fourteen.

PIEHLER: The stores that your father worked in, he didn’t own the stores did he?

GOAD: No, no he never did own a store.

PIEHLER: How many hours would he work a week?

GOAD: Oh, probably, seventy hours a week. Didn’t get to see him much. He was going to work while I was getting up and going to school. By the time he got in of an evening, cleaned up, eat supper, read the paper ... why, it was time to go to bed. But, the little mom & pop stores was real popular back then, and you wouldn’t go nowhere out in the country but you’d see a little store, but all that’s gone now.

AUSTIN: Was that the only store in town at the time?

GOAD: No, there was about five little stores there in Sunbright at the time. Of course, they come and go.

AUSTIN: I don’t guess it was always Pemberton’s then ...

GOAD: No, no it was—back during World War II, now, stores were pretty much surviving, and stuff was hard to find back then. We had rations—stamps, like you’d use your food stamps now, they give you so many. So many pairs of shoes per family, according to how many was in the family. So much sugar a week. They’d have a sugar day, and a meat day.

PIEHLER: Growing up, what did your parents think of Franklin Roosevelt?

GOAD: I don’t know really know what they—my dad used to call him. He was into politics a little bit he was a JP [Justice of the Peace] for years with the county. He was a strong believer in Howard Baker.

PIEHLER: So he was a Republican?

GOAD: Oh, yeah, and John Duncan.

PIEHLER: John Duncan the senior?

GOAD: Yeah, I met John Duncan one time at a ... class reunion. I sat by him. He was a pretty interesting fella.

PIEHLER: Was he part of your class?

GOAD: No, I had a friend—a lady friend—and she went to school with him.

PIEHLER: Oh, okay.

GOAD: And they put us all in the—that class would be in one room, and I got to sit with him ... he was pretty interesting to talk with.

PIEHLER: Did you ever meet Howard Baker when you were growing up?

GOAD: No, but Howard lived close by there in Huntsville, Tennessee.

AUSTIN: Which race was it that—who had to push who in the wheelbarrow, do you remember that?

GOAD: It was Roosevelt somebody, dad had a bet with him.

PIEHLER: A bet that Roosevelt would win or lose?

GOAD: Well, Dad won and he got to ride in the wheelbarrow, but after about a couple of miles Dad said, “I’ve had enough of this.” (Laughter).

AUSTIN: I’ve got a photograph of that, by the way.

PIEHLER: Where did you go to school growing up?

GOAD: Sunbright. [It was a] small, small place.

PIEHLER: And how many people went to school with you? How big was your school?

GOAD: I don't really know how many was, it was just a regular small school and not much to choose from in classes, so.

PIEHLER: So, when you graduated from high school, how many graduated with you, do you remember?

GOAD: I think it was thirty.

PIEHLER: Thirty.

AUSTIN: I went to the same high school, same building.

PIEHLER: Do any of your teacher stick out in your memory?

GOAD: Well, we had an awful nice principal—Mr. Lowhorn. He come to Oak Ridge and finished out his last few years of work there.

AUSTIN: So, you were the class of '50?

GOAD: '51.

PIEHLER: You were very young when Pearl Harbor occurred, could you remember how you heard the ...

GOAD: No, I can't remember that.

PIEHLER: But you do—it sounds like the rationing left quite an impression on you.

GOAD: Yeah, yeah. The stores would be crowded, real crowded on the day that the meat truck would come in, on a Thursday. You'd have to stand in line when you—nothing was packaged-up like it is now. You'd go back and you'd want a block of cheese, you take a big knife and cut you off a big block of cheese and wrap it up. Beans, you had to weigh it. And it'd run you to death waiting on customers there. Go in back and you'd have to run across the street and get a can of coal oil, go back and get him a bale of hay, come back and cut some more meat.

PIEHLER: It sounds like you have worked in the store.

GOAD: No, I just ...

PIEHLER: You just watched your father?

GOAD: Yeah, I just watched my dad do it, but he enjoyed it. He liked that work.

PIEHLER: Well, it sounds like he like, I guess he liked it better than the coal mine?

GOAD: Yeah, he enjoyed the people.

AUSTIN: He was instrumental in the controversial liquor store for a while, wasn't he?

GOAD: Well, he was a grocer—he was a clerk in a liquor store for a while. They had a liquor store in the county, then they voted it out. Then all the bootleggers come back, and ... (Laughter)

PIEHLER: So this liquor store was it a county liquor store?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: How long did it last?

GOAD: I don't think it lasted but a couple of years. All the good people voted it out. We don't want whiskey in our county, but then you got more whiskey than they had to start with ... (Laughter)

PIEHLER: It sounds like you can remember growing up—a lot of stills around, a lot of bootleggers.

GOAD: Oh, yeah, yeah. We'd be back in the woods a squirrel hunting, the back of the big deep holler there you'd see a little rise—a smoke rise. You'd stay away from there. They're making whiskey up there. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: You mentioned squirrel hunting, which sounds like you spent a lot of time hunting growing up.

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: What else did you do for fun, growing up?

GOAD: We just played. Had a lot of sports, baseball teams and had a small Babe Ruth team, and then went on in to the semi-pro ... Had football and basketball. The townspeople, they had basketball. Pretty good sports oriented around there.

PIEHLER: Where did you live? Did you live in town?

GOAD: I lived about a mile out of town.

PIEHLER: A mile out of town. Did the town—the town had electricity?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: But you didn't because you ...

GOAD: No, we're rural.

PIEHLER: Rural, and not until TVA came in ...

GOAD: Yeah. So, they give everybody electricity when they start laying the lines.

AUSTIN: Did the rail track always come through there then? There was a railroad very near Grandma's house there ...

GOAD: Oh, yeah, north and south bound both was there.

AUSTIN: So, that line had been there ...

GOAD: Yeah, it had always been there. We had a big depot, and anything you wanted you could get out of the Sears and Roebuck catalog. You'd just order it, and it come. If it was big size it would come to the depot, if it was small it's come to the post office—or anything you wanted you could order you a car. Sears sold a car at one time, it was a Henry J, I think was the name of it, a little ... It was ahead of its time though 'cause it was real small and people back then didn't want a small car.

PIEHLER: What else did you do for fun growing up? You said sports—did you ever go to the movies?

GOAD: Yeah, one time we had a theater there a few years later, but some old fella would usually be around and ... have a movie, maybe in the gym, and I have known them to be around town somewhere and show it on the side of a building there and we'd all sit down and watch that movie. It was good movies.

AUSTIN: Can you remember any of them?

GOAD: No, not really, the only one other than old Westerns is *Gone With the Wind*. And, when Clark Gable says, "I don't give a damn." "Ahhh, did you hear what he said?!" That was a no-no word back then.

PIEHLER: Were you ever a Boy Scout?

GOAD: No, they had Boy Scouts, but I didn't belong to the Boy Scouts.

PIEHLER: What about going to school dances? Did you ever?

GOAD: No, we didn't have ...

PIEHLER: You didn't have dances?

GOAD: We didn't have any dances, no. We had a music teacher, taught piano lessons, and a little bit of folk dancing, but it's nothing to amount to ... Us boys, we didn't want no part of that.

AUSTIN: The dancing was verboten even by the time I got to school ...

PIEHLER: Really, there was ...

AUSTIN: [It was] forbidden in the gym.

PIEHLER: Because of religious [reasons]?

AUSTIN: I think so.

PIEHLER: So, dancing—you didn't have dances when you went to school.

AUSTIN: No, we didn't have them either.

PIEHLER: Your parents, and you—how active, growing up, were you in the church? Which church did you go to?

GOAD: Well, I didn't go to church, and I still don't go to church. But, I know right from wrong, and if my neighbors, I see them out there doing something I think needs to be helped or needs to be done, I go and help them, or I see somebody on the side of the road with a flat tire, I'll stop and fix that flat for them, and I tell them, "No you don't owe me anything. You help the next person—don't break the chain!" That's my religion. I don't know whether that'll get me anywhere or not, but that's the way I feel about it.

PIEHLER: So, your parents weren't active at all then in [the church]?

GOAD: No, my mother would go to church sometimes, but everything was clean living though. No drinking, no cussing, nothing like that. And, they was always honest. I know one of my sisters went in the restaurant there one time. And, the waiter fixed them a cone of ice cream and gave them too much change back. So, they went on across the street and told my dad, said "Look here, we got that ice cream free. They give us too much change back!" He said, "You take it back." He would let them get by with that.

PIEHLER: Do you remember in World War II any civil defense drills? Air-raid drills?

GOAD: Oh, yes. They'd have a drill and we'd have to run put the blankets over the windows. Everything was a blackout.

PIEHLER: Do you remember any scrap drives or any bond drives in the community or in your school during the war?

GOAD: Yeah, we had a paper drive one time, and us kids would sell scrap iron to the local scrap dealer. I guess people was a lot more patriotic back then; they believed in it, and every once in a while you'd find a fella that wouldn't go to the service and he had it rough. They may burn his barn or might put him in a lot of harm. Whip him, and catch him in town, but you need to go.

PIEHLER: So, even if the draft board said you could stay there was a lot of ...

GOAD: Yeah, a lot of times people would get a stay from the service and ... it's always been that way. John Wayne was that way. A lot of your big people were that way. John promised he'd go but he kept putting it off and putting it off, and finally he got too old to go.

PIEHLER: But that attitude in your town would not have ...

GOAD: No, I was raised up not to—and after I got my Basic Training in, of course you had a high school education and you volunteered, you had some privileges to go with that. And they pulled me out of ranks after I had my Basic and asked me if I wanted to go to welding school. No, I don't want to go to wielding school, I've got to—I need to go—I've got something I've got to prove. But, what I should have done is stayed in the service, and went to wielding school, and then come out, but I didn't do it.

PIEHLER: Do you remember where you were when VJ Day occurred ... victory against Japan?

GOAD: No.

PIEHLER: You don't remember those celebrations?

GOAD: No, I can't remember than far back ... to pick up on that.

PIEHLER: Since you didn't have electricity, I assume you didn't have a radio?

GOAD: Yeah, we had a little radio.

PIEHLER: You did have a radio?

GOAD: We had a radio and kept a great big battery—it was almost as big as a car battery, and you listen to it a little bit then you shut it off, save your battery. (Laughter) Little program we use to have here in Knoxville, *The Mid-Day Merry-Go-Round*, Lowell Blanchard—you may not remember ...

PIEHLER: No, no.

GOAD: Okay. It was a talent show and we'd listen to that and shut it off right quick ...

PIEHLER: Any other shows you remember listening to growing up?

GOAD: Dad he use to like to listen to the boxing matches—Joe Louis' era—and I could listen to that. We'd all sit up there and listen to that radio real close ...

AUSTIN: Was the radio reception as bad as the television reception was?

GOAD: It was pretty good reception. Pretty good.

AUSTIN: I'm surprised.

PIEHLER: I am curious, growing up—you saw Oak Ridge or heard of Oak Ridge being built?

GOAD: Well, we couldn't—up in later years, while I was playing ball, we'd have to come to Knoxville buy supplies, and I'd come there with the manager and everything. But, they'd the big chain-link fence through Knoxville—I mean through Oak Ridge. And, you didn't even hardly dare to look over either side, you went straight through and come out on the other side. But ... it was off limits—Oak Ridge was.

PIEHLER: So, you could pass through the community?

GOAD: Yeah. On the main drag going through, but you couldn't stop.

PIEHLER: But you couldn't stop?

GOAD: No, no it was real strict back then, and had the little ... hundreds and hundreds of the little flat-tops—flat-top houses for the workers. It was like a small trailer only just made out of plywood. And, I've heard of fellas get out and get drunk, and everything looked just alike, and they couldn't find their way home. (Laughter)

AUSTIN: Did y'all ever speculate what was going on over there or just didn't—at Oak Ridge?

PIEHLER: Any rumors of what they were doing?

GOAD: No, no, it was secret. They knew it was military. They had buses that would run out [to] different counties and take the workers in that didn't have transportation. Once you got on there—they expected you to be there. I think it's the same way now. You don't lay-out of work, you be there. You don't have much to do, but ...

PIEHLER: Where did you—how closely did you follow World War II as a kid do you remember at all?

GOAD: No, not too close. We didn't really know what it was all about.

PIEHLER: What was your favorite subject in school?

GOAD: Do I have to tell that? (Laughter) Well I got behind way down in grade school, behind in my classes. During the war you had to just pickup anybody that you could to teach school and what boys could get by with that's what they would do they didn't have anybody to push him a little. By the time I got in high school I was ready for high school. I had it rough, I didn't learn much.

PIEHLER: So in other words, in school they would concentrate on the girls ...

GOAD: It seemed like the girls ... is more of a natural thing. They was naturally smart most of those ... and the boys would most of the time they got into the eight grade and they was out and gone, go north, work in the plants. And a lot of them left and went to Ohio a lot of them doing good, stayed with it ... Michigan.

PIEHLER: So you remember growing up a lot of them leaving?

GOAD: Oh, yes, they'd leave ... you had to leave. I went south into Harriman, and went to work for the textiles—Burlington textiles—and stayed there till I almost retired and they ... Well, you see it on television all the time, when a plant shuts down and you're out of work ... I needed five years to retire and they shut the plant down. Too old to get a job, too young to retire.

AUSTIN: That was thirty-four years wasn't it?

GOAD: Thirty-four years in one plant there.

PIEHLER: What year did you start at the plant?

GOAD: In '55.

PIEHLER: '55, and it shut down in what year?

GOAD: '84, I believe. Made women's hose. It was the largest one in the world at the time. It was big, big plant.

PIEHLER: I know I am getting ahead of the story, but what did you do after the plant shut?

GOAD: Well, I went to work for a vocation school as maintenance, for a while. Then they had a cut back on funds, and then after that I just had to get out and find what I could find. Had me a few lawn mowers, and a paintbrushes and ladders and a truck, and I just got out here and got all the work I wanted.

PIEHLER: In Knoxville or ...?

GOAD: No, in Harriman.

PIEHLER: In Harriman ...

GOAD: Mm hmm. You can get all the work you want as long as you don't over charge nobody, which I wouldn't. Sometimes I'd just say, "Well, feed me lunch and I'll paint that room for you." That's almost like you see the signs out here on the street, "I will work for food." Of course, them people won't work ...

Austin: I'll ask about college. (Coughs) I apologize...

Piebler: ...Growing up what did you hope to do? Did you hope to work in a store or did you think of...

Goad: Well we didn't, most of us really didn't—thought it would kind of come natural ... kinfolks a lot of time they would take you back and get you established, but I didn't have any connections. I didn't get the good job.

Piebler: What were the good jobs that someone well connected could get you?

Goad: Well if you go north ... Caterpillar—a lot of boys went there to Caterpillar in Joliet, Illinois. A lot of them went to Detroit, a lot of them went to Dayton, Ohio—Lyman, industrial towns.

AUSTIN: Did you ever consider going?

GOAD: No, I would have went if I had somebody to go with—kind of show me around but country boys get lost sometimes in a big place like that.

PIEHLER: Do you remember when you heard about the Korean War? What was your first recollection of it?

GOAD: Well, I didn't really know ... how that was going to turn out. I missed half of it. I missed the first half of it, and I got in on the last half of it.

PIEHLER: Because you were part of the class of '50 ...

GOAD: '51.

PIEHLER: '51. So you were 18 in 1951.

GOAD: Yeah, during that summer I worked a few odd jobs. They played out so I just left and went to the service.

PIEHLER: And did you volunteer or?

GOAD: Mm hmm.

PIEHLER: You volunteered.

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: And, you volunteered for the Army?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Why the Army? As opposed to the Navy or the Air Force?

GOAD: The Navy was four years, and I couldn't take that ...

PIEHLER: You didn't want to be in for four years?

GOAD: No, and I think the Air Force was, too. And I was a little, bitty puny fella and I wasn't sure what I was getting into. Some people said around home, said "You won't be able to pass the physical." But, once I got in there why—nothing was wrong with me I was just puny. So, everything came out just right. And, I took my Basic Training in Fort Belvoir, Virginia—it's an engineering—so, I took Engineer Training and went on to Korea. I was a combat engineer.

PIEHLER: When you were growing up how far had you traveled?

GOAD: Just to Knoxville, I guess.

PIEHLER: Knoxville was the big trip?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: You never made it, say, north of Kentucky?

GOAD: No, no.

PIEHLER: Or you never made it to North Carolina?

GOAD: No.

PIEHLER: Or west to Arkansas?

GOAD: Uh uh..

PIEHLER: So really, Knoxville was the big...

GOAD: Yeah, that was the big trip.

PIEHLER: And what about Crossville, would you ever ...

GOAD: Yeah, we went into Crossville playing ball. Crossville didn't grow 'til they built the interstate. It was just small. Everything just—there was one little cluster there.

PIEHLER: When you would travel, how would you travel, say to Knoxville? Would you drive? Did your parents have a car?

GOAD: No, my parents never could drive. I'd just go with one of the fellas around town.

PIEHLER: It also sounds like you and your parents would take the train, growing up, or was that ...

GOAD: Yeah, we'd ride a little bit on the train, but the train was awful slow. It'd stop at every little spot [to] pick up somebody or get some coal, and, you couldn't travel very far on a train. Of course, if you traveled on the long distance, you could, I guess.

PIEHLER: Yeah, but your parents never learned how to drive?

GOAD: No, no, they never did learn how to drive.

PIEHLER: How did your father get to work?

GOAD: He had to walk. He had about a mile to walk to work.

PIEHLER: A mile each way.

GOAD: Yeah, which was nothing then. People walked for miles to work.

AUSTIN: Did the bus route—was it established then? I remember the Greyhound bus use to come through, had a stop there.

GOAD: Oh yeah, there's a main drag there on Old [Highway] 27. Old 27 goes all the way into Michigan, I think, and goes all the way into Key West.

AUSTIN: Was it Greyhound then?

GOAD: Yeah, there was plenty of Greyhounds. Plenty of Greyhounds.

PIEHLER: So, going to Virginia was a big trip?

GOAD: Oh yes. It was a big trip, my first. [We] went into South Carolina to the processing. It was all tents, just hundreds and hundreds of tents, and, they took me down there and put me in one. Well, I walked outside, we stayed there probably a week before we shipped out. Well, I didn't know—everything looks alike to me. How am I going to go down to eat and find my way back to the tent? So, there was a fella in the next tent from me, and he's about 6'5", real tall, gawky fella, and they didn't have any clothes to fit him. He had to wear his own civilian clothes there for a while. So, I picked him out when he went to eat chow I followed him, and then I followed him back. That's how I found my tent. I followed him there for a while. I didn't know to go down there and check to section and the rows and read it off like that.

AUSTIN: How did you get there, to South Carolina, do you remember?

PIEHLER: Virginia.

GOAD: I went to South Carolina to process out.

PIEHLER: Oh, okay. So, first you went to South Carolina.

GOAD: That was the processing for the whole Southeast there in Columbia.

PIEHLER: Oh, okay. How long were you at the processing center?

GOAD: Oh, I was just there probably a week. Then they ship you out from there, different places. Yeah, I was—the recruiting sergeant picked me up there at home and drove me to Knoxville. I stayed over here in a hotel, got a physical and everything, then they put us on a bus and sent us on to South Carolina.

PIEHLER: And how did you get to Virginia?

GOAD: By train.

PIEHLER: Did you expect to get—did you want combat engineers?

GOAD: Well, it didn't really matter what I was getting into. It was kind of interesting, and a lot of work into it, but I don't think I would go back into it if I went back.

AUSTIN: Did they ask you if you wanted to do that or did they just assign you?

GOAD: No, they just assigned me to that.

AUSTIN: Gave you that military, voluntary choice, huh?

GOAD: Mm hmm.

PIEHLER: What do you remember about your first few weeks in the Army?

GOAD: Well, I was real—scary, because I didn't know how I was going to—when I was in high school I wanted to play football so bad, but I was so small and skinny, I couldn't handle it. I thought maybe that might happen when get in Basic Training, that I won't be able to handle this, and I just blended right in. That made me feel a lot better because I felt like I was on the first team.

PIEHLER: So, you were able to play football?

GOAD: No, no, I tried but they dragged the hide off me. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: Do you remember any of the people in your Basic Training unit? Any one you served with? Do any memories stick out?

GOAD: No, no I sure don't.

PIEHLER: Where were most of the people from that you served with?

GOAD: Well, they come from all different directions. Some of them out West—Montana ... some others, New Jersey, and some of them from the South. The boys on the train, that come up there, they was all from the South, and then we all congregated there in one spot. The boys from on up in the North there, they could get to go home sometimes on the weekend because they was closer. We were just fourteen miles out of Washington, DC.

PIEHLER: Do you remember anything about your drill instructor ... there in Basic?

GOAD: We had real good drill instructors. They was real dedicated to their work. And, then when I got out of Basic—then there's the problem getting home. I never traveled nowhere by myself before. So, there was about four or five of us from Kentucky. So we pooled our money and caught a—got us a taxi into Washington, DC, and caught the train [that] came down through Virginia, down through Bristol, and on down into Knoxville.

PIEHLER: And this is the first time you really traveled?

GOAD: By myself, yeah. And, it wasn't easy. (Laughs)

PIEHLER: What did you learn in Basic? What do you remember about things you learned?

GOAD: We learned to build bridges, roads, explosives—all kinds of explosives. Dynamite, TNT, Tetratol, C-3, all that ...

PIEHLER: And this is all in Basic, that you ...

GOAD: Yeah, yeah, what it will do and how to use it.

PIEHLER: Did anyone get hurt when you were in Basic Training?

GOAD: No, nobody got hurt in Basic Training.

PIEHLER: How long did Basic Training last? Did it last the traditional sixteen weeks?

GOAD: Sixteen weeks.

PIEHLER: And then you got to go home?

GOAD: Yeah, they give us travel pay, and then your destination—they give you time to go home, and then go to Seattle. Had a certain time to be in [Seattle].

PIEHLER: So, you were going to go home and then go to Seattle? Which is an even bigger trip.

GOAD: Oh, yes, and I didn't know how I was going to get there. Of course, I knew I was going to have to fly, but how?

PIEHLER: So you had enough money to fly?

GOAD: Oh, yes, they give us plenty enough money to fly. So, I caught the bus back to Knoxville, after leaving home, and went out to the ... They had that old bus terminal down under Gay Street, down under the—and so I got off there. Now, where's the airport? (Laughter) And, taxi drivers, of course, they want to give you a—run you out there, and I saw a little sign there said, "Trailway Bus Station to Airport." So I was doing pretty good there. Caught the bus there out to the airport and walked in, told the ticket man that—where I needed to go. And I said just figure me out a flight schedule like you was going. And, he said, "That'll be no problem." So, he just worked me out a flight schedule. Go through Chicago, St. Paul, Minnesota, Great Falls, Montana, and on down into Seattle.

PIEHLER: How long did the flight take, because you had a lot of stops in between?

GOAD: Yeah, we had a lot of stops, but I got on that plane going to Chicago. I'd change planes at all those places and I didn't know what I was going to do. And, I just got off the plane, and I just followed the crowd went on down, picked up the baggage and went on in, reported to the ticket agency. Well, this is going to be all right.

AUSTIN: Was Chicago a big airport, wasn't it?

GOAD: Big airport too, I just had to follow the crowd. What they do, I do.

PIEHLER: But, you made it out to Seattle.

GOAD: Oh, yes.

PIEHLER: What did you think of the—this was your first time flying, did you like it?

GOAD: Yeah, I liked it pretty good. Of course, it's small planes, and we had a box lunch—like a little shoe box—and had sandwich and an apple and hard candy. But I hadn't flew since—in the modern day.

PIEHLER: You haven't flown since the Korean War?

GOAD: No.

PIEHLER: When you arrived in Seattle, what happened next?

GOAD: Well, it's another processing center there. Of course, when I got to the airport there I didn't know where to go to the base. After a while, why a few fellas come through that I knew, so we had to get us a taxi to take us out to the base. Got on a ship there and went to Japan. And, there we done some more briefing, got our field gear, and zeroed in our rifles, and all that. Then, got on another ship on into Korea. From there it was another little train ride, going north all the time. By the time the train stopped, I was still on it. They put GIs off at different stops—different stops here and there—but when it stopped, I was still on it. So, I went there by truck, and I was as far north as you could get. That's what I wanted to do though. I would have hated to have got stranded in a motor pool or a depot, somewhere or another, artillery or some kind of useless job, I would call it, but it wasn't—it had to be done. But, I'd hate for somebody to ask me what did I do while I was there, "Well, I washed clothes, or washed trucks." (Laughter)

PIEHLER: So, you were happy with your assignment?

GOAD: Yeah, I was satisfied with it.

PIEHLER: It also sounds like you were a replacement in a unit?

GOAD: Yeah, yeah, I was a replacement—had a rotation system, get so many points a month ...

PIEHLER: How did it feel to be a replacement, because you hadn't gone over with this unit?

GOAD: No, no, it was ... yeah, I knew I was a replacement. You just have to accept what—what you get is what you accept.

PIEHLER: When you first arrived in the unit how did people treat you?

GOAD: Aw, it's a little bit like ... any other new job. Oh, new recruit, I get to go home!
(Laughter)

PIEHLER: Did people treat you—how long did it take you until you felt really comfortable with everyone?

GOAD: Oh, a few days.

PIEHLER: You weren't ostracized? People didn't ...

GOAD: No, no, no. No they accepted you with open arms. They was glad to have you.

PIEHLER: And, what type of things did your unit do in Korea?

GOAD: We built roads, built bridges. Sometimes, we'd have to blow-up a bridge. And, there's a lot of mine fields. Lay out mine fields, and sometimes you have to take some up. That was the dangerous part—probably, the most dangerous part.

PIEHLER: What made it so dangerous?

GOAD: Well, if it was North Koreans—if it was their mine fields sometimes they'd booby-trap it and different kinds. And sometimes they'd make their mines out of wood, and our mine detectors wouldn't pick that wood up—put it all together with wood.

AUSTIN: Did you ever have to blow-up a bridge that you built?

GOAD: Yeah, we would have to blow up a bridge every once in a while, not—it's rare though.

PIEHLER: It sounds like you were pretty far—you mentioned you were pretty far north and even had to go up by truck. How close were you to the front lines?

GOAD: I stayed on the front lines most of the time.

PIEHLER: So, there was the infantry ahead of you, or were you sometimes ahead of the infantry?

GOAD: Sometimes we was ahead of them. (Laughter) We had to build a ... maybe, a tank trail, or sometimes we'd build a trail in there for the jeeps. Jeeps would have liters mounted on the side of their—on their jeeps, to bring wounded out. And later on we had the helicopters come in. We'd build them a little pad there. The battle would be going on there, and the helicopters would be down here, would bring them out just continuously. The helicopters would, just putting them on liters mounted on the outside of the helicopter. They'd stay busy, sometimes for days. You'd see boys come out of there with a—tore all to pieces, and sometimes you'd see them ... Maybe they'd give them—medics would maybe give them a shot ...

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PIEHLER: You were—unfortunately that got cut off. You said that they the medics would give them a shot of morphine, and people reacted very differently. You mentioned something that, some would cuss, and some ...

GOAD: Yeah, yeah, differently. Some would pray, some of them would cry, some of them would call for momma.

PIEHLER: How often did you have to ... fire your rifle in anger?

GOAD: Not too much. That wasn't my job.

PIEHLER: Yeah. In your unit were there people, who in a sense, provided security for you, or ...

GOAD: We was side-by-side with the artillery, anti-aircraft, and the tanks and the infantrymen.

PIEHLER: Even though you sometimes would be ahead, you rarely—you really didn't have to fire your weapons too often?

GOAD: No, not too often. Everybody had a job.

PIEHLER: What was your jobs, or job?

GOAD: Well, we built the trails in there. The tank had to have certain trails to get in there.

PIEHLER: What would you do to build a trail?

GOAD: Well, it was just crude. We—some of the construction engineers would come in with ... dozers, graders, and we had gravel trucks and a lot of mud to put in there.

AUSTIN: So, you just built a rough trail, just whatever, as minimal as it would take to get ...

GOAD: Yeah, just as rough as you could get. And I left my company one time and stayed on the line for three months. I worked with anti-aircraft building bunkers. They'd run their anti-aircraft—half-tracks they call it—down into the bunkers. And, I build bunkers with the sandbags on top for protection. And, I'd be on top. I had so many Koreans working for me. And, [I] kind of had it timed. The North Koreans artillery would fire. They fired short to see where they was at, then they'd come on—walk it on [in]. And, I had it timed. About the second time they'd fire I was off of there and gone. (Laughs)

PIEHLER: The Koreans who you supervised, how many would you be working with?

GOAD: I had about fifteen. They wasn't capable of being soldiers, most of them was too old to be in the Army.

AUSTIN: General labor?

GOAD: Yeah, just manual labor.

PIEHLER: How would they get paid?

GOAD: I don't know how they ...

PIEHLER: Yeah, you weren't responsible for that?

GOAD: No, I wasn't responsible for that.

AUSTIN: You've got photos at the house all those bunkers that you're talking about, were those pretty good protection?

GOAD: Yeah, they was pretty good, but if they'd have had a ... North Korea would have had a—if they'd have had the plane and equipment they we had, we wouldn't have stood a chance. They'd have wiped us out. And, those bombers was the most interesting thing there. They'd come in from Japan, I guess. And, they'd start a circle—there'd be four of them—and it'd be just like you was sitting out there watching in a movie, and that's enemy hill over there. And, they'd start their circle, and when they get in formation, they'd peel off and come down, throw that bomb in there on that hill and shoot right back up. It was real interesting to watch them. They was good.

AUSTIN: Those new jets, that must have been something.

GOAD: Yeah, it was two 500-pound bombs in one of them hills. Fire and stuff would boil up. And, then he'd go back up get back in formation—circling.

AUSTIN: So, the North just didn't have enough air power to ...

GOAD: No, if they'd have had that air power to come over there and bombed our front line, we wouldn't have stood a chance. But, I never did get to see the MiGs, the Russians MiGs—they never did get into it.

PIEHLER: You hadn't traveled much growing up, and now you're in a foreign country, and you're even having Koreans work for you. hat did you think of Korea, and even more briefly in Japan, what did you think of ...

GOAD: Well, I didn't get to see very much of Japan, but it was real dirty. And, Korea was worse. You went back in time. Oh, they was still plowing with buffaloes out in the field—water buffaloes. They didn't have nothing—Koreans didn't.

PIEHLER: Whereas, where you were growing up people had tractors. What did they use, growing up, what did they use mules still?

GOAD: Mules still. Still used mules, horses, but ... It's still hard to figure it out that way back in the country there, a family, they could raise four or five kids, and all they'd have would be a couple of mules, a cow, a pig and chickens, but they'd raise that family.

PIEHLER: What else—you said Korea was very dirty. What else sticks in your mind about Korea?

GOAD: Well, it was in the summertime it was like a desert, and then in the spring and the fall, it'd wash everything away, and then in the wintertime it'd got to forty below zero.

PIEHLER: It sounds like you were pretty cold in some ...

GOAD: I didn't get cold. I don't know ... I've got pictures of me, and I don't even have a jacket on. I stayed busy. That helped a lot—working. But, it was a bitter cold.

AUSTIN: What was a typical day for you, I mean hour wise? How many hours do you think you put in?

GOAD: No certain thing. You may not get to sleep for a while.

AUSTIN: Sound like the Koreans did—and raising a family, like up in the hills where we're from, were they able to farm that well? Did it seem to you that they could survive?

GOAD: Yeah, they survived, on mostly rice, and where they could get to it was fish. They found a fish, and rice and they had a certain kind of cabbage that they used. Only thing I ever seen.

AUSTIN: Tell us about the river crossing, like you've told me before, with the how fast the river rose.

GOAD: Well, that happens around here sometimes, too. We was building a temporary bridge—crossing—to cross with. We was in water probably knee-deep, and it was at night and wasn't really paying that much attention. And, somebody said, "Get out of here this bridge ... this water's going to". And the next thing I looked there and it was up here. (Indicates waist-high) And we was strung out across there putting our bridge together, so we all held hands and got out. And, time I got out, I was about third one from the end, and time I got out the water was up to here. (Indicates shoulder-high)

AUSTIN: How long a time span was that? How long did it take, fifteen minutes?

GOAD: No, no, it didn't take long to get out of there. (Laughter)

AUSTIN: Did your bridge get swept away?

GOAD: Oh yeah, and didn't even realize it, 'til it was all ready over with. We almost got drowned.

AUSTIN: Did you have adequate lighting to work by?

GOAD: No, no, we didn't have no lights, nowhere.

AUSTIN: Didn't want any did you? Enemy fire ...

GOAD: No. Once you got up there, even the trucks and supplies, they could run most places on ... with your parking lights—no headlights, never a headlight.

AUSTIN: That must have been something, building a bridge in the dark.

GOAD: Well, when we took basic training everything we done—*everything* we done, no matter it was, we went back that night and done it again.

PIEHLER: So you got use to working at night?

GOAD: Yeah, even our regular training—our infantry training, I took eight weeks of infantry training, then I went ... I took eight weeks of engineers—but everything we did, no matter what it was, we went back that night, or within the week, and done it by night.

AUSTIN: That turned out good didn't it?

GOAD: Yeah, it turned out pretty good.

PIEHLER: What did you think of army food?

GOAD: Well, we didn't have much food where I was at. Now, some of the places did. We ... backed up one time and worked for a hospital unit. And the first morning we came through the line, and this cook said, "How do you want you eggs?" And this boy beside me said, "You trying to get smart with me, fella?" (Laughter) We wasn't use to that.

AUSTIN: He though he's pulling your leg.

PIEHLER: So, you ate a lot of K- and C-rations, it sounds like, on the line?

GOAD: Yeah, it wasn't bad. Lot of it had been canned over from World War II. But, you get use to it ... you get use to not eating. Once you go out here ... go eat at Ryan's and places everyday, you get use to eating all that, but you can adjust to it where you won't eat so much.

AUSTIN: Did it satisfy you? You say you adjusted. Is that what you mean? You didn't feel hungry?

GOAD: Yeah, I ... we all got what they call R and R—rest and recuperation—and go back to Japan, they give you a week and the first thing I done when I got off the plane there was we went in this big mess hall, and this little Japanese waitress brought us a big platter of food. She sat that

big platter down, there's French fries, hamburger steak, slaw, and a big glass of milk. That's the prettiest meal I ever saw in my life. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: What else did you do while you were in Japan for your R and R?

GOAD: Well, I didn't get to do much. I was the only one out of my outfit that got to go and I didn't have a—anybody to go with, and ... you could go do anything you wanted to do as long as you was back in a week. But, I pretty much stayed around the base, and sent souvenirs home, wrote letters, and got caught up resting. Sent a lot of silk jackets and silk stuff home to friends.

PIEHLER: Where was the base that you were stationed for your R and R?

GOAD: Kure—Kure, Japan.

PIEHLER: Did you ever go into town, one day?

GOAD: I didn't go much. It was real filthy and ... dirty. But, they had ... I guess they probably had better facilities other places, but it was real dirty. They had big hotels, and you could ... if you wanted to go take-up with some gal or ... stay the week ... and the boys that did go, they said the girls was real honest. They could get out and go to the bars and get drunk, give her your billfold, and you'll have it the next morning. They never ... they wouldn't steal anything. But, it wasn't that way in Europe. The people over there, they'd steal anything they could get their hands on. I hope you're not German or ... it's just a different culture.

PIEHLER: Was that your only R and R?

GOAD: Yeah, I didn't ... every once in a while some of them would have time to go twice, but I ... didn't get time to—barely did get time to go.

PIEHLER: What do you think of your sergeants?

GOAD: Uh, most of them was all right. Of course you all ways have one that's a smart-alec. And, I've seen one or two that I would of ... if I could've got him in the right position, I might've ... at that time, I might have left him where he's at. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: ... Did you make any friends ... did you hang out with anyone?

GOAD: Well, we were always busy. But, I had good friends. We had boys from ... and the engineers, we had two Koreans for each squad—a squad's about fifteen people and Korean soldiers—and we had a ... there at one time ... had a Puerto Rican, a one from Argentina, different countries, different walks of life. My outfit ... my division, they assign—they was about thirty different countries over there—and they'd assign a certain country to your division. We had the Ethiopians out of South Africa, and they had their funeral before they come over there. They was ... bad, but mean. And, had the Colombians out of South America. They was ... and I saw a few Turks.

AUSTIN: And, your impression—that was one of the things I was about to ask, Ethiopians, you said they had their funeral before they come?

GOAD: Yeah, they had a little funeral procession before they come over there ... let them know that they might not be coming back.

AUSTIN: Oh, literally, okay. They faced it and here they went ...

GOAD: Yeah, yeah, you face it, you don't worry about ... what's going to happen. You don't worry about it.

PIEHLER: Why were you fighting? At the time ...

GOAD: I don't know.

PIEHLER: Were you fighting for the UN, were you fighting ...

GOAD: I don't really know.

PIEHLER: Yeah, you didn't really think like, "I'm fighting to prevent aggression?"

GOAD: No, I just thought it was the thing to do. We all did, and once you get to ... after it's over with, why ... why? I don't know. It was supposed to be to stop the aggression from the communists, but I don't know.

PIEHLER: What did you know about communism at the time?

GOAD: I didn't know what a communist was. (Laughs)

PIEHLER: What did you think of ... the big commanders, if you gave it any thought, say Douglas MacArthur or Ridgway? Did you ever ...

GOAD: Well, we didn't really understand ... what it was all about at the time, but once you get to thinking about it, I guess MacArthur, he wanted to go ... push all the way into Manchuria, North Korea. Well, we was doing pretty good there 'til they put the Chinese in on us, and the Chinese can—you take a few Chinese, and they can whip anybody with a sack of rice and a bicycle, they can do more than we can do with a jet-fighter plane. So, we was going to—if we had we would have had to fought China and Russia and North Korea, and I don't believe that would have worked. If it had just been North Korea why I don't believe it'd been a problem. I don't believe we'd have survived that.

AUSTIN: Tell me about the general's chair, speaking of commanders. That was a pretty good story.

GOAD: Oh, my division general I saw over there in a distance, maybe fifty yards, they had a big operation out there in the valley, you could see everything going on out there. This sergeant came up through there with a chair, brought this general—brought him a chair up there, let him sit and watch the battle with field glasses, and direct the operation.

AUSTIN: It wasn't just any chair either. Do I remember you telling me?

GOAD: I would—sure would have hated to carry that chair. (Laughter).

AUSTIN: Big old leather-bound chair ...

GOAD: It was a pretty good size chair.

AUSTIN: I can't imagine that.

GOAD: I wouldn't have ... that would have hurt me to had to carry that chair.

AUSTIN: I think it's hilarious. I can just see this general, on top of a bunker, doing that. (Laughs) Were there—whenever you had to pack-up and go, were you heavily laden individually with your pack and everything?

GOAD: Nah, we didn't have too much stuff. We had a lot of tools to take with us, and trucks and stuff.

AUSTIN: So, you didn't have a cumbersome pack and things to do up like that?

GOAD: No, we had a pack, but we didn't hardly ever use it. We had a lot of tools to carry.

AUSTIN: If there was—I have asked two or three people this—if there was something you could have thrown away that you had to have, that they said you had to carry, if there was something you could have just thrown by the wayside and just left that behind ...

GOAD: No, I didn't have any of that. There was a lot of stuff I'd like to have had, but nothing that I needed to throw out.

AUSTIN: What would you like to have had?

GOAD: Well, I'd like to have had a few things. I'd liked to have had a ... camera, a watch, and few ... shaving mirror, few necessities. (Laughs)

AUSTIN: Shaving mirror would be handy.

GOAD: Yeah, it would have been handy—I borrowed somebody's.

AUSTIN: On a daily basis, what did you hate the most?

GOAD: Well, probably, I hated to have to pull so much guard. Wore out and the next thing you know, they'd make you stand guard, and you wouldn't hardly—didn't have enough rest, sleep, to hardly stand guard.

PIEHLER: How long would you stand guard? What were the shifts?

GOAD: Well, sometimes it would be two hours on, four hours off, but that'd mess up your whole night, with a split shift there.

AUSTIN: That was just extra duty on top of everything else?

GOAD: Yeah, that was extra. You'd have to do that, always something to do.

AUSTIN: There on the lines—you say you got to go to Japan, was there like ever a day pass or you get to get away from the front line for a day?

GOAD: Yeah, they would have a fall-back. Take maybe thirty days there off the line, then you have replacements come up and replace you. You'd get to go back and rest a little bit. But, they always had you something to do.

AUSTIN: So it was like leaving work and going to work, huh?

GOAD: Yeah, but no they didn't keep you up there forever.

AUSTIN: What would you say was the biggest project ya'll built ...

PIEHLER: What was your biggest accomplishment?

GOAD: Well, I guess the biggest one was just a pretty good size bridge.

AUSTIN: Did you build that out of prefabricated parts?

GOAD: Nah, we'd just go to the—they had ... what they call a big dragline. They'd drag rock out of the river, bring it out on trucks, and we'd build a—stones and a few trees. Cut trees down and make logs. It was crude enough to get you through it.

AUSTIN: Out of local material?

GOAD: Yeah, it was hard to find, logs were. There wasn't many trees left.

AUSTIN: Nowadays, they have the prefab, you didn't have the prefabricated bridge that you could build?

GOAD: We had one every once in a while, yeah. Every once in a while they'd come up with prefab ... Had some big enough that you could run the big trucks across, and they had some just small, and they had footbridges. We run a footbridge across a river, and we'd have you across there in fifteen minutes.

AUSTIN: How'd you build a footbridge?

GOAD: Well, it's just ... pieces, size of this table but it floats. You lay that out, and you butt one against the other and keep pushing it, pushing it. And, we had guidelines, ropes, people on each side keeping it straight—keep it from going downstream—and you hold on to it and you just keep pushing it across, and you get to the other side—well, you anchor it. And, ready to walk.

AUSTIN: That's pretty good.

GOAD: And, then when you got through with it, why, you could take it apart, and put it back on the truck and use it again—maybe.

AUSTIN: Was that a common thing build one real quick get somebody across, then tear it back down?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Did you ever see a chaplain on the line?

GOAD: Yes.

PIEHLER: What faith was he?

GOAD: Catholic.

PIEHLER: Catholic. Did you ever go to services at all?

GOAD: No.

PIEHLER: Did many men in your unit go?

GOAD: Yes, a few of them did.

PIEHLER: How often would you get a hot shower when you were on the line?

GOAD: I don't remember getting one. (Laughter)

AUSTIN: Did you always have good boots?

GOAD: Now, right towards the last. They came up with a—did you say boots? Right towards the last they came up with a thermo-rubber boot, and I'd say that saved many a boy's life cause they kept your feet warm. And, I always wondered every time I put those boots on, the boys in World War II and World War I, I always thought about them every time I put that boot on.

PIEHLER: Did you have any casualties in your unit?

GOAD: Oh, yeah. Now, my regular company unit, we didn't have many. We had a—my best buddy got killed, a mine explosion. But, I worked up on the line with the anti-aircraft and they had a lot of them up there.

PIEHLER: So, a lot of enemy casualties?

GOAD: Lots of them up there.

PIEHLER: What about casualties from constructing, cause you were using heavy equipment?

GOAD: No.

PIEHLER: You didn't have to many accidents or ...

GOAD: When we was right on the line, they'd have a 'dozer, and it'd have a metal top on it to protect the operator.

PIEHLER: Did you ever go to a USO show?

GOAD: I didn't get to go. They had some. I think, Ernest Tubbs and Hank Snow was close by, but I didn't get to go.

PIEHLER: How often would you write to your parents?

GOAD: About once a week. It was hard. You couldn't write nothing—didn't know what to write. [You] just say weathers cold, or weather's hot, or something—some little, little something.

PIEHLER: And, did your parents write to you?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: What did they tell you about? What was going ...

GOAD: Oh, just a few little things that happened. And, I had an aunt ... send me the Morgan County paper. That was pretty good. You always wanted to hear from home.

AUSTIN: All of that was lost in the fire, wasn't it? Your letters and ...

GOAD: Oh, yeah.

AUSTIN: There was a house fire in the '60s. Everything was lost. What kind of vehicles ... do you recall running around? You were talking about anti-aircraft vehicle. Was that some kind of tank or something that had a mount?

GOAD: Semi-tank, what's called a half-track—with tracks on it. It had the two big guns on the front.

AUSTIN: .50 calibers?

GOAD: Bigger than that. Shell about that long and that big around. (Gestures with hands) Uses a clip. You shove that big clip down through the top of it.

AUSTIN: You operated the gun?

GOAD: No, I didn't operate it. I'd have to set it up, so they could operate it. I'd have to give them a clearance out there, where they could run it in to the bunker, make sure they had plenty of clearance to ... If there wasn't a battle going on, you still had a firing mission every night. It looked like Christmas every night. You could see a .50 caliber over here firing and, of course, tracers, and a big searchlight. The searchlight was as big around as this table there. Just shine it out and watch all over the valley there, and North Koreans had ... speakers to talk to you at night. Usually a woman would talk to you. Of course, it was a psychology thing. "GI, GI, what are you over here for? Why don't you go home?" Just ... they'd talk to you. They'd play you some music ... and you couldn't tell where it was coming from. It sound like it might be over here, might be back this way. It was ... just a psychology thing.

AUSTIN: You say it was a woman, would she be talking like, "Hey, GI?" (Imitates a foreign accent)

GOAD: Pretty good English.

AUSTIN: Pretty good English?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: What did you think when ... this propoganda is coming forth, why are you fighting for?

GOAD: Well, it does, it does have an effect on you ... you wonder why.

PIEHLER: Really, you wondered why?

GOAD: Yeah.

AUSTIN: The firing mission at night, was that ... that wouldn't be just your—the whole unit would probably, unload for a while?

GOAD: ... It'd be ... maybe some mortar back behind us, then back behind that would be artillery. You hear the artillery come across you, sort of like tearing paper. (Makes a whistling sound) You hear that you don't worry about it—it's done. The round that gets you, you'll never hear it. It's ahead of its sound.

AUSTIN: Is that just to keep the enemy on his toes?

GOAD: Yeah, yeah, and sometimes the tanks would come up. They'd give them a—shoot them rounds in there ... the hillside over there, to keep them honest.

AUSTIN: You say they'd come up and fire, then back off?

GOAD: No, they'd stay there a while. But, you had to find you a hole when them tanks come up 'cause North Koreans, they'd try to knock it out. You had to ... But, when those ... planes come up, those bombers, you could sit out anywhere you wanted to sit because they wouldn't—they've gone back in their hole as far as they could go. Didn't have to worry about it. You see this in the movies where this artillery's coming in, and you hear that scream ... all that noise and everybody's a ducking. That round—it's the round that gets you, it's ahead of its sound; it's like a jet. It's the one that gets you. You don't hear that; you ain't got time to duck. You hear that sound it's already gone over your head, don't worry about it.

AUSTIN: So you're glad to hear it?

GOAD: Yea, you hear it, it's already gone ... maybe another right behind it. Shorter firepower.

AUSTIN: American artillery has always had a good reputation, in all the books that you read.

GOAD: Yeah.

AUSTIN: You think they did pretty good?

GOAD: Yeah. [They] done good.

AUSTIN: What was your rank when you left?

GOAD: Sergeant.

AUSTIN: Sergeant—buck, three stripes?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: How long were you a sergeant?

GOAD: Just a little while, they had the rank froze, couldn't make anything. I was over there I think, nine months before I even made one stripe. But, they had it froze, you couldn't—nobody could make nothing.

AUSTIN: Nine months for one stripe?

GOAD: Mm hmm.

PIEHLER: And then how long were you actually a sergeant in Korea?

GAOD: I made sergeant just as I was leaving.

PIEHLER: Really?

GOAD: Yea. Matter of fact, my friend caught-up with me on the ship, and said I made it. (Laughter)

AUSTIN: Do you remember what you were doing when they said, "Hey, you're going home?"

GOAD: Yeah. I was down in a hole. We was digging a hole to build a toilet. Down in there about that deep, I guess—digging and digging. (Gestures with hands) Truck driver run over and hollered, "Goad go to the—you're going home." And, I had that big mattock reared back, and I just let it drop behind me, and crawled out. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: You were digging not with a shovel but with a ...

GOAD: Yeah. We was digging with a—by hand.

PIEHLER: By hand with a shovel?

GOAD: Shovel and picks, and there was a rock in the way there, and I was trying to get that rock out. I was reared back to hit that rock, and they said you going home. And, I just turned it loose. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: It sounds like you were glad to be going home?

GOAD: Oh yea, well, they got to ... After I got my points, then they raised the points. After I got that, they froze it. Then after they froze it, why, I got my points second time, then they froze it. Then, when it was over, they needed the ships to bring war prisoners home. So, that delayed me again. And, they had the cease-fire, I believe it was at ten o'clock at night, and them big arterilleries poured right up till about ten 'til. I didn't think it was going to stop. About ten 'til, everything's just as quiet—you didn't hear nothing. And, it was over.

AUSTIN: So they had at it just as hard as they could 'til the last minute?

GOAD: They laid it on just as hard as they could 'til about ten 'til.

AUSTIN: Both sides?

GOAD: Yeah. And, then, when I did get to leave out, I didn't leave there and come back through Japan. I come back another direction, come in through California. And, there was 500 war prisoners on the ship I was on. But, I didn't get to talk to any of them. They had them up on another deck—kind of kept them isolated.

PIEHLER: These were American prisoners of war?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Why do you think they wouldn't let you talk to them?

GOAD: I don't know. But, they ... every once in a while one would come down, venture down, but I didn't get to talk to one personally. I would like to have known what—a few things. Whether they made them work—I never did get to talk to one—whether they made them work or what kind of food they had to eat.

PIEHLER: Did you think of staying in the military at all?

GOAD: No, no. But, I should have stayed another couple of years and got me some education.

PIEHLER: Because you said earlier that they offered to send you to welding school.

GOAD: Yeah, yeah.

PIEHLER: But, you wanted to get out?

GOAD: Well, that was when I got through Basic Training. Just as soon as I got through basic training, they wanted to send me to welding school, and ...

PIEHLER: And you turned it down?

GOAD: I didn't want it. Nah. But, I should have stayed in and went to school. Got me some schooling, and then come out, and I'd had a trade. But, I wasn't thinking that far ahead.

PIEHLER: So, you left the military with out really a trade?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Had you thought of trying to get a job with the highway department?

GOAD: Well, back then state workers didn't make anything. They didn't pay anything. They didn't make—they didn't make as much as I was making working at the hosiery mill. And, later on, why, they started getting benefits, and it turned out to be a state workers got a pretty good job.

PIEHLER: But, when you got out that was not the job to get?

GOAD: No. That's the same way with my sister. She worked at the telephone company. Well, it didn't pay anything. And later on, why, [she] started getting benefits. But, you never know what a jobs gonna ... process into later on down the line.

PIEHLER: Did you ever join a veteran's organization?

GOAD: Yea. I belong to veteran's [organizations].

PIEHLER: Which organizations do you?

GOAD: In Harriman.

PIEHLER: In Harriman, do you belong to the American Legion?

GOAD: No, I worked with some Legion kids. The Legion sponsored a Babe Ruth League, and I worked with those kids about thirteen years. I enjoyed that; I learned a lot from them. And, I didn't have the problem that they've got now. You know, your parents you see on television? The parents whip the umpire, and the parent whips the coach. (Laughter) I never had nothing like that. Everything was—that kid was mine when he come out on the field. The parents sat up there, and they was well mannered. But, I don't think it's that way now.

PIEHLER: You mentioned coming home through California, where did your ship dock?

GOAD: San Francisco.

PIEHLER: And how long were you in San Francisco?

GOAD: I was just there, maybe, twenty-four hours.

PIEHLER: And, then how did you get home?

GOAD: They flew us in to Fort Knox.

PIEHLER: Is that where you left the service?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: When did you return home ... do you remember what month and year it was?

GOAD: It was in the late fall.

PIEHLER: Fall of '53?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: When did you—I should have asked you earlier—when did you actually arrive in Korea? Do you remember what ...?

GOAD: Oh yes. July 15.

PIEHLER: 1952?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: After you got home to Harriman, what did you do?

GOAD: Well, I odd-jobbed around a little bit, and then, finally got—I was playing semi-pro baseball, and one of the managers was a supervisor at the plant, so he gave me a job if I'd come there and play ball. So that's how I come to ... get established there.

PIEHLER: So, that's how—it was your ball-playing ability that got you your ...

GOAD: Yeah. When I was growing up ... lot of the plants would—it was kind of a competition there. "We'll give you a good job if you come over and play ball with us." (Laughs) And, you could go a lot of places and get a pretty good job to play ball.

PIEHLER: ... When you were working for the plant, how many years did you play ball?

GOAD: Oh, I played for a long time. Back then we had a lot of supervisors that played ball. The plant manager, he was a graduate from Duke University. They had a lot of fellas like that.

PIEHLER: And who would you play?

GOAD: Oh, we'd come into Knoxville and played a lot of ball.

PIEHLER: You played other plants then?

GOAD: Yeah. We'd come out here, and we played out here at Chilhowee Park, and lot of places around here we played ball.

PIEHLER: How many people would attend the games?

GOAD: There was quite a few that played. We'd come over here at the stadium. We played over here at the Billy Myers Stadium a lot.

PIEHLER: How many people would watch you play?

GOAD: I don't know really. There wasn't too many that played--watched. Now, when I was growing up they had the state tournament in Crossville, and there would be hundreds and hundreds there to watch those games. The whole state represented teams there.

AUSTIN: Semi-pro?

GOAD: Yeah. You don't really get paid, but sometimes you do.

AUSTIN: That's the distinction?

GOAD: Yeah. Lot of times, there was a good pitcher, they'd pay you ... twenty or thirty dollars to pitch a ball game. And, they would pay your expenses, something like that. It's called semi-pro.

AUSTIN: That's something that's disappeared.

GOAD: Oh, yeah. It's been disappeared a long time ago. And, one of the teams here in town—forgot the name of them now. They went on to the big tournament ... in Wichita, Kansas. I think they won that out there a time or two.

PIEHLER: When did you start with the factory, because you mentioned you sort of did odd jobs then played a little semi-pro?

GOAD: I started there in '55.

PIEHLER: And you've in because of your semi-pro? What did you do in the factory initially?

GOAD: Um, operated—machine operator. It's a big sewing machine; big cylinder type ... feeds the arm out through ... makes women's hose.

PIEHLER: And did you do that your entire time at the ...

GOAD: Most of the time I did.

PIEHLER: Did you do anything else?

GOAD: Not much. It was steady work. It was inside, and—I never did get laid-off, and we usually worked six days a week in my department. So, steady work and less pay, [I] still made a living at it. There was people that stayed there fifty years. A lot of them stayed there forty.

AUSTIN: Wow.

PIEHLER: You never thought of trying to get another job?

GOAD: Oh, yes. I was always a looking. (Laughs) Yea, I thought I had a job down at the big Bowater paper mill, down in Cleveland, Tennessee. Go down there to play ball, but something happened, I didn't get to go.

PIEHLER: So, you did try to get other jobs?

GOAD: Oh, yes. Yes, I tried to get other jobs, but I wanted to make sure that I bettered myself. [I] didn't want to just leave and go out here to work at some filling station, something like that.

AUSTIN: You worked thirds for how long?

GOAD: Huh?

AUSTIN: You worked third shifts for...

GOAD: Oh, yeah, I worked third shift most of the time, but we had good insurance.

AUSTIN: You was talking about other jobs. As long as I have known you, you have worked that, and then you worked all day, too.

GOAD: Oh yea, I done odd jobs. I painted, mowed yards, baby-sit, bodyguard, anything you need done. (Laughter)

AUSTIN: What do you think of the recent award the Korean government and Korean president has presented to the Korean Veterans? The recent medal ...

GOAD: Oh ... that I applied for?

AUSTIN: The one that they sent to you and you showed me?

GOAD: Oh, yeah. Well, I don't know. They should have give it to us a long time ago. Wasn't no reason not to. But, you ... A lot of things you wait.

PIEHLER: Did you ever—did you stay in touch with the people you served with?

GOAD: No, You didn't get that close with them, and I did call one boy here about a couple of years ago. Well, you didn't have any—hardly had any way until you got this internet thing up and look somebody up.

PIEHLER: So, you did try to look somebody up?

GOAD: Yea, I called one boy, only one I ever got a hold of.

PIEHLER: Did he remember you?

GOAD: Yea, he remembered me.

PIEHLER: What did you talk about?

GOAD: Well, I just ... when I first started off, I asked him if that was his name. He said, "Yeah." I said was you in Korea, "Yeah." I just kept bringing it on down. He didn't know what I was up to, I don't guess. But, he remembered me.

PIEHLER: I am curious, how much—this is going back a little bit—how much gambling took place in your unit?

GOAD: Nah, I never seen any gambling. Now, I guess the boys back in the rear echelon parts back there ...

PIEHLER: But, your unit you didn't ...

GOAD: No, and you was talking about a hot shower; now, they did have shower points back ... in the rear certain places where you could stop and get a shower, but we always kept motoring on by; we had something else to do. (Laughter) Give you some clean clothes ... and we had a little, what we called a houseboy—little Koreans teenagers that wasn't old enough to ... They done KP work and washed our clothes. We didn't ...

-----END OF TAPE, ONE SIDE TWO-----

PIEHLER: This continues an interview with Perry G. Goad on April 5, 2001, in Knoxville, Tennessee, with Kurt Piehler and ...

AUSTIN: Darryl Austin.

PIEHLER: ... and you had mentioned you would pay Korean houseboys, say, three or four dollars a month for helping you out, say, with KP and some other chores.

GOAD: Yea, they did all the KP, and the kids done the washing.

AUSTIN: Did they do the cooking?

GOAD: No, we had cooks. We didn't get any details like that after we got over there. Now, during Basic Training we had plenty of it. We had to—one thing you had to learn how to get out of that.

PIEHLER: Out of KP?

GOAD: That was a ... quick lesson. I was sitting here reading or something in a barracks or somewhere, and I see some people running down the hallway here. A few minutes, you see some more running. I just put my book up, and I take off running with them, because the sergeant hunting somebody for detail. Didn't know where they was going, but I run with them. (Laughter)

AUSTIN: You didn't want to get volunteered. Is that what you were doing the day you held up the stripes?

GOAD: Yeah. I did—hunting details.

AUSTIN: Tell us about that if you don't care.

GOAD: Well, I didn't know I had made sergeant, but I had. And, we was fixing to get on the ship, and they was hunting a detail to put on the ship to wash pots and pans and whatever you need. And, I had the lower bunk, here. And the fella up above me there, he was a sergeant, and he'd gone to chow or something and left his stripes and his jacket laying there, and he hadn't got them sewed on. They was just laying there, and this big sergeant come up, tap me on the shoulder, and one said, "I'm hunting for detail." I just got a hold of that fella's stripes, and turned around and held them right up in his face, like that and, just looked him ... stared him right down and laid them back down. He went on. (Laughter)

AUSTIN: What do you think about the recent effort the Koreans are making to reunite?

GOAD: I don't know whether they're making any or not.

AUSTIN: They've been doing some exchange, and some people who haven't seen each other since the war ...

GOAD: Oh, yeah, the civilians are, yeah. I don't see why they can't knock that wall down and go on about their business. If North Korea was to go ahead and just knock all those walls down, we'd go in there, and we'd spend millions and millions of dollars and build their country up. If I was a small poor country, the first thing I would do is try to bomb something the United States had, and let them take control of me and keep me up.

PIEHLER: Are you married?

GOAD: No.

PIEHLER: Ever?

GOAD: Yeah, yeah. I was married at one time. I got a son that lives in Florida.

PIEHLER: Was your son ever in the military?

GOAD: No, no.

PIEHLER: Was your father in the military?

GOAD: No.

PIEHLER: So, you're the only one of ... those three generations?

GOAD: Yeah.

(TAPE PAUSED)

PIEHLER: Sorry to interrupt, but it sounds like you were telling a good story which probably should have gotten captured on tape ...

GOAD: Nah, it weren't nothing. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: Let me ask a question, because we ask a lot of questions, but is there anything you want to tell us, particularly about your career in war service, we forgot to ask?

GOAD: Nah, not that I know of.

PIEHLER: No memories or stories?

GOAD: I saw in one of the VA magazines here a few months ago that I was—that we was eligible for a Korean service metal, so I applied for it. And, later on I got it. Fifty years getting it, but finally got it.

PIEHLER: Is there any movie that you've seen that reflects what you went through in the military, your service?

GOAD: No, I hadn't—this wasn't that way in the movie.

PIEHLER: You're say no movies you've seen?

GOAD: No, no, I don't ... just don't even watch them. It's not that way. A lot of—well, in the movies, everything's action, everything's going. It's not that way. There's a lot of dead space in there. (Laughs) A lot of it's boring ...

AUSTIN: Offset by moments of craziness and terror?

GOAD: Yea, a lot of it's just real boring. And, sometimes, be on the line, maybe see couple of rounds come in, and that's all you see all day.

PIEHLER: What's the closest call you had when you were in Korea?

GOAD: Well, shrapnel. Chunks of metal comes out of a shell. It would get close enough I could reach down, pick it up.

PIEHLER: That's pretty close. (Laughs)

GOAD: Yeah. But, you just keep going, don't worry about it. If you get hit, you get hit. If you don't, you don't. Of course, you couldn't pick the shrapnel up—it's hot. Smoking hot.

AUSTIN: We've about covered every question I have. And, a few we didn't.

PIEHLER: I guess, one question you have on the list, there ... you've grown up squirrel hunting. What did you think of your M-1?

GOAD: Well, I was afraid of it. They said it would ... really kick you, and so ... when I got out on the firing range, I would tighten it down just as tight as I could hold it, and it was no different than a shotgun.

PIEHLER: How were you as a shot?

GOAD: I was good. As matter of fact, ... after I got ... the hang of it I'd start firing on somebody else's target, and ... The speaker would come out, "Number fourteen, quit that firing, you're through!" I'd shoot it some more and get them chewed out. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: Were you willing to shoot the "Army way?" You didn't have any trouble?

GOAD: I'm left-handed, and they wanted me to shoot right-handed. And, I said, "No way." I'll figure this out some other ... and they said, "If you can figure it out, go ahead."

PIEHLER: And, you were able to figure it out?

GOAD: Oh, yea.

AUSTIN: No problem?

GOAD: No problem.

AUSTIN: No ejection, spitting problem?

GOAD: Mm mm. (Negative)

AUSTIN: I've heard people say that left-handers could have that problem.

GOAD: No, I didn't have any problem with that.

PIEHLER: Did you have any black GIs in your unit?

GOAD: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Where were they from? Do you remember?

GOAD: Ah, no, not really. Just one of them was from Alabama, that's the only one I remember, that was ...

PIEHLER: How did they get along with other people in the unit?

GOAD: We got along pretty good. Now, I had a couple in my squad that, later on I became a squad leader, and, round towards the last, and I would have run-off and left them if I could have—left them stranded somewhere. Didn't like them at all.

AUSTIN: He asked about a movie while ago. I remember when I got the *Forgotten War* book you wanted to take a look at it. And, you said that's generals and ... is there a book that you've read that comes close to the experience?

GOAD: I see ... I haven't read a book, but I see some little short articles in the VFW magazine that does a pretty good job. I learn a lot through that that I didn't know because I didn't really know where I was at in Korea. I just knew—he said what part was you in, and I don't really know. There's a lot ... of organizations, I didn't know where they was either. Like the Marines, I never did know where they was at.

AUSTIN: So there was a lot of inter-service you didn't see?

GOAD: Lots of it, I didn't never see. ... Biggest part of the country, I never did see any of those soldiers. [I] saw the British soldiers, Colombians and Ethiopians and Turks, but most of them I never did see.

AUSTIN: There was how many, thirty-five nations in the war?

GOAD: There was about thirty-something nations in there.

AUSTIN: This has gone very smoothly.

PIEHLER: I've really enjoyed it, and I am really delighted. I'm sorry I couldn't have made it to the cabin in Crossville. I know ...

AUSTIN: You may some other time.

PIEHLER: Yes, I am hoping to.

GOAD: Ah, you've got to go out there, that'll be a good therapy for you. Just to go out and sit back, fire a pistol—you haven't got yours with you have you?

AUSTIN: No, I'm unarmed, today.

GOAD: Ok, I'm naked too. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: Yea, on campus you better be unarmed. They frown ...

GOAD: We went down to Roane State to apply for our permit to carry a gun; we're allowed to carry one. So, you know you're not allowed any firearms on the school property, so, here we come. We thought maybe have a ...

AUSTIN: We weren't the only ones ...

GOAD: Maybe if we'd zero our guns in that night, we didn't know what we was getting into. So, here we come in with ... all our big pistols and pockets full of ammunition, and the instructor said ...

AUSTIN: "Oh no!"

GOAD: ... he said, "No, you wasn't supposed to do that." I said, "Well, we didn't know." He said, "Hunt me a sack. Here put this stuff in there and hide it 'til you can get out of here, and, don't bring it back tomorrow night." (Laughter)

AUSTIN: About that time other people started going, "Well, you'll need this too." (Laughter)

PIEHLER: So, I take it you still like hunting quite a bit?

GOAD: No, I don't ...

PIEHLER: You don't hunt?

GOAD: No, I don't hunt nothing no more. Nothing.

PIEHLER: I am just curious, when did you start talking about the Korean War?

GOAD: Well, it went there for years and years, you don't—you can't hardly talk to anybody about it 'cause they can't relate to it.

PIEHLER: So, you didn't know a lot of fellow vets, where you were at the factory or neighbors or ...

GOAD: No, we didn't talk about it much. No, I don't hunt any more. Now there's lots of deer in the woods, now, and out at his farm there's wild hogs. We see a lot of wild hogs and wild turkeys. But, I leave them alone. I'm not going to bother them.

AUSTIN: I think they're tasty myself. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: Well, I want to also say I hope you'll come to some of *Celebrate Freedom* next year, this August. We're going to focus on Korean Vets.

GOAD: Okay.

PIEHLER: So, I hope Darryl will bring you to some of the events, and maybe you can stay for the weekend—one of the weekends, stay in town.

GOAD: Alrighty. Yeah, you'll have to go out to the cabin and—well, it started out as a cabin. (Laughs)

AUSTIN: It didn't end up that way, but you are invited.

GOAD: Oh yea, come out to a cook-out sometime and it'll be a good therapy for you, to get away from everybody.

PIEHLER: Well, I have to say I enjoy the whole area up there. I think it's just absolutely beautiful.

GOAD: Yeah. Well, I think myself, that Crossville area is now, and will be the best place in the world to live. They bringing in—a lot of these Mennonites is coming in, and they don't bring any riff-raff with them. They behave themselves. They keep their place up, they farm, and their kids don't get in trouble. There's people from California moving out—southern California—going up into the state of Washington, and a lot of times they take their gang kids with them, and they're having a lot of problems out of that. But out there, there's a big, big area. Everything's going to be all right out there I think.

PIEHLER: Well, thank you again.

GOAD: Thank you.

-----END OF INTERVIEW-----