

Storyteller:	Beasley, Walter F	Interviewer:	Beasley-Jordan, Carmen
Date:	June 16, 2006	Original StoryCorps Log Files:	MBX001473_L1
			MBX001473_L2

Timecode Notes

1:13	What was it like growing up in 20s in Pittsburgh? We were very poor, strict mother...Italian neighborhood.
2:24	Talks about his parents.
2:56	Went to school with Earl Ganer (future famous jazz musician). He could eat and play piano together.
3:45	Mom died of breast cancer.
4:11	Tell me about the brown birds you used to eat? During Depression, would catch sparrows and fix them for meals.
5:23	Married at an early age? At 17, he used to play football in Penn Township. Girlfriend got pregnant – they moved in 1940.
6:15	First child was a miscarriage.
6:57	Had two children after that.
7:10	How did you make a living at that time? Worked for Civilian Conservation Corps, until he worked in Iran.
8:07	When did you decide to join army? After first wife and he separated.
8:32	Fist day in army in December 1945. Boarded train to Camp Lee, Va. Segregated bathrooms. Chox to go to white men’s room where there was no line. MP and he got into altercation.
10:40	He woke up in hospital with a fractured skull. Eventually was put in group of men from the South.
11:34	Was homesick during Christmas.
11:53	Much racial hate in Massachusetts? He did not leave camp – so he does not know.
12:25	Made friends with Ernest Carter during basic training.
13:23	What happened when you were at sea? Shipping out of New York. During trip, cleaned rifle a lot and studied French. Thirteen days later, landing in England.
14:43	Tell me about crap games?
15:35	On dolphins that followed ship.
16:08	What happened when you got to France? First we were in England. They were already fighting in Normandy, but Eisenhower decided troops from London.
17:00	Was in service company. His role was to guard German prisoners.
17:20	Arrival in damp France.
18:10	Went to get prisoners captured at Battle of the Bulge – cold.
18:51	Talks about stockade and burning gasoline to illuminate prison.
19:38	Troubles in France? Courted blonde, blue-eyed woman during harder raids. His commanding officer disapproved. Woman’s grandmother did not mind but soon made to

	make extra dues so he had no free time.
21:40	Biker by the time he got to France.
23:14	Had a lot of money.
25:42	Feelings toward US? Why not come back? In France, people respected him. Caught and court-martialed.
25:16	Shipped to prison.
26:04	Talks about his life in prison. He got his ass kicked in boxing match.